

## Sovereign 4671

### Chapter 4671 Lei Hong Escapes

Not long after Duan Ling Tian left, Lei Hong, who was hiding in the city in the Distinct Province, received news of the former's departure. However, Lei Hong did not take action immediately. After all, there was still Zhao An Yi. If he made a move now, Zhao An Yi would surely intervene. Both of them were level-seven Dao Establishment powerhouses, and he was not confident about defeating Zhao An Yi. At most, he would be evenly matched with Zhao An Yi. In fact, he might even be at a disadvantage.

During Lei Hong's journey to the Distinct Province, Lei Hong had passed through the Cloud Province. It was at that time that he learned more about Zhao An Yi, who was now known as the Azure Cloud Elder in this new world. He learned that Zhao An Yi's mastery of the Dao had surpassed his own.

"It's a pity there are no laws in the Divine Land. Otherwise, I won't have to fear someone like Zhao An Yi," Lei Hong muttered with an unsightly expression on his face.

It did not take long after Duan Ling Tian's departure before Lei Hong finally realized Zhao An Yi's intention when he saw that not only did Zhao An Yi not leave, but the other members of the Azure Cloud Residence had also arrived in the Distinct Province. With the help of the people from the Duan Residence and the Misty Cloud Sect, they established a new residence.

"So Zhao An Yi's plan was to relocate from the Cloud Province to the Distinct Province?"

Lei Hong's expression was rather bad now that his plan to take action after Zhao An Yi left failed. How could he take action if Zhao An Yi had no plans to leave and even established his own residence here? There was no doubt that Zhao An Yi would definitely protect the Duan Residence if he made a move now. However, he also knew that he could not afford to wait any longer if he wanted to make a move against the Duan Residence.

Finally, one day, Lei Hong learned that Zhao An Yi had returned to the new Azure Cloud Residence in the Distinct Province. With this, Lei Hong decided to act swiftly and kill Duan Ling Tian's family and friends in the Duan Residence. In his opinion, even if he managed to kill one of them, it would be a victory for him.

After that, Lei Hong planned to flee as fast as he could. The Divine Land was vast, and it would be difficult for Duan Ling Tian to find him. He planned to go into hiding because he knew there was

no hope of him surpassing Duan Ling Tian. He knew very well that Duan Ling Tian's comprehension skills were superior to his, leaving him helpless and powerless. He knew it was likely that he would never be able to confront Duan Ling Tian directly in his lifetime. At most, he could only plot in secret to make Duan Ling Tian's life difficult and make Duan Ling Tian regret offending him.

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Boom!

At this moment, Lei Hong, who concealed himself in the sky above the Duan Residence, finally made a move. He chose to attack the courtyard where Duan Ling Tian's parents, Duan Ru Feng and Li Rou, were living. In his opinion, the deaths of Duan Ling Tian's parents would cause Duan Ling Tian even more pain than the deaths of his wives. Moreover, Duan Ling Tian had several wives, and his wives lived in different courtyards. It would be impossible for him to kill them all at once.

Lei Hong did not expect that as soon as he attacked, an energy, which was as powerful as his, surged from the Duan Residence and instantly crushed his attack. The shockwave spread in all directions, shaking the Duan Residence and the city.

Following that, Lei Hong saw the person who retaliated. It was a young woman. She was standing near Duan Ru Feng and Li Rou's courtyard at this moment, staring at Lei Hong. After a brief moment, she said, "I know you. You're Lei Hong from the Sun Bright World."

Lei Hong was taken aback when he saw the young woman. It was completely out of his expectations to meet the other party here.

'Why is this woman here?'

Lei Hong also knew Yu Xiao, the Second City Governor of the Jin Dynasty's Thirteen Cities in the Outer Boundary. She was aggressive by nature and had once challenged the World supreme powerhouses in the Three Upper Worlds not long after she became a Saint. He was among the people she had challenged in the past. Back then, Lei Hong had the advantage, relying on his laws and doppelgangsters.

Later on, Lei Hong also saw the heavenly text so he knew that Yu Xiao had become a level-seven supreme powerhouse as well.

After a moment, Lei Hong recalled that Duan Ling Tian's master, Feng Qing Yang, had married Xue Qing Zhu, the Seventh City Governor of the Jin Dynasty's Thirteen Cities. Everyone in the Upper Three Worlds and the Outer Boundary knew about this. With this, he was no longer surprised that Yu Xiao was here.

Lei Hong knew that his trip here was in vain; his plan was doomed to fail since Yu Xiao was here.

"Those idiots! How did they fail to discover that Yu Xiao is also in the Duan Residence!" Lei Hong cursed inwardly.

In fact, it was not surprising that Lei Hong's men failed to discover Yu Xiao's presence. After all, she had a very low sense of existence in the Duan Residence. Apart from Duan Ling Tian and his family, no one knew of her existence at all.

Swoosh!

Just as Yu Xiao prepared to attack again, Lei Hong noticed movements from the Azure Cloud Residence. He did not think twice and quickly escaped. Just like Yu Xiao and Zhao An Yi, he was a level-seven supreme powerhouse. As such, he was not too worried that he would not be able to escape before Zhao An Yi arrived.

"You coward, Lei Hong!"

Yu Xiao did not pointlessly chase after Lei Hong. She knew it would be futile. In the end, she only projected her voice, scolding him, so he could hear her.

Unsurprisingly, Lei Hong was furious when he heard those words. He almost spat out blood in anger. He replied coldly, "Yu Xiao, if it wasn't for Zhao An Yi, do you think I'd be afraid of you? Don't forget that you lost to me in the past!"

Meanwhile, Zhao An Yi, who had just arrived, overheard this conversation. Although he arrived late, he could easily guess what had happened. Lei Hong must have tried to attack the Duan Residence.

"Miss Yu Xiao," Zhao An Yi called out. He smiled awkwardly, blaming himself for arriving too late and allowing Lei Hong to escape.

"You came too late," Yu Xiao said disdainfully, "Although you have the Azure Cloud Residence in the Distinct Province, in my opinion, it's best if you stay in the Duan Residence as much as you can. If Lei Hong comes again, we can join forces to deal with him. There are now laws in the Divine Land so I'm confident we'll be able to kill him if we join forces. If we succeed, I'm sure Junior Nephew Duan will appreciate your help."

The conflict between Duan Ling Tian and Lei Hong was not a secret in the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary.

Zhao An Yi felt even more regretful about his late arrival when he heard these words. After a moment, he said, "It's indeed a pity that he escaped. I'll move to the Duan Residence today."

Zhao An Yi really hoped that Lei Hong would show up again. If he could kill Lei Hong and help Duan Ling Tian eliminate a threat, he would earn a favor from Duan Ling Tian. With Duan Ling Tian's monstrous talent, he was confident that Duan Ling Tian would eventually stand at the peak even in this world that was devoid of laws. A favor from such a person was worth much more than precious treasures.

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Duan Ling Tian was naturally unaware of what had happened in the Distinct Province. Without laws, it was impossible for them to communicate over long distances. In the Myriad Worlds and the Outerboundary, it was the abundance of the power of the laws that facilitated such communications.

At this time, under Feng Qing Yang's lead, Duan Ling Tian finally arrived at the Endless Sword Domain.

Feng Qing Yang explained, "The Endless Sword Domain is up ahead. It's a holy land for sword cultivators, and it was born from the battle between two very skilled swordsmen who had comprehended the Sword Dao and also successfully merged the Daos. This is where I broke through and entered the eighth stage of the Sword Dao."

Chapter 4672 Duan Ling Tian, a Level-Nine Dao Establishment Powerhouse

Since Feng Qing Yang had been to the Endless Sword Domain before, he continued to lead the way. With his familiarity and Duan Ling Tian's strength, they entered the Endless Sword Domain smoothly.

The danger in the Endless Sword Domain was in fact the residual power left behind after the battle between two Dao Establishment powerhouses who had succeeded in merging the Daos. The residual power lingered here and had yet to dissipate. Needless to say, it would eventually dissipate completely. The Endless Sword Domain would weaken according to the residual and would eventually disappear when the residual power completely dissipated.

Duan Ling Tian and Feng Qing Yang continued to travel deeper and deeper into the Endless Sword Domain. They worked together to deal with the challenges they faced. Thanks to the force of the Sword Dao in this place, both of them gained a lot of insight into the Sword Dao. They continued to further the comprehension of their Sword Dao, forging their own unique paths to advance.

Feng Qing Yang had just broken through to the eighth stage of the Sword Dao not long ago so he still had ways to go before reaching the ninth stage.

On the other hand, Duan Ling Tian had long entered the eighth stage of the Sword Dao. The Void Elder's memory of the ninth stage of the Sword Dao could not help him break through the ninth stage of the Sword Dao, but he was already very close to the ninth stage. As they explored the Endless Sword Domain, his Sword Dao continued to improve, and now, he was just a step away from entering the ninth stage.

Duan Ling Tian glanced at his master as he thought to himself, 'I think I'll be able to break through to the ninth stage of the Sword Dao here...'

At this moment, countless semi-translucent energy swords were flying around Feng Qing Yang at varying speeds. Each of the swords contained the essence of the sword.

Duan Ling Tian observed Feng Qing Yang carefully. After coming to the Divine Land, they had not have an in-depth conversation about the Sword Dao. Before coming to this new world, Feng Qing Yang's Sword Dao was only at the seventh stage, and when they met again in this new world, Feng Qing Yang's Sword Dao was already at the eighth stage. During the time they traveled to the Distinct Province and the Endless Sword Domain, they barely discussed the Sword Dao and only spoke about it superficially.

While Duan Ling Tian observed Feng Qing Yang, he could feel his own Sword Dao improving as well, inspired by Feng Qing Yang. At some point, he stopped observing Feng Qing Yang as he

gradually immersed himself in comprehending the Sword Dao. After some time, he unexpectedly broke through the bottleneck.

This process only felt like a moment, but in reality, a significant amount of time had passed.

Feng Qing Yang completed his comprehension and woke up first. As soon as he opened his eyes, he saw Duan Ling Tian in a state of enlightenment. As he protected Duan Ling Tian, he wondered curiously, 'I wonder how much progress Little Tian will make after he awakens from the state of enlightenment...'

Duan Ling Tian continued to immerse himself in comprehending the Sword Dao. Initially, he felt as though he had returned to the time when he was still in the Saint Province Realm, a mundane realm in the God Defying World. At that time, he received the teachings of his master, Feng Qing Yang. It was also at that moment that the gears of fate turned, setting him on the path of Sword Dao.

Later on, he continued to comprehend the Sword Dao and forged his unique Spatial Sword Dao using his law of space.

He continued to grow stronger and stronger, obtained the Void Elder's memories, and experienced many things along the way.

Duan Ling Tian felt as though he was reliving his life; the experience was extremely vivid. It was only when he re-lived his life to the current point in the Endless Sword Domain that he was suddenly enlightened. It was at this moment that he broke through the bottleneck and entered the ninth stage of the Sword Dao.

As soon as he entered the ninth stage of the Sword Dao, he felt the energy within him surging and changing dramatically. With this, he became a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Although there were no changes in his physical appearance, his gaze became even more profound than before. His aura changed completely as well.

All these subtle changes did not escape Feng Qing Yang's eyes. When he sensed Duan Ling Tian's aura, he finally realized what had happened. He exclaimed in shock, "Little Tian, you've broken through?!"

Feng Qing Yang did not expect his disciple to break into the ninth stage of the Sword Dao so soon after entering the Endless Sword Domain. Not only did his disciple's Sword Dao improve, but his disciple's cultivation had improved as well.

With Duan Ling Tian's latest progress, he was now invincible in the Surging River Divine Kingdom where they had just left.

"I was just lucky," Duan Ling Tian replied. His gaze was no longer as piercing as it was earlier when he looked at his master. After reliving his life, his gratitude toward his master had deepened. Without his master's Sword Dao and his master's guidance, it was not a stretch to say that he would not be able to come this far. There was no doubt that his master was his benefactor.

"It seems like this place is really beneficial for you! In the future, you'll be able to continue making a name for yourself in the Divine Land..." Feng Qing Yang said, feeling happy for his disciple.

Feng Qing Yang also knew this would be advantageous to him. As Duan Ling Tian continued to grow more famous in the Divine Land, his wife, Xue Qing Zhu, would eventually hear about it. At that time, she would surely go to the Duan Residence in the Surging River Divine Kingdom's Distinct Province. With that, he would be able to reunite with his wife.

At this time, Duan Ling Tian suddenly asked, "Master, after leaving the Endless Sword Domain, I plan to explore other places in the Divine Land. Will you come with me?"

Duan Ling Tian's main goal now was to make a name for himself in the Divine Land so that he could reunite with his family and friends. At the same time, he also wanted to grow stronger and enter the Dao Merging realm. When he was strong enough, he wanted to try and obtain the Life Creation Chart to see if the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary still existed. If they no longer existed, he wanted to see if he could rebuild it. After all, that world was his home.

If he was successful in rebuilding the old world, he had to ensure the Life Creation Chart remained in his possession at all times. After all, if someone obtained the Life Creation Chart, it was likely that all the beings in the world of the Life Creation Chart would become 'nourishment' for the new owner of the Life Creation Chart.

Duan Ling Tian was also curious about the strength of the top powerhouses in the Divine Land. The ninth Dao Establishment realm was the end of the Dao Establishment realm, but it was not the end of the cultivation journey. After the Dao Establishment realm, there was the Dao Merging realm. Needless to say, even the strongest Dao Establishment powerhouse was no match for an ordinary Dao Merging powerhouse; the former was just like an insignificant ant in front of the latter.

Feng Qing Yang replied honestly, "Let's travel separately. It won't be beneficial for me to travel with you."

#### Chapter 4673 Before He Travels Again

After Duan Ling Tian and Feng Qing Yang made a decision, they were not in a hurry to put it into action. They continued exploring the Endless Sword Domain.

At this time, apart from Duan Ling Tian whose Sword Dao had reached the ninth stage and had become a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, Feng Qing Yang's strength had also grown significantly.

Duan Ling Tian was now second only to the Dao Merging powerhouse in the Surging Divine Kingdom's royal family. However, that was only if the Dao Merging powerhouse truly existed. After all, the existence of the Dao Merging powerhouse was only based on rumors and speculations. No one had ever seen the powerhouse before.

As for the other powerhouse in the Surging River Divine Kingdom's royal family, it was likely that he had comprehended one Dao to the ninth stage and another to the seventh stage. He might not necessarily be a match for Duan Ling Tian now. After all, Duan Ling Tian had not only comprehended the Sword Dao to the ninth stage, but he had also comprehended the Limitless Dao and the Mastery Dao to the seventh stage. His comprehension of the Daos was extraordinary thanks to the memory of the Void Elder, whose comprehension of the Daos was very high in his prime.

The Void Elder had comprehended the Sword Dao to the ninth stage and also comprehended the Mastery Dao and the Limitless Dao to the eighth stage. Since Duan Ling Tian had forged his own path in the Sword Dao, he naturally could not follow the Void Elder's Sword Dao completely. On the contrary, he could follow the Void Elder's Limitless Dao and Mastery Dao. For this reason, he would be able to easily comprehend the Limitless Dao and the Mastery Dao to the eighth stage. The reason he had yet to break through was due to him focusing on his Sword Dao. Previously, he would only comprehend the Limitless Dao and the Mastery Dao when he encountered a bottleneck while comprehending the Sword Dao.

Now that Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao had reached the ninth stage and was on the cusp of entering the Dao Merging realm, he could focus solely on comprehending the Limitless Dao and the Mastery Dao. When the two Daos reached the ninth stage, he would then be able to merge them into a unique Dao of his own. After successfully merging a Dao of his own, he would enter the Dao Merging realm.

Although Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao had reached the ninth stage, it did not mean that the Endless Sword Domain was no longer of use to him. He could still further improve his Sword Dao here, laying a better foundation before he entered the Dao Merging realm.

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In just a blink of an eye, several years had passed since Duan Ling Tian and Feng Qing Yang entered the Endless Sword Domain. It had been two years since Duan Ling Tian's Sword Dao had reached the ninth stage. During this time, both of them had naturally grown stronger.

At this time, the duo had explored almost every corner of the Endless Sword Domain and had gained almost everything they could from the place. With this, the Endless Sword Domain was no longer of any use to them.

After leaving the Endless Sword Domain, Feng Qing Yang bade farewell to Duan Ling Tian and left.

As for Duan Ling Tian, he had no plans to travel very far now. He intended to return to the Distinct Province in the Surging River City to spend some time with his family and friends first. He was curious if any of his other family members and friends had returned during the years he was away.

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'Lei Hong?'

When Duan Ling Tian returned to the Distinct Province, he learned from Zhao An Yi that after he left the Distinct Province a few years ago, Lei Hong had tried to attack the Duan Residence. Fortunately, Yu Xiao intervened in time. Otherwise, his family and friends might have died.

Duan Ling Tian's eyes shone with killing intent after he listened to Zhao An Yi. He did not expect Lei Hong to survive and that Lei Hong had also come to the Divine Land. After all, he thought that Lei Hong had died in the Heaven Traversing Pagoda.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that Lei Hong did not enter the Heaven Traversing Pagoda because of him. If he was aware of this, he would have regretted not covering his tracks more effectively. If he had been more discreet, Lei Hong would not have discovered the fact that he and the people around him did not enter the Heaven Traversing Pagoda.

After spending time with his family, Duan Ling Tian gathered his family, Zhao An Yi, Yu Xiao, and the Ascending Clouds Sage to discuss the ninth stage of the Sword Dao. After reaching the ninth stage of the Sword Dao, he had a profound understanding of it. Many of his questions regarding the Sword Dao had been answered.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian, the Ascending Clouds Sage, whose Sword Dao was approaching the seventh stage, was shocked. "My lord, your Sword Dao

"Yes, my Sword Dao has reached the ninth stage."

Apart from the Ascending Clouds Sage, Zhao An Yi, Yu Xiao, and the others were also shocked. The only people who were not shocked were his wives. He had already told them about his breakthrough earlier.

"Father, you're now a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse?" Duan Si Ling asked. Her eyes shone with admiration as she looked at Duan Ling Tian. She had always idolized her father. Even in the Divine Land, her father was still so powerful. As his daughter, she was naturally excited.

"That's right," Duan Ling Tian responded with a nod.

After listening to Duan Ling Tian, everyone improved significantly. Among them, Ke'er and Huan'er made the most significant progress; their Sword Dao broke through to the next stage. There was also the Ascending Cloud Sage whose Sword Dao entered the seventh stage after he listened to Duan Ling Tian.

"Thank you, my lord!"

The Ascending Clouds Sage was so excited that his face turned red. He prostrated himself in front of Duan Ling Tian as though he was worshipping a god.

Duan Ling Tian smiled as he helped the Ascending Clouds Sage to his feet and said, "Now that you've broken through, I hope you'll help me protect the Duan Residence when I'm away."

The Ascending Clouds Sage said reassuringly, still unable to tamp down his excitement, "Rest assured, my lord! If there's nothing for me to deal with, I'll stay in the Duan Residence and protect it!"

The Ascending Clouds Sage was genuinely overjoyed. Based on his talent, it was incredibly difficult for him to enter the seventh stage of the Sword Dao. It was so difficult that he had previously resigned himself to the fact that it was impossible for him to achieve such a feat. Unexpectedly, he met a benefactor like Duan Ling Tian who helped him comprehend the Sword Dao to the seventh stage. Now that he was a level-seven Dao Establishment powerhouse, his lifespan had also increased. It was only natural that he felt indebted to Duan Ling Tian.

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'I'll stay a little longer...'

Due to Lei Hong's previous visit, Duan Ling Tian was not in a rush to leave. Instead, he came up with a plan. He pretended to bring the Ascending Clouds Sage and Yu Xiao away and left Zhao An Yi behind. He wanted to see if Lei Hong would take the bait and come to the Duan Residence.

Alas, Lei Hong did not take the bait.

However, Duan Ling Tian did not leave immediately. He decided to leave only when his Limitless Dao and Mastery Dao reached the eighth stage just like those of the Void Elder. After that, he would continue to travel and make a name for himself while he continued to cultivate.

Duan Ling Tian was interested in the places outside of the Surging River Divine Kingdom. After all, those places would be his next destinations.

#### Chapter 4674 The Dao Merging Tablet

Duan Ling Tian continued to stay in the Duan Residence, spending time with his family and comprehending the Limitless Dao and the Mastery Dao with the help of the Void Elder's memory.

After a considerable amount of time, Duan Ling Tian finally comprehended the Mastery Dao to the eighth stage, catching up with the Void Elder.

During this time, none of the people Duan Ling Tian knew in the past showed up at the Duan Residence. With this, it was clear that they were not in the Surging River Divine Kingdom or anywhere in its vicinity.

'Nian Tian, Little Black, Little White, and master's wife must have been transported to other places in the Divine Land,' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself.

Duan Ling Tian continued to comprehend the Limitless Dao with the help of the Void Elder's memory. He continued to comprehend it uninterrupted until an unexpected guest arrived.

"Big Brother Hong, what brings you here?"

The other party was none other than Hong Dong Chuan, the patriarch of the Hong clan. He had fought with Duan Ling Tian a few years ago at the Towering Heaven Peak. He was a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse and was known as the Prison Crushing Saber.

Duan Ling Tian was slightly surprised by Hong Dong Chuan's visit. However, he knew that Hong Dong Chuan would not visit without a reason. Only a few people knew that Duan Ling Tian was still in the Duan Residence, which was located in the Distinct Province. Most outsiders believed that he was still away. As such, he knew that Hong Dong Chuan visited today to test his luck, not knowing if he was around or not.

"Brother Ling Tian, I came today to see if you're here. If you weren't around, I would have returned and reported back to the royal family. However, since you're here, I'd like to seek your opinion," Hong Dong Chuan said.

"Seek my opinion?" Duan Ling Tian was puzzled, unable to figure out Hong Dong Chuan's purpose.

"It's like this..." Hong Dong Chuan said before he explained the purpose of his visit.

Hong Dong Chuan had come on behalf of the royal family of the Surging River Divine Kingdom. The royal family had sent him to the Duan Residence to see if Duan Ling Tian was around. The royal family wanted to meet him and asked if he would accompany a member of the royal family to represent the Surging River Divine Kingdom in a competition and earn prestige for the kingdom.

Every one thousand years, a Dao Establishment Competition would be held for the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea. Both sides would send five participants, who had to be a level-seven Dao Establishment powerhouse at least. The participants would then compete according to specific rules of the competition.

The victorious side would win the rewards offered up by both the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea. Apart from that, they would also obtain a Dao Merging Tablet from the losing side.

The rewards were generally ordinary and not very appealing to powerful Dao Establishment cultivators. The ultimate goal for both sides was the Dao Merging Tablet.

The Dao Merging Tablet was an imprint left behind by a Dao Establishment powerhouse before they passed away. Using their strength and the Dao they had mastered, they would create the imprint on a specially crafted tablet. This tablet could help others to comprehend the Dao and also help lay the foundation to enter the Dao Merging realm.

For this reason, the Dao Merging Tablet was very precious in the Divine Land. It was also very rare. Even the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea only possessed three Dao Merging Tablets between them; the Surging Divine Kingdom possessed one while the Temple of the Bitter Sea possessed two. The latter won one of the tablets during the competition with the Surging River Divine Kingdom a thousand years ago.

If the Surging River Divine Kingdom were to lose this time, it would lose the only Dao Merging Tablet in its possession. With that, the Dao Establishment Competition would also come to an end.

"The Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea have Dao Merging powerhouses of their own, but they won't intervene in the competition. As such, the competition for the Dao Merging Tablet falls on the shoulders of Dao Establishment powerhouses," Hong Dong Chuan said, "As it is, the Temple of the Bitter Sea has a high chance of winning. The Surging River Divine Kingdom is naturally unwilling to lose. After all, that would mean that they'll lose their last Dao Merging Tablet. For this reason, the royal family hopes that you'll represent the Surging River Divine Kingdom in the competition."

Hong Dong Chuan continued to say, "The royal family has stated that if we win, one-third of the rewards will be yours. You'll also be given the priority to choose your rewards. Not only that, but you can also choose one of the Dao Merging Tablets, and it'll be yours to comprehend for the next three hundred years."

The royal family was indeed generous with their offer to Duan Ling Tian.

Hong Dong Chuan listed the rewards before he said, "The rewards might not be useful to you, but they're very useful for your family and friends..."

Duan Ling Tian's interest was piqued. Indeed, he had no use for the rewards, but this was not the case for his family and friends. The rewards would help them raise their cultivation bases.

After a moment, Duan Ling Tian asked curiously, "Why did the royal family choose me? They can look for other level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouses."

"We can't seek help from outsiders," Hong Dong Chuan said, shaking his head.

"I'm sure you can do it secretly, right?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

Hong Dong Chuan shook his head again. "In the Divine Land, most people at or above the eighth Dao Establishment level are all famous. This includes you, Brother Ling Tian. You're famous in the Surging River Divine Kingdom now, and it won't be long before your name spreads throughout the Divine Land... Even if ordinary people don't know you, at the very least all the major forces in the Divine Land will know of you. They'll have information about you such as the place you came from... For this reason, it's impossible to seek outside help..."

"So I'm considered to be from the Surging River Divine Kingdom?" Duan Ling Tian asked before he said, "I just arrived and gained recognition in the Surging River Divine Kingdom not too long ago. What if they regard me as an outsider and reject my participation in the Dao Establishment Competition?"

"You're definitely a member of the Surging River Divine Kingdom," Hong Dong Chuan said with a smile, "You're from the world created by the Life Creation Chart, and that world isn't a part of the Divine Land. Since you were transported to the Surging River Divine Kingdom and made a name for yourself here, you're naturally considered as one of us."

Hong Dong Chuan continued to say, "After all, the Temple of the Bitter Sea used to recruit unknown reclusive powerhouses who rose to fame in their territory. Because those powerhouses lived a life of a recluse, no one knew their origin, and they were not considered outside help..."

Duan Ling Tian nodded in understanding. Then, he said with a smile, "Big Brother Hong, if I'm stronger than the level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse from the royal family, can I get more rewards?"

Currently, the rumors in the Surging River Divine Kingdom were that Duan Ling Tian was the third strongest person in the kingdom, behind the royal family's Dao Merging powerhouse and the level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse. Not many people knew that the Duan Ling Tian was now a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Duan Ling Tian was confident that he was now stronger than the royal family's level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Hong Dong Chuan was shocked when he heard Duan Ling Tian's words. When he regained his senses, a hint of fear could be seen in his eyes as he asked, "Brother Ling Tian, are you... are you saying that you're now a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse?!"

#### Chapter 4675 The Temple of the Bitter Sea

Hong Dong Chuan looked at Duan Ling Tian in shock and disbelief. Although he had not known Duan Ling Tian for long, he knew that Duan Ling Tian was not someone who spoke carelessly. If Duan Ling Tian said that he had broken through, there was no doubt that it was true. Seeing Duan Ling Tian nod in response to his question, he still inhaled sharply even though he had already mentally prepared himself. Duan Ling Tian's rate of improvement was too terrifying after all. It was shocking that Duan Ling Tian was now a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Previously, when Hong Dong Chuan and Duan Ling Tian fought at the Towering Heaven Peak near the capital of River Province, Duan Ling Tian was only a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse. It had not been that long, but Duan Ling Tian was already a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Duan Ling Tian explained with a smile, "A while ago, I followed my master to the Endless Sword Domain and achieved a breakthrough there."

Hong Dong Chuan knew about the Endless Sword Domain. He had also gone there before, hoping to achieve a breakthrough in his Sword Dao. Alas, he gained nothing there. In comparison, Duan Ling Tian's visit allowed him to break through to the ninth stage of the Sword Dao and enter the ninth Dao Establishment level.

Finally, Hong Dong Chuan said, "If you're a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, there's no doubt that you'll be entitled to more rewards. However, I can't make promises on behalf of the royal family. You'll have to negotiate with them."

Finally, Hong Dong Chuan said, "If you're a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, there's no doubt that you'll be entitled to more rewards. However, I can't make promises on behalf of the royal family. You'll have to negotiate with them."

It was clear that if Duan Ling Tian could demonstrate his strength, the royal family would be very generous.

"Alright," Duan Ling Tian said with a nod. At this time, he did not have anything important to attend to so he decided to follow Hong Dong Chuan to the capital to meet the royal family.

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When Duan Ling Tian arrived, he had a sparring match with the level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse from the royal family. Although the match was short, the outcome was clear: Duan Ling Tian was the victor.

"Wow!" Hong Dong Chuan exclaimed in shock and disbelief again. He did not expect Duan Ling Tian, who had just become a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, to be stronger than the level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse from the royal family.

Jiang Hai Shan, the level-nine Dao Establishment from the royal family, was an elderly man. His hair and eyebrows were white, and he looked kind and gentle. He carried a staff with him at this moment. Although he had been defeated, he did not seem displeased, remaining calm and composed.

Initially, Jiang Hai Shan had been curious about Duan Ling Tian, who was known as the third strongest person in the kingdom. He did not think that Duan Ling Tian was a match for him. After all, Duan Ling Tian had just recently become a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse. Needless to say, he was shocked to discover that Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him.

Jiang Hai Shan said, "Brother Duan, with you, the Surging River Divine Kingdom is sure to win the Dao Establishment Competition and the Dao Merging Tablet from the Temple of the Bitter Sea."

Jiang Hai Shan was one of the ancestors of the Surging River Divine Kingdom's royal family. His grandfather was the Dao Merging powerhouse of the royal family.

"Senior Jiang, you're overpraising me," Duan Ling Tian said modestly.

Duan Ling Tian did not even need to speak, and Jiang Hai Shan took the initiative to offer him more rewards, which included extending the time for him to comprehend the Dao Merging Tablet to 800 years. Previously, Hong Dong Chuan had told him that he would be given 300 years to comprehend the Dao Merging Tablet.

The main goal of the competition between the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea was to win the Dao Merging Tablet and for the participants to win a chance to comprehend the Dao Merging Tablet. The Dao Establishment Competition was held every one thousand years. By giving Duan Ling Tian 800 years to comprehend the Dao Merging Tablet, it meant that the royal family only had 200 years with the Dao Merging Tablet before they had to use it as a stake in the Dao Establishment Competition again.

"Brother Duan, if you help us win the Dao Merging Tablet this time and also win it again in another thousand years, the royal family is willing to grant you the Dao Merging Tablet you win in the second competition," Jiang Hai Shan said, expression his wish for Duan Ling Tian to participate in the Dao Establishment Competition twice.

Although the temptation of the Dao Merging Tablet was high, Duan Ling Tian remained calm. He said, "If I'm still in the Surging River Divine Kingdom at that time, I'm willing to assist the royal family and compete with the Temple of the Bitter Sea again."

Duan Ling Tian's response was not definite, but Jiang Hai Shan nodded in satisfaction. He felt that Duan Ling Tian's response showed Duan Ling Tian's maturity.

Then, Jiang Hai Shan turned to Hong Dong Chuan and said solemnly, "Brother Dong Chuan, let's keep Brother Duan's breakthrough a secret for now. He'll be our trump card in our competition with the Temple of the Bitter Sea."

"I understand," Hong Dong Chuan replied with a nod.

Jiang Hai Shan looked at Duan Ling Tian, and he understood Jiang Hai Shan's meaning immediately. He said, "Rest assured, Senior Jiang. I'll keep my breakthrough a secret as well."

A smile appeared on Jiang Hao Shan's wizened face.

...

Duan Ling Tian returned to the Duan Residence in the Distinct Province and continued spending time with his family and friends. At the same time, he also continued to comprehend the Limitless Dao with the help of the Void Elder's memories.

When it was almost time, Duan Ling Tian made his way to the capital and left with the royal family's level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse and three others for the Dao Establishment Competition with the Temple of the Bitter Sea.

The previous venue for the competition was in the Surging River Divine Kingdom so this time, it was the Temple of the Bitter Sea's turn to host the competition.

During the journey, Duan Ling Tian did not need to fly on his own. They traveled using the massive bird-like creature with the strength of a level-seven Dao Establishment powerhouse. The creature reminded Duan Ling Tian of the nine creatures guarding the nine mysterious entrances in the Myriad Worlds whose strength was comparable to that of a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse.

"Brother Hong..."

Curious, Duan Ling Tian could not help but ask Hong Dong Chuan about the nine creatures guarding the entrances of the world created by the Life Creation Chart. However, he soon discovered that Hong Dong Chuan knew nothing about that matter. Therefore, he speculated that this matter likely had something to do with the powerful forces in the Divine Land that once kept parts of the Life Creation Chart in the past. The forces were all top-tier forces in the Divine Land with two or three Dao Merging powerhouses in their respective forces. One had to know that the number of Dao Merging powerhouses in the Divine Land was not high.

There were five people altogether in the group. Apart from Duan Ling Tian, Jiang Hai Shan, and Hong Dong Chuan, there were also two other individuals. Duan Ling Tian was only introduced to them by Jiang Hai Shan before their departure so he did not know them well.

One of them was a middle-aged man, and the other was an elegant and beautiful woman. The man was tall, imposing, and dignified while the beautiful woman was dressed beautifully, looking graceful and noble. Based on their appearances, it was clear that they had a high status in the Surging River Divine Kingdom.

#### Chapter 4676 The Temple of the Bitter Sea City in the Boundless Territory

The middle-aged man's name was Xiao Zhen Nan, and the beautiful woman's name was Hua Ruo. Both of them were level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouses in the Surging River Divine Kingdom. In terms of strength, they were both weaker than Hong Dong Chuan.

After briefly exchanging greetings with Duan Ling Tian, the duo would occasionally steal glances at him. They had naturally heard of Duan Ling Tian, the God Defying Sword, and knew that he had defeated Hong Dong Chuan before. They were cultivating in seclusion at that time so they did not witness the battle. They heard all kinds of praises about Duan Ling Tian after that, but they were skeptical. Could Duan Ling Tian really defeat Hong Dong Chuan?

The duo was aware of Hong Dong Chuan's extraordinary strength. After all, he was stronger than then and was acknowledged as the third most powerful person in the Surging River Divine Kingdom.

Before Duan Ling Tian appeared, the five strongest powerhouses in the Surging River Divine Kingdom were the level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse from the royal family, Jiang Hai Shan; the level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse from the royal family, Hong Dong Chuan, Hua Ruo, and Xiao Zhen Nan.

Both Hua Ruo and Xiao Zhen Nan also represented the Surging River Divine Kingdom in competing for the Dao Merging tablet with the Temple of the Bitter Sea previously.

The group of people quickly left the River Province and the Surging River Divine Kingdom at the speed of a level-seven Dao Establishment powerhouse. The Temple of the Bitter Sea was located west of the Surging River Divine Kingdom, and they entered the territory of the Temple of the Bitter Sea as soon as they left the Surging River Divine Kingdom.

After entering the territory of the Temple of the Bitter Sea, Hong Dong Chuan took the initiative to explain, "The Temple of the Bitter Sea is not as vast as our Surging River Divine Kingdom. It's about half the size of our kingdom. You can think of it as a kingdom as well. All the cities in the Temple of the Bitter Sea are protected by the temple and are required to pay taxes to the temple."

"Unlike our kingdom, the temple doesn't have an emperor or a royal family. They naturally have leaders who are just like an emperor. In general, they are less formal. They place a lot of importance on equality there. Commoners don't have to pay respects to the divine monks of the Temple of the Bitter Sea. This would be a sign of great disrespect in our kingdom if we acted in such a manner to the royal family."

Duan Ling Tian gained a better understanding of the Temple of the Bitter Sea after listening to Hong Dong Chuan's explanation. The temple was similar to countries on Earth that practiced equality and freedom of speech. Similarly, despite the equality and freedom, taxes still had to be paid.

In comparison, the Surging River Divine Kingdom was more like a feudal kingdom in ancient times. It was similar to the Saint Province Realm.

"The core territory of the Temple of the Bitter Sea is called the Boundless Territory, named after the boundless Bitter Sea. The main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea is located in the Boundless Territory. The Boundless Territory is surrounded by other territories, like the moon that's surrounded by stars. It's similar to our River Province in the Surging River Divine Kingdom where the capital is located."

Duan Ling Tian nodded in understanding. The Temple of the Bitter Sea was essentially similar to some of the countries on Earth.

The Temple of the Bitter Sea placed an emphasis on equality, but in Duan Ling Tian's opinion, the equality was a lie. If the lives of the divine monks and ten thousand commoners in the Temple of the Bitter Sea were at stake, and the temple could only choose to save one or the other, he had no doubt that the result would be the deaths of the ten thousand commoners, not the divine monk. In the end, it was still a place where the strong were revered.

...

When they arrived at the Boundless Territory, the core territory of the Temple of the Bitter Sea, they quickly made their way to the city near the main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea. Unlike the royal palace of the Surging River Divine Kingdom that was located in the capital city of the kingdom, the main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea stood independently among the mountains just outside the city. The city was the largest and most prosperous city in the Temple of the Bitter Sea, and it was called the Temple of the Bitter Sea City. It was not inferior to the capital of the Surging River Divine Kingdom at all.

Duan Ling Tian and the others were welcomed by the people of the Temple of the Bitter Sea, and the temple also provided them with accommodations. They were all given a private courtyard.

"The Dao Establishment Competition will take place in three days. It'll be a private event."

The Dao Establishment Competition between the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea had always been private. Not many people knew about it. If the royal family of the Surging River Divine Kingdom did not invite Duan Ling Tian to participate in the competition, he would not have heard about the competition as well even though he had been in the Surging River Divine Kingdom for quite some time. It did not matter if he was famous or if his status had risen, he would have remained oblivious to the Dao Establishment Competition if it was not for the royal family.

Duan Ling Tian did not stay long in his courtyard before he grew bored. In the end, he decided to go out and explore the Temple of the Bitter Sea City.

It did not take long for him to notice that everything in the city carried a touch of Buddhism. Many people on the streets were dressed in monks' robes. There were also many monks in the city, kneeling and kowtowing as they made their way to the main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea.

When they arrived at the city, Hong Dong Chuan had explained to Duan Ling Tian that these ascetic monks would kneel and kowtow all the way to the main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea to show their devotion to Buddha.

As Duan Ling Tian strolled on the streets, the most common sound he heard was the sound of Buddha's teachings and chants. Perhaps it was due to these sounds that he let his mind wander. He was very relaxed, and it had been a long time since he last felt this way.

When he was in the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary, Duan Ling Tian thought he could retire and enjoy life after becoming a level-seven supreme powerhouse. After all, at that time, he and Feng Qing Yang were the only level-seven supreme powerhouses in the world. Unexpectedly, the heavenly texts appeared, and heaven paved the way for the other Saints and World supreme powerhouses to become level-seven supreme powerhouses as well. As more and more level-seven supreme powerhouses appeared, his hope of retiring and enjoying life was naturally dashed. He knew he could not afford to slack off, and in the end, he became the first level-eight supreme powerhouses in the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary. At that time, he thought that as long as he kept cultivating, he would continue to stand at the peak of all living beings. Unexpectedly, he was transported to the Divine Land.

A level-eight supreme powerhouse was similar to a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse in the Divine Land. Although they were considered powerful, there was still a realm above the Dao Establishment realm, which was the Dao Merging Realm.

Needless to say, Duan Ling Tian's new goal was to enter the Dao Merging realm. Now that he had reached the peak of the Dao Establishment realm, the next step was for him to break through to the Dao Merging Realm. At that time, his strength would be on par with 'heaven' that governed the Myriad Worlds and the Outer Boundary.

#### Chapter 4677 The Temple of the Bitter Sea's Real Trump Card

Duan Ling Tian wandered the Temple of the Bitter Sea City, feeling relaxed. At some point, he entered a state similar to the state of enlightenment, and the Void Elder's memories regarding the Limitless Dao began to surface in his mind. After a while, his Limitless Dao reached the eighth stage.

With this, Duan Ling Tian had successfully mastered three Myriad Daos. His Sword Dao was at the ninth stage, and his Mastery Dao and his Limitless Dao were at the eighth stage. Thanks to his achievements, no level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse in this generation in the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea could compare to him at all.

While Duan Ling Tian was in a state of enlightenment, he continued to wander the city. As he listened to the Buddhist chants, he felt as though his spirit was being purified. He felt as though he had found a completely new cultivation path that was suitable for him and would help him further improve the three Myriad Daos he had mastered.

However, just as he was about to step foot on this new path, he was suddenly pulled back to his senses, leaving the mysterious stage of enlightenment. It was as though his soul that had been wandering out of his body had returned to his body.

'Is this the path leading to the Dao Merging realm?'

Duan Ling Tian sighed. He had just about to step foot on a new path when he was abruptly pulled back to his senses. He had a strong feeling that if he had continued, he would be able to break into the Dao Merging realm.

'What a shame. That was so close...'

Duan Ling Tian shook his head and smiled wryly. Perhaps it was due to the serenity of the city that he quickly calmed down. This was the first time he had been to such a unique city. The Temple of the Bitter Sea City was not the biggest and most bustling city he had visited, but it was the only city that purified his mind and soul.

...

In the main temple of the Temple of the Bitter Sea.

While Duan Ling Tian was strolling the streets of the Temple of the Bitter Sea City, a few people who would be participating in the upcoming battle against the Surging River Divine Kingdom gathered to discuss the unknown participant from the Surging River Divine Kingdom. None of these people were level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouses.

"The Surging River Divine Kingdom brought a newcomer this time. I hope they didn't break the rules and seek external help. Something has to be done if they break the rules," a bald and muscular man dressed in a long black robe said. His gaze was piercing.

A young man, who was dressed like a scholar and sitting cross-legged, fanned himself as he said, "The Surging River Divine Kingdom did not seek external help. That person is Duan Ling Tian, also known as the God Defying Sword. He's been making waves in the Surging River Divine Kingdom recently, defeating Hong Dong Chuan, the kingdom's Prison Crushing Saber."

"I've been paying attention to news about him. I didn't think that the royal family of the Surging River Divine Kingdom would be able to convince him to participate in the competition. Unexpectedly, at the crucial moment, he agreed to represent the Surging River Divine Kingdom."

"Fortunately, I had planted spies in the Surging River Divine Kingdom. Otherwise, none of us would be aware of him at all until the day of the competition."

After this, the young scholar revealed what he had learned about Duan Ling Tian.

After a skinny old man with white hair holding a cane listened to the young scholar, his turbid eyes lit up as he exclaimed, "He's from the world created by the Life Creation Chart?!"

The skinny old man continued to say proudly, "In that case, I must have a good fight with him! So what if he had defeated Hong Dong Chuan in the past? Although Hong Dong Chuan and I are both

level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouses, I'm confident I'll be able to defeat him within ten moves..."

"The Surging River Divine Kingdom must have brought Duan Ling Tian because they're not confident about facing you. Alas, they're only worried about you, and they're unaware that we have another level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse participating in the competition as well," the bald and muscular man said with a chuckle.

"Indeed. There's no doubt that they think that Elder Chui is our strongest participant. They're unaware that we have another divine monk representing our Temple of the Bitter Sea," the young scholar said with a laugh as he tapped his folding fan.

In the Temple of the Bitter Sea, only those above or at the ninth Dao Establishment realm were called divine monks. Under normal circumstances, the appearance of a divine monk would cause a huge stir in the Temple of the Bitter Sea. However, due to the Dao Establishment Competition, the temple deliberately hid the existence of the divine monk. The temple hoped to catch the Surging River Divine Kingdom off guard during the competition and seize the remaining Dao Merging Tablet from the Surging River Divine Kingdom.

If the Temple of the Bitter Sea won the competition, they would have three Dao Merging tablets in their possession while the Surging River Divine Kingdom would have none. Under these circumstances, unless the Surging River Divine Kingdom managed to obtain another Dao Merging tablet, the Dao Establishment Competition between the Surging River Divine Kingdom and the Temple of the Bitter Sea would cease to exist.

...

In just a blink of an eye, the day of the Dao Establishment Competition arrived.

Early in the morning, Duan Ling Tian met up with Jiang Hai Shan and the others.

The venue of the Dao Establishment Competition was not in the Temple of the Bitter Sea City. Instead, it was in a remote location within the Boundless Territory. Whenever the Temple of the Bitter Sea hosted the competition, it would always be held in the same venue.

The venue was located deep within a mountain range. Although they were traveling on a level-seven Dao Establishment demon beast, it took them two hours after entering the mountain range to arrive at their destination.

When Duan Ling Tian and the others arrived, they discovered that the people from the Temple of the Bitter Sea had already arrived.

Five figures stood in the distance, watching them.

"Let's go."

Jiang Hai Shan led the others and approached the group of people from the Temple of the Bitter Sea.

After exchanging greetings with a middle-aged monk dressed in a black kasaya standing in the lead, Jiang Hai Shan continued to say, "Divine Monk Yu Hao, it's been a long time since we last met. You still look as energetic as ever."

"Lord Hai Shan, you haven't changed at all," the middle-aged man said with a smile.

Based on the duo's exchange, it was clear that the duo was quite familiar with each other.

Although this was Duan Ling Tian's first time meeting Yu Hao, he had heard of the other party before. He had heard that the other party was the strongest powerhouse below the Dao Merging Realm in the Temple of the Bitter Sea; the other party was the only level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse in the temple. The other party was said to be on par with Jiang Hai Shan from the Surging River Divine Kingdom's royal family.

#### Chapter 4678 Everyone Is Surprised

After exchanging greetings with Jiang Hai Shan, Yu Hao, the divine monk, looked at Duan Ling Tian and asked with a smile, "I'm not familiar with this person. Lord Hai Shan, care to introduce him to me?"

Jiang Hai Shan said, "This is Duan Ling Tian, a new powerhouse in our Surging River Divine Kingdom."

Duan Ling Tian glanced at Yu Hao briefly and nodded slightly; his response was rather indifferent. In his opinion, he came here not to make friends but to help the Surging River Divine Kingdom win the Dao Merging tablet.

"I know the other three people with you," Yu Hao said to Jiang Hai Shan before he turned to Duan Ling Tian and continued to say, "Duan Ling Tian, these are the four members of the Temple of the Bitter Sea who'll be participating in the Dao Establishment Competition..."

Yu Hao introduced the members of the Temple of the Bitter Sea to Duan Ling Tian. With this, Duan Ling Tian also learned the names of the other four people. After the introduction, he received a Voice Transmission from Hong Dong Chuan, telling him that the thin and frail elder holding a staff was known as Elder Chui. He learned that the other party was the ace from the Temple of the Bitter Sea and that the other party was even stronger than Hong Dong Chuan.

"Lord Hai Shan, shall we begin?" Yu Hao asked with a smile.

Prior to this, both sides had already met and confirmed the rewards, excluding the Dao Merging tablet, presented by both sides. Since the arrangements had all been made, the battle could start directly.

"Very well," Jiang Hai Shan replied with a nod. Their main purpose this time was to compete for the Dao Merging table after all. The sooner this was done, the better it would be.

"Alright, let's begin then," Yu Hao said with a nod. He turned to look at the black-clad burly man next to him and said, "Ta Ye, you go first."

"Yes, Divine Monk Yu Hao!" Ta Ye, the black-clad burly man, replied. He seemed very deferential when he spoke with Yu Hao, but as soon as he stepped into the arena, his demeanor changed immediately.

Ta Ye swept his gaze across the group of people from the Surging River Divine Kingdom before his gaze finally landed on Duan Ling Tian. He asked provocatively, "Pretty boy, do you want to fight me first?"

Ta Ye was a former monk of the Temple of the Bitter Sea. After leaving the temple, he formed his own force and was now one of the prominent figures in the Temple of the Bitter Sea, a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse. He was not any weaker than Hong Dong Chuan.

In fact, Ta Ye's provocation was just a smokescreen. He knew very well that Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him. Not only that, but he also knew that Duan Ling Tian was the Surging River Divine Kingdom's hidden ace and would fight with their temple's Elder Chui.

Naturally, there was no reason for Duan Ling Tian to join the battle so soon.

Before Duan Ling Tian could respond, Hong Dong Chuan scoffed and said, "Ta Ye, you're overestimating yourself too much. You're not strong enough to fight Brother Duan."

Ta Ye feigned surprise and asked, "Are you saying that he's stronger than you?"

"Of course," Hong Dong Chuan replied indifferently.

At this moment, Hua Ruo, who represented the Surging River Divine Kingdom, stepped forward. She looked at Ta Ye and calmly said, "Ta Ye, previously I lost to you by a hair's breadth. This time, I'm going to redeem myself."

Ta Ye laughed. "Hua Ruo, based on your words, it seems like you've made progress in the past 1,000 years. Alas, you're too naive. Do you think you're the only one who improved over the past 1,000 years? I hope that your words aren't just pretty words and that you back them up."

Without wasting time, Ta Ye attacked Hua Ruo, unleashing a storm of saber rays.

Hua Ruo was already prepared for this, and her energy surged out immediately to meet Ta Ye's powerful attack.

The rules of the Dao Establishment were quite simple. Two participants would fight, and the winner could choose to continue fighting and step down and wait for the next opponent. In theory, if one was strong enough to defeat all the opponents, one could fight consecutively and secure the win without needing the other participants to fight.

Boom!

The battle raged on.

Ta Ye comprehended the Saber Dao while Hua Ruo cultivated a Dao that Duan Ling Tian had never seen before, the Flower Dao. When she attacked, her energy scattered like flowers, creating a beautiful sight. However, the beauty hid deadly killing intent. She easily and swiftly dealt with Ta Ye's attacks, gaining the upper hand in a few dozen moves.

Bang!

In the end, Hua Ruo emerged victorious. She was slightly injured from the battle.

On the contrary, Ta Ye's injuries were rather serious. His face was pale, and his eyes were filled with resentment as he glared at Hua Ruo. He did not expect to be defeated by someone who was once weaker than him.

At this time, Hua Ruo looked at Jiang Hai Shan and said apologetically, "Lord Jiang, I'm afraid I won't be able to participate in the next match."

Jiang Hai Shan said with a smile, "It's fine. You've won a match, and that's a significant contribution."

"Congratulations, Lord Hai Shan. The Surging River Divine Kingdom truly has many hidden talents," Yu Hao, the divine monk, said with a smile. He did not seem concerned about the loss. It seemed like he was confident the loss would not affect their chances of winning. Moreover, the pressure on the Temple of the Bitter Sea was not as heavy as that of the Surging River Divine Kingdom. After all, the temple currently had two Dao Merging tablets while the Surging River Divine Kingdom only had one.

At this moment, a man, who looked like a scholar, stepped forward. His name was Han Zheng. He was the leader of an organization that had a hand in all kinds of businesses, which included assassination business and intelligence operations. He asked, "Xiao Zhen Nan, would you like to fight me?"

"Yes. I don't know how well I'll fare, but I'll give my best," Xiao Zhen Nan replied.

In fewer than thirty moves, Xiao Zhen Nan was defeated by Han Zheng.

Han Zheng was uninjured so he decided to continue the fight.

Hong Dong Chuan stepped forward to fight next. He narrowly won against Han Zheng and sustained injuries. As such, he could not continue to fight.

At this point, the Surging River Divine Kingdom seemed to be at a disadvantage. On the Surging River Divine Kingdom's side, only Duan Ling Tian and Jiang Hai Shan had yet to fight, but the Temple of the Bitter Sea still had three participants who had yet to fight.

At this time, an old man with white hair holding a staff entered the arena. He was Elder Chui. Although his eyes were usually turbid, at this moment, they shone with a cold light. He looked at Duan Ling Tian and said indifferently, "Duan Ling Tian, I heard you easily defeated Hong Dong Chuan in the past. I want to witness your ability today!"

Duan Ling Tian did not respond and only raised an eyebrow.

Swoosh!

In the next moment, a figure flew into the arena, surprising everyone. It was none other than Jiang Hai Shan, the Surging River Divine Kingdom's level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

#### Chapter 4679 Your Opponent Isn't Me

Except for Jiang Hai Shan himself, Duan Ling Tian, and Hong Dong Chuan, no one expected Jiang Hai Shan to enter the arena at this moment. They all assumed that Jiang Hai Shan, as the strongest level-ninth Dao Establishment powerhouse of the Surging River Divine Kingdom, would not enter the battle so soon.

'Could it be that Imperial Lord Jiang knows that Duan Ling Tian isn't a match for Elder Chui so he doesn't think there's a need for Duan Ling Tian to fight?'

Almost everyone, including Xiao Zhen Nan and Hua Ruo, from the Surging River Divine Kingdom shared the same thoughts.

As for those from the Temple of the Bitter Sea, Yu Hao and the others were baffled. They could not figure out why Jiang Hai Shan, a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, joined the battle so soon.

At this time, Elder Chui, who was holding a walking cane, frowned slightly. His gaze was piercing as she stared at Duan Ling Tian and said in a deep voice, "Duan Ling Tian, do you believe you're not my match so you don't even have the courage to face me on the battlefield?"

Although Elder Chui was relatively powerful among level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouses, he naturally knew he was no match for a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse. If he had to face Jiang Hai Shan now, then he would have no choice but to admit defeat.

Duan Ling Tian smirked upon hearing Elder Chui's words. He said, "If that's what you think then so be it. You can think whatever you want."

Elder Chui's expression darkened as soon as he saw this. "What else could it be? Don't tell me you're stronger than Lord Jiang?"

"You guessed it right. Alas, there's no prize for you guessing correctly," Duan Ling Tian said, somewhat surprised that Elder Chui caught on so quickly.

Upon hearing these words, Tuo Ye, the burly monk from the Temple of the Bitter Sea, sneered and said, "Duan Ling Tian, why are you pretending? Do you think we know nothing about you? You fought and defeated Hong Dong Chuan not long ago in the Surging River Divine Kingdom. Your strength is admirable among level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse, but you're not a match for Elder Chui. You're too afraid to step into the arena now because you know you're no match for Elder Chui, right?"

Duan Ling Tian chuckled and said disdainfully, "It's always weaklings that like running their mouths."

"Who are you calling a weakling?" Tuo Ye asked furiously.

"Of course, it's you. Who else could it be?" Duan Ling Tian said with a smile.

"You!"

Tuo Ye was fuming with anger, but when he remembered that Duan Ling Tian was stronger than him, he could only suppress his anger. He was so angry that his body was trembling, but he dared not act.

At this moment, Yu Hao, the divine monk, said, "Tuo Ye, how the Surging River Divine Kingdom arranges the order of their participants is their business. You and Elder Chui should not interfere."

Then, Yu Hao turned to Elder Chui and said, "Elder Chui, since Lord Jiang has entered the arena, you should admit defeat."

"Yes, Divine Monk," Elder Chui replied respectfully and retreated. After all, it was really pointless for him to fight. He would only embarrass himself if he fought Jiang Hai Shan. He would not even be able to exhaust Jiang Hai Shan's energy for the remaining two participants after him since there was a considerable gap between their strength.

"Hmm?"

Everyone from the Surging River Divine Kingdom, including Duan Ling Tian, assumed that Yu Hao, the divine monk, would enter the arena next. Unexpectedly, another monk entered the arena.

The other party was a middle-aged monk named Bai Yan. All this time, he had been standing inconspicuously behind Yu Hao.

Previously, Duan Ling Tian had learned from Hong Dong Chuan that Bai Yan was a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse from the Temple of the Bitter Sea. Based on Hong Dong Chuan's words, Bai Yan should be slightly weaker than Elder Chui. However, contrary to those words, Bai Yan actually stepped forward to face Jiang Hai Shan at this moment.

Needless to say, not only Duan Ling Tian, but everyone from the Surging River Divine Kingdom, including Jiang Hai Shan, was surprised.

Jiang Hai Shan's eyes narrowed slightly as he looked at Bai Yan and said, "It seems like I have to address you as Divine Monk Bai Yan now."

Jiang Hai Shan naturally knew Bai Yan. During the Dao Establishment Competition a thousand years ago, the two of them fought to a draw when they were level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouses.

A thousand years later, after Jiang Hai Shan became a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, Bai Yan actually had the courage to face Jiang Hai Shan in the arena. Even Elder Chui, who was presumed to be stronger than Bai Yan, admitted defeat when faced with Jiang Hai Shan. What else could this mean? It meant that Bai Yan had broken through and became a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Jiang Hai Shan sighed and said with a complicated expression on his face, "Divine Monk Yu Hao, the Temple of the Bitter Sea really hid its talents well. First, there's Elder Chui, and now, there's Divine Monk Bai Yan..."

If Duan Ling Tian was not a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, the Surging River Divine Kingdom would have been at a great disadvantage. Fortunately, Duan Ling Tian was a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse and was also stronger than Jiang Hai Shan, greatly boosting their chances of victory.

Duan Ling Tian and the others watched the intense battle from afar.

Jiang Hai Shan and Bai Yan fought fiercely, causing the mountains to collapse and the earth to shake. Their terrifying powers at the ninth Dao Establishment stage and their mastery of the Daos brought with them overwhelming pressure with each strike.

"He's going all out to attack and injure Jiang Hai Shan..."

As a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, Duan Ling Tian easily saw through the situation. Bai Yan was clearly weaker than Jiang Hai Shan and was not Jiang Hai Shan's match at all. However, Bai Yan fought fiercely as though it was a life-or-death battle, pressuring Jiang Hai Shan greatly.

In the end, Bai Yan was seriously injured and defeated by Jiang Hai Shan, but Jiang Hai Shan did not escape unscathed. Jiang Hai Shan spat out three mouthfuls of blood, and his energy weakened greatly.

Bai Yan, unsurprisingly, was in a worse condition. His chest was sunken, his face was pale, and his body was drenched in blood. He seemed as though he was on the verge of collapse. If Yu Hao did not stop the fight, he might have died.

"Bai Yan, you fought valiantly," Jiang Hai Shan said as he wiped the blood off the corners of his lips.

Bai Yan, whose face was covered in blood, smiled, sending shivers down people's spines. He said, "I'm still not as strong as you, Lord Jiang..."

At this moment...

"Lord Jiang, it's now my turn," Yu Hao said, preparing to enter the arena. He had no intention of letting Jiang Hai Shan rest at all.

At this moment, everyone in the Temple of the Bitter Sea, including Yu Hao, was certain of their victory in the Dao Establishment Competition.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Hai Shan shook his head and smiled before he retreated from the arena. He said calmly, "Divine Monk Yu Hao, your opponent isn't me."

As soon as Jiang Hai Shan's voice fell, a purple figure flew into the arena and stood across from Yu Hao.

#### Chapter 4680 Defeating Three Daos With Just One Strike

Divine Monk Yu Hao, who was dressed in a black monk's robe, moved like the wind. The benevolent and dignified expression that could usually be seen on his face was replaced by a surprised expression when he saw the purple-clad young man who stood across from him. How could he not be surprised? After all, this was not a scenario that he had anticipated. He had assumed that Duan Ling Tian, the God Defying Sword from the Surging River Divine Kingdom, was just a level-eight Dao Establishment powerhouse, stronger than Hong Dong Chuan but weaker than Elder Chui, one of the Temple of the Bitter Sea's trump cards.

Earlier, when Duan Ling Tian refused Elder Chui's challenge, Yu Hao assumed that Duan Ling Tian did not have the confidence to defeat Elder Chui. Elder Chui was indeed a trump card of the Temple of the Bitter Sea, but the real trump card was the divine monk, Bai Yan, a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Jiang Hai Shan was not weak. A thousand years ago, Yu Hao managed to defeat Jiang Haishan by a close margin. However, this time, he did not think he would be able to defeat Jiang Hai Shan. This was because his improvement over the past one thousand years had been minimal. For this reason, he planned to let Bai Yan exhaust Jiang Hai Shan first before he stepped in to deal the final blow.

Bai Yan lived up to Yu Hao's expectations. Although he was defeated by Jiang Hai Shan in the end, Jiang Hai Shan was also seriously injured. With this, Yu Hao expected Jiang Hai Shan to surrender when faced with him. If Jiang Hai Shan did not surrender, he would defeat the already injured Jiang Hai Shan.

When Yu Hao entered the arena, he was not surprised when Jiang Hai Shan surrendered. This was within his expectations after all. What he did not expect was that Duan Ling Tian would enter the arena next. It was completely out of his expectations that Duan Ling Tian would step forward to face him. At the same time, a foreboding feeling rose in his heart.

Similar to Yu Hao, the other four participants from the Temple of the Bitter Sea were surprised and confused.

Not only that, but even Xiao Zhen Nan and Hua Ruo from the Surging River Divine Kingdom were surprised and confused. They were already confused earlier when Duan Ling Tian refused Elder Chui's challenge, but they were even more confused now.

"This... How's this possible? He actually dares to face Divine Monk Yu Hao?"

"What's going on?"

Not long after, a wild idea appeared in Xiao Zhen Nan and Hua Ruo's mind.

'Did Lord Jiang bring Duan Ling Tian here to deal with Divine Monk Yu Hao, not Elder Chui?'

At this time, Yu Hao stared at Duan Ling Tian and said, "I seemed to have underestimated you, Duan Ling Tian. I didn't expect the God Defying Sword to have already become a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse."

Based on Yu Hao's words, it was clear that he had long known about Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian smiled calmly; his expression was tranquil like a calm lake as he said, "I'm looking forward to our fight, Divine Monk."

At the same time, despite being injured, a smile could be seen on Jiang Hai Shan's pale face.

Upon seeing the smile on Jiang Hai Shan's face, Yu Hao asked probingly, "Lord Jiang, you seem quite confident. Could it be that the God Defying Sword is even stronger than Lord Jiang after he broke into the ninth Dao Establishment stage?"

Jiang Hai Shan shook his head and replied, "Divine Monk Yu Hao, there's no need for you to probe me. If you want the answer to that question, you can just fight with Duan Ling Tian."

At the same time, Jiang Hai Shan thought to himself, 'You're lucky this is just a friendly match. Otherwise, he could kill you if he wanted to...'

"Very well. I'd like to see what the God Defying Sword's strength is like," Yu Hao said. In the next moment, his black monk's robe began to flutter in the wind as the mighty and domineering energy he had mobilized a while ago surged out of his body. In just a blink of an eye, he grew rapidly until he was the size of a mountain.

This was the Giant Dao that Yu Hao comprehended to the ninth stage. It was the Dao that helped him become a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse.

Boom!

After Yu Hao grew to the size of a giant, looking like an indestructible mountain, a terrifying and mighty wave of energy swept out into the surroundings.

Duan Ling Tian was very familiar with this wave of energy. It was none other than the seventh stage Limitless Dao.

At this time, Yu Hao condensed the energy in his hand into a staff that resembled the Monkey King's golden cudgel. A faint light shone at the tip of the staff, and its aura was profound and powerful. This was the third Dao Yu Hao comprehended, the Staff Dao. To be precise, he had comprehended the Staff Dao to the sixth stage.

Boom!

A loud explosion rang in the air as Yu Hao took the initiative. He charged toward Duan Ling Tian with great momentum in the sky. As he moved, the sounds of explosions continued to resound in the air. At the same time, terrifying shockwaves swept out in all directions as he brandished his staff.

Everyone present on the scene, except for Jiang Hai Shan, tensed up, preparing to shield themselves from the terrifying shockwaves. This was not surprising considering the fact that shockwaves were from a level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouse, which was considered peerless in the Dao Establishment realm.

Meanwhile, Duan Ling Tian's expression did not change at all when faced with Yu Hao's fierce attack. He raised his hand casually before the power of the Dao surged into the sky and transformed into a gigantic sword. The sword's aura was even more majestic and terrifying than three of Yu Hao's Daos combined.

Upon seeing this, the expression of everyone from the Temple of the Bitter Sea, including Yu Hao, turned grim immediately.

"Duan Ling Tian's Limitless Dao is more powerful than Divine Monk's Limitless Dao!"

At this time, Duan Ling Tian's giant sword and the staff in Yu Hao's hand finally collided. There was a brief moment of stalemate before an explosion of terrifying proportions erupted. Waves of energy surged out, and they seemed to give the gigantic sword strength.

Boom!

The seemingly unstoppable sword pushed forward, causing the expression on Yu Hao's pale face to change drastically. In the next moment, his staff shattered, and he was sent flying back.

Yu Hao spat out a mouthful of blood as he flew back in the sky. During this time, he shrank back to his original size.

With this, the result was clear. Yu Hao was defeated by Duan Ling Tian. To be precise, in this fight between level-nine Dao Establishment powerhouses, Duan Ling Tian defeated Yu Hao's three Daos with just one strike! It was a crushing victory for Duan Ling Tian!

Unlike the injured and miserable Yu Hao, Duan Ling Tian stood in the air, holding the slightly dim giant sword. His expression remained unchanged. It did not seem like he had just fought at all.

The difference between Duan Ling Tian and Yu Hao's strength was evident to all.

Even Jiang Hai Shan and Hong Dong Chuan, who had long known about Duan Ling Tian's strength, could not help but feel shocked.

"He... He grew stronger again?"