

Chaotic 1631

Chapter 1631: Refining the Cloud

As soon as Jian Chen entered the blood-red cloud, he felt a tremendous pressure crush in from all directions as if mountains were pressed up against him. His body suddenly sank, and his movement speed became greatly affected. At the same time, a presence filled with evilness entered Jian Chen's head, affecting it soul. He felt like he had begun to hallucinate.

Jian Chen's eyes narrowed, and the light in his eyes flickered. He concentrated and suppressed the hallucinations that the evil power triggered. Then the twin swords hovered above him and shone with azure and violet light, forming a screen around him. Chaotic Force filled every inch of his body at that moment as well, working with the twin swords to keep out the pressure from the cloud.

After all, the blood-red cloud had power equivalent to the evil spirit at its peak condition. Even though the powers of the Primordial Godsilk had purified a third of it, the remaining portion was still far greater than Jian Chen. If the consciousness of the evil spirit were still present, Jian Chen and the Spiritking would not be his opponent even if he could only control the remaining two-thirds of the power. Even though the evil spirit had been destroyed now, the blood-red cloud still pressured Jian Chen to a certain degree.

Jian Chen did not approach the center of the cloud. Instead, he stopped in the outskirts after travelling a hundred meters in. He sat down there sternly.

Even though he knew the evil spirit had been destroyed, Jian Chen still did not dare to be careless in the blood-red cloud because the cloud's power was just too great. It had surpassed Deity. He even wondered if Gods could control powers as great as the cloud.

Jian Chen sat in the blood-red cloud. He sucked in a deep breath and slowly closed his eyes. He began to absorb the power in the cloud carefully. Jian Chen was uncertain whether his Chaotic Body could absorb this power as it was just too tremendous and possessed an extremely evil presence. He was even less certain whether the power would be detrimental or beneficial to him, so he did not act recklessly at all with the attempt this time. He only absorbed a tiny sliver of the power that was about the size of a needle.

Jian Chen's body began to quiver violently when he absorbed the tiny sliver before he could even get to refining it. As soon as the power entered his body, it erupted with an extremely great might like gunpowder. The terrifying shockwaves almost severed all of Jian Chen's meridians.

The sliver of power was just too great, to the point where Jian Chen almost failed to endure it with his eighth layer Chaotic Body. Not to mention that he had only absorbed a needle size amount of that power. If he had absorbed more than that in one go, he would become severely injured to the extreme.

Jian Chen gritted his teeth and endured the excruciating pain silently. Every time his Chaotic Body progressed to a new layer, he would have to undergo the pain of refining his body. It would be torturous every time, so the pain from this tiny sliver of power could not be compared to it. It was nothing for Jian Chen to endure such pain.

Chaotic Force surged within Jian Chen's chaotic neidan. It produced strands of Chaotic Force as Jian Chen practised his cultivation method, devoting himself to refining the sliver of power.

Even though the power from the cloud was powerful, he was only refining a tiny sliver of it. Jian Chen refined it in just a short while.

Jian Chen did not beam in joy at all after refining the sliver of power. Instead, he frowned. He opened his eyes slowly and murmured, "This sliver of energy has actually been refined to nothingness. It has brought me no benefits. Is it impossible to refine the power within the cloud?"

"That's impossible. Chaotic Force is a power of the highest level in the entire universe. Aside from Xuanhuang Qi, there is no power that can rival Chaotic Force. Even Yin Qi and Yang Qi originate from Chaotic Force. Although my Chaotic Force is nowhere near true Chaotic Force, it should still exhibit some of the characteristics of true Chaotic Force. Although the power of the cloud is greater than the eighth layer Chaotic Force I possess right now, it's still a power without an owner. Logically speaking, there should be quite a high chance of me successfully absorbing and refining this power," Jian Chen quickly overthrew the thought that the Chaotic Body was unable to refine the power of the cloud. According to his understanding of Chaotic Force, it could absorb all energies and powers in the world. It was not classified amongst the five elements in the world. Of course, that was given that the power was within the range that his Chaotic Body could withstand.

Jian Chen did not give up and continued to absorb and refine the power of the cloud. He became even more confident that his Chaotic Body could absorb the power of the cloud after his thoughts earlier. He would never consider such action if the power of the cloud was still under the evil spirit's control, but the power had now become dead, unable to put up any resistance at all. That was enough for the possibility of refining the power for himself.

With the progression of every layer, the energy required by the Chaotic Body would increase by several folds, making it an extremely power-hungry cultivation method. He had reached the eighth layer now, so the number of resources Jian Chen required to reach the ninth layer was simply unimaginable. The Tian Yuan Continent would never possess enough of what he needed. If the power left behind by the evil spirit could help his Chaotic Body progress, it would be Jian Chen's fortune, even if it was not enough for him to reach the ninth layer. He could never pass by this opportunity.

Jian Chen also failed with his second attempt. The sliver of power he had absorbed was forcefully refined into nothingness within him, leaving nothing behind at all. His Chaotic Body did not grow either.

Jian Chen did not become discouraged and continued. However, his third attempt resulted in failure as well.

He failed the fourth time.

He failed the fifth time.

Finally, after five attempts, Jian Chen succeeded. The needle of power he had absorbed had finally been refined into a strand of Chaotic Force, becoming his own power.

"I understand now. It's impossible for every strand of the cloud's power to be refined into Chaotic Force due to its special characteristics. I need to collect the essence, but the difficult part is that the essence

can't be found so easily." Jian Chen's eyes shone. As long as he could refine the cloud's power into Chaotic Force, it was something worth celebrating over, even if it would take a long time.

Even though he would fail many times during the refinement of the cloud's power, as long as he could refine a single strand of it, his Chaotic Force would grow slightly. The increase would not be drastic, but it would be equivalent to years or even decades of absorbing the energy of the world.

Chapter 1632: The Push for Territory (One)

Jian Chen went mad afterwards. He completely devoted himself to cultivation. He wanted to increase his strength as much as possible now that a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity had presented itself before him. He paid no attention to the various matters the aftermath of the various battles caused. He sent a single message to his friends and family before entering seclusion, completely sealing himself off in the blood-red cloud.

Only after receiving news that Jian Chen had entered seclusion did the people of the two worlds begin to disperse. The people who left first were from the four races. Some of the severely injured people left first, returning to their clans to heal. However, there were also many fighters who had lost close friends and family who remained. They gazed at the battlefield sorrowfully as they struggled to dispel their pain. They remained there for quite some time.

In the blink of an eye, a portion of the people had left. They all originated from the Tian Yuan Continent's world. The people from the World of Forsaken Saints all remained on the spot. None of them dared to leave without the Spiritking's orders.

The Spiritking was the supreme ruler of the World of Forsaken Saints. If that world was an empire, he would be the emperor. They were different from the four races on the Tian Yuan Continent. Although each race possessed their own Origin realm experts, they did not restrain the people of their race, granting them more freedom.

"I never thought Jian Chen would actually choose to enter seclusion at a time like this. Are you really cultivating? Or are you escaping?" The Spiritking murmured to himself nonchalantly as he gazed at the blood-red cloud in outer space.

"Whatever. Since you want to cultivate, then we'll wait until you emerge. I just happen to need some time to heal the wounds of my soul as well," thought the Spiritking. Then he looked away at the people from his world who remained. He said, "All of you return. The protectors and elders will remain on the Tian Yuan Continent to recover. Once you have, cooperate with the Tian Yuan Continent in dealing with the aftermath."

All the experts from the World of Forsaken Saints responded; then the Sainthood experts passed through the tunnel to return to their world. The Origin realm experts all stayed behind. They completely understood that the Spiritking had ordered them to stay behind because he was ready to take up some territory in this world.

Although Jian Chen was the greatest contributor in averting the crisis of the world, they played a significant role as well. It could even be said that if the experts had not given up their lives willingly, everyone would still face death and defeat in the end even with Jian Chen's presence. Their world had

paid such a heavy price to stop the crisis of the world, so they would never drop the matter if the Tian Yuan Continent did not give them satisfactory compensation.

“We will record the names of the clansmen who burned their vital essences. Do not miss a single one of them. We will set up a memorial tablet for them in the Sacred Spirit Hall, and their clans and family will receive the protection of the Sacred Spirit Hall,” the Spiritking ordered.

“Yes, Spiritking!” The Origin realm experts all responded.

“Our continent wants a copy of that list as well. Their major contribution to stopping the crisis of the world has filled us with admiration. We want their names and their deeds to be passed down forever. They are worthy of all our respect,” Shangguan Mu’er flew over slowly and said solemnly. Without a single doubt, she had become the second sovereign of the humans with her strength at mid Returnance. Anything she said or did would obviously be enough to impact all the humans of the Tian Yuan Continent, and she was able to make the decision for some matters.

The Spiritking looked at Shangguan Mu’er, and the light in his eyes flickered by an undetectable amount. After a moment of silence, he said, “You’re also a human from the Tian Yuan Continent, and your strength is only second to Jian Chen. You can represent the Tian Yuan Continent. Since Jian Chen isn’t present right now, why don’t you represent your world and come to an agreement with mine?”

Shangguan Mu’er was interested. She had no idea what this so-called agreement would entail and did not even know whether an agreement like this was supposed to exist or not. However, she did understand that the Spiritking wanted territory on this world by using the contributions of his people as a reason. He wanted a safe place for his people. The World of Forsaken Saints obviously possessed a horrible natural environment, to the point where countless people would just die due to the environment alone every year. It was unsuitable for the habitation of weaker cultivators, while the natural environment of the Tian Yuan Continent was like heaven to the weaker cultivators. As a result, the World of Forsaken Saints did not only attack the Tian Yuan Continent for a passage to the Saints’ World, but so that the weaker people of their race could have a safe place to live.

“Unfortunately, I will have to disappoint the Spiritking. Although I am a human of the Tian Yuan Continent, I don’t live on the continent. I have always stayed on Three Saint Island, which lies among the oceans. As this matter relates to the agreement between the Tian Yuan Continent and your World of Forsaken Saints, how can I, an outsider, make the decision. It’s best if you wait for Jian Chen to return,” said Shangguan Mu’er.

The Spiritking frowned and stared deeply at the huge blood-red cloud in outer space once again. He said indifferently, “If that’s the case, then I’ll wait for Jian Chen to emerge. Xiong Zhong.”

“I am present!” Xiong Zhong immediately bowed towards the Spiritking nearby. He was extremely polite.

“Once you and the others recover, discuss with the representatives of the Tian Yuan Continent about how the territory will be divided. Come up with a plan first and Jian Chen and I will make the final decision,” the Spiritking ordered in a way where Xiong Zhong could not decline.

“Yes, Spiritking,” Xiong Zhong replied politely.

The Spiritking no longer remained after that order. He left as a streak of light, but he did not immediately return to the World of Forsaken Saints. Instead, he went to the territory of the elves first to personally thank Audriana. Only then did he return to the World of Forsaken Saints and work on healing his soul.

He had no idea whether he would be fighting with Jian Chen over territory once Jian Chen had emerged. If there really would be a battle, it would be very difficult for him to defeat Jian Chen with his injured soul, so he needed to recover to his peak condition before Jian Chen emerged.

He would not back down even in the slightest regarding territory, even if he came from the same world as Jian Chen.

Yang Lie, Feng Xiaotian, Guihai Yidao, and the others all revealed rather ugly expressions when they saw how the Spiritking had ordered his elders and protectors to remain on the Tian Yuan Continent. All of them arrived by Shangguan Mu'er's side, hoping that she would remain on the continent to watch over them. After all, now that Jian Chen was gone, they felt extremely pressured in the face of so many foreign Origin realm experts.

On the other side, when the foreign Origin realm experts saw how Yang Lie and the others wanted Shangguan Mu'er to watch over the continent, their faces all changed slightly. There was extremely deep fear in their gazes towards Shangguan Mu'er.

"Don't worry, everyone. I will always keep an eye out for the activity of the Tian Yuan Continent at all times. If you need me, I will immediately hurry over," Shangguan Mu'er declined their offers to stay. Then she looked towards the crowd and saw Xiao Qian, Xiao Yue, and Shangguan Aojian. A sliver of gentleness finally appeared in her cold eyes when she saw Shangguan Aojian. She said, "Xiao Bao, Xiao Qian, Xiao Yue, let's go!"

Xiao Bao, Xiao Qian, and Xiao Yue took part in the battle as well. Currently, their faces seemed rather weak and exhausted. They immediately flew out from the crowd when they heard Shangguan Mu'er's words. Under the envious and admiring gazes of many, they returned to Three Saint Island with Shangguan Mu'er.

At the same time, a very cold gaze landed on Shangguan Aojian's back. It was filled with disdain.

This gaze belonged to a young man with a rather striking appearance. His arrogance was obvious with his face. Even though he appeared to be rather weak, it was still not enough to hide the noble presence he possessed from being born and raised as a part of a large clan. The young man was the young master of the Changyang clan, Changyang Xu.

Close to twenty years had past, but Changyang Xu seemed exactly the same as before. His appearance and temperament was no different. The only thing that had changed was his strength. Now, he was no longer a Great Saint Master but a Saint Ruler.

Of course, he had only become a Saint Ruler through the usage of countless precious heavenly resources from the Changyang clan. As the young master of the Changyang clan, along with the fact that he was spoiled by the authoritative Changyang Ba, Changyang Xu was able to use all the resources that the Changyang clan had to offer without any restraint. He had received the personal guidance from many Saint Emperors, which was why he managed to reach Saint Ruler at such a young age.

He was different from Shangguan Aojian. Shangguan Aojian always maintained a low profile and never tried to publicize himself. Although there were a few rumors about the young island master of Three Saint Island in recent years, the rumors vanished gradually as he maintained his low profile. On the other hand, Changyang Xu came from a glorious clan and possessed a terrifying background. His status immediately skyrocketed after becoming the young master of the Changyang clan, drawing the attention of countless people across the continent. Coupled with his great talent for cultivation, his name as the young master of the Changyang clan gradually spread across the entire world. His fame would be able to rival Jian Chen's one day.

This was all because Changyang Xu had not used a Violet Cloud Peach to become a Saint Ruler.

Changyang Xu stared at Shangguan Aojian's back and clenched his fist tightly. He thought, "Young island master, you'll understand my power soon. You've just consumed a Violet Cloud Peach from my uncle, that's all. Do you really think you can beat me with just that? Now that my uncle has returned, I'll have a Violet Cloud Peach for myself very soon as well, and it'll be of the highest grade. I'll personally go to Three Saint Island to challenge you after I consume it. I will flatten you below my feet. I'll let you understand that the only reason why I was defeated by you all those years ago was because I had yet to consume a Violet Cloud Peach as well."

Changyang Xu felt plenty of resentment towards Shangguan Aojian. Only he knew that he had always been stifled by the young island master who was similar in age to him, despite how glorious he appeared to be before others. In the past years, he had challenged the young island master more than once, but every time, he would suffer a terrible defeat. Even after becoming a Saint Ruler, he still could not withstand a single punch from the young island master.

Chapter 1633: The Push for Territory (Two)

With Shangguan Mu'er's departure, the experts from the Sea race and the Hundred Races all left the Tian Yuan Continent with the sea goddess and Tie Ta. They returned to their territories to recover strength. The battle earlier was fierce and close. Although they had achieved victory in the end, all the Origin realm experts from both worlds were greatly exhausted. The elders and protectors from the World of Forsaken Saints were affected in particular. They had pushed their bodies beyond their limits to produce blood, so they had exhausted themselves far more than the Origin realm experts from the world of the Tian Yuan Continent.

Although the sea goddess and Tie Ta left the Tian Yuan Continent and had returned to their respective territories, they were the same as Shangguan Mu'er, watching over the situation on the continent carefully from a very long distance away. They remained cautious against the elders and protectors from the World of Forsaken Saints.

The white tiger did not return to the Beast God Continent with the magical beasts. Instead, he remained on the Tian Yuan Continent, returning to Flame City with Xiao Jin and Xiao Ling. They stayed in Flame City.

Although he was the god and sovereign of the magical beasts, the white tiger felt nothing towards the Beast God Continent, let alone any sense of belonging. Instead, Flame City was Jian Chen's city, so he felt a greater sense of belonging by staying there.

With so many Origin realm experts remaining on the Tian Yuan Continent when Jian Chen was not present, the entire continent felt tremendous pressure. The Tian Yuan Continent just happened to need the presence of more Origin realm experts from their own world, so having the white tiger, Xiao Jin, and Xiao Ling personally remain in Flame City had increased the city's status.

Cangqiong obviously handled the matters on the Beast God Continent's end. He was experienced, so it was obviously a piece of cake for him to manage these affairs. Although the white tiger possessed strength at the Origin realm, it had no experience in leadership at all. After all, it was still young and had not gone through all the aspects of life yet.

Although Xiao Ling was the barrier spirit of Mercenary City and had protected the place quietly for the past million years, Mercenary City was now destroyed, along with the seal deep beneath the city that she guarded. She no longer had orders to carry out, so she was no longer restrained to any particular place or activity. Coupled with the fact that Xiao Ling was not close to anyone aside from Jian Chen in the current world, she would obviously settle down in Flame City. Perhaps even Xiao Ling herself had not realised it, but she had already begun to treat Flame City as her own home because her older brother Jian Chen built this city. She felt a sense of closeness by staying there.

A'Da, A'Er, A'San, and A'Si currently supported each other as they stood on the cracked earth. They all gazed towards the blood-red cloud in outer space. The four of them had all broken through to the Origin realm thanks to the four strands of sword Qi hidden in Jian Chen's arm during the fight against the evil spirit. Then they stood in a sword formation and erupted with a devastating blow that heavily injured the evil spirit. As the formation was just too powerful, they suffered an intense backlash after using it with their strength at the Origin realm. As a result, the four of them had even temporarily lost the ability to levitate. They stood on the ground like ordinary people.

However, no one would ever underestimate the four of them. Even though everyone could sense just how weak they had become, they had still reached the Origin realm after all. They had become people who could reign supreme. Their status was no longer the same as the past.

"Congratulations on your breakthroughs to the Origin realm. Although the battle has ended now, a threat still exists. Please come to the supreme divine hall of Mercenary City to heal. We will provide you with the best medicine so that you can make a full recovery as soon as possible," Yang Lie, Feng Xiaotian, and Guihai Yidao arrived before the four brothers and invited them.

The three of them could already tell that the four brothers were the most injured people among the Origin realm experts. They would even struggle to display their strength at the Origin realm with their current conditions; it was to the point where even Saint Emperors were enough to threaten them. Moreover, there were many Origin realm experts from the World of Forsaken Saints present on the Tian Yuan Continent, so they would pose an extremely great threat to them. As a result, for their safety, Yang Lie, Guihai Yidao, and Feng Xiaotian had invited the four brothers to the supreme divine hall in Mercenary City.

In the current world, there was probably no place safer than the supreme divine hall of Mercenary City apart from Three Saint Island. Even Flame City was not safer.

Although the island mistress of the Three Saint Islands always observed the Tian Yuan Continent closely, the four brothers were just too weak. If people from the World of Forsaken Saints decided to lay their

hands on the four brothers at this time, probably even the island mistress would not necessarily be able to make it in time.

A'Da shook his head, "We may be heavily injured, but we're not as miserable as we seem on the surface. We still have some power to protect ourselves. Farewell." A'Da's voice was weak, but there was also great determination in his voice.

The four brothers left. They supported each other as they flew through the sky towards the distance as if they could fall at any time. Yang Lie, Feng Xiaotian, and Guihai Yidao remained standing on the spot as they watched the four brothers leave. They found it rather regretful that they had failed to get the four brothers to stay and protect the Tian Yuan Continent. At the same time, they felt some worry. They worried that once the four brothers had travelled some distance, the Origin realm experts of the foreign world would take advantage of them since they were weakened.

However, the four brothers insisted on leaving, so they could not help them out even when they wanted to. Jian Chen was no longer present on the current Tian Yuan Continent and Shangguan Mu'er had returned to Three Saint Island. They would not be able to put up a fight at all against the elders and protectors from the World of Forsaken Saints with their remaining Origin realm experts. In fact, they even felt extremely fortunate that the elders and protectors did not try to lay their hands on them.

"Eldest brother, that tiny tower Jian Chen held..." After leaving, A'Si looked at A'Da and said carefully through a communication technique. His gaze seemed slightly dazed.

A'Da raised his head once more to look at the blood-red cloud in outer space. He said to the three others through a communication technique as well, "It's rather unimaginable that the four of us were able to break through to the Origin realm. That foreign power clearly doesn't belong to us, yet it seems to come from the same origins as us, making it feel like it originally belonged to us. At the same time, we learnt a few new sword formations and sword techniques, and their origins are all mysterious as well. We clearly didn't know them before, but when we used it, it was like we had used them before. Aside from that, the tiny tower in Jian Chen's hand made me feel a sense of familiarity for some reason as well. I feel like everything that happened to us this time is connected to Jian Chen. We have to go through Jian Chen to find the answer to this and settle all our doubts. However, Jian Chen has gone into seclusion within the evil power. We can't see him even if we want to, so let's find a place to heal first."

Chapter 1634: The Push for Territory (Three)

"Let's go with what eldest brother said. Let's find a place to go into seclusion and recover. I've also gained some foreign information in my head after breaking through and need some time to digest it."

All the Origin realm experts from the World of Forsaken Saints gathered together. None of them had left. All the Origin realm experts from the world of the Tian Yuan Continent were cautious of them at all time, and they were no different. They were cautious about Shangguan Mu'er attacking them secretly at all times.

All of them had personally experienced Shangguan Mu'er's immense power on the tip of the World Mountains. They were in their peak conditions back then and possessed two early Reciprocity experts by their sides, but they only managed to become locked in a stalemate against her. Now that Ouyang Yangwen was gone and a few of the elders and protectors were dead, their strength had decreased

drastically. If Shangguan Mu'er attacked them at a time like this, they had no doubt that she would be able to heavily injure all of them with ease.

All of them felt like they were skating on thin ice by staying on the Tian Yuan Continent with the hidden threat of Shangguan Mu'er. They would be doomed if they were just slightly careless.

"Let's go as well. We cannot become separated during this time at all to prevent unforeseen accidents. I'll take care of the God-slaying Formation. As soon as Shangguan Mu'er comes for us, we can use it against her," Xiong Zhong said to the elders and protectors behind him through a communication technique. He was stern.

The elders and protectors nodded sternly as well. Now that the Spiritking was gone, they felt a strong sense of danger. Although they knew that both Jian Chen and Shangguan Mu'er would never lay their hands on them with their contributions to averting the crisis, they could not help but remain wary.

The thought of attacking and killing a few Origin realm experts of the Tian Yuan Continent had crossed their minds as it would benefit them during the upcoming discussion. However, they dismissed it without any hesitation as soon as they thought of the idea. The Origin realm experts in this world would pose no threat towards them. If Shangguan Mu'er did not exist, they really might have considered doing something like that. The Spiritking could obviously handle Jian Chen.

However, Shangguan Mu'er existence prevented them from acting recklessly in this world. Some of them had even begun to believe that in the next few days, they would be extremely fortunate if Shangguan Mu'er did not decide to attack them.

The aftermath was dealt with in an orderly fashion, while the ruined continent gradually recovered its peace. The various organisations and experts on the Tian Yuan Continent all went quiet with the peace after the battle as well. They had participated in the battle against the foreign world, and then they had taken part in the battle against the crisis of the world. They had been heavily injured long ago. Even the ten protector clans that had existed for a million years on the Tian Yuan Continent gradually began to decline.

Along with the losses from battle, the balance of the Tian Yuan Continent changed as well. The ten protector clans had all declined to a state that was never seen before. Aside from the Changyang clan, Pure Heart Pavilion, and Tyrant Blade School that remained influential, the seven other protector clans had almost died out completely. They had lost all their Saint Kings and Saint Emperors. A protector clan without any of them was not even as great as a few ancient clans. Some of the more powerful ancient clans even showed signs of replacing these weakened clans as protector clans.

The peaceful continent had basically returned to the age where Saint Ruler and Saint Kings hid from view. The crisis of the world had been averted, and the problems the Yinyang Saint Rock caused had been completely resolved. Without the effects of the rock, the laws of the world gradually approached completion, making cultivation even easier than the past. Even the origin energy that had disappeared for countless years began to appear again, making it much easier for cultivators to break through among Sainthood. It even gave Saint Emperors the hope of reaching the Origin realm.

As a result, many Sainthood experts chose to enter seclusion at this time. As they recovered their strength, they attempted to increase their absolute powers as well.

The only thing that remained the same was the weaker Mortal realm cultivators. For survival, or for cultivation resources and methods, they continued to throw themselves at magical beasts or other humans. They fought hard and devoted themselves just for a better tomorrow.

In the blink of an eye, three years passed by peacefully. Huge stone tablets were erected in many cities across the continent. A mysterious power protected every single tablet, making them so tough that even Saint Emperors were unable to destroy them. Various foreign names were carved on one side of the tablets, while the other side explained that the sacrifice the owners of the names had undergone to stop the crisis of the world. Their bravery inspired the admiration of many.

In those three years, rainbow clouds constantly blanketed the skies above the Tian Yuan Continent, Beast God Continent, and Wasteland Continent. Many people broke through during that time, either to Saint Ruler, Saint King, or Saint Emperor. However, there were still no people who stepped into the Origin realm.

Due to the sea goddess' barrier, rainbow clouds did not appear in the depths of the sea, in the sea realm. However, there were still a lot of people who broke through. The world gradually recovered from the losses of the battles.

With the departure of the Ice Goddess Hall, the coldness of the arctic tundra rapidly dissipated, becoming a harmless world of ice and snow. A golden divine hall stood in the depths of that tundra. The divine hall seemed to be wholly made from gold and glistened in the sun. It was eye-catching in the snow-white world.

All the elders and protectors gathered in the divine hall under Xiong Zhong's lead. In the past year, apart from sending a protector to assist the Tian Yuan Continent in tidying up the aftermath, they all remained there recovering. They did not take a single step outside the divine hall, let alone roam the Tian Yuan Continent.

Shangguan Mu'er remained on their minds. She was like a sharp sword that hovered over their heads at all times. They had no idea when this sword would fall. Their fear for Shangguan Mu'er had driven them far away from the Tian Yuan Continent and to the tundra to recover their strength.

Chapter 1635: The Push for Territory (Four)

"After a year of rest, we've recovered to our peak condition. It's time for us to complete the orders that the Spiritking left us." As the only expert at Reciprocity among the elders and protectors, he sat on the throne as he gazed at the elders and protectors below sternly.

"Although there's Shangguan Mu'er on the Tian Yuan Continent who strikes fear in us all, I wonder if she'll interfere with the discussions with the Tian Yuan Continent this time. However, be careful, everyone. The sacrifice of our many clansmen is directly responsible for averting the crisis of the world. At the same time, these are orders that the Spiritking personally passed down, so even if Shangguan Mu'er plans to interfere, we cannot back down at all, or get in the way of our world's interest. We've paid up enough for this world, so it's time for us to get something back. Let's set off!" Xiong Zhong said with a heavy voice. He waved his hand and all the protectors and elders left the divine hall, heading directly for the Tian Yuan Continent.

There was an extremely ordinary village near the Cross Mountains on the Tian Yuan Continent. Some villagers lived there, surviving off subsistence farming. Although some of the younger people cultivated Saint Force, they were not very strong. They could only handle a few low class magical beasts.

An old man in coarse clothes currently swung a hoe in the fields. Dirt covered his hands as he bent over, carefully planting the seedlings of various vegetables. His old eyes were deep from witnessing the many matters in life.

“Houston, the people from the foreign world have come. Please come to Flame City immediately!”

At this moment, a voice rang out from very far away, booming in the old man’s mind.

The old man’s face remained the same. After planting the seedling in his hand, he brushed off the soil on his hands and disappeared in the next moment. Only the simple metal hoe remained in the ground.

Four old men sat on a huge rock, facing each other on a lone island in the vast ocean. They were discussing something.

“Eldest brother, my comprehension towards the Nirvanic Sword Formation has reached a new level. Aside from that, I’ve completely grasped three of the sword techniques that suddenly appeared in my mind after breaking through. I can’t use the other ones because my strength is insufficient. Although my cultivation has not increased at all, my battle prowess is on a whole new level compared to a year ago. I feel that even by myself no one is my opponent among early Reival if I use the sword techniques,” A’Si said. He was unable to contain his excitement.

A’Da nodded. In the past year, A’Si was not the only one who had made plenty of progress. The three other brothers were the same, benefiting greatly.

“It’s just a pity that Jian Chen is still in seclusion. I wonder when he’ll emerge. Looks like we’ll have to postpone finding him to resolve our queries indefinitely,” A’Da stared at the sky and sighed gently.

“A’Da, A’Er, A’San, and A’Si, the people from the foreign world have arrived. Please come to Flame City immediately.”

At this moment, the same voice rang out in the minds of the four brothers, making their eyes narrow.

After a moment of silence, A’Si looked at A’Da. He said, “Eldest brother, do we go?”

“We live in this world. This world is our home, so how can we not go?” A’Da said righteously before standing up on the rock. He left together with his brothers.

At the same time, the sea goddess in the sea realm and the war god on the Wasteland Continent received the message from the Tian Yuan Continent as well. At that moment, all the Origin realm experts in that world were mobilised simultaneously, and they all hurried towards the Tian Yuan Continent.

Just as Tie Ta was about to venture to the Tian Yuan Continent, he suddenly stopped. After a moment of hesitation, he changed his direction and traveled towards the elves.

The war god’s arrival alerted all of the elves. They all went up to welcome him politely. In the end, Tie Ta entered the forbidden grounds of the elves under the elven queen’s lead.

“Stay outside and wait for me,” Tie Ta said to the elven queen with his deep, soft voice.

“Yes, sir!” The elven queen replied politely and remained outside in an obedient manner.

Tie Ta stood quietly before the Elven Godtree in golden robes, which made him seem awe-inspiring. His eyes shone as he carefully observed the tree of life that had existed for a very long time.

At this moment, a strand of green life force condensed into an illusionary figure before the Elven Godtree. As her figure was just too blurry, her appearance was completely obscured; only the fact that she was female was evident.

“Audriana of the God clan greets the great war god!” The illusionary woman dropped her knees to the ground and buried her head deeply towards the ground. She greeted Tie Ta by kneeling and bowing. She was extremely courteous.

Tie Ta stood there as his golden robes ruffled gently in the breeze. He stared at the kneeling woman and asked, “Who are you?” Tie Ta already knew that the Elven Godtree was extraordinary, but his understanding towards it was not as great as Jian Chen’s or the Spiritking’s. At the very least, he still did not know Audriana’s true identity, or that she had descended as a mighty Godking just for him, the war god.

Audriana hid nothing, telling him everything about her identity and origins. She immediately dumbfounded Tie Ta.

“You’re actually a Godking? And the greatest Godking of the God clan? Are you sure you’re not trying to trick me?” Tie Ta asked in disbelief. Just the Spiritking who barely possessed the battle prowess of a Deity had pressured the Tian Yuan Continent so much. Godkings would be insurmountable existences.

Tie Ta found it unrealistic that a powerful Godking would actually kneel towards him right now.

“I have told the complete truth. I will never lie to the great war god!” Audriana’s forehead was basically stuck to the ground. Her respect came from the bottom of her heart and could not be faked.

Tie Ta sucked in a deep breath and asked, “Why didn’t I see you when I came here in the past? You didn’t even say a single word to me. And why did you call for me earlier?”

“The time was not ripe in the past, so I did not greet the war god. Please forgive me. I’ve requested an audience with the war god this time because of the Spiritsages,” said Audriana.

“The Spiritsages?” Tie Ta asked doubtfully.

“The Spiritsages are the people from the World of Forsaken Saints. Although I don’t know how they’ve appeared here, they are the remnants of the Spirits’ World and a large clan and race in the Saints’ World. Although they’ve declined now, they still possess quite the heritage. I learnt that the war god is going to the Tian Yuan Continent this time to negotiate with the Spiritsages about territory, which was why I wanted to see the war god and beg him to pull the Spiritsages to your side. It will be of great help to our God clan in the future,” said Audriana.

...

The busy city lord's estate in Mercenary City was now empty. Only the elite of the elite stood guard outside. Although the estate had the fewest guards it had ever seen, the power gathered there was the greatest in all of history.

Using the city lord's estate of Flame City as a temporary place for negotiations was the agreement Yang Lie, Guihai Yidao, Feng Xiaotian, Houston, the sea goddess, and so on came to. Not only did they want to ensure their safety during the negotiations this time, but they wanted to strike fear in the Origin realm experts from the foreign world during the process as well. There were only three places in the world that could fulfill the two conditions in the current world.

The first was the supreme divine hall of Mercenary City, the next was Three Saint Island, and the last place was Flame City.

The supreme divine hall of Mercenary City was a treasure with extremely great defensive capabilities. If they were to hold the negotiations there, the Origin realm experts from the World of Forsaken Saints would not be allowed to enter. As for Three Saint Island, Yang Lie and the others had no confidence in persuading Shangguan Mu'er, so they could only set Flame City as the location.

After all, the city's background was exceedingly shocking even though it only appeared to be an ordinary city in the eyes of the Origin realm experts. Jian Chen personally founded it, and Jian Chen was its city lord. The city lord's estate was Jian Chen's estate in name. Coupled with Jian Chen's current strength, Flame City was no longer so ordinary. Even when the Origin realm experts of the foreign world entered there, they needed to be obedient and could not act recklessly.

Chapter 1636: The Push for Territory (Five)

With Xiong Zhong at the lead, close to twenty Origin realm experts from the foreign world gathered in the city lord's estate. Only a portion of the people that had remained in this world came to city lord's estate of Flame City for negotiations. There were around a dozen more Origin realm experts that remained outside the estate. If the negotiations went south, and they began fighting, these people could provide support.

Yang Lie, Feng Xiaotian, Guihai Yidao, Houston, Xiao Jin, Xiao Ling, the white tiger, Tie Ta, the sea goddess, and the four brothers had all arrived for the Tian Yuan Continent's side. Aside from Jian Chen and Shangguan Mu'er, all the Origin realm experts among the four races had gathered here. Everyone understood that the World of Forsaken Saints did not only want a part of the Tian Yuan Continent's territory. They wanted territories from the three other races as well, so representatives of the Hundred Races, magical beasts, and Sea race were all present for negotiations.

Even when ignoring the fact that just some territory on the Tian Yuan Continent would not be enough to satiate the tremendous population in the World of Forsaken Saints, the humans on the Tian Yuan Continent would find it unfair if only they had to give up territory, while the other three races got to keep all of theirs.

As a result, the matter of all the races handing over some territory was something that they had come to an agreement about much earlier on. However, they still needed to undergo further negotiations regarding the exact amount of land.

They did not give up this territory because of the strength of World of Forsaken Saints. Instead, they made this choice because of the major contributions these people had towards averting the crisis of the world. Only the sacrifice of several tens of thousands of Sainthood experts and a few Origin realm experts had filled Jian Chen's Primordial Godsilk with enough power to avert the crisis and save everyone else in the world.

The Origin realm experts of both worlds sat opposite each other in the city lord's estate. They were all stern. Hatred had been accumulated due to the invasion of the World of Forsaken Saints in the past, so the two sides did not say too much to each other when meeting this time. The atmosphere in the estate became rather suffocating.

Xiong Zhong glanced across the Origin realm experts that represented the Tian Yuan Continent's world. When he discovered that Shangguan Mu'er was not present, he could not help but feel relieved. After a moment of deliberation, he spoke first, "May I ask if all your people have arrived? Can we start the negotiations?"

Aside from Xiao Jin and Xiao Ling, who observed the foreign experts in interest, the other people all glanced at each other seriously. The status of Origin realm experts in the Tian Yuan Continent's world was rather different from the Origin realm experts from the World of Forsaken Saints. The entire foreign world seemed like a tremendous empire, while the Spiritking was their emperor and absolute ruler. The other Origin realm experts were elders or protectors. If the Spiritking was not present, Xiong Zhong, the only other person who had reached Reciprocity, would become their leader.

On the other hand, all the Origin realm experts were revered among the four races. Even though the difference in their strength was drastic, they all shared similar statuses. None of them had the authority to order the others around. As a result, the first to answer Xiong Zhong's question would hold a special type of significance.

In the negotiations between the two worlds, the representative would naturally speak out first.

Gradually, more and more gazes gathered on Tie Ta. As Shangguan Mu'er was not present, Tie Ta obviously became the most powerful person among them, so having him talk would be more suitable.

Tie Ta discovered everyone's intentions and just closed his eyes, showing his intentions to everyone else. He understood extremely well that his talents lay in battle and not negotiations.

"It's a pity that Shangguan Mu'er isn't present. Houston, we'll let you take up the role as the representative for now. Does anyone have any objections?" The sea goddess asked everyone through a communication technique. She directly named the old man in coarse clothes, who still had some soil on his hands, as their representative.

Houston's strength was extraordinary, and he had experience in leadership. The Bloodsword sect had once shaken up the continent under his lead, so he was a resourceful person.

Everyone clearly had no objections to having Houston represent them for now. If it was scheming, there would be no one present who could defeat Houston. It was just that Houston had retired in the past thousand years and hid away his edge, keeping an extremely low profile. They all believed that he would pour his efforts towards this world's interest if he represented them.

After all, the amount of land the World of Forsaken Saints required could only be settled through negotiations.

Houston nodded gently. At that moment, his dark and turbid eyes brightened. There seemed to be a flash of sharp light, and he said to Xiong Zhong, "If it weren't for the crisis of the world, we would have gone to a battle to the death seeing how your world wants to take our land. It would be very difficult to say who would be the final victor. After all, your Spiritking is no longer invincible."

Xiong Zhong and the elders and protectors frowned when they heard his words. They became slightly displeased, but they were unable to rebuke Houston for the time being as he was speaking the truth.

"The reason why we are all seated here today is due to the major contributions tens of thousands of your people have made to help avert the crisis of the world. Their sacrifice has earned our admiration, which is also why the four races of our world are willing to give some territory to your world. However, it won't be much, so please prepare yourselves," said Houston.

"This is a map that we've prepared. We've marked the land that we want on there, so please have a look. If you have no objections, we can reach an agreement as soon as possible," Xiong Zhong said nonchalantly before taking out several plans he had prepared beforehand. He controlled these plans, floating them gently before the Origin realm experts of the four races.

When the Origin realm experts unfurled the plans, they all frowned aside from Tie Ta, Xiao Jin, Xiao Ling, and the four brothers. Xiong Zhong had actually requested for half of the territory that each race possessed.

"What a coincidence. We just happened to have prepared plans as well, which has the land that we are willing to gift your world marked on it. Please have a look as well," said Houston before passing a plan to Xiong Zhong. They had prepared many versions of the plan, and each version was only created after reaching an agreement with all the Origin realm experts of the four races. The land divided on the plan was different in each version as well.

Chapter 1637: Hopes of Reaching the Ninth Layer

Xiong Zhong accepted the plan and unfurled it slowly. The plan was inscribed on the hide of a high class magical beast, clearly depicting all the geographical features. This included all the land that the four races inhabited. As expected, there were a few red circles in a few places on the map, and every circle would take up a tiny part of the four races' land.

Xiong Zhong immediately frowned when he saw the tiny red circles. His expression became rather ugly. Then he passed it to the elders and protectors around him for them to have a look as well. Without any exceptions, all of the people who saw the plan frowned in displeasure.

"The contribution of our world to averting the crisis is only second to your sovereign, Jian Chen. It's even enough to rival his contributions. After all, if it were not for the tens of thousands of sacrifices from our people, you would have nothing and end up all dead even with Jian Chen's presence. We saved your world and the countless lives of your world. With such contributions, you're not even willing to give us a little land? Aren't you going overboard?" Xiong Zhong said gruffly. He understood inside that the Tian Yuan Continent no longer feared their World of Forsaken Saints. Under such circumstances, the only

method to gain some territory besides war was negotiations. They only needed to hold negotiations once. After they consented, it would be very difficult to change the agreement.

As a result, Xiong Zhong and all the elders and protectors stationed in this world had made up their minds about this negotiation. They needed to push for as many benefits as they could for their own world given that they maintained peace as this would have a significant effect on their world's future.

Houston coughed gently in response to Xiong Zhong. He said, "Indeed, your world has made major contributions to averting the crisis, but there's one thing that you're wrong about. The crisis of the world doesn't only affect our world but your World of Forsaken Saints as well. Our world functioned as the frontline, so once our world gave way, your world could not escape either. Our two worlds basically shared the same fate. If one survived, so did the other, but if one fell, so would the other. As a result, I hope you don't think that you're heroes that saved our world because you were saving your own world as well," Houston said steadily.

The protectors and elders all became rather ugly when they heard his words. Houston's explanation seemed to have stripped them of all their achievements against the crisis of the world.

Before the people from the foreign world could say anything in response, Houston continued, "In reality, it doesn't matter what kind of contribution your world has towards eliminating the crisis of the world. There's no need at all for us to give you any of our land because Jian Chen was the leading figure in stopping the crisis. If it were not for his treasure, you wouldn't have been able to avoid the fate of being devoured even with your slightly special bloodline. The reason why we agreed to give you some land was just to complete the final wishes of the people who laid down their lives so that they can rest easy in the afterlife."

...

The two sides argued intensely over the matter of land. Both of them stated their reasons and no one gave in.

Fortunately, both sides felt some fear for each other, which was why everyone purposefully controlled themselves despite the intense discussion. They did not end up fighting.

The Tian Yuan Continent side feared the number of Origin realm experts the foreign world possessed, as well as Xiong Zhong who had reached Reciprocity.

The protectors and elders from the World of Forsaken Saints feared Shangguan Mu'er. Although she was not present and Three Saint Island was extremely far away from Flame City, her strength had reached the point that traversing such a distance would only take a single step.

Very soon, the first day of negotiations came to a close. Neither side made any progress. The side of the Tian Yuan Continent wanted to cling onto whatever territory they could, refusing to budge even if it was just slightly more than what they had initially proposed. Meanwhile, the protectors and elders from the World of Forsaken Saints wanted enough land that would make them satisfied at the very least, so the two sides were obviously unable to come to an agreement.

The arctic tundra in the north did not belong to the Tian Yuan Continent, and it was distant from Three Saint Island. A golden divine hall currently stood there silently, and all the protectors and elders from the World of Forsaken Saints had gathered in there.

“This world is going too far. We’ve made such great contributions to stopping the crisis, yet they’ve described it as nothing. Even for territory, they’re only willing to let up that tiny portion. It’s far from enough considering how large our population is,” a protector said furiously.

Everyone in the hall fell silent. Their expressions were all very ugly. After the negotiations from the first day, they all understood the Tian Yuan Continent’s attitude towards the matter. It would clearly be difficult for them to obtain a substantial amount of land.

“It’s a pity that the Spiritking isn’t here, which was why we were so hesitant during the negotiations and afraid of offending this world by going too far. Even if we ignore Shangguan Mu’er who is spying on us secretly, there’s the even more terrifying Jian Chen above our heads. He’s no weaker than the Spiritking, so if he just happens to break through...” An elder said grimly. His face became rather pale as he reached the end of those words.

Xiong Zhong sighed gently, “That’s true. Jian Chen is in secluded cultivation, but who knows when he’ll emerge. If he does actually break through and decides to turn on us, none of us will be able to make it back to our world alive. Let’s postpone the negotiations for now and wait until the Spiritking returns.”

The Origin realm experts of the four races remained in Flame City. After the first day of negotiations, they gathered together once again, except for Xiao Jin, Xiao Ling, and the four brothers, who did not care about the matter regarding land at all. They left as soon as the negotiations had concluded.

“The World of Forsaken Saints has quite the appetite. The land they want is just too much. How can we let up so much land so easily? After all, they’re not a part of our world,” Guihai Yidao said gruffly.

“The negotiations regarding territory cannot be concluded in just a day or two. In my opinion, we should let the matter be for now. Once Jian Chen emerges from seclusion, let’s ask for his opinion. After all, if it were not for the fact that Jian Chen has the strength to keep the Spiritking at bay, we would not even have the right to negotiate,” said the sea goddess.

“Alright, let’s postpone the matter for now. We’ll wait for my great-grandson to emerge. After all, he has the most authority among all of us,” Yang Lie chuckled. Whenever his great-grandson was mentioned, he would be unable to contain his pride.

“Yang Lie, you’re acting like we don’t know that Jian Chen is your descendent. Don’t get too cocky,” Guihai Yidao cursed jokingly. He too envied Yang Lie as he had such an impressive descendent.

A huge blood-red cloud remained in outer space without moving at all. Jian Chen sat with his legs crossed inside as the essence of the cloud’s power gathered from all directions, permeating Jian Chen’s surroundings in the form of a red mist that was even darker in color. It entered his body through his pores and breath.

After entering Jian Chen’s body, the red mist was rapidly converted into Chaotic Force. Jian Chen was clearly much faster at refining the power than before.

Jian Chen's chaotic neidan was no longer as small as when he had just broken through to the eighth layer. As he rapidly absorbed the cloud's power, it grew slowly. Even though its growth was extremely gradual, any progress he made meant that he was even closer to reaching the ninth layer of the Chaotic Body.

"There might be hopes of me reaching the ninth layer of the Chaotic Body here. When I broke through to the eighth layer, my cultivation directly went from Reival to early Reciprocity, completely skipping past Returnance. If my Chaotic Body reaches the ninth layer, I wonder what my cultivation will reach. Will it be peak Reciprocity or will I directly reach Godhood," Jian Chen thought as he was filled with anticipation.

The eighth layer of the Chaotic Body bestowed the battle prowess of Godhood on him, but that was only battle prowess. His personal level of cultivation remained at early Reciprocity. However, if his cultivation level also progressed to Godhood, just what level would his battle prowess reach?

"Whatever. I'll let the matter of territory negotiations between the two worlds be for now. I'll devote myself to increasing my strength here. Once I absorb all the essence of the cloud, or when my Chaotic Body reaches the ninth layer, I'll emerge from seclusion. The two sides currently fear each other anyway and with Shangguan Mu'er watching over them, there's no need for me to worry," Jian Chen thought. Although he was cultivating here, he still paid attention to the Tian Yuan Continent at all times. He only needed to expand his soul, and he would envelop the entire planet. He was extremely clear of what had happened during the negotiations. His soul had even extended into the golden divine hall on the arctic tundra, and he had clearly heard the words of Xiong Zhong and the others.

Chapter 1638: The Spiritking Arrives

The negotiations between the Tian Yuan Continent and the World of Forsaken Saints would be held every ten to fifteen days. However, since they never reached an agreement, they would always end up leaving with a bad taste in their mouths.

As the place where the two worlds held the negotiations, Flame City's fame boomed once more, skyrocketing to a point where not only did everyone on the Tian Yuan Continent know about it, its name had even spread across the vast expanse of the World of Forsaken Saints.

The Origin realm experts that belonged on the side of the Tian Yuan Continent had chosen Flame City because they feared the Origin realm experts of the other world. They planned on using the prestige of the city to deter the Origin realm experts from laying their hands on them during the negotiations. After all, even damaging a tiny portion of the city would be akin to directly offending Jian Chen.

At the same time, this precaution indirectly elevated the position of the Flame City. By now, there was no organisation across the world that could rival its prestige, even though it was nowhere as expansive as the seven capital cities of the continent.

The current Flame City had reached the level of the Sacred Spirit Hall in the World of Forsaken Saints. It had reached a point where it could no longer be replaced.

The Heavenly Enchantress sat on a large grey rock on the top of Three Saint Island, exuding an otherworldly beauty. A simple zither was placed before her. As her slender fingers slowly swept across

the strings, she played an enchanting music. The music seemed to have fused with nature, carrying a certain airiness. It could calm people and make them be at ease.

The music rang through Three Saint Island, causing all the fishermen who lived on the island to seem enchanted. Large fish had even begun to float to the surface of the ocean as if the music enchanted them as well.

A handsome young man sat next to the Heavenly Enchantress. The music did not affect him at all. He cast his gaze out towards the horizon, towards the distant Tian Yuan Continent. At the same time, he would look at the sky often. The young man could vaguely see a small red cloud at the edge of the blue sky. The red speck was only visible to those who possessed extraordinary visual senses.

The music stopped after a while and Shangguan Mu'er put the zither away. She gazed into outer space with her enchanting eyes and murmured, "The evil power has weakened slightly. Your father should be absorbing the power in there, but by the looks of things, he'll need quite some time before he fully absorbs it all."

The handsome young man looked at the Heavenly Enchantress when he heard her words and said with some worry, "Mother, the power is so great and evil. Will father harm himself by absorbing it?"

Shangguan Mu'er fell silent in thought for a while before responding, "Your father's cultivation method is as special as yours, so you can't treat it like anything else. At the same time, he always knows what he's doing, so if he's daring enough to absorb it, he'll definitely have full confidence."

"I don't have to worry then," the young man immediately became relieved. As expected, he was Shangguan Aojian.

After a moment of silence, Shangguan Aojian said, "Mother, the Tian Yuan Continent is currently negotiating with the World of Forsaken Saints. The difference between the Origin realm experts of our world and theirs is very great, so we might show weakness during the negotiations. This is the exact time when they need you, mother, so why don't you go to the Tian Yuan Continent to watch over matters?" Shangguan Aojian hoped his mother could go to the Tian Yuan Continent very much as he had grown attached to the continent during his journeys there. He obviously did not wish for the Tian Yuan Continent to suffer too much during the negotiations.

At the same time, the Tian Yuan Continent was his father's homeland.

Shangguan Mu'er looked at Shangguan Aojian, and her eyes warmed up. She said, "Xiao Bao, I understand that you worry for the Tian Yuan Continent, but there's really no need. Even if you ignore the fact that our side hasn't shown any weakness at all, it's impossible for the negotiations to conclude so soon. No matter what they end up negotiating, the decision will be personally made by the Spiritking and your father in the end. If your father refuses to agree, it doesn't matter how much advantage the World of Forsaken Saints manages to gain through the negotiations. Do you understand?"

"I see. It's because we have no need to fear the World of Forsaken Saints at all with our current strength."

...

Like an arrow, time passed by in a flash. In the blink of an eye, the two worlds had already been negotiating for ten years. The two sides still failed to reach an agreement after this decade. They both understood already that it would be very difficult for them to reach an agreement just by themselves. In the end, the decision would still be made by the most powerful people of the respective worlds. As a result, the negotiations towards the end were just a symbolic push and pull to drag out time as they waited for the Spiritking and Jian Chen to emerge from seclusion.

During the ten years, the news that the humans, Hundred Races, Sea race, and magical beasts had to give up a portion of their land had already spread far and wide. It had led to quite a large disturbance. Some people did not care too much about it at all, but there were also others who insisted on keeping their territory, refusing to leave even if they were to die.

After having been split into four sections during the battle against the World of Forsaken Saints, the continent was divided into four regions—north, south, east, and west. An extremely wide river separated the regions. The rivers crossed the entire continent like a cross, directly flowing into the ocean.

The location where the four rivers intersected was where the ruins of Mercenary City once lay. Water had now filled in the area. However, there was an extremely unusual region there as well. A strange energy protected the region, keeping the surrounding river out.

This special region was the tunnel that connected the Tian Yuan Continent to the World of Forsaken Saints.

The tunnel was peaceful. After many years, the tunnel had stabilised long ago. Although powerful streams of energy would burst out from the tunnel from time to time, it was no longer like the time when it was first formed, where energy constantly gushed out wildly into outer space.

At this moment, the stabilised tunnel pulsed slightly. The ripples rapidly expanded before leading to a huge reaction from the entire tunnel. The whole tunnel trembled violently and streams of extremely unstable energy wreaked havoc inside.

Very soon, a figure gradually appeared in the streams of energy. The figure was very blurry at the start, but it gradually grew clearer as it came closer to the exit.

The figure was a man who approached his forties. His black hair was elegant, and he carried a dark metal sword on his back. His appearance was extremely ordinary, and he was simply dressed. He radiated with plainness.

Even though he seemed extremely plain, he possessed an aura of dominance. He strode through the tunnel, and with his advance, the entire tunnel trembled. Streams of violent energy would be created constantly, rampaging through the tunnel. However, when the streams approached the man, they would disperse silently even though they were enough to heavily injure Saint Emperors. As a result, there were no streams of energy within a meter range of the man.

The man did not purposefully cause the changes in the tunnel. He was just too powerful, so when he travelled through the tunnel, he seemed to be approaching the absolute limit that the tunnel could endure. This was why the tunnel had reacted in such a way. Even when he concealed his origin energy and presence, he could not avoid this.

The man did not walk at a fast pace, but he would travel a great distance with each step. In just a short while, he emerged from the tunnel and appeared beneath the sky of the Tian Yuan Continent.

Suddenly, the wind and clouds began to churn. The thick layer of white clouds in the sky dispersed silently as if a terrifying pressure had forcefully crushed them. At the same time, a terrifying pressure permeated the surroundings, engulfing the world in a split second. It shocked everyone in the world and all the beasts in the world collapsed onto the ground.

The expressions of all the Origin realm experts in the golden divine hall on the arctic tundra changed. Soon afterwards, they beamed with joy.

“The Spiritking, it’s the Spiritking’s presence. The Spiritking has emerged.”

“Quick, let’s go welcome the Spiritking.”

The Origin realm experts of the World of Forsaken Saints collectively cried out in joy. They charged out of the divine hall as quickly as they could and hurried off towards the tunnel.

All of them felt extremely indignant in the years they spent in this world. They had to negotiate with the Origin realm experts from the Tian Yuan Continent’s world. These Origin realm experts were clearly nothing in their eyes in terms of strength, weak enough to be crushed easily, yet they just had to hold themselves back even during the negotiation, resulting in no progress even after ten years. This was all because the Tian Yuan Continent had Shangguan Mu’er and Jian Chen, who was in outer space. Their Spiritking was not present either, which was why they were so hesitant during the negotiations.

Now that the Spiritking had emerged from seclusion and come over, they all became filled with confidence. They were obviously overjoyed to have someone to rely on.

At the same time, the Origin realm experts from the four races snapped open their eyes simultaneously in Flame City. They looked towards the tunnel’s location, and they all became extremely grim.

Shangguan Mu’er’s eyes narrowed as well. She looked in the direction of the Tian Yuan Continent, and she became slightly stern as well.

“The Spiritking has finally come. Jian Chen, when are you going to emerge?” Shangguan Mu’er looked at outer space. There was worry on her beautiful face. The Spiritking was so powerful that he was far beyond what she could handle. The world only had Jian Chen who could handle him.

Chapter 1639: Ten Years

“We welcome the Spiritking!”

With Xiong Zhong in the lead, all the elders and protectors from the World of Forsaken Saints hurried to the tunnel between the two worlds as quickly as possible. They bowed towards the Spiritking politely.

They had arrived rather quickly. Less than five seconds after the Spiritking had emerged from the tunnel, they had arrived from tens of millions of kilometers away.

The Spiritking was indifferent. He glanced around before looking towards the sky. His gaze seemed to be able to pierce space, stabbing through the atmosphere as a sharp sword to look at the blood-red cloud that hovered in outer space silently. He frowned slightly.

“Jian Chen, you still haven’t emerged,” the Spiritking murmured. His voice was rather deep. Then he looked towards Xiong Zhong and asked emotionlessly, “Xiong Zhong, how have the ten years of negotiations gone?”

Xiong Zhong became bitter, “Spiritking, the people of this world continuously insisted on giving us a tiny part of their land, nowhere near the amount that we need. Coupled with the fact that Jian Chen’s right over our heads and Shangguan Mu’er’s on Three Saint Island, we’ve been fearful in the negotiations without your support. It was impossible for us to make a big deal against the people of this world, so we’ve made no actual progress in the past decade.”

“If that’s the case, let me go talk with the people of this world,” the Spiritking said emotionlessly and slightly coldly.

At this moment, the nearby space trembled slightly. All the Origin realm experts of this world appeared at the same time. They faced the Spiritking very sternly. They all clasped their hands towards him after appearing.

They had no choice but to come. At the very least, the region was desolate. It was better than the Spiritking personally visiting Flame City.

“You’ve come at the perfect time. The negotiations that haven’t progressed for ten years can end today. Xiong Zhong, show them the plans you’ve drawn up,” said the Spiritking.

“Yes, Spiritking,” Xiong Zhong replied courteously before tossing a paper scroll towards the Origin realm experts from this world.

“You big baddie,” Xiao Ling stared at the Spiritking viciously as she murmured to herself. Even though the Spiritking had once fought alongside the people of this world to avert the crisis of the world, Xiao Ling still could not forget about the great demonic figure he had projected onto the barrier when he attacked the seal beneath Mercenary City. That sight had left her quite terrified back then.

Xiong Zhong’s paper plan hovered quietly before the Origin realm experts. They all revealed ugly expressions, and none of them reached for the scroll.

“Spiritking, there’s no need to be so urgent with this matter. Why don’t we discuss it after Jian Chen returns?” At this moment, a beautiful voice rang out. Shangguan Mu’er had hurried over from Three Saint Island as well. She carried her simple zither as she stood in the air sternly.

“I would naturally discuss with Jian Chen if he was present. Since he’s in seclusion, the matter of territory can be decided by you people. It’s the same for me to be discussing with you,” said the Spiritking.

The Origin realm experts that belonged to the four races showed rather ugly expressions. They did not possess the power to discuss anything with the Spiritking, let alone protect their own interests.

The strong preying on the weak was the law of survival. If the Spiritking planned on going to war against them and acted mercilessly, the Spiritking could personally kill them if they displeased him during the negotiations.

After all, the only person who could stand on level ground with the Spiritking was not present. If the Spiritking really wished to lay his hands on them, there would only be death. Even Shangguan Mu'er would not be able to avoid that fate.

Just as the Origin realm experts that belonged to the four races had no idea what to do, a voice suddenly rang out from outer space.

"Shen Jian, why don't you wait for me to emerge from seclusion before settling the matter of territory? Your world has been in the same situation for countless years, so is there really a need to hurry?"

"Jian Chen..."

"It's Jian Chen. This is Jian Chen's voice..."

"Jian Chen has finally spoken. He still cares about the Tian Yuan Continent..."

As Jian Chen's voice rang out, all the Origin realm experts from the four races beamed with joy. They became relieved as well. Unknowingly, Jian Chen seemed to have become the person they depended on for support, as well as the source of their confidence. Jian Chen had even become the person they relied on in the face of the Spiritking.

The Spiritking looked towards outer space, and his eyes shone. He said emotionlessly, "Jian Chen, if you remain in seclusion for a thousand years, do we have to wait that long as well? Have you gone into seclusion now so that you can have greater bargaining chips in future negotiations?"

"It won't be as long as a thousand years. I'll emerge in a decade at most. Shen Jian, I understand you, and you understand me as well. No matter how powerful I become, it won't affect the outcome of the negotiations. It's all because of your people that we were able to stop the crisis of the world this time. Their courageous sacrifice has earned my admiration, and I will assist them in completing their final wishes so that they can rest easy; this is my oath to you, as well as the oath to all your people who had laid down their lives bravely."

A gleam of light flickered through the Spiritking's eyes. He said, "Considering that we know each other, I'll wait for another decade. I will come again after that time."

With that, the Spiritking returned to the World of Forsaken Saints with his Origin realm experts. When he mentioned that they knew each other, no one present understood the implications. Its meaning was so deep that only he and Jian Chen could understand.

The Origin realm experts from the four races all let out a deep breath of relief when they saw the Spiritking lead his people back to the World of Forsaken Saints. They had completely calmed down. They felt like they were about to suffocate when they faced the Spiritking earlier.

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, eight years had already passed since Jian Chen and the Spiritking's ten year agreement.

It had been eighteen years since Jian Chen had entered seclusion.

Eighteen years was quite a long time for ordinary people. It was enough for an infant to grow up into an adult, but to Sainthood and Origin realm experts with lengthy lives, eighteen years was only a brief period of cultivation.

Even though the blood-red cloud in outer space was still present, it had shrunken at an extremely rapid rate. It was less than a tenth of its previous size. The pulses of power from the cloud was extremely weak now.

Jian Chen cultivated within the cloud. His chaotic neidan had reached its limit after eighteen years of absorbing the terrifying power of the cloud. He had reached the limits of the eight layer of the Chaotic Body.

At this moment, Jian Chen's body jerked suddenly. As he refined the last strand of pure power from the cloud, his chaotic neidan finally surpassed its limits and shattered loudly.

Chapter 1640: The Ninth Layer of the Chaotic Body

Jian Chen suffered the pain of refining his body once again. It was the same experience; the same agony. This was the ninth time he had undergone this. From the eight times before, he had accumulated plenty of experience already, so it was all smooth sailing for Jian Chen this time. It was as easy as cake for him.

As Jian Chen's Chaotic Force gradually strengthened, he emitted a tremendous presence. It caused the entire blood-red cloud to churn wildly. At the same time, the presence expanded beyond the cloud, permeating the surrounding space. It squashed on the surrounding space, causing it to distort while the stars glimmered. The space a few dozen meters away from Jian Chen had even cracked.

Jian Chen's presence caused all these cracks. His presence was so tremendous that it had surpassed early Reciprocity long ago. It had surpassed mid Reciprocity, and even the presence of a late Reciprocity expert would struggle to rival with it. It had surpassed the limits of the world long ago, yet his presence continued to climb.

The disturbance Jian Chen caused in outer space obviously could not escape the senses of the Origin realm experts on the Tian Yuan Continent. At that moment, all of them raised their heads at the same time and looked towards outer space, towards the location of the blood-red cloud.

"What a terrifying presence. Has Jian Chen broken through again after eighteen years of seclusion?" Tie Ta sighed in amazement as he cultivated in the War God Hall. With a flash, he disappeared from within the divine hall.

Guihai Yidao, Yang Lie, and Feng Xiaotian had gathered together on the Tian Yuan Continent. Guihai Yidao stared at outer space with mixed feelings and said, "Jian Chen's strength was already extremely great, enough to fight the Spiritking who was akin to Godhood. Now that he has actually broken through again, I really do wonder what shocking level his strength will reach..."

"What terrifying talent..." Feng Xiaotian murmured. He too smiled.

"He has actually broken through again. My great-grandson sure is outstanding. I just hope that he won't suffer any backlashes from increasing his strength so quickly in the past few years, making his foundation unstable," Yang Lie chuckled aloud. He was filled with pride, but at the same time, there was some worry. Jian Chen's strength had increased just too quickly. Even Yang Lie, someone who had lived for countless years and had seen many things, found it rather difficult to accept it.

"Great! Big brother has become stronger again. Big brother doesn't have to be scared of that baddie at all now. That baddie is no longer big brother's opponent," Xiao Ling clapped her hands and jumped

around as she called out loudly. She was extremely excited. At the same time, Xiao Jin and Xiao ling smiled happily in Flame City.

All the Origin realm experts from the four races appeared a hundred meters away from the blood-red cloud. Now that the agreed ten years were coming to a close, Jian Chen's breakthrough held a whole different level of significance for the negotiations.

All the Origin realm experts hovered in the distance and did not approach the blood-red cloud. They quietly waited for Jian Chen to emerge. They knew that Jian Chen would emerge soon.

A few days later, Jian Chen's presence slowly subsided within the blood-red cloud. He gradually returned to peace and the fist-sized chaotic neidan in his dantian had returned to the size of a soybean. It had shrunk, but it clearly contained a Chaotic Force on a whole different level compared to the eighth layer.

Jian Chen smiled. Originally, he believed that reaching the eighth layer of the Chaotic Body was the limit for him in this world, but he had never expected the evil spirit to leave behind such a great fortune to him after the crisis of the world was averted, allowing his Chaotic Body to progress to the ninth layer; this was quite the pleasant surprise.

However, Jian Chen's face changed at that moment. In the next moment, a presence filled with brutality suddenly began to radiate from him; this presence was also filled with destruction and evilness. His eyes had turned red at that moment and even his hair rapidly reddened, causing Jian Chen to become filled with evilness. He seemed like a fiend.

Jian Chen felt his consciousness become blurry. There was only an endless desire for slaughter and destruction left in his heart. Now, he seemed to have become an existence that only knew slaughter and destruction, no longer fearing anything. He would kill anything that got in his way, without any feelings or reluctance.

Crack!

With an inaudible sound, Jian Chen's soybean-seed-sized chaotic neidan suddenly cracked open.

An intense pain accompanied the crack. The pain made Jian Chen quiver, jerking him back to consciousness. The redness in his eyes gradually faded away, and his hair that had almost reddened completely turned back to its original black color as well.

Even though Jian Chen's transformation had lasted for less than a split second, all the Origin realm experts who were waiting outside still managed to sense his corrupt presence.

"What is this presence? Does the core of the crisis still remain?" The sea goddess said sternly. All the people gathered there became extremely grim.

"Did something go wrong during Jian Chen's cultivation?" Feng Xiaotian said gruffly. Everyone's face changed when they heard him.

Even though they were suspicious, none of them dared to enter the blood-red cloud to check. They were not as powerful as Jian Chen or the Spiritking, so even though the cloud had weakened now, it still

posed a certain degree of threat towards them. Most importantly, Jian Chen was still in there. They were afraid that they would affect Jian Chen if they just barged in.

Jian Chen became grim in the blood-red cloud. He had also sensed the changes earlier. Coupled with the crack that had appeared on his chaotic neidan, all of these factors pointed to the fact that something had gone wrong after he broke through to the ninth layer.

Jian Chen looked at the blood-red cloud and said grimly, "Looks like absorbing the power of the crisis isn't that easy. After all, the crisis of the world is a special existence that even the laws of the world can do nothing about. Even if I cultivate the Chaotic Body, it'll still bring me trouble because the crisis of the world is more powerful than the current me. There shouldn't have been any problems if I was far more powerful than the crisis. I would have been able to refine it easily."

"But I need to understand just what hidden problems it might cause right now, and I need to come up with ways of handling them."

Jian Chen immediately checked through his body. Although his chaotic neidan had cracked open, he did not pay too much attention to it. The chaotic neidan's imperfection would affect the strength he could display, limiting him to only eighty percent of his power, but even just the eighty percent was greater than what he possessed with the eighth layer of the Chaotic Body. When he truly cared about the changes to his consciousness earlier. That was what he feared.

Once he lost control of himself and sank into a state that only knew destruction and slaughter, the outcome would be unthinkable. After all, there was no longer anyone in the world who could stop him.