

## Chaotic 1231

### Chapter 1231: Envoy of the Tao Family

Jian Chen did not wait for very long before Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas entered the hall. Their faces were pale-white, without a shred of blood, and they were extremely heavily injured.

“To think you would still know to return. You sure are having it easy as the ruler of the Turtle clan. Leaving behind the five of us and then vanishing. Back when I told you to deal with the Tao family, you insisted on saying ‘no.’ Now look at it. The Tao family and the Moxi clan have joined in marriage, and they’re already prevailing. They’re not something that the current Turtle clan can deal with. What do you think we should do?” Qing Yixuan could not help but criticize Jian Chen as soon as she saw him. Although she had already agreed to temporarily watch over the Turtle clan, it was just an agreement in the end. Qing Yixuan was still biased against Jian Chen. She still remembered the moment when Jian Chen had taken the Octoterra Map fragment from her while she was heavily injured. She could not forget it no matter how she tried.

Unfortunately, Jian Chen was no longer the insignificant Saint Ruler from before, so even if she hated him, she was not his opponent.

“I didn’t move against the Tao family back then because I was not confident we could completely suppress them, which was why I let them be. It’s just that I never thought that the Tao family would strengthen so quickly and declare war against my Turtle clan themselves,” Jian Chen coldly replied. What he really feared about the Tao family was their ancestor, Tao Zhengtian. It was said that he was quite close to becoming a hall elder, and all hall elders were Saint Kings at Great Perfection.

“Then do you have the power to deal with the Tao family right now?” Qing Yixuan stared at Jian Chen. Among everyone present, he was the only person she did not show any respect to. She had always felt like he owed her.

“Tell me in detail just how many Saint Kings the Tao family have first and what level of strength they possess as well as Tao Zhengtian’s exact strength,” Jian Chen said.

“The alliance of the Tao family has a total of nine Saint Kings so far. There are four beneath the Fifth Heavenly Layer and five that are either at the Fifth Heavenly Layer or above. One is of the Fifth Heavenly Layer, two are of the Sixth Heavenly Layer, another is of the Seventh Heavenly Layer, and the last one is of the Eighth Heavenly Layer. The ancestor of the Moxi clan is of the Seventh Heavenly Layer while Tao Zhengtian is the strongest, having reached the peak of the Eighth Heavenly Layer. He is also only a single step away from reaching the ninth, and I heard that Tao Zhengtian is in possession of a divine hall as well,” Qing Yixuan coldly replied.

Jian Chen frowned. Adding Nubis, Tie Ta, and him, they only had eight Saint Kings. Tai Dou was of the Fifth Heavenly Layer while Qing Yixuan, Lan Jing, Xin Pian and Mochas were all of the Sixth Heavenly Layer. Nubis was the weakest, at the Fourth Heavenly Layer, but if he used the Saint Tier Battle Skill he had modified, he could temporarily match up against experts of the Seventh Heavenly Layer. As for he himself and Tie Ta, both of them could face up against experts of the Seventh Heavenly Layer without suffering defeat. Together, they were in no way weaker than the Tao family alliance. They may even be stronger.

However, what pained Jian Chen was that Tao Zhengtian was in possession of a divine hall. His side seemed very strong, but it was still not enough to destroy a divine hall.

Qing Yixuan thought that Jian Chen was not confident that they could defeat the Tao family when she saw him frown. She could not help but sigh inside. The influence of the Tao family was like the midday sun right now, and without much time, Tao Zhengtian would become a hall elder as well. At that time, dealing with them would become even more difficult, and she had no idea if she would still have the chance of obtaining what she wanted.

If she did not obtain the item, she would not be brave enough to return to the Tian Yuan Continent.

“God dammit. I had the Octoterra Map fragment before, and I could’ve used it to exchange with the Tao family for what I wanted. It’s all because the map fragment was stolen away by Jian Chen.” Qing Yixuan gritted her teeth in hatred when she thought up to that point.

At this moment, a guard quickly rushed inside. He said in a rather flustered manner, “Ruler, the Tao family has sent an envoy. He’s currently waiting outside.”

“An envoy of the Tao family!” Jian Chen became stunned, probably due to the fact that he did not expect an envoy to come at such a crucial moment. However, he quickly snapped back to his senses and said, “Lead the way for him.”

“There’s no need to lead the way. I’ll come in myself.” An arrogant voice rang out from outside as soon as Jian Chen had finished speaking. He was a skinny old man who strode over with his chest high, as if he was above everyone present.

The old man was a Saint Ruler, and behind him followed two Heaven Saint Masters.

The elders of the Turtle clan immediately became furious when they saw the envoy. Their hatred for the Tao family had already reached a bone-deep level.

As soon as the envoy stepped into the hall, he quickly glanced around. When he discovered the 16th Star experts standing below and Jian Chen sitting above, his heart immediately sank. He could already sense an ill omen, but he immediately became fearless when he thought of the Tao family’s current strength.

The envoy knew that he had come this time as a representative of the powerful Tao family, so even if there were many 16th Star experts present, he still remained composed and unhurried. He observed Jian Chen who sat on the throne without any fear and freely smiled, “May I ask who you are, and why I’ve never seen you before?” The envoy’s attitude was flippant, as if he did not care about Jian Chen’s identity at all.

“How dare you! Kneel before our ruler,” an elder of the Turtle clan berated the envoy.

The envoy came to an understanding and became surprised. He clasped his hands, “Oh, so you’re the legendary ruler of the Turtle clan. Please forgive me rudeness, I have truly been rude.”

“Since you know he’s our ruler, why don’t you hurry up and kneel. It’s your honor to be able to see our ruler at the 13th Star,” another elder demanded.

The envoy began to laugh aloud, "You sure are worthy of being the ruler of a clan, demanding respect at times like this. However, I've only ever kneeled to ancestor Tao Zhengtian. Even the current patriarch of the Tao family has no right to make me kneel, so I do wonder if the ruler of the Turtle clan deserves such a thing."

"大胆....."

"How dare you..."

"Such boldness! You must be tired of living for speaking like this to the ruler..."

Every single elder became utterly furious.

Jian Chen deeply frowned as well. The Tao family was just too arrogant. Even a mere Saint Ruler envoy was acting in such a cocky fashion before so many Saint Kings.

"Tai Dou, toss out the three of them," Jian Chen coldly commanded. No matter what intentions they had come with, he did not plan on talking to them with how arrogantly they acted.

The envoy's expression immediately changed when he heard that Jian Chen was about to throw them out of the clan. He yelled, "Don't you dare! I'm representing the Tao family..."

Once he reached that point, he was thrown out of the clan along with his two followers by Tai Dou. Although Tao Dou was heavily injured, he was still a Fifth Heavenly Layer Saint King. The envoy could not resist the frozen space.

Plop! Plop! Plop!

A hundred meters away, three muffled sounds could be heard. The envoy and his followers heavily hit the ground. Although they were not injured, they were reduced to a mess.

The two followers silently climbed up and did not dare to say anything. However, the envoy was furious. When he had been thrown out by Tai Dou, he had been locked up by Spatial Force and was unable to control his body, making him come so close to the ground. How could he endure something like that as a mighty Saint Ruler.

At the same time, he had already subconsciously determined the Turtle clan had been defeated and that they should have treated him with plenty of respect and politeness. Yet, the situation was the exact opposite.

The envoy ignored the gleeful gazes of the clansmen from his suffering as he furiously charged back into the hall. He roared out, "How dare you! How dare you treat an envoy of the Tao family like this. You will regret your actions."

A gleam of light flashed through Jian Chen's eyes, and he said with a heavy voice, "Tai Dou, throw him out. If he charges in again, kill him immediately."

"Yes sir," responded Tai Dou as he arrived before the envoy. He extended his hand, about to throw him out.

“Wait!” The envoy had already been trapped by Tai Dou. Seeing how he was about to be tossed out yet again, he quickly shouted to make him stop. He said through gritted teeth, “I’ve come under the patriarch’s orders to deliver a message. After the message is delivered, I will leave immediately.” With that, the envoy felt like he was out of trouble, so he added something else, “If it weren’t for the patriarch’s orders, I wouldn’t be willing to come even if this mere Turtle clan had invited me! Hmph.”

“Speak! What did the patriarch want you to say?” Jian Chen emotionlessly ordered.

The envoy calmed down and unhappily stared at Jian Chen. He said, “The Turtle clan has attempted to take the grand quality crystal mines in possession of the Tao family time and time again, which has resulted in great losses for us. In the battle three days ago, a large number of experts and elites fell, so the Turtle clan had already caused an extremely great loss to the Tao family. As a result, the Turtle clan has fifteen days to pay up a billion grand quality crystal coins as compensation, or the clan will take corresponding measures against the Turtle clan.”

The elders of the Turtle clan began to tremble in rage after they heard what the envoy had to say. The Tao family was going more and more overboard. Even if they used everything they had, they probably would not be able to gather a hundred million, let alone a billion crystal coins. Although they had been in possession of some crystal mines for some time, it was just far too little time to make a grand sum.

“I have delivered the patriarch’s message. Farewell.” The envoy turned around in an attempt to leave.

“Wait!” Jian Chen stopped the envoy from leaving.

He turned around to look at Jian Chen as he coldly asked, “What is it, ruler?”

A gleam of heavy killing intent flashed through Jian Chen’s eyes. He coldly answered, “Envoy, you would have been able to leave safely before you had said that, but now you can’t.”

The envoy’s expression changed. He growled, “What are you trying to do?”

Chapter 1232: Mobilization

Jian Chen ignored the envoy. He looked at Tai Dou and said, “Bring me his head.”

Tai Dou became stunned by that command, as if he had never thought that Jian Chen wanted to kill the envoy right there. However, he snapped back to his senses very quickly, moving against the envoy without saying anything more.

“How dare you! Are you trying to make trouble!? I am the representative of the Tao family...” The envoy’s expression really changed as he hurriedly cried out. He had never thought that Jian Chen would actually want to kill him. After all, he had come this time as a representative of the Tao family. If the Turtle clan really did kill him, the flames of rage from the Tao family would burn them to a crisp. He did not believe the Turtle clan was the Tao family’s opponent, even if their legendary ruler had returned.

Tai Dou ignored the cries of the envoy. He extended his hand and twisted the envoy’s head, forcefully wrenching it from his neck. With the envoy’s strength as a Saint Ruler, he was completely immobilized by Tai Dou’s abilities as a Saint King. All he could do was watch helplessly as his head parted from his body.

The envoy had not died. As a Saint Ruler, severing the head from the body was not enough to claim his life. As long as his soul was still present, he could still survive even if his head had been reduced to pieces. At that moment, the envoy stared at Jian Chen wide-eyed, in shock and anger.

Even now, he refused to believe that the Turtle clan was bold enough to treat him like that, that they were completely unafraid of the Tao family behind him.

Jian Chen flicked a finger from the throne and a sharp sword Qi shot from the tip of his finger. It disappeared between the envoy's eyebrows.

The eyes of the envoy quickly lost their luster and became glassy. Jian Chen's sword Qi had wiped out his soul.

Jian Chen waved his arm and a gust of wind blew away the envoy's head, directing it into the hands of a follower that had come with him. Jian Chen coldly said, "Go tell Tao Zhengtian that he must return all the mines of the Turtle clan within a day and that he must pay ten billion crystal coins in compensation for the casualties the Turtle clan suffered in the battle several days ago. If he fails to do those two things in the given time, my Turtle clan will begin a devastating attack on the Tao family and all those in the alliance. We will not let the matter rest until we are dead."

The two followers had become as pale as paper as fear overwhelmed their souls. They could not help but tremble. They quickly nodded after hearing what Jian Chen had to say before rushing out the Turtle clan with the envoy's head in bewilderment.

All the elders of the Turtle clan were delighted when they saw the outcome of the envoy. Some of the elders had even become extremely excited and emotional from what Jian Chen had said to the two followers at the end. Their Turtle clan finally had no need to endure the oppression of the Tao family. At the same time, they understood just how important the ruler was to the Turtle clan.

They had suffered devastating attacks from the Tao family when the ruler had not been present before, if a hall elder had not interfered, they probably would no longer exist. Now that the ruler had returned, the clan had toughened again. They no longer feared the Tao family.

"Jian Chen, have you really made up your mind to move against the Tao family? Are you confident you can deal with them?" Qing Yixuan sternly asked, but she too felt some anticipation inside.

Jian Chen nodded, "If the Tao family really is only as powerful as you've described, they are indeed not enough to threaten us." The situation this time was different from the last. Nubis had already emerged from seclusion and coupled with Tie Ta, who was no weaker than himself, the Tao family really did not pose much of a threat to them.

"But the five of us are all heavily injured. We can't recover in a short amount of time," Qing Yixuan said with some worry. Although she had no idea where Jian Chen's confidence originated from, she also knew that Jian Chen was not a reckless person.

A mysterious smile appeared on Jian Chen's face, "I obviously know that the five of you are heavily injured. You don't need to worry about this problem. I can heal all of you up very quickly." With that, a golden streak of light flashed from between Jian Chen's eyebrows as the saint artifact flew out from his sea of consciousness.

“Don’t resist,” Jian Chen advised before sucking them into the artifact space. He planned on getting the artifact spirit to heal them.

Although Jian Chen was also a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master, only water-attributed energy was abundant in the sea realm. Radiant Saint Force was extremely thin. If he used his own powers to heal the five of them, it would be nowhere near as effective as on the Tian Yuan Continent. The origin energy of Radiant Saint Force was a consumable energy to him. It was even more difficult to recover than Chaotic Force, so in order to save on origin energy, he could only let the artifact spirit handle healing them.

To reach Class 8 as a Radiant Saint Master, all that was needed was accumulation. Once a Radiant Saint Master possessed a certain level of origin energy, their souls would improve qualitatively and, hence, reach the eighth class. Jian Chen did not possess a lot of Radiant Saint Force origin energy. He had absorbed as much as he could when the seal within the artifact space had broken open. This origin energy was his hope to reach Class 8, so he would not waste even a small amount of it unless he had no other choice.

The artifact spirit had reached Class 8 as a Radiant Saint Master, so under his healing, the five of them used less than an hour to make a full recovery from their extremely heavy injuries, which delighted them very much.

Afterward, Jian Chen gave the five of them another half a day to recover their expended Saint Force. Afterward, he lead Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Xin Pian, Mochas, Nubis, and Tie Ta toward the Tao family in an aggressive manner. A few elders of the clan followed along as well.

Jian Chen did not count on the Tao family agreeing to his limit of a single day because he knew that it was impossible.

At the same time, several hundreds of thousand kilometers away, a middle-aged man paced around in a well-adorned room within a medium-sized tribe named the Kalor tribe. His brows were tightly furrowed, as if something weighed on his heart.

He was the current patriarch of the Kalor tribe as well as Kai Ya’s father.

“Jia Suo, has the young lady still not emerged from seclusion?” Suddenly, the patriarch asked someone outside.

“Patriarch, the young lady is still in seclusion and has still not come out,” replied the guard outside.

The patriarch furrowed his brows even more tightly as he felt a vague unease inside. He understood his daughter extremely well. Even though she had shown great talent since she was young, she was not very enthusiastic about cultivating, or she probably would have become a 14th Star expert already with her talent.

Yet now, she seemed to have undergone an unbelievable change after being taken away by the ruler of the Turtle clan. She entered a long period of seclusion as soon as she had returned, despite never entering seclusion in the past. She had not emerged even now, which filled him with great worry as a father. He was extremely curious at the same time. He had no idea just what had happened after the ruler of the Turtle clan had taken away his daughter. Why had his daughter become so enthusiastic about cultivating? Had she been abused?

As the patriarch deeply pondered these mysteries, a guard's shocked cry rang out, "Ah! Young miss, y-you've emerged..."

Before the guard could finish his sentence, the door to the room was pushed open. Kai Ya walked in with her sky-blue clothes. Her entire presence was slightly different compared to before she had entered seclusion.

The patriarch became stunned when Kai Ya suddenly appeared before him. However, he beamed with joy soon after, "Kai Ya, you've finally emerged. Fantastic. Do you know how worried I've become since you suddenly went into seclusion."

Kai Ya smiled and gently replied, "Sorry father, I've made your worry."

The patriarch could sense that Kai Ya did not behave abnormally at all, which relieved him. He freely smiled, "It's fine, it's fine. As long as you are well."

The patriarch saw how Kai Ya was hesitating so he followed up with a caring question, "Kai Ya, is there something weighing on your mind? If there's anything I can help you with, just tell me. I'll do everything I can. Oh right, Kai Ya. Why did the ruler of the Turtle clan look for you last time? And why did you enter seclusion as soon as you had returned, only emerging now?"

Kai Ya hesitated before saying, "Father, I've actually emerged from seclusion this time to ask you for some crystal coins."

"It's just some crystal coins. How much do you need?" The patriarch smiled.

"The more the better, because I need a great pile of crystal coins when I enter seclusion," Kai Ya said with a slight blush. She knew that the amount of crystal coins she needed was so vast that the Kalor tribe probably would not be able to provide them all. However, with her meager strength, she had no other choice than to seek the tribe for help if she wanted to power up quickly.

The patriarch's smile gradually disappeared. He seriously examined his daughter right before him. At that moment, he was doubting whether the person before him was the girl he was familiar with since his daughter had never worked so hard at cultivating before.

#### Chapter 1233: Battle Between Two Clans (One)

"Kai Ya, you have to tell me the truth. Just what did the ruler of the Turtle clan do to you when he took you away? Why do you seem completely different than before? You're working so hard on your cultivation. Has the ruler of the Turtle clan abused you?" The patriarch of the Kalor tribe asked with a heavy tone.

Kai Ya knew that her recent change had led to her father misunderstanding things. Her father had even thought too much about it and twisted what had happened. She could not help but break into laughter, "Father, stop thinking about all these random things. Actually, the ruler of the Turtle clan came to give me an extremely impressive cultivation method when he came looking for me. I could not help but start working hard on cultivation after being moved emotionally, which is why I immediately went into seclusion right after I had returned."

“An extremely impressive cultivation method? What is it? It’s even greater than the Innate Spirit-opening technique of the eight divine arts?” The patriarch stared at Kai Ya in shock.

Kai Ya hesitated slightly before saying, “The ruler gave me the cultivation method of the Octoterra Emperor as well as his experiences and knowledge regarding cultivation. Father, do you think it’s greater than the Innate Spirit-opening technique?”

“What! The cultivation method of the Octoterra Emperor!?” The patriarch was greatly shocked as disbelief flooded his face. His expression then suddenly changed, and he immediately erected a barrier to isolate the room with wave of his hand. Afterward, he excitedly looked at his daughter and said with a trembling voice, “My dear daughter, did the ruler of the Turtle clan really give you the cultivation method of the Octoterra Emperor as well as his cultivation knowledge and experiences?”

“Yes. How can I trick you, father? If you don’t believe me, do you want me to take it out for you to have a look?” Kai Ya seriously asked.

The patriarch immediately waved his hands, “No, no, no. I believe you, but you have to be careful. You can’t let anyone else know that you possess the cultivation method of the Octoterra Emperor, okay?” The patriarch was extremely stern.

“Yes father, I understand,” Kai Ya solemnly replied. She clearly understood just how important the matter was.

Afterward, the patriarch passed a Space Ring to Kai Ya. He said, “There’s five million grand quality crystal coins in there. That’s all the crystal coins I have on me, so take it and use it first. I’ll call a gathering with the elders later on and persuade them. Then I’ll pour a portion of the tribe’s resources into you. Just don’t worry. I’ll do everything I can to help you obtain cultivation resources.”

“Then I’ll take my leave first. I’ll work extra hard to see if I can become a 15th Star expert as soon as possible.” Kai Ya left with the Space Ring. She did not waste a single moment, entering seclusion once more.

After Kai Ya had left, the patriarch remained in the well-adorned room. He was unable to calm down from his excited state for quite some time. He had never dreamed that his daughter would experience such great fortune, to have actually obtained the cultivation method of an emperor. He also believed that with her talent, it was extremely possible for her to become an expert on par to emperors in the future with the cultivation method and knowledge from the Octoterra Emperor.

As a father, he felt extremely prideful when he thought about how his own daughter would accomplish something so great in the future, even if it had not happened yet.

“Odd. The cultivation method of the Octoterra Emperor is invaluable, so why did the ruler of the Turtle clan give it to Kai Ya for no reason?” The patriarch thought of a very crucial question after calming down, which confused him very much. However, he did not think too much about it. He removed the barrier and walked out. At the entrance, two guards of the tribe stood there with straight backs as they stared ahead.



The patriarch glanced past the two of them. He coughed and said, "Did the two of you hear anything?" As he asked the question, he seemed to be unconcerned, but he devoted all his attention to the two guards.

Confusion filled the gazes of the guards, and they replied, "Patriarch, we didn't hear anything."

The patriarch nodded slightly before gradually walking away without saying anything else. His mind then became filled with methods to direct a portion of the tribe's resources to Kai Ya without causing any doubt among the elders.

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At this moment, over ten people of various ages gathered in a grand hall within the Tao family. They varied in strength, ranging from Saint Rulers to Saint Kings. They all gathered around a large round table that was filled with various delicacies.

"I never thought that a hall elder would appear and ruin our campaign to wipe out the domineering Turtle clan. What a pity, what a pity. We missed such a good opportunity just like that," said a middle-aged man regretfully. He radiated with a vague but vast presence. He was a Saint King and was a part of the various clans that had allied themselves with the Tao family. His name was Tai Tongyi.

"Brother Tai Tongyi, there's no need to be regretful. The Turtle clan can be lucky the first time, but it definitely won't happen a second time. The patriarch of the Tao family has already sent an envoy to the Turtle clan. If they don't hand over a billion crystal coins in half a month, it will be perfectly justifiable for us to wipe them out. As long as we are 'reasonable' even hall elders can't forcefully order us to stop," said the ancestor of the Kai'en clan. He was also a Saint King, having reached the Sixth Heavenly Layer. He was a 16th Star expert.

Tai Tongyi clasped his hands at the ancestor of the Kai'en clan and said, "That's reasonable, brother Di Sen, but I worry that the Turtle clan will take advantage of this time and flee, moving the entire clan out of the Sea Goddess Hall's territory. And if they really do pull out a billion crystal coins in half a month, what do we do with them?"

A blue-robed, middle-aged man with quite a striking appearance stood up and clasped his hands, "Senior Tai Tongyi, you are worrying too much. Firstly, the Turtle clan will not be able to retreat. Before they've compensated us with the billion crystal coins, it is perfectly reasonable for us to stop them if they try to escape from the territory of the Sea Goddess Hall. At the same time, I've already sent people to conduct a detailed investigation of the Turtle clan. Even if they use everything the clan has, they won't even be able to pay up a hundred million crystal coins, let alone the billion that we've demanded."

He was the current patriarch of the Tao family, Tao Yun. He was a Saint Ruler of the Ninth Heavenly Layer, and it was rumored that he would definitely break through in fifty years and reach a greater level of cultivation.

"We won't worry since the patriarch has put it like that. Several months ago, my most beloved and most favored grandson died to the experts of the Turtle clan. I need to repay this debt with all the blood of the Turtle clan," said a bald old man coldly. Heavy killing intent lingered in his eyes.

“Don’t worry, brother Ying Mo. You will have your revenge for your grandson. Half a month later will be the day the Turtle clan ends,” said a ruddy, sage-like old man. He was the ancestor of the Tao family, Tao Zhengtian.

At this moment, an old man who seemed to be the caretaker rushed in. His complexion was very horrible, and he hoarsely cried out, “Ancestor, the envoy to the Turtle clan has returned.”

“Let them in and report the exact details of the situation,” Tao Zhengtian coldly ordered.

“Yes sir!” The person backed out under Tao Zhengtian’s orders.

Very soon, the two Heaven Saint Masters that had visited the Turtle clan walked in with a bloodied head. They then kneeled on the ground with lowered heads.

Including Tao Zhengtian, all the people in the room revealed a different expression and became furious when they saw the bloodied head. Heavy killing intent flickered in their eyes.

Bang! Tao Zhengtian slammed the table as his face darkened to the point that it had become terrifying. He furiously roared, “How dare they! The Turtle clan sure is bold to kill the envoy that we the Tao family have sent.”

“Hmph. The Turtle clan already faces their demise, yet they still don’t know how to repent for their mistakes, fearlessly killing the envoy of the Tao family. They are not treating the Tao family with any importance at all.

“This is a naked provocation of the Tao family, as well as a way to demonstrate their might to all of us.”

All the experts from the large clans said in a righteous manner in their fury.

“Explain exactly what happened during the visit, the two of you. Do not miss any details at all,” Tao Zhengtian indifferently commanded the two followers.

The two followers did not dare to miss anything. They immediately explained what had happened in the Turtle clan exactly how it occurred.

“Hmph, I never thought that the mere ruler of the Turtle clan would be so arrogant. Does he think of himself as a hall elder?” Tao Zhengtian immediately and coldly sneered when he heard the story from the two followers.

“Ancestor, the ruler of the Turtle clan has also told us to bring back a message,” one of the followers said with hesitation.

“Speak. What has the ruler gotten you to bring back?” Tao Zhengtian coldly asked.

“The ruler said that we must return all the mines of the Turtle clan within a day and that we must pay ten billion crystal coins in compensation for the casualties the Turtle clan has suffered in the battle several days ago. If we fail to do those two things in the given time, the Turtle clan will begin a devastating attack on the Tao family and all those in the alliance. They will not let the matter rest until they are dead,” the follower said as he trembled.

The hall immediately fell into an abnormal silence with that. All of the people had been stunned by that, unable to return to their senses for quite some time.

“Hahahaha, I haven’t heard wrong, have I? The ruler of the Turtle clan wants us to pay ten billion crystal coins as compensation, or he will launch a devastating attack against us. Has the ruler gone mad from anger?”

“The Turtle clan isn’t even going to weigh their own strength first, and they want to launch a devastating attack against us? Pfft.”

“I think the ruler of the Turtle clan’s gotten ahead of himself.”

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All the experts in the hall sneered. None of them believed that the Turtle clan possessed the power to do what they had declared.

Tao Zhengtian began to laugh from his anger. At that moment, his gaze became extremely sharp as heavy killing intent wildly flickered in his eyes. He sneered, “Good! Very well! Very well! The Turtle clan is so arrogant. I’d like to see just how the little Turtle clan will launch a devastating attack against us. Everyone, I originally planned to give the Turtle clan half a month, but it looks like we no longer need to wait that long. We can move against them tomorrow. Everyone, let’s head over to the Turtle clan right now and see just what they possess that’s allowing them to be so arrogant.”

“There’s no need to go. We’ve already come!”

A deafening voice echoed from the sky as soon as Tao Zhengtian finished speaking. The voice was so loud that it continued to echo in the surroundings, lingering for quite some time before disappearing.

Chapter 1234: Battle Between Two Clans (Two)

Above the Tao family, Jian Chen, Tie Ta, Nubis, Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas hovered a hundred meters in the air in an arrogant manner. Every single one of them was calm and cool as vast presences radiated from the eight of them, blanketing the entire Tao family.

The air seemed to have become heavy under their presences. The weaker members of the Tao family all paled while a small portion of them even began to bleed from the corner of their mouths. Their organs had already become heavily injured, having ruptured from the supreme presences.

Even the Saint Rulers within the Tao family revealed rather unnatural expressions. Powerful energy revolved around them as they used everything they had to resist the unending pressure.

“Hmph!”

A cold snort rang from the central hall within the Tao family. At that moment, nine Saint King presences surged out without showing any indication of giving in, ramming viciously against the eight of them in the air like a wild tiger.

Bang!

A deep sound actually rang through the air with the collision of the invisible presences. The surrounding energy was affected as well. Becoming violent in that moment, it swept out like a storm, kicking sand and dust into the air.

No one gained any upper hand from the clash between presences.

Tao Zhengtian flew up from below with a sunken expression as the eight Saint Kings from the alliance followed behind him. Every single one of them possessed rather ugly expressions.

“You’re the ruler of the Turtle clan?” Tao Zhengtian coldly asked as he stared at Jian Chen before quickly examining the seven other people around him. He immediately became shocked. He had never thought that the Turtle clan would actually possess eight Saint Kings. The number was only one less than his alliance, but what surprised him even more was that the injured five had made full recoveries already.

Tao Zhengtian understood Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas’ injuries extremely well. Three days ago, he had determined that they would not have been able to recover without several years of time and that they would end up suffering from irremediable after-effects in the future. Even if they were in possession of great medicine, they would still need quite some time. It had only been three short days, yet the five of them had made full recoveries. At the same time, they did not seem to be suffering from any after-effects, which completely overturned Tao Zhengtian’s understanding of things.

“Correct. I am the ruler of the Turtle clan. Tao Zhengtian, I’ll be collecting my debt from three days ago with interest,” Jian Chen sneered.

A sliver of disdain appeared in Tao Zhengtian’s eyes. He sneered as well, “Ruler of the Turtle clan, your clan actually has eight 15th and 16th Star experts. This has indeed exceeded what I expected, but if you think that you can deal with my Tao family with just the eight of you, then you are mistaken.”

Jian Chen’s gaze gradually sharpened to the point where it was like a sword. Heavy killing intent was present inside as well. He sneered, “Really? I’d like to see who made the great mistake.” With that, the Emperor Armament appeared in his hand. At that moment, Jian Chen’s presence underwent a sudden change. If he seemed like an ordinary mortal before, he was now like a sword surging with aura.

“Kill!” Suddenly, Jian Chen roared out. He immediately charged toward Tao Zhengtian in an aggressive manner with his Emperor Armament.

At the same time, Nubis, Tie Ta, Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas moved as well. At the peak of the Sixth Heavenly Layer, Mochas faced up against the ancestor of the Moxi clan who was at the Seventh Heavenly Layer while Lan Jing and Xin Pian faced against two other Saint Kings who were at similar levels as them, both at the Sixth Heavenly Layer. Qing Yixuan’s opponent was a Fifth Heavenly Layer Saint King while Nubis and Tai Dou faced two Fourth Heavenly Layer Saint Kings.

As for Tie Ta, he was dealing with two Saint Kings all by himself. However, they were the weakest Saint Kings within the alliance, one at the Second Heavenly Layer and the other at the Third.

Jian Chen had decided this after discussing their options on the way here. Including Jian Chen, all of them were to keep their opponent busy, and then Tie Ta, who was most powerful among them, would handle the killing by starting with the weakest.

Seventeen Saint Kings erupted in an intense battle above the Tao family. They fought with destructive attacks, where terrifying ripples of residual energy transformed into terrifying storms that wreaked havoc in the surroundings. Even Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint Rulers dared not to approach them.

Jian Chen and Tao Zhengtian's battle was the most intense. Tao Zhengtian knew that Jian Chen was not as powerful as him, so he used everything he had right from the start in attempt to finish off Jian Chen as soon as possible. Then he would go assist the other people against the experts of the Turtle clan.

At his limit, Jian Chen's battle prowess could reach the peak of the Seventh Heavenly Layer. He currently faced against a Saint King at the peak of the Eighth Heavenly Layer, so he used his full power without holding back at all. He abused the advantages of the Chaotic Body as he constantly stabbed out with his Emperor Armament that bore strands of destructive Chaotic Force, attempting to harm Tao Zhengtian with every attack.

His every attack was extremely quick, where every single strike outpaced the previous. It formed a net of swords that seemed to be water-tight right in front of him.

However, Tao Zhengtian was at the peak of the Eighth Heavenly Layer after all. He was well-versed in battle as well. His experience was in no way less than Jian Chen's. Faced against Jian Chen's torrential attack, he was still able to deal with it in a composed fashion. He even used his abilities as a Saint King to limit Jian Chen's movements from time to time. Although Jian Chen would shatter the space before it had completely frozen, it still caused some problems for him, gradually forcing him into a disadvantage.

Although Jian Chen was not as powerful as Tao Zhengtian, their disparity was just a single Heavenly Layer. At the same time, Jian Chen had experienced countless battles of different sizes throughout his life. His experience in combat was extremely rich, so it was extremely difficult for Tao Zhengtian to finish Jian Chen off in such a short amount of time.

Mochas had also fallen to a disadvantage with Jian Chen. His opponent was a Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint King, the ancestor of the Moxi clan. He had already been forced to retreat by his opponent. He was not as composed as Jian Chen was.

Below, a huge barrier of energy had been erected over the territory of the Tao family. It protected all the weaker members of the Tao family, preventing them from suffering from the ripples of battle.

Even though the barrier was extremely tough, it was still rather difficult to block the ripples from a battle of seventeen Saint Kings. The transparent barrier had already begun to tremble under the constant barrage of the energy ripples, and it was shaking more and more.

Several tens of thousand people had already gathered within the barrier, including Saint Rulers. All of them stared nervously at the barrier above as it constantly shook. They all knew that the Tao family would have been flattened by the ripples of battle in a single moment if the barrier hadn't been protecting them.

At this moment, a golden, dazzling light flickered. Tie Ta quickly swung the meter-long edge of his axe across the air, blowing away the Second Heavenly Layer Saint King.

A supreme battle intent was present within the blade of the axe. It seemed to be able to annihilate the souls of people. As the target of Tie Ta's attack, the battle intent experienced by the Second Heavenly

Layer Saint King was the most intense. It collapsed his willpower to battle. He actually felt powerless before the strike.

The golden light grew larger and larger in his pupils. Not only did the battle intent shatter his courage to battle, it had drawn away all of his attention as well. His soul had already become silently injured after being struck by the supreme battle intent.

Spurt! The golden axe passed through the Saint King. From the top of his head, he had been cleaved in half. His soul was wiped out before it could even flee.

After killing the Saint King, the golden axe continued on without weakening at all, continuing toward the energy barrier that protected the Tao family.

Boom!

A deafening sound immediately reverberated from the energy barrier. It was already about to collapse from the energy ripples of seventeen Saint Kings soon, so it immediately caved in after suffering an extraordinary strike from Tie Ta's axe. It shattered loudly.

Without the protection of the barrier, the violent energy immediately surged toward the Tao family like a flood. At that moment, the various structures in the surroundings collapsed and countless people died or became injured.

Tao Zhengtian roared at the sky in anger. Extremely heavy killing intent radiated from him as he called out, "People of the Turtle clan, if you're bold enough, face against us ten thousand kilometers away!"

"There's no need to move that far away. Isn't it pretty good to have a death match here?" Jian Chen sneered. He was not worried. No matter what the outcome of the battle was, the Tao family would suffer severely

"Argh! Experts of the Turtle clan, I want to skin you alive and wrench out your tendons!" Tao Zhengtian roared at the sky. A third of the elite members of the Tao family had passed away in the short moment since the barrier had shattered. They were all the future hope of the Tao family.

Jian Chen laughed at the sky, "Tao Zhengtian, didn't you treat my Turtle clan the same way three days ago? It would be rude of me to not return the favor. I just want to return the method that your Tao family used to deal with my Turtle clan. And this is just the beginning."

Chapter 1235: Battle Between Two Clans (Three)

Tao Zhengtian became pale-white because of what Jian Chen had said. His killing intent inside was so heavy that it had reached his limits. He yelled, "Ruler of the Turtle clan, I swear to the heavens that I will reduce you to nothing. You will regret living. I will make you pay a heavy price for what you did today."

"Hahaha, I have never regretted anything I've done. Tao Zhengtian, you may be stronger than me right now, but you still don't have the right to reduce me to nothing with your strength," sneered Jian Chen. He immediately swung his Emperor Armament with lightning-like speed, shooting out five strands of powerful, black sword Qi.

Within a single moment, Tao Zhengtian easily dodged Jian Chen's five sword Qi. Although the sword Qi failed to hit him, they continued on without slowing at all. They caught up with five Saint Rulers of the Tao family who were currently fleeing, impaling their bodies and vanishing.

"Argh!"

The five Saint Rulers all howling an agony as their faces distorted. It seemed like they were suffering from excruciating torture. However, they stopped crying out after a few seconds. Soon after their silence, their eyes blanked out since the black sword Qi had reached their souls, dissipating them.

Although Tao Zhengtian placed all his attention on Jian Chen, he knew exactly what was happening in the surroundings. He saw how the Jian Chen's sword Qi had perfectly hit the five Saint Rulers. It was impossible for him to not understand that Jian Chen's sword Qi was not targeting him, but the Saint Rulers of his clan.

Tao Zhengtian immediately roared out in anger. He began to wildly attack Jian Chen with his lance since his hatred for Jian Chen reached the absolute limit. Although his clan was large, one of the strongest clans in the territory of the Sea Goddess Hall, they only had around a dozen Saint Rulers. It was a devastating loss to lose five Saint Rulers in one stroke.

Tao Zhengtian's lance and Jian Chen's Emperor Armament had turned into blurs as they swung them. The two weapons collided form time to time, erupting with violent booms. Powerful streams of energy and residual sword Qi were launched in all directions, creating huge, bottomless pits as they struck the ground.

A few wounds had already appeared on Jian Chen's body, dyeing his clothes red with blood. Even though he was injured, his battle prowess did not decrease, and instead, it became even mightier the more he fought. At the same time, he rapidly circulated Chaotic Force within his body, which not only stabilized his condition in an extremely short amount of time, but also allowed his wounds to rapidly close up.

Jian Chen really was not Tao Zhengtian's opponent, but it was basically impossible for Tao Zhengtian to kill him. Heavily injuring him or dealing a fatal blow to Jian Chen was impossible in a short amount of time.

At this moment, another dazzling stream of golden light flickered. Tie Ta swept through the air with his axe, swinging it toward the Third Heavenly Layer Saint King. Before it had even struck its target, the supreme battle intent hidden inside collided against the Saint King's soul like a great warhammer, shattering his courage in battle and stunning him for a moment.

In that moment, the golden light disappeared with a flash. The axe had already cleaved through the head of the Saint King, obliterating his soul. Even his body had been chopped into two by Tie Ta. Blood sprayed into the air and fell like rain.

Tie Ta smoothly removed the Saint King's Space Ring before immediately moving away. With a flash of golden light, he had disappeared, appearing next to Nubis in a moment.

Nubis' opponent was a Saint King of the Fourth Heavenly Layer. He possessed the same strength as Nubis, but as Nubis was a beast of antiquity, there was rarely anyone who could match up to him within

the same level of cultivation. Although it was very difficult for him to kill someone like that in such a short amount of time, he had heavily injured his opponent with his poison.

He was poisoned by the venom of a Silver Striped Golden Snake, which was extremely potent. Coupled with Nubis' strength as a Fourth Heavenly Layer Saint King, the venom was countless times more powerful than before. Even Saint Kings were likely to suffer death if they were poisoned and did not do something about it soon.

"Big fellow, I can finish him. He can't last much longer, so don't worry about me. Go help the others," Nubis obviously knew what Tie Ta wanted to do when he saw him arrive by his side. He hurriedly informed Tie Ta of the situation.

"Nubis, Jian Chen said that we need to finish off as many Saint Kings in the shortest amount of time as possible, or we'll have no chance once Tao Zhengtian pulls out his divine hall. Let me finish him off quickly, and then you can immediately go help out Jian Chen against Tao Zhengtian," Tie Ta said with his deep voice.

"Alright, I'll leave this person to you, big fellow. I'll go help out Jian Chen," Nubis still ended up abiding by what Tie Ta said. He passed his enemy to Tie Ta and immediately went up to assist Jian Chen against Tao Zhengtian.

The Tao family had a total of two Saint Kings. The first one was Tao Zhengtian while the second one was Tao Lin. In his battle against Nubis, Tao Lin had been poisoned, resulting in an abrupt drop in strength and then suffered a few attacks from Nubis. He was already heavily injured, and just when he could not last much longer, his opponent changed from Nubis, who was only a little stronger than him to the terrifying Tie Ta, making his heart sink.

Although he had never clashed with Tie Ta before, he had witnessed Tie Ta killing off two Saint Kings with ease. Probably even Tao Zhengtian was unable to accomplish something so glorious, so how was it possible for him to last very long in front of Tie Ta while he was heavily injured?

At that moment, Tao Lin's fear for Tie Ta reached an absolute limit. He had no interest in fighting Tie Ta, so he turned around and fled as quickly as possible.

Tie Ta became slightly stunned by how Tao Lin fled. However, he soon smiled in a straightforward manner, "You can't run from me. Mysteries of War, Celestial Movement!" With that, Tie Ta vanished with a flash of golden light. He had basically reappeared the next moment several thousand meters away. Not only was he ahead of Tao Lin, who had turned to flee, he just happened to stop right in front of him.

Tao Lin was surprised by how Tie Ta had appeared in front of him like teleportation. Disbelief filled his face, but before he could do anything, a dazzling, golden light appeared in his eyes. He saw Tie Ta's axe swing toward him as it glowed with an endless luster. Just when he wanted to dodge, the supreme battle intent smashed against his soul like a hammer, making it feel like thunder had erupted in his head. Not only did it shatter all his courage for battle, it jolted him to the point where he became dumbstruck.



The supreme battle intent from the axe was casually given off by Tie Ta. He did not use all his strength intentionally. Tao Lin was stronger than the two Saint Kings Tie Ta had killed before, so his soul was stronger as well. As a result, he obviously possessed better resistance.

Just as Tie Ta's axe was about to land on him, Tao Lin suddenly stirred. As he stared at the rapidly-expanding axe in front of him, he immediately paled in fright and placed his trident before him without a second thought.

Ding!

The trident split in half as it blocked Tie Ta's strike. The great force blew Tao Lin away, who heavily struck the ground below, forming a great crater. His entire body was wedged into the ground as blood shot out.

Tie Ta did not plan on letting Tao Lin go. He immediately chased him with his golden axe.

"Tao Lin!" Tao Zhengtian sensed that Tao Lin's life was in danger, so he furiously roared at the sky. He forced Jian Chen away with a full-powered attack before charging toward Tao Lin in attempt to save him.

Tao Lin was a Saint King of the Tao family and had deep ties with Tao Zhengtian. Tao Zhengtian could watch indifferently as the Saint Kings of other clans fell, but he could not allow the Saint Kings of the Tao family to die right before him.

Nubis charged over from afar in an aggressive manner to block Tao Zhengtian's path. He sneered, "Tao Zhengtian, allow me, the great Nubis, to understand your strength." With that, Nubis spat out a gray cloud of venomous gas while his hands turned into powerful claws. They were rather similar to Rui Jin's dragon claws. He then clawed at Tao Zhengtian's chest.

A vast energy surged from Tao Zhengtian, instantly forming a three-inch-thick barrier of energy around him. It blocked Nubis' venomous gas while his claws became abnormally slow when they came in contact with the barrier.

"Piss off!" Tao Zhengtian angrily roared, hurling his palm at Nubis. It knocked Nubis away and cause him to vomit blood. Tao Zhengtian then shot toward Tao Lin with lightning-like speed to save him.

Tie Ta understood Tao Zhengtian's intentions. He finally became slightly stern as he gripped his axe with two hands. Bright golden light quickly began to gather around the axe as the battle intent within rapidly skyrocketed.

"Mysteries of War, Void-smasher!" Tie Ta mumbled deeply as he suddenly swung the axe above his head. A streak of dazzling, golden light disappeared into the void.

Tao Zhengtian hurried toward Tao Lin without paying attention to anything, but at that moment, his expression suddenly changed. Just when he was three meters away, a dazzling streak of golden light seemed to appear out of nowhere, cleaving toward him with lightning-like speed. At the same time, a supreme battle intent suddenly erupted, slamming against his soul like a huge hammer.

The battle intent was many times more powerful than what Tao Lin had experienced. Caught off-guard, Tao Zhengtian immediately let his attention slip. However, he was a peak Eighth Heavenly Layer Saint

King after all, so both the strength of his soul and power was incomparable to Tao Lin. He basically returned to his senses in a single moment, and without any hesitation, he immediately stabbed out as hard as he could. Thus, his lance collided with Tie Ta's axe.

Boom!

A deafening sound immediately erupted in the air. Although Tao Zhengtian had managed to block Tie Ta's axe with his hurried strike, he retreated uncontrollably from the violent residual energy. He became disheveled while his clothes became a mess. He was in an extremely horrible condition.

Chapter 1236: A Stalemate of Divine Halls

Tao Zhengtian stabilized himself after traveling a thousand meters. He stared in shock at Tie Ta, who was bathed in golden light, as disbelief filled his face. He could feel that Tie Ta was not very powerful, having not reached the 16th Star, but he was able to deliver such a terrifying attacks at will with his level of cultivation. His attacks also seemed to possessed wondrous effects that attacked the soul. This was the first time he had ever come across something like this.

At the same time, he understood that if it were not for the fact that he was at the peak of the Eighth Heavenly Layer and that his soul was much more powerful, he definitely would not have been able to react under the barrage of the battle intent within the axe so quickly. In that crucial moment, if he had reacted slightly slower, he would not have just been knocked away. He would have been heavily injured at the very least.

"Just where did this person come from? And what heaven-defying cultivation method does he practice?" Tao Zhengtian exclaimed inside. Tao Zhengtian found it very abnormal for such a terrifying expert to be unknown in the sea realm.

However, before Tao Zhengtian could think of anything else, Jian Chen rushed over from afar. He stabbed at Tao Zhengtian as a layer of Chaotic Force wrapped around his Emperor Armament, sticking to Tao Zhengtian firmly and preventing him from assisting other Saint Kings.

"Tao Zhengtian, taste my Saint Tier Battle Skill!" Nubis called out as vast energy coiled around his surroundings. His arms moved in a wondrous pattern as he cast his modified Saint Tier Battle Skill.

Nubis was currently pale-white. He had been quite heavily injured when he had been blown away by Tao Zhengtian's palm strike. However, he was still a beast of antiquity. Although his body was not as powerful as Jian Chen's Chaotic Body, it was still extremely tough. His injuries were not enough to influence his battle prowess.

It was clearly quite a big deal for Nubis to cast his Saint Tier Battle Skill. He was unable to use it instantaneously with his strength as a Fourth Heavenly Layer Saint King, so he needed a few seconds to charge up. A layer of dense, golden energy rapidly surged out of his body, coiling around him as it rotated. The color was the same as the energy used by Tie Ta, but that was only the appearance. In reality, the two energies were completely different. They weren't anywhere close to being the same.

"Soaring Draconic Serpent!" Nubis furiously roared as the golden energy around him froze at that moment. It turned into a huge, golden dragon that coiled around him, and with a clear roar, the snake-

like dragon took to the air. A great pressure surged toward Tao Zhengtian, acting against him while he battled Jian Chen.

Nubis' Saint Tier Battle Skill had already reached the Seventh Heavenly Layer, but Tao Zhengtian still managed to deal with both the battle skill and Jian Chen in an extremely composed manner. Each time he stabbed out with his lance, the golden dragon would be cleaved in half. However, Nubis' Saint Tier Battle Skill contained a shred of the Silver Striped Golden Snakes' essence, so it was clearly different from other battle skills. Before the golden dragon could dissipate after it had been split in half, it reformed in an extremely short amount of time, continuing toward Tao Zhengtian with the same amount of force as before.

On the other side, Tie Ta had already arrived by the crater that Tao Lin had formed. He mercilessly swung his axe of golden light, ending Tao Lin's life.

Tao Zhengtian violently jerked with Tao Lin's death as a sliver of sorrow crossed his face. He wanted to help, but he was caught in a busy scuffle with Jian Chen and Nubis. Tie Ta was so close to Tao Lin as well. He would not have been able to make it even if he had pulled out his divine hall. As a result, he could only watch helplessly as Tao Lin died before his eyes.

Tie Ta took away Tao Lin's Space Ring before arriving beside Qing Yixuan. He said with his deep but gentle voice, "Leave this to me. Go help Jian Chen."

Qing Yixuan said nothing. She nodded before handing her opponent to Tie Ta, charging towards Tao Zhengtian.

Tao Zhengtian finally felt slightly pressured when Qing Yixuan joined in. The Saint Kings on his side were rapidly dying. There would be one extra Saint King on the Turtle clan's side to come deal with him after every death. Once the battle became drawn out, he would gain more and more opponents, and it would become even more difficult for him to face all of them.

Tao Zhengtian knew he could not continue like this when he arrived at that conclusion. The longer he lasted, the more casualties his side would suffer. On the other hand, although there were some people who had become injured on the Turtle clan's side, none of them had died.

"All the people of the Tao family, enter the divine hall immediately!" Tao Zhengtian called out as a sound wave erupted through the battle between the Saint Kings. It echoed within a radius of a hundred kilometers.

A simple divine hall was thrown into the air by Tao Zhengtian. It became a huge, majestic hall in the blink of an eye in the incoming wind. It radiated with a desolate presence and was covered by marks left behind by time. Clearly, it had existed for a very long time already.

The divine hall immediately produced an extremely heavy boom when it struck the ground. The entire place shook violently as the divine hall's door swung open. It stood like a tough fortress and blocked all the violent energies that swept through the sky. It created a region of safety around the divine hall.

The scattered, terrified clansmen, who were dodging the streams of energy, seemed like they had seen a ray of hope and charged into the divine hall as quickly as they could.

A dazzling golden light radiated through the air. Tie Ta swung his axe with great force toward a black-robed old man in front of him. The old man was a Saint King of the Fifth Heavenly Layer, but he had already become heavily injured from his fight with Qing Yixuan. As a result, he did not have any power to resist Tie Ta's powerful swing. At the moment he had become dazed from the supreme battle intent, the golden axe cleaved his head in half.

Four of the nine Saint Kings within the alliance had been slain by Tie Ta with lightning-like speed, and the remaining five held their ground with difficulty. However, all of them were extremely stern without exception. They no longer revealed the great confidence they had showed earlier.

Meanwhile, the ancestor of the Moxi clan regretted his actions inside. If he had known that the Turtle clan was so powerful earlier, he would never have agreed to the marriage with the Tao family, much less work with the Tao family against the Turtle clan. His Moxi clan had suffered severely from the conflict with the Turtle clan since one of the Saint Kings slain by Tie Ta was a part of his clan.

"Enter the divine hall!" Tao Zhengtian bellowed with a sunken expression. He was not carried away by his battle. He swung his lance as hard as he could, forcing back Jian Chen and Qing Yixuan. Afterward, he retreated, disappearing in the divine hall with a flash. The four other Saint Kings in the alliance did not tarry either, entering the divine hall at the same time as Tao Zhengtian, moving as quickly as they could.

The divine hall's door suddenly slammed shut and the structure rose up from the ground, quickly reaching an altitude of a thousand kilometers.

"Ancestor, let us in..." Over a thousand clansmen of the Tao family had failed to enter the divine hall in time. They all began to plead as despair filled their faces. A few clever people immediately turned around to flee into the distance when they saw that there was no hope of entering the divine hall. They wanted to avoid the pursuit of the Turtle clan experts as well as the energy ripples from the battle.

Tao Zhengtian did not leave as he controlled the divine hall. Instead, the divine hall rapidly fell onto Jian Chen and the others. He wanted to use the toughness of his divine hall to deal with the eight of them.

Jian Chen coldly smiled when he realized what Tao Zhengtian was trying to do, "Tao Zhengtian, do you think you're the only one with a divine hall?" The Octoterra Divine Hall had appeared in Jian Chen's hands and transformed into a gigantic structure instantly. It was no smaller than Tao Zhengtian's divine hall.

Jian Chen, Nubis, Tie Ta, Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas all charged into the divine hall. Under Jian Chen's control, the divine hall quickly charged into the sky. It moved like a streak of light, and by the looks of it, it looked to be flying toward the Tao family's divine hall.

Although the Octoterra Divine Hall had been beaten to ruins by Kaiser, it could repair automatically. After so much time, it had recovered by at least eighty percent even though it had not completely returned to how it had been before, and it seemed fine from the outside.

"Boom!" With a violent sound, the two divine halls brutally collided in the air. The great force created from the collision knocked the two of them away.

The two divine halls remained in perfect condition. The violent collision had not even left a scratch on them.

The divine halls hovered at a high altitude in unison after clashing once. They both knew that neither of them could do anything to the other unless they were in possession of a Saint Emperor's strength.

"Ruler of the Turtle clan, I never thought you'd have a divine hall as well," Tao Zhengtian's cold voice rang from his divine hall.

Jian Chen appeared silently on the highest point of the Octoterra Divine Hall. He coldly stared at the Tao family's divine hall a thousand meters away and responded with, "Tao Zhengtian, I still can't break through your divine hall today, so it ends here. However, this by no means resolves the enmity between your Tao family and my Turtle clan. When I gain the power that can break through the divine hall, the experts of the Turtle clan will come visiting again."

#### Chapter 1237: Emissary of the Heaven's Spirit Hall

"Hmph, you sure put it lightly. The only way for you to smash through my divine hall is to break through to the 17th Star and become an emperor. Ruler of the Turtle clan, I must admit that I've underestimated the strength of your clan, but it's impossible for you to become an emperor," Tao Zhengtian's icy-cold voice reverberated from the divine hall. It was filled with scorn. How could reaching the level of emperors be that easy? Even Tao Zhengtian, who was about to become a hall elder, did not yearn for such a level of strength.

Jian Chen sneered, "It's not up to you to decide whether I can become an emperor or not. The next time I visit your Tao family will be the day I smash your divine hall." With that, Jian Chen controlled the divine hall and flew away. He picked up the elders of the Turtle clan, who were hiding several dozen kilometers away, and returned to the clan.

Jian Chen knew that Tao Zhengtian possessed a divine hall, so wiping out the Tao family was impossible. He still was not in possession of the power to destroy divine halls. What he did today was to collect some of the debt the Tao family owed the Turtle clan and to make the alliance pay a certain price for the disaster they had caused several days ago.

The divine hall vanished into the horizon with the experts of the Turtle clan. Only after confirming that they would not return did Tao Zhengtian put away his divine hall. However, only the five Saint Kings who had managed to survive left the divine hall. Tao Zhengtian dared not let out the clansmen who had entered, afraid that Jian Chen would take revenge on them.

Tao Zhengtian silently hovered in the air with the four other experts as they stared at the land of the Tao family that had been reduced to ruins. They were all gloomy and their emotions were heavy.

The corpses of the people from the Tao family were littered everywhere in the messy ruins. These people had all died from the great ripples of battle that had appeared in the battle between the Saint Kings, and among the corpses were close to ten Saint Rulers.

Tao Zhengtian slowly glanced over the ruins as his face darkened. His hands creaked from how hard he clenched them as flames of fury burned within him along with deep regret.

His clan had lost far too much during that battle. Over half of the clansmen had died and barely any elites were left. Even two-thirds of the Saint Rulers had died along with Tao Lin, who was a Saint King.

Compared to the Tao family, the losses of the Turtle clan were nothing. After all, their core power still existed.

“We judged the Turtle clan’s strength incorrectly. We never thought that they were actually so powerful. The Turtle clan will not just let this matter go like this. My Taiyi clan does not have a divine hall. Tao Zhengtian, I need to return to my clan immediately and find a way to avoid the revenge of the Turtle clan,” Tai Tongyi informed him with a heavy voice.

“I must immediately return to sort this out as well, or the Turtle clan can easily wipe out my Kai’en clan with the strength they’ve displayed,” said the ancestor of the Kai’en clan. His face was rather pale, and he felt extremely regretful over what he had taken part in. If he had known that the Turtle clan was this powerful before, he would have politely handed over the crystal mines he had taken from the Turtle clan.

“Sigh,” the ancestor of the Moxi clan exhaled as worry filled his face as well. He was constantly berating himself inside. Originally, his clan had nothing to do with the whole matter, but he was greedy for the resources the Turtle clan possessed, so he agreed to the marriage with the Tao family, causing him to join with the Tao family to handle the Turtle clan.

“It’s all because of my greed,” the ancestor sighed inside. With everything how it was now, he knew that his clan had already become tied with the Tao family. Regret was already useless.

“Everyone, we’ve become complete enemies of the Turtle clan. Fleeing is completely useless. The Turtle clan will never let us go. Let’s fuse our clans together for now and protect ourselves with my divine hall. We can slowly develop a plan to deal with the Turtle clan later,” said Tao Zhengtian. He knew that the experts around him represented an extremely great force. They were a great resource for dealing with the Turtle clan, so he needed to make them stay no matter what.

After considering their choices, the other Saint Kings all nodded before returning to their clans to make some preparations. Afterward, they sent the elite forces of their clans as well as their direct descendants to the Tao family. All the clansmen who had not been sent to the Tao family were dismissed, making them hide themselves in various places around the sea realm. It was no longer their problem if the people of the Turtle clan decided to hunt them down or not.

A huge, majestic divine hall stood quietly in the very center of the Heaven’s Spirit Hall’s territory. The divine hall was a supreme existence within the land because it was where the ruler resided.

At this moment, an illusionary, middle-aged man sat on a throne in the highest, most well-decorated room of the hall. He was an image projected by a powerful soul and not the person himself. A capable old man knelt beneath him.

“Hall master, I have returned from investigating things on the Tian Yuan Continent. That person’s name is Jian Chen, and he is extremely well-known on the Tian Yuan Continent. He is an unprecedented prodigy, having reached Saint Ruler in less than fifty years of cultivation. In the end, because of matters due to the ancient beast god, he suffered the pursuit of the emperors from the Beast God Continent, which was why he hid in the sea realm. During that time, he assisted the Dare tribe in dealing with the Menghuang tribe and happened to slay the emissary of the Serpent God Hall who was in possession of the Abyssal Crystal. He obtained the crystal from there and fled into the territory of the Sea Goddess

Hall. He then ended up with the ruler's Qi of the Turtle clan for some unknown reason and becoming their ruler."

The illusionary man on the throne frowned slightly. Although the Winged Tiger God was an ancient beast god that could possibly surpass Saint Emperor, all of it had nothing to do with the sea realm. What truly intrigued him was how Jian Chen possessed the ruler's Qi of the Turtle clan when he was clearly a human.

The old man continued, "I've just received recent news that Jian Chen has been appearing on the Tian Yuan Continent from time to time, and his strength has increased to the level of a Saint King. However, he also appears from time to time in the sea realm and has even ventured into the dangerous divine realm. However, the barrier that guards the sea realm only allows outsiders that are below Saint King to enter. Once they reach Saint King, their entry will be denied after they leave, but this Jian Chen seems to be able to pass through it at will, as if the barrier's restriction of strength is completely useless against him.

"I originally believed that the Jian Chen who had appeared on the Tian Yuan Continent and the ruler of the Turtle clan were two different people, but when I had analyzed when Jian Chen and the ruler of the Turtle clan appeared and disappeared, they matched up perfectly, to my surprise. Everytime Jian Chen appears on the Tian Yuan Continent, the ruler of the Turtle clan would vanish and vice versa. Even more importantly, Jian Chen's increases in strength actually match up perfectly with the ruler of the Turtle clan. When Jian Chen sought refuge in the sea realm, he was just a Saint Ruler, and the ruler back then was the same. Afterward, the Jian Chen from the Tian Yuan Continent reached Saint King, and the ruler of the Turtle clan mirrored the action closely. This is why I suspect the two of them to be the same person."

The hall master of the Heaven's Spirit Hall deeply smiled and said, "Other than that, even his name and appearance is the exact same. There's no need for any more guessing. They're definitely the same person. If I've guessed correctly, the ruler's Qi that's appeared on Jian Chen for no reason should explain why he can freely pass through the barrier of the sea realm."

The old man knelt on the ground courteously as he remained silent.

The hall master waved his hand, "You are dismissed, and send an emissary to the Turtle clan in the territory of the Sea Goddess Hall. Tell him that I have invited him to my Heaven's Spirit Hall as a guest."

"Yes, hall master!"

...

In the blink of an eye, five days had passed since the battle of the Turtle clan and the Tao family. During those five days, Jian Chen led a group of experts from the Turtle clan to visit all the clans that had allied themselves with the Tao family. Jian Chen ruthlessly wiped out the upper echelon, elites and direct descendants of the clans that had taken part in the attack against the Turtle clan, leaving behind a few innocent mercenaries and servants who were free to go.

Not only did the Turtle clan take back all the crystal mines they had lost several days ago, they even obtained a large number of crystal coins and valuable items from these clans. Other than the large clans

that the four Saint Kings belonged to, which were cleared out, all the other clans and organizations either dispersed or were wiped out. Their names completely disappeared from the sea realm.

Even the great Moxi clan was reduced to an empty shell. All the items that could be taken away were taken away while the direct descendants and the upper echelon had completely vanished. All that was left was a few people of lower statuses.

Jian Chen knew that the Moxi clan and the three other clans had abandoned the bases that they had erected with much effort. They had all lead their experts and elites to join up with the Tao family.

Jian Chen did not really care in regard to this. He could not wipe out the Tao family right now, so it was nothing even if he let them exist for a few more days. Once he obtained the power to destroy the divine hall of the Tao family, he would completely finish resolving their enmity.

The battle between the Turtle clan and Tao family had already swept through the entire territory of the Sea Goddess Hall. All the people were shocked by the Turtle clan's strength. At the same time, all the great clans within the territory began to deeply fear them.

On this day, Jian Chen was discussing the future developments of the clan with the elders of the Turtle clan. A guard suddenly ran in and dropped to one knee, "Ruler, the Heaven's Spirit Hall has sent an emissary. He has said that he was sent by their hall master. The hall master wants to meet the ruler!"

Chapter 1238: Houston Becomes a Saint Emperor

"What? The hall master of the Heaven's Spirit Hall has sent an emissary?" Jian Chen was stunned by the guard's report. The hall master of the Heaven's Spirit Hall was one of the three rulers of the sea realm. He was a Saint Emperor, so why would someone as great as him send an emissary to the Turtle clan as well as say that he wanted to see him. Jian Chen did not have any connections with the hall master.

"Invite the emissary into the the guest room," Jian Chen said to the guard after thinking a little.

The guard left as ordered while Jian Chen put his meeting with the elders on hold. He then made his way to the guest room.

The emissary was already waiting in the guest room. There were a total of three people, and the leading person was an ordinary-looking old man. He was dressed in a simple fashion while his eyes shone with gleams of light from time to time.

Two extremely burly men in tight robes stood behind the old man. Their uncovered, thick arms would flicker with weak, blue light from time to time. Both of them possessed deep-blue skin.

Jian Chen was slightly surprised when he glanced over the three of them. He could tell with a single glance that the seated old man was a Third Heavenly Layer Saint King while the two middle-aged men behind him were Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint Rulers.

"The emissary sent by the Heaven's Spirit Hall is a Saint King and his followers are Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint Rulers. What extravagance," Jian Chen thought inside.

The emissary immediately stood from his seat when he saw Jian Chen. He clasped his hands at Jian Chen with a smile, "I am Hu Bai, and I greet the ruler of the Turtle clan!"



“You are far too polite, emissary Hu Bai. Please sit,” Jian Chen politely replied with a smile before sitting opposite of Hu Bai. He asked for his well being out of politeness before approaching the main topic, “May I ask why you’ve come from so far away to my Turtle clan?”

The Sea Goddess Hall, Heaven’s Spirit Hall, and Serpent God Hall had an agreement. All members of the halls were not allowed to trespass each other’s territory without explicit permission. Although Hu Bai belonged to the Heaven’s Spirit Hall, he had come to the territory of the Sea Goddess Hall as an emissary. As long as he did not cause trouble here, he would obviously be able to pass through smoothly.

“Ruler, I’ve come under the orders of the great hall master to pass on a message. The great hall master has personally invited the ruler to our Heaven’s Spirit Hall as a guest. Ruler, so...” Hu Bai said amicably as gave a positive smile. He was very polite.

Jian Chen frowned slightly. He had no ties with the hall master of the Heaven’s Spirit Hall. He had even visited the Heaven’s Spirit Hall to cause trouble once, but it was resolved when a hall elder of the Heaven’s Spirit Hall told Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas to follow him. He could not agree no matter what if the hall master of the Heaven’s Spirit Hall wanted him to visit. This was because he was only safe in the Sea Goddess Hall among the three territories.

Jian Chen immediately displayed a slightly troubled expression when he thought up to there. He said, “Emissary Hu Bai, please help me bring back a message to your esteemed hall master. My clan has undergone conflict with the Tao family recently and we are suffering from significant losses, so I still have many matters to deal with. I really can’t make the time, but if I really am able in the future, I will definitely pay a visit to the Heaven’s Spirit Hall.” Jian Chen really meant it when he said he would pay a visit, but that would only be once he was powerful enough to deal with Saint Emperors. At that time, he would definitely pay a visit to the Heaven’s Spirit Hall and the Serpent God Hall, the Serpent God Hall in particular. He had yet to clear his debt from back then with them.

The emissary had obviously heard of the news between the Turtle clan and the Tao family’s alliance, so he did not doubt what Jian Chen had said. Also, he was unsure what the connection between the hall master and Jian Chen was, so he dared not to do anything that could offend Jian Chen. As a result, he stood up with a smile and clasped his hands, “Sure, sure. The Turtle clan has just gone through a battle, so there are obviously countless miscellaneous matters to deal with. Ruler, I’ve already delivered the message, so my mission is complete. I should return, so I’ll stop wasting the ruler’s precious time. Farewell!”

“Farewell!” Jian Chen also stood up and saw Hu Bai off personally. He then continues the meeting with the Turtle clan discussing the future developments.

After the meeting, Jian Chen went nowhere. He passed down images of the materials needed for the Azulet swords to people so they could search the entire sea realm before entering seclusion himself. He continued to work hard on absorbing the almost-invalid monster cores to increase his strength while he waited for the arrival of the worldly ebb.

Two days later, Hu Bai reported what Jian Chen had said to the hall master without missing a single detail in the gigantic divine hall of the Heaven’s Spirit Hall.

The hall master remained as a projection of the soul. After listening to Hu Bai's report, he frowned slightly and dismissed Hu Bai with a wave of his hand. He mumbled to himself, "The ruler of the Turtle clan has actually made up an excuse against me. Looks like inviting him over really will be quite difficult. Do I have to visit him personally?"

With that, the hall master sank deep into thought. He remained silent for quite some time.

An old man in hemp clothing currently sat in a cave within a mountain in a huge, desolate mountain range on the Tian Yuan Continent. A dense red mist permeated his surroundings, and it was sticky like blood. It would pulse from time to time like a heart, churning violently at other times as if a dragon was stirring.

The old man was Houston. After obtaining the Emyrean Demon Orb from Jian Chen, he had left Longevity Valley and found a desolate mountain range with scarce energy of the world to enter seclusion. He was trying to break through to Saint Emperor.

At this moment, the red mist around Houston came to a sudden stop, as if the beating heart had come to a halt. It all stopped moving.

However, this only lasted for several seconds. Suddenly, a terrifying presence that seemed to be enough to destroy the surroundings began to radiate from him. The presence was extremely powerful and destroyed the cave. The entire mountain cracked open as countless pieces of rock flew in all directions.

Houston felt nothing. He sat unmoving like a mountain, floating in the air unaffected by gravity. Wild wind whistled past, but it could not blow him away. Meanwhile, his terrifying presence engulfed the entire mountain range.

An even stickier blood-red mist radiated from Houston's body before turning into a tornado that quickly revolved around him. As it spun, the dense and sticky mist would rapidly grow deeper in color and became more consolidated. It was taking a qualitative leap bit by bit at a visible rate.

A mass of colorful clouds had already appeared in the sky that was originally a deep blue. The clouds actually contained nine colors. They were the nine-colored rainbow clouds that rarely ever appeared on the Tian Yuan Continent.

With the mountain range as its center, the clouds expanded silently in all directions at an unbelievable rate. In just half a minute, the clouds enveloped the entire continent.

At that moment, everyone across the continent stopped what they were doing. They looked at the sky in curiosity, staring at the silent, colorful clouds in the sky. Very few people knew what was happening.

In the various cities on the Tian Yuan Continent, both the hurried or feasting mercenaries and merchants were standing on the street without any exceptions. They all pointed at the nine-colored rainbow clouds and discussed them. No one knew what was happening.

However, different rumors appeared in every place very soon.

Some people said that the nine-colored clouds were an omen of great fortune. The continent was about to change and be united by a powerful empire or organization, creating a whole new empire...

There were some other people who said that a spiritual item of the world or some great treasure was about to come into existence with the nine-colored clouds...

There were even others who said that the clouds were an omen of disaster, that an unprecedented calamity was about to happen to the Tian Yuan Continent, bad enough to destroy the world.

All the Saint Rulers and Saint Kings who stayed in the miniature world within Mercenary City received the news. They made their way out as soon as possible and raised their heads at the sky, staring blankly.

The people with the lowest standings on the continent had no idea what the rainbow clouds meant. However, the meaning behind the clouds was no secret to a few Saint Rulers and knowledgeable Heaven Saint Masters.

On the Tian Yuan Continent, all the Heaven Saint Masters who broke through to Saint Ruler would produce rainbow clouds. However, the area covered would be tiny and there would only be five colors.

Rainbow clouds would also appear when reaching Saint King. The colors would increase to seven and cover an even larger area.

If a Saint King broke through to Saint Emperor, nine-colored lights on clouds would descend from the sky, enveloping the entire continent.

The Saint Rulers and Saint Kings in Mercenary City all knew from the nine-colored clouds that a second Saint Emperor would be appearing after the path lord of carnal desires on the Tian Yuan Continent.

“Who is it? Just who has become a Saint Emperor?” A Saint King elder hovered above Mercenary City and wondered in excitement while staring at the nine-colored clouds. His voice trembled and contained unhideable envy and yearning.

“Someone has actually broken through the last step to become a Saint Emperor in this age that lacks Saint Emperors. He must be someone extremely outstanding. I just wonder who he is. Is he great elder Tian Jian or a member of the protector clans?” Another Saint King asked with mixed emotions in Mercenary City.

#### Chapter 1239: Congratulations From Everywhere

“Great elder Tian Jian has reached the Great Perfection of Saint King for many years now, but he has never been able to overcome the final barrier. He’s now approaching the end of his life with only a hundred years left. Just a while ago, great elder Tian Jian suddenly stepped down from his position and left Mercenary City in search of a breakthrough to Saint Emperor, yet the nine-colored rainbow clouds have descended now. This is the sign that someone has reached Saint Emperor. Is it really great elder Tian Jian?” The speaker was a ruddy old man. He used to be the second elder of Mercenary City, but after Tian Jian stepped down, he was elevated to grand elder. He was now the most authoritative person in the city, possessing strength at the Ninth Heavenly Layer and was not too far from reaching Great Perfection.

Meanwhile, Tian Jian became a great elder of Mercenary City after having resigned from his post.

“Great elder Tian Jian has only left the city recently. I don’t think he’s broken through to Saint Emperor in such a short amount of time,” said a red-robed, middle-aged man. He was a Saint King elder of the city.

“The number of Saint Kings currently at Great Perfection on the continent can be counted on fingers. Even if we include those independent cultivators who spend all their time hidden away in the mountains, there’s less than twenty. As for great elder Tian Jian, his talent is extremely great, and he’s read the cultivation experiences and knowledge of many Saint Emperor predecessors of Mercenary City. It’s extremely likely for him to reach Saint Emperor. He might have left the city in such a manner to find something to trigger his breakthrough,” said a skinny, extremely ordinary-looking Saint King elder. He felt unhideable admiration for Tian Jian.

At this moment, the new grand elder said, “Alright, let’s stop guessing here. In a while, once the person who’s breaking through completely consolidates his cultivation, it will lead to a pulsing of the mysteries of the world that will spread across the entire continent. All we need to do is find the epicenter of the pulsing and then we’ll know who’s broken through.”

The nine-colored clouds had enveloped the entire continent. Although the sight had caused a great commotion as well as some fear among the weaker people of the continent, the matter influenced all the knowledgeable Saint Rulers and Saint Kings the most. All the Saint Kings on the continent struggled to maintain their calm as they all stared at the colorful clouds in excitement. Extremely great envy and yearning poured from their gazes. They were all curious to know just who had advanced.

Ten thousand kilometers away from the City of God, a wooden hut stood alone on the highest peak of the mountain range. The wind whistled wildly there, producing sounds like sobs, but it could not sway the wooden hut at all.

At this moment, Hao Wu was standing with his arms crossed outside the hut. He stared at the clouds that had enveloped the entire world in interest as he mumbled, “Someone’s finally broken through to Saint Emperor on the continent again.” Hao Wu’s eyes twinkled, revealing a sliver of envy and yearning as well. The realm of Saint Emperors was an irresistible enticement to all Saint Kings.

However, he seemed to think of something soon afterward. The yearning in his eyes disappeared. It was replaced by a sliver of loneliness and deep sorrow. He turned around and entered the wooden hut, sitting next to the bed as he held Zaa Caiyun’s white hand. He emotionally said, “I don’t wish to reach Saint Emperor in this life. I only Caiyun can wake up sooner.”

Zaa Caiyun’s situation had been caused by her attempted suicide. She had harmed her soul and sealed herself off, which had not left an injury of the body. As a result, Hao Wu could do nothing since injuries of the soul were the most difficult to deal with.

The nine-colored clouds covered the sky for half a day before a powerful pulse of the mysteries of the world suddenly appeared, rapidly expanding into the distance.

The pulsing was at the level of a Saint Emperor and originated from where the person breaking through was. It also symbolized a successful break through to Saint Emperor.

“I know where it is now. Let’s go take a look.” The grand elder of Mercenary City called on a group of people and immediately ripped open a Space Gate before hurrying away with everyone.

“We finally know where that person is. Let’s go and see just who has broken through!” Other than the Changyang clan that had been sealed up, all the Saint Kings from the nine other clans moved out, heading in the direction of the pulsing together.

In this current era, breaking through to Saint Emperor on the Tian Yuan Continent was a huge matter. Thus, the identity of the person was extremely important to the continent. His affiliations could affect the future of the continent to a certain degree. If he was affiliated with the good, it would obviously be something worth celebrating over for the continent, but if he was bad, it could lead to a disaster on the Continent.

All the Saint Kings in the three great empires, in the ancient clans, and the ones scattered across the continent had ripped open a Space Gate and hurried over the moment the pulse reached them, including Changyang Zu Xiao at the Changyang clan and Changyang Zu Yunxiao, who was watching over the royal palace of the Gesun Kingdom.

Houston remained hovering in the air above the desolate mountain range. The blood-red mist around him had completely disappeared into his body while he radiated with a vast presence. Just the mere presence that he gave off from time to time was enough to make the surrounding space violently shake. It was extremely powerful.

When Houston sensed the great powers brought on from breaking through to Saint Emperor, he could not help but sigh emotionally inside. The power of a Saint Emperor was incomparable to Saint Kings at Great Perfection. Even though he had just broken through, he felt like the current powers he possessed were more than enough to squash a Saint King at Great Perfection to death with ease.

He had learned many shocking secrets from within the Emyrean Demon Orb after breaking through to Saint Emperor, because he could see an even larger world through the orb.

“Jian Chen has given me an overwhelming fortune. Saint Emperor is only the beginning of cultivation. The path in the future is still long,” Houston thought. Reaching Saint Emperor was something worth being happy over, but Houston remained very calm.

The surrounding space suddenly began to pulse as Space Gate after Space Gate appeared. Saint Kings emerged from all of them, and without any exception, all of the Saint Kings had erased their presences. They appeared like ordinary people, and even the Saint Kings from the protector clans and Mercenary City were like that.

In just a few short seconds, over two hundred Saint Kings had gathered in the space that had been empty before. All of them focused their gazes on Houston as soon as they emerged from their Space Gates, no longer able to shift their attention away. All of them understood extremely well that a true Saint Emperor sat before them from the terrifying presence Houston gave off from time to time.

“Houston, I never thought that you’d reach Saint Emperor,” the grand elder of Mercenary City sighed in surprise. He had thought about the people who could have become Saint Emperors earlier, but he definitely did not think that it would be an assassin. After all, the changes from a thousand years ago had greatly affected Houston.

However, the grand elder of Mercenary City also felt rather disappointed after confirming who it was. It was actually not great elder Tian Jian.

“Congratulations, sect master Houston, for reaching Saint Emperor and reaching the apex of the Tian Yuan Continent. A second Saint Emperor has finally appeared on our Tian Yuan Continent after the path lord of carnal desires.” The pavilion master of the Pure Heart Pavilion congratulated Houston first with a smile.

“Congratulations, sect master Houston...”

Afterward, all the Saint Kings arrived in front of him and congratulated him. Every single one of them bore smiles and spoke in a polite tone. In this era that lacked Saint Emperors, even the protector clans with deep heritages were unwilling to offend them so easily.

“Former sect master, y- you’ve really become a Saint Emperor?” An excited voice rang out from behind everyone. The vice sect master of the Bloodsword sect, Jiang Wang pushed his way to the front as he excitedly looked at Houston.

Jiang Wang’s excitement had peaked after learning that it was Houston who had become a Saint Emperor.

Houston finally opened his eyes at this moment. He first nodded at Jiang Wang before clasping his hands at the surroundings, “I thank you all for your congratulations.” Houston spoke with an extremely calm voice, without any joy or excitement that he should possess after reaching Saint Emperor.

“Houston has already become a glorious Saint Emperor, having become one of the only two of our continent, yet he’s still able to remain so calm. Just this has already surpassed all of us present. No wonder it was Houston who reached Saint Emperor. So his mental state has already reached a level far beyond us,” praised a Saint King, which immediately led to the agreement of many people.

Houston smiled nonchalantly with that and said, “There is never an end to cultivation. Saint Emperor is only just the beginning, so it’s nothing to be proud about. We must understand that there is always someone greater than us elsewhere. We have only been sheltered and ignorant in the past.”

All the people became stunned with what Houston had said. Saint Emperor was actually just the beginning? If it was someone else who had said that and not Houston, some of the people present would probably have begun cursing them.

“Everyone, I still have matters to attend to, so farewell.” Houston did not give a detailed explanation. He ripped open a Space Gate and left.

He had learned a lot of information from the Emyrean Demon Orb with his breakthrough. Not only did he understand that Saint Emperor was just the beginning, he had learned some shockingly powerful secret techniques. Even as a Saint Emperor, he could only use these secret techniques with difficulty. Their levels had surpassed Saint Tier Battle Skills.

Three days later, Houston consolidated his cultivation as a Saint Emperor and also gained a basic grasp over some of the secret techniques. He then made his way to the Death Nest all by himself.

“It’s here. This is the Death Nest. Weird. Why is the Emyrean Demon Orb constantly telling me that the Death Nest is calling to me?” Houston stopped outside the Death Nest and became extremely curious.

Chapter 1240: Blood-refining Formation

The Death Nest was filled with yin Qi and churned with black mist. Vicious, terrifying faces of ghosts would be conjured from time to time and would roar at the outside world. They wanted to charge out of the Death Nest, but they were trapped inside by the huge barrier that surrounds the nest. No matter how powerful or terrifying the yin Qi of the Death Nest was, none of it could leak outside.

Houston had completely erased his presence as a Saint Emperor. He stood outside the Death Nest at ease with his hemp clothing and stared into the depths with a flickering light in his eyes. Some confusion and curiosity appeared in his eyes. In his head, the Emyrean Demon Orb's cries became more and more powerful, hurriedly urging Houston into the Death Nest, as if there was something that deeply attracted it inside.

Houston was unaffected by the Emyrean Demon Orb. He could suppress the callings, but he did not do that. He knew that the Emyrean Demon Orb orb was extraordinary and the reason why he could become a Saint Emperor.

Houston stood outside in thought for a while before taking a step into the Death Nest. He was now a Saint Emperor, and great confidence came along with his great strength. He believed that even if there was something truly dangerous in the Death Nest, he could still retreat safely.

The Death Nest was the same as before. It was teeming with vile energies while the black mist churned constantly. The slightly-spongy ground was scarlet red, as if it had been doused by blood. The scattered trees and vegetation swayed in the wind. They seemed like ghosts brandishing their teeth and claws, which made them seem sinister and terrifying.

Houston remained the same as before as he calmly walked through the Death Nest. He maintained a straight path throughout, following the cries of the Emyrean Demon Orb as he headed straight for the depths.

At this moment, a icy presence churned out of the mist, silently entering Houston's head.

Although Houston had sensed it, he did not resist. He allowed the iciness to worm its way into his soul. He wanted to test the power of the icy presence.

However, Houston came to a halt the next moment. A sliver of surprise appeared on his face as he said, "This strand of iciness can actually be devoured by the Soul-devouring Force. It can assist the cultivation of Soul-devouring Force." Soul-devouring Force was also known as Baleful Yin Force. This was something he had learned from the Emyrean Demon Orb.

Before, Houston's cultivation method was a modified version of the Emyrean Demon Arts that came from the Emyrean Demon Orb. It had been modified by the Blood Demon Emperor and was an incomplete method, which was why Soul-devouring Force needed to be refined through slaughter and, thus, explained why it was a consumable. Now that Houston had obtained the complete cultivation method, all the energy within him had been transformed into Soul-devouring Force. Not only was it much more powerful than the Baleful Yin Force he had controlled before, he could create it without slaughter. All he needed to do was absorb the energy of the world and convert it through the Emyrean Demon Arts.

“No wonder the Emyrean Demon Orb wants me to come here. So the Death Nest is like a blessed land to those who practice the Emyrean Demon Arts.” Houston understood the situation very quickly and immediately began to move faster and faster.

For both the Tian Yuan Continent and the Beast God Continent, it was extremely difficult to increase a person’s strength once they reached Saint Emperor. Not only was this because of the absence of origin energy, but even the energy of the world was nowhere near as abundant as before. Very few people could reach the peak of Saint Emperor. Houston could already imagine that his strength would skyrocket in the future in a blessed place like the Death Nest.

Houston moved faster and faster. Although he seemed like he was taking a casual stroll, he would travel several kilometers with every step. Since he moved very quickly, he did not come across a single Saint Ruler vengeful spirit in the first zone, so he quickly arrived in the second zone.

In the second zone, the weakest vengeful spirits were Saint Kings. Before Houston could travel very far, he came across a Saint King vengeful spirit that attacked him from behind as silent as a shadow.

Houston did not slow down at all. With a flick of his finger, a red spark shot out and accurately landed on the vengeful spirit. This was Soul-devouring Force.

If it was before, Houston would have never used Soul-devouring Force so easily because it had been consumable and, hence, was extremely difficult to replenish. But after reaching Saint Emperor with the Emyrean Demon Arts, all the energy within him had been converted to Soul-devouring Force. To him, it was only an ordinary energy now and was extremely easily replenished, so he obviously did not mind using it.

The vengeful spirit was dissipated by the strand of Soul-devouring Force. It turned into a dark mist and was no longer able to reform.

As Houston moved, he suffered many attacks from Saint King vengeful spirits, but all of them were dissipated by him with a single strand of Soul-devouring Force without any exception, and they were unable to reform again.

Along the way, quite a lot the icy tendrils tried to attack Houston’s soul, but they were all refined by his Soul-devouring Force and became a part of his energy.

Although the Death Nest was filled with danger, they formed no threat to him. He passed through the second zone very quickly and arrived in the third.

As soon as he stepped into the third zone, an extremely powerful iciness wrapped around Houston from all directions. In the third zone, even Saint Kings at Great Perfection needed to circulate their Saint Force to resist the energies with an energy barrier outside, but Houston did not protect himself in any way, shape, or form. He allowed the iciness to worm its way into his body and soul. There was not the slightest discomfort at all, and instead, he felt extremely comfortable.

This was because all the iciness that entered his body was converted into his own Soul-devouring Force. To Houston, who practiced the Emyrean Demon Arts, not only did the icy presence fail to harm him, it continuously strengthened him instead. It was like a dense energy of the world.



Up ahead, two huge demonic figures slowly appeared in the churning mist, charging toward Houston like shadows.

“Saint Emperor vengeful spirits!” Houston could tell the strength of the two figures with a single glance. They were powerful existences that stood at the same level as him. He immediately became serious, and with a flick of his finger, two powerful strands of Soul-devouring Force shot toward the two figures like swords.

The vengeful spirits did not know how to dodge, so they charged at the Soul-devouring Force. As soon as they came in contact with the energy, they began to tremble violently. Their blurry faces began to distort, indicating pain, and then their bodies quickly faded. In just a few seconds, the two vengeful spirits had disappeared, turning into dull, dark mist that dispersed into the surroundings.

Meanwhile, since Houston’s two strands of Soul-devouring Force were too powerful, they continued into the depths of the Death Nest without weakening at all after dissipating the two demonic figures. The churning black mist dissipated wherever they passed by.

“Can this Soul-devouring Force suppress these vengeful spirits?” Houston was slightly stunned. He was very surprised inside. Before, when he had killed the Saint Kings vengeful spirits, he did not discover this because of how much more powerful he was. Now that he was dealing with Saint Emperor vengeful spirits, the effectiveness of Soul-devouring Force was immediately displayed.

However, what Houston did not know was that the two strands of Soul-devouring Force he had used against the two vengeful spirits were slowly strengthening as they flew. All the black mist they passed by was absorbed by them, constantly strengthening the two strands.

The Soul-devouring Force moved extremely quickly, arriving in the very center of the third zone very soon. Afterward, they dissipated as if they had collided with an invisible wall.

At the same time, the entire place trembled slightly. At that moment, some minute changes seemed to happen to the Death Nest.

Houston could obviously sense the changes as well since the calling of the Empyrean Demon Orb became more and more powerful. This filled him with curiosity as he continued toward the depths.

Along the way, Houston came across Saint Emperor vengeful spirits from time to time, but his Soul-devouring Force was effective against them. No matter how many came, they posed no threat to him.

Without much longer, Houston arrived in the center of the third zone. He did not continue on, and instead, he stood around quietly as he constantly examined his surroundings. His brows slowly furrowed as he murmured, “There’s a formation hidden within the void here. I- it seems to be a formation recorded within the Empyrean Demon Orb, but it’s a little different at the same time.”

Houston sank into his thoughts. A while later, a gleam of light flashed through his eyes as extremely dense Soul-devouring Force began to radiate from him. It turned into a red mist which extended out. Gradually, the formation hidden in the void appeared in front of Houston.

As soon as it had appeared, it sucked away all of Houston’s Soul-devouring Force. The energy seemed to have triggered the formation, and it began to shine with dazzling red light before rotating quickly after absorbing the Soul-devouring Force.

Rumble! At the same time, heavy rumbles constantly rang through the Death Nest. The ground gently trembled as a hidden formation appeared on the ground. It was extremely large and expanded across the entire Death Nest.

“T- this seems to be the Blood-refined Formation recorded in the Empyrean Demon Orb, and it’s complete. How can a complete Blood-refining Formation appear here?” Houston immediately became shocked when he saw the formation appear on the ground.