

## Chaotic 2281

### Chapter 2281: Leaving the Cavern

“Whatever, I’ll absorb these three portions first.” Jian Chen crossed his legs and sat down. First, he carefully studied the three portions of vital energy. After confirming that there was nothing wrong with them, he immediately began to absorb their tremendous energy.

Although the three portions of vital energy were nowhere near enough for his Chaotic Body to advance to the next layer, it did make his chaotic neidan swell up, increasing the Chaotic Force within it. As a result, the energy he needed for his future breakthrough had lessened slightly.

Jian Chen had already reached the Major Achievement of the Chaotic Body, so he both absorbed and refined energy at an extremely fast speed. One of the portions of vital energy in his hand decreased at a visible rate.

Not only did the vital energy contain a tremendous energy, but it also possessed a tiny portion of the three vital energies and some of their fleshly essence.

As a result, Jian Chen benefited tremendously when he absorbed the three portions of vital energy. Not only could he feel his chaotic neidan rapidly swell up, but his three vital energies increased as well. A pleasant feeling immediately overwhelmed him, especially when the fleshly essence fused with his Chaotic Body. All his pores opened up uncontrollably as every single cell and every single atom in him devoured the scarce fleshly essence greedily like hungry tigers.

The fleshly essence came from three extremely powerful beasts after all, so they were of an extremely high level. It was indeed exceedingly nourishing for Jian Chen’s Chaotic Body.

Jian Chen could clearly sense his Chaotic Body rapidly strengthen as he absorbed the fleshly essence, where the very quality of his body transformed by leaps and bounds.

In just one and a half months, Jian Chen completely absorbed the three portions of vital energy.

Even though his Chaotic Body remained at the thirteenth layer, his body had become slightly tougher than before due to the fleshly essence.

“My Chaotic Body is probably no less tough than the fourteenth layer,” Jian Chen rejoiced when he sensed the explosive power within his body.

His Chaotic Body had first been reformed by a strand of true Chaotic Force when he fused the twin swords. Coupled with the fleshly essence he had just absorbed, his Chaotic Body had completely exceeded the toughness of the thirteenth layer.

“Coupled with the amplification from the Laws of Strength, my Chaotic Body will become slightly more powerful once again. I wonder which Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime my current battle prowess is equivalent to,” Jian Chen thought. However, he was certain that his current battle prowess was far greater than when he killed the Infinite Prime on planet Tianming.

At this moment, with a flip of his hand, a tender, beautiful flower hovered in his palm.

The flower seemed to be intelligent. As soon as it appeared, it swung its body towards Jian Chen like it was trying to curry up to him. It was close to him.

This was the Immortal Devouring Orchid that Jian Chen had obtained from the Neptunean Divine Palace. He had learnt from the sword spirits that the Immortal Devouring Orchid was extremely renowned in the Saints' World, and it specialised in devouring the bodies of immortals. Its growth rate was extremely astonishing.

However, the Immortal Devouring Flower was just too weak right now, while Jian Chen's opponents were either Godkings or Primordial realm experts. As a result, the Immortal Devouring Flower could not eat their corpses, so its growth was rather gradual.

However, even with that being the case, it had reached the Origin realm after ingesting some of Jian Chen's chaotic blood.

"I'll bestow a droplet of my essence blood to you. Hopefully, you can become a Deity soon. Once you become a Deity, you should be able to absorb the blood of Godkings slowly. There are two Godking corpses in the divine hall waiting for you. Once you're powerful enough, there will even be the corpse of an Infinite Prime." Jian Chen dripped a droplet of essence blood onto the Immortal Devouring Orchid. Due to the impressive comments from the sword spirits, Jian Chen held high expectations towards the Immortal Devouring Orchid's future. He would spare no effort to nurture it.

The Immortal Devouring Orchid seemed to be able to understand Jian Chen. After receiving the droplet of essence blood, it curled up happily and began absorbing the energy.

Although Jian Chen's blood was far more powerful than the blood of Godkings, his blood was unable to harm the orchid at all because he had purposefully controlled it, and the orchid had already accepted him as its master. The orchid was able to absorb it smoothly.

Jian Chen stowed the orchid away and went to find Kai Ya in the cavern. He saw her seated on the ground as she stared into the depths in a daze.

"Jian Chen, are you about to leave?" Kai Ya looked over and asked Jian Chen.

Jian Chen nodded and said, "The competition between the candidates for the position of Chosen Saint is about to start. I must head back."

Kai Ya looked at the depths of the cavern and said gently, "The vital energy there hides a very terrifying energy. If you can obtain this energy, you will benefit tremendously."

Jian Chen immediately looked towards the pool of blood that nourished Gusta's body. He sighed gently, "Indeed, but approaching that place is very difficult." When he reached there, he thought of something, "Let me try with the Anatta Tower. Kai Ya, for the sake of your safety, enter the tower with me."

Kai Ya nodded. She had no objections.

Afterwards, the two of them entered the Anatta Tower, and Jian Chen piloted the tower to approach the pool of blood carefully.

When he arrived within a hundred kilometres of the pool of blood, it began to surge violently again as if a serpent was stirring up the entire place. Powerful vital energy erupted and shot over.

Immediately, space trembled as the chains danced. It seemed like a terrifying storm was being charged up. It was extremely powerful and frightening.

The vital energy was just too powerful. The further he advanced, the greater the impact he received. It was truly devastating, where even Primordial realm experts dared not venture far in.

However, no matter how ferocious it became, it could not stop the Anatta Tower. Under Jian Chen's control, the Anatta Tower endured the incoming vital energy, tottering along the way as it rapidly advanced through the violent storm.

Jian Chen's eyes gradually began to shine as he watched the Anata Tower inch forwards. However, when the Anatta Tower reached three kilometres away from the pool of blood, a powerful barrier suddenly rose up in the end.

No matter what Jian Chen did with the Anatta Tower, he was unable to charge through the barrier. He had been blocked outside.

"It doesn't work. I can't approach it at all," Jian Chen sighed gently and in pity from within the Anatta Tower.

He could sense that the barrier had been cast down by extremely terrifying experts, and it was probably the handiwork of the other two kings of the Ancient Great Apes.

"Jian Chen, I want to stay here a little longer," Kai Ya said from beside Jian Chen.

Jian Chen glanced at Kai Ya with a strange expression, but he nodded in agreement right afterwards. He did not say anything else.

After all, this was Kai Ya's freedom. He had no reason to say no. Moreover, this underground cavern was extremely well-hidden. It would be extremely safe if Kai Ya remained here.

"Kai Ya, you have to be careful. Don't get within a hundred kilometres of the pool of blood. Do you understand?" Jian Chen warned sternly before taking Kai Ya to somewhere safe and leaving all by himself.

## Chapter 2282: Blood Medallion

Somewhere on the Desolate Plane, there was an extremely remote swamp shrouded by poisonous mist. People rarely set foot in this place. Only a few venomous beasts prowled the surroundings, hunting for prey.

At this moment, the calm swamp suddenly began to churn in an extremely irregular fashion as if something was about to burst out.

The disturbance attracted the prowling beasts. They gathered over quickly as they stared at the place with their cold eyes.

Very soon, the churning swamp suddenly burst open. A figure in white robes and shrouded in light silently emerged from the swamp.

Unsurprisingly, the figure was Jian Chen.

The layer of light around Jian Chen kept the mud away from him. He rose up from the swamp at a steady pace.

The moment they saw Jian Chen, the few beasts who were clearly lacking in terms of intelligence immediately produced a deep growl and lunged at him.

Jian Chen did not even glance at the beasts. With a wave of his hand, he shot out a few Radiant Swords and cut them to pieces.

Afterwards, he found his bearings and immediately rose up into the air through the use of Radiant Saint Force. He directly head towards the Radiant Saint Hall.

Jian Chen only displayed the speed that a Radiant Saint Master with a one-colored soulcore could possess, so he did not travel quickly. When he left the swamp and approached a city, he was suddenly stopped by a fighter who seemed to be in his thirties.

The fighter was a God and was extremely plump. However, he seemed like a simple and honest man. His appearance gave off a rather foolish vibe.

“Stop. Please show your blood medallion,” the man said with a soft, muffled voice.

Jian Chen frowned when he heard that. He had remained underground for about two years, so he had no clue at all regarding what had happened in the outside world. He had no idea what this blood medallion was at all.

Before Jian Chen said anything, another middle-aged man flew over from the distance. The middle-aged man was dressed exactly the same as the plump man, clearly originating from the same organisation.

The middle-aged man arrived beside the plump man and smacked the back of his head. He said, “You idiot! You might not recognise the attire of the Radiant Saint Hall, but you should recognise Radiant Saint Force at the very least. The blood medallions of disciples from the Radiant Saint Hall will obviously be checked by people with greater status. What’re you taking part for?”

Afterwards, the middle-aged man clasped his hand towards Jian Chen amiably, paying no attention to Jian Chen’s one-colored soulcore at all. He said, “Little brother, my junior is rather slow. I hope that you can forgive the offence he has caused just then.”

Jian Chen smiled indifferently. After exchanging pleasantries with the middle-aged man, he asked, “Senior, may I ask what this blood medallion is about?”

Seeing how friendly the disciple of the Radiant Saint Hall behaved, without putting on any of the haughtiness that belonged to a disciple of a peak sect, the middle-aged man immediately gained a great impression of Jian Chen. However, Jian Chen’s question had surprised him.

“You actually don’t know about the blood medallion, little brother?” The middle-aged man stared at Jian Chen strangely.

“I have been cultivating in seclusion in the wilderness for two years. I haven’t been paying attention to the matters of the world around me, so I have no idea what happened during that time,” Jian Chen said.

“Is that the case?” The middle-aged man came to a realisation before explaining with great patience, “This blood medallion has actually only appeared recently as well. It’s something that the peak experts of the Desolate Plane have been distributing with the many peak organisations. They’ve ordered all people on the Desolate Plane, regardless of cultivation, where even ordinary mortal who had never cultivated before are included, to have their blood tested with a wondrous treasure. Afterwards, all of them will receive a blood medallion. Only with the blood medallion will they be able to move about on the Desolate Plane freely.”

“What if someone doesn’t have a blood medallion?” Jian Chen asked with a frown.

“They will obviously be captured and forcefully tested,” said the middle-aged man. Afterwards, he smiled resplendently and said to Jian Chen, “Of course, you’re a disciple of a peak sect. Disciples of smaller sects like us would never dare to offend you. However, there are a few envoys from other peak sects who handle this matter especially.”

“Look, this is a blood medallion. It’s made from a special material. Every single blood medallion has an imprint of our life, so it cannot be forged,” the middle-aged man was extremely polite to Jian Chen. He told him everything he knew and even took the initiative to show his own blood medallion to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen studied the blood medallion in the middle-aged man’s hands and asked no more. He thanked him before leaving.

“Protector Zhou, he’s only a weak disciple. Why were you so polite to him,” the plump man asked in confusion after Jian Chen had left.

The middle-aged man referred to as protector Zhuo smacked the plump man’s forehead with his knuckles again as he said in frustration, “You idiot. He’s no ordinary disciple. His attire is something that only an internal disciple can wear. Only starred geniuses possess something like that in the Radiant Saint Hall. Every single disciple like that has extremely great status. They’re not people that we can offend. Do you understand?”

However, Jian Chen’s face immediately sank after he left.

He perfectly understood that this so-called blood medallion was something the peak experts had come up with just to find him.

It had to be mentioned that the blood medallion had caused Jian Chen quite the headache. Even though he could hide the energy within his blood from people like Godkings, he was unable to hide the actual level of his blood no matter what.

This was because even when the blood of Godkings possessed no energy at all, it still differed drastically from the blood of cultivators at lower levels. Let alone through a certain type of treasure, a few experts with great cultivations could even see through it with a single glance.

It could be said that once he had his blood tested, his disguise as a Radiant Saint Master would immediately fall apart.

“I need to enter the Tower of Radiance as soon as possible. I can only get what I want from there. It won’t matter even if my disguise falls apart by then,” thought Jian Chen. Time was getting tighter and tighter. He really did not have much of it left.

Afterwards, Jian Chen sped up. He used the teleportation formation in the nearby city and finally returned to the Radiant Saint Hall after several teleportations.

During this time, he frequently saw many people check the blood medallions of every single person in each city. However, his identity as a disciple of the Radiant Saint Hall had saved him quite a lot of trouble. None of the people checking for blood medallions dared to stop him.

The current Radiant Saint Hall had changed slightly compared to when Jian Chen had left. What stood out the most was that quite a large square had been erected near the Foreign Affairs Hall, where the words 'Blood Test' were written nearby. Many Radiant Saint Masters gathered on the square, having their blood tested in an orderly manner.

There were many Radiant Saint Masters among them who held a thumb-sized blood medallion. They studied it curiously.

However, compared to outside, the blood test in the Radiant Saint Hall was clearly much more casual. It was not as strict.

Jian Chen looked at the square deeply before leaving with a sunken face. He returned to the Soaring Clouds Peak.

#### Chapter 2283: Replaced

When Jian Chen returned to the Soaring Clouds Peak, the entire place was quiet. With his sharp senses, he discovered that both Zhuo Feng and Han Xin were not on the Soaring Clouds Peak.

He glanced into the distance and discovered that many Radiant Saint Masters of various cultivation levels were flying directly towards the Sky Gazing Peak from the other peaks.

Jian Chen immediately stopped a Radiant Saint Master with a one-colored soulcore and asked what was happening.

The Radiant Saint Master Jian Chen stopped was a young woman. She immediately looked at Jian Chen with an extremely strange gaze after hearing Jian Chen's question, "Oh? You don't know? The lord of the Soaring Clouds Peak and the lord of the Snowfall Peak are fighting on the Sky Gazing Peak. I heard they're fighting for a position as one of the nine retainers or something."

A gleam of light flashed through Jian Chen's eyes. He clasped his fist at the young lady and no longer remained there for any longer. A pair of Radiant Wings appeared on his back as he hurried off to the Sky Gazing Peak as quickly as he could.

Jian Chen unleashed his full speed along the way. He constantly overtook Radiant Saint Masters with three-colored soulcores, causing many of them to look over.

"Who is he? He only seems to have a one-colored soulcore, but how is he able to move so astonishingly fast..."

"He can actually use the Radiant Wings to such a level. Does he really have a one-colored soulcore..."

"The person who just passed us seems to be Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak..."

“What? He’s Chang Yang? That person who’s rumoured to have perfected the usage of Radiant Saint Force?”

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Cries rang out from the surroundings constantly, but Jian Chen ignored them all. He only travelled as quickly as he could, flying over mountain after mountain before finally arriving on the Sky Gazing Peak.

The huge square on the Sky Gazing Peak had already become crowded. Many Radiant Saint Masters of varying strength gathered there while a huge ring hovered in the air in the centre of the square. Jian Chen saw Han Xin and a skinny, middle-aged man battling in the ring with a single glance.

The floating ring was a supreme quality saint artifact. Its surroundings were protected by a powerful barrier, enough to easily endure a battle between late Godkings.

At this moment, Han Xin and the lord of the Snowfall Peak’s battle had already reached a great intensity. The Laws of the Hallowed filled their surroundings, clashing time and time again. It erupted with powerful ripples of energy.

All of the energy ripples were stopped by the energy barrier around the ring such that their battle was unable to harm the surrounding Radiant Saint Masters.

They fought extremely quickly. Weaker Radiant Saint Masters only saw a flurry, unable to see the two of them strike out at all.

Jian Chen frowned when he saw the fight. With his level of cultivation, he could naturally see the entire battle. He could tell with a single glance that Han Xin was quite a lot weaker compared to the lord of the Snowfall Peak. He had clearly lost the upper hand. His defeat was only a matter of time now.

“The lord of the Snowfall Peak should be at the peak of early Radiant Godking,” Jian Chen thought. The lord of the Snowfall Peak was only a step away from a cultivation realm equivalent to mid Godking, while Han Xin had only reached Godking recently.

As he had expected, Han Xin was struck in the chest by the Laws of the Hallowed the lord of the Snowfall Peak condensed. Han Xin was blown away, striking the barrier around the ring heavily. He struggled to climb to his feet.

“Victory goes to the lord of the Snowfall Peak, Zhou Yuan!” The lord of the Sky Gazing Peak’s voice rang out, announcing the results of the battle.

Afterwards, the barrier opened up, and the white-clothed, skinny lord of the Snowfall Peak left the ring with a flushed face under the enthusiastic cheers of all the disciples there.

Han Xin, on the other hand, laid in the ring, bloodied. He was very injured.

“Sir!”

“Sir!”

Zhuo Feng and Bai Yu, who had been waiting below the ring, immediately flew up and looked at the injured Han Xin. Sorrow filled their faces.

Jian Chen also arrived in the ring as quickly as he could. He remained silent as he directly used his Radiant Artes to heal Han Xin.

Both Bai Yu and Zhuo Feng were slightly surprised by Jian Chen's sudden appearance. Even Han Xin's gloomy gaze lit up slightly.

But at this moment, they were clearly in no mood to catch up.

"Han Xin, why don't you take a good look at yourself first before you try to contend for the spot with me? Hmph, you think too highly of yourself," at this moment, the lord of the Snowfall Peak suddenly looked back and scoffed.

"Han Xin, you should feel fortunate that we're in the Radiant Saint Hall. Although I can't kill you even when we're outside, I'll definitely leave you half-dead," the lord of the Snowfall peak said arrogantly. He did not seem to take Han Xin seriously at all.

Afterwards, he looked at Jian Chen, and his gaze became especially cold. Although this was the first time he had seen Jian Chen, how was it possible for him to not know the person behind his second disciple's injuries?

However, Jian Chen only had a one-colored soulcore. He was no different from an ant in his eyes, so with his status, he would never lower himself to talk to Jian Chen.

Just when the lord of the Snowfall Peak was about to look away, Jian Chen just happened to gaze over. They made eye contact.

However, the eye contact made the peak lord's heart suddenly lurch as he felt an ill omen.

But afterwards, the peak lord laughed at himself. He thought, "What's up with me? Have I been frightened by a low level disciple with only a one-colored soulcore?"

The peak lord did not pay too much attention to it. He left under the gazes of admiration from the many disciples.

Han Xin had already been escorted back to the Soaring Clouds Peak by Jian Chen, Bai Yu, and Zhuo Feng. At this moment, Han Xin sat in his small wooden hut at the top of the Soaring Clouds Peak as he healed with Radiant Saint Force.

"Junior sister, what is wrong? Why was teacher fighting with the lord of the Snowfallen Peak?" Jian Chen asked Bai Yu softly from outside the wooden hut.

Bai Yu looked at the wooden hut and said with a heavy heart, "It's all because of the position as one of the nine retainers for a Chosen Saint candidate. Among the five candidates, Donglin Yanxue was still missing a retainer, so teacher and the lord of the Snowfall Peak's fight was to decide who would take up the role as the final retainer for Donglin Yanxue."

Jian Chen frowned when he heard that. He suddenly felt an ill omen, "Strange. Isn't the Chosen Saint the only who can choose retainers?"



"I heard that due to some things that happened in the last two competitions, all five candidates this time seem to have the right to choose nine retainers. It has something to do with the first trial," said Bai Yu.

"In other words, Donglin Yanxue's nine candidates have already been confirmed?" Jian Chen asked.

"That's right. I heard from my master that aside from the lord of the Snowfall Peak, the other eight retainers for Donglin Yanxue all have mid seven-colored soulcores," said Bai Yu. The master she spoke about was clearly the elder who had taken her away from the Soaring Clouds Peak.

Jian Chen's face did not change at all from that, but his heart had already sunken. Raging fury built up within him.

#### Chapter 2284: All for Nothing

In the past, he had given Donglin Yanxue a puresoul, which allowed her cultivation to increase drastically within two years. As a result, she became the Chosen Saint. The entire purpose behind his actions was to gain a position as one of the nine retainers so that he could access the Tower of Radiance.

However, in the end, as the day of the competition approached, he learnt from Bai Yu that Donglin Yanxue's nine retainers had already been decided. Donglin Yanxue had broken her side of the promise, leaving Jian Chen utterly furious.

He could not keep up his disguise on the Desolate Plane for long. He would be exposed once the blood tests came for him. Although the blood tests were not as strict in the Radiant Saint Hall compared to the outside world, he knew that all the disciples of the Radiant Saint Hall would eventually be forced to take the blood tests.

As a result, he was truly running out of time. If he could not enter the Tower of Radiance as one of Donglin Yanxue's nine retainers, he might lose the chance to enter the Tower of Radiance forever.

"Donglin Yanxue has been making extremely rapid progress among the five candidates. I heard teacher say that Donglin Yanxue went from an early four-colored soulcore to the peak of the four-colored soulcore in two or three years. She's only a step away from the five-colored soulcore. Although the four other candidates have been making great progress as well, none of them have reached the peak of the four-colored soulcore."

"As a result, Donglin Yanxue has gone from being the weakest to the strongest out of the five candidates. Moreover, I heard from master that her grasp and control over Radiant Saint Force has skyrocketed over the past two years. She has become even more skilled. There's at least a seventy percent chance that she'll become the Chosen Saint," Bai Yu looked at Jian Chen and said with hidden meaning. She knew about Donglin Yanxue spending half a month in Jian Chen's dwelling.

Jian Chen listened to Bai Yu talk about Donglin Yanxue's transformation over the past two years. Finally, he could not hold himself back anymore. He reminded Bai Yu to look after Han Xin before immediately leaving the Soaring Clouds Peak. He condensed a pair of Radiant Wings and shot towards the Myriad Flowers Peak with lightning speed.

There was less than a week until the competition between the candidates began. As a result, Jian Chen was able to hear all the Radiant Saint Masters discuss the matter everywhere thanks to his superior senses.

Donglin Yanxue's rapid cultivation advancement was no secret. The news had already spread far and wide, so Jian Chen heard many discussions about her.

All sorts of versions to this story appeared. However, a small portion of people believed that Donglin Yanxue's improvement over the past two years was directly related to Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak.

"No way. Chang Yang only has a one-colored soulcore, and it's said that he's a one star genius. How can he assist a nine star genius with a four-colored soulcore like Donglin Yanxue?" Naturally, more people snorted in response.

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These discussions either came from small groups of Radiant Saint Masters conversing quietly as they travelled through the air or from the nearby mountains. Jian Chen missed none of it with his superior senses.

Jian Chen remained silently along the way. With his speed at the one-colored soulcore, he finally arrived on the Myriad Flowers Peak a few hours later. Right after Jian Chen set foot on the mountain, he spread out his senses and enveloped the entire place.

The lord of the Myriad Flowers Peak was also an expert equivalent to a mid Godking. Hence, Jian Chen did not dare to use the senses of his soul, just in case the peak lord could sense it. However, it was impossible for her to discover his normal senses.

However, Jian Chen's face sank very soon. Donglin Yanxue was not on the Myriad Flowers Peak.

"Hmm? Isn't that Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak?"

"It really is him. I heard that senior Donglin Yanxue journeyed quite the distance to go to the Soaring Clouds Peak to look for him. She even stayed in his dwelling for half a month..."

"So he's Chang Yang. His appearance isn't impressive at all. His cultivation is nothing special, and it's said that he has no background. I really don't know why this person caught senior Yanxue's eyes..."

"Shh, don't blabber. How can he catch senior Yanxue's eyes. It's said that senior Yanxue only went to find him last time to exchange their experiences on cultivation..."

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The majority of the disciples on the Myriad Flowers Peak were female. Presently, there were a few male disciples from other peaks among them. Immediately, many of the women discovered Jian Chen's arrival. They all cast curious gazes over as they discussed softly in the distance.

Jian Chen did not stick around. He turned around and left the Myriad Flowers Peak, returning to the Soaring Clouds Peak.

Since Donglin Yanxue was not on the Myriad Flowers Peak, she would definitely be in the sacred hall. However, Jian Chen could not set foot in there with his current status.

Several hours later, Jian Chen returned to the Soaring Clouds Peak. He did not go to the mountain peak. Instead, he sat on a black rock outside his dwelling quietly. He stared at the misty mountains in a daze.

“Do I really have to expose the fact that I’ve comprehended the Laws of the Hallowed already?” At this moment, Jian Chen felt conflicted. With Donglin Yanxue going back on her word, he was now stuck between a rock and a hard place. He had no idea how to proceed.

Was he supposed to give up on the chance to enter the Tower of Radiance and travel away from this place, away from the Desolate Plane? Alternatively, did he have to expose the secret of him comprehending the Laws of the Hallowed with a one-colored soulcore, becoming the only genius with such an achievement in the past a million years? He would immediately become the Chosen Saint if he chose the latter.

He was reluctant to leave. However, if he revealed his talent, he would immediately become the centre of attention; this would increase the chance of him getting exposed.

After all, once he became the Chosen Saint, the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall would definitely thoroughly investigate his past or even directly peer into his past and future.

Just as Jian Chen faced this dilemma, a figure surrounded by light arrived on the Soaring Clouds Peak.

Jian Chen’s eyes suddenly narrowed when this person arrived. He was surprised.

Even though the person was shrouded by light that obscured her appearance, Jian Chen could tell from a single glance that she was Donglin Yanxue.

“We’ll talk in your dwelling,” Donglin Yanxue said to Jian Chen secretly before directly flying into his dwelling.

A gleam of light flickered through Jian Chen’s eyes. He returned to his simple dwelling silently and immediately cast a formation at the entrance.

When Donglin Yanxue saw Jian Chen cast such an unimpressive formation, she frowned slightly. With a wave of her hand, she tossed out a formation disc and set up an even more powerful formation. Afterwards, she dispersed the light and revealed her face.

“I get noticed wherever I go now, so I had no choice but to do this,” Donglin Yanxue said to Jian Chen helplessly.

Jian Chen remained indifferent. He stared at Donglin Yanxue’s pretty face closely and said coldly, “You didn’t keep your word.”

Donglin Yanxue became apologetic and replied, “I know, but this matter has already left my control. I no longer have the power to choose the nine retainers. I’m extremely sorry about this.” Donglin Yanxue was ashamed.

Jian Chen frowned in response.

Donglin Yanxue sighed gently and continued, "The nine retainers are either very close to the elders of the Radiant Saint Hall or possess a certain background. In reality, it's not just me. The four other candidates cannot choose their retainers either. It's not because of some orders from the elders but because of the urgings of the clans behind these people."

"The Tower of Radiance rarely opens, and it hides great fortuitous encounters. It's a place that all Hallowed Saint Masters yearn for. As a result, every single retainer slot is extremely desirable. It's simply impossible for us, the so-called candidates, to do anything."

"Then what was my teacher and the lord of the Snowfall Peak's fight about?" Jian Chen asked.

"The lord of the Soaring Clouds Peak's Han family is a renowned clan. Even though his branch does not hold much status within the Han family, Han Xin's seniors have offered quite a lot of benefits to some people in our Donglin clan. As such, he possessed the right to contend for a retainer slot. As for the lord of the Snowfall Peak, Zhou Yuan, the organisation behind him has always been at odds with the Han family. The organisation behind him has also offered some benefits to members of our Donglin clan, which led to members of our clan negotiating with the elders to organise a battle between Zhou Yuan and Yan Xin; this is to allow them to contend for the last spot," said Donglin Yanxue.

Jian Chen's face became extremely sunken after hearing Donglin Yanxue's explanation. He had never thought that the nine retainers would be chosen secretly by the authoritative elders and those great organisations.

To make matters even more hilarious, he had done everything to raise Donglin Yanxue, but it all went to someone else in the end. It had all been for nothing.

"Actually, it's not completely impossible. If I lose one of my nine retainers, I can personally assign a new one," Donglin Yanxue looked at Jian Chen deeply.

"Didn't you say that this matter is not for you to decide?" Jian Chen frowned.

"There are only six days before the competition between the candidates begin. There's not enough time to choose someone new, so I can elect someone to fill the spot. Of course, I can't guarantee success. However, this is the last method that remains," said Donglin Yanxue.

"You might as well have told me nothing then. I won't be seeing you out," Jian Chen snorted coldly and made Donglin Yanxue leave.

Donglin Yanxue sighed gently. She glanced at Jian Chen with an ashamed look and left.

After Donglin Yanxue's departure, Jian Chen's gaze immediately became piercing. The light in them flickered as killing intent gathered.

Chapter 2285: The Lord of the Snowfall Peak's Death

"I have to enter the Tower of Radiance no matter what," Jian Chen secretly made up his mind.

The Snowfall Peak was not far from the Soaring Clouds Peak. They were only separated by three mountains.

On this day, three middle-aged men dressed in Radiant Saint Master attire arrived beyond the Snowfall Peak. They smiled as they hovered there. One of them said, "Zhou Yuan, your old friends have come to visit. Are you busy?"

The three middle-aged men were all lords of peaks in the Radiant Saint Hall. They all had seven-colored soulcores.

In the past, they did not need to announce their arrival when they came to visit the lord of the Snowfall Peak. They would directly set foot on the mountain.

But now, Zhou Yuan had become one of Donglin Yanxue's nine retainers; it was extremely likely for him to enter the Tower of Radiance. His status differed greatly from before, so the three of them were unable to visit him as liberally as they used to.

The three peak lords waited there. However, before Zhou Yuan could answer them, the first disciple of the Snowfall Peak, Zhou Mu, had come to receive them.

Zhou Mu was a man who looked to be in his thirties. He had a calm and cool personality and possessed quite a bit of talent. He had only been cultivating for around two thousand years, yet he already possessed a four-colored soulcore. He had comprehended the Laws of the Hallowed when he had a three-colored soulcore. The lord of the Snowfall Peak took the most pride in this disciple.

"Zhou Mu greets the three peak lords. The three peak lords have come at a bad time. My teacher is not on the Snowfall Peak right now," Zhou Mu clasped his fist politely.

"What? Zhou Yuan is not on the Snowfall Peak? Where did he go then?" The three peak lords were surprised.

Zhou Mu hesitated before replying, "In a few days, the competition between the Chosen Saints will begin. Teacher is preparing for that right now, so he has already left the Radiant Saint Hall to buy some saint artifacts that will increase his strength."

"If that's the case, we won't trouble you anymore. Let's go."

The three peak lords became disappointed. They did not set foot on the Snowfall Peak, turning around and leaving instead.

A figure silently emerged from the dense mist after the three of them left. He seemed to be in his twenties, and his appearance was nothing special. He did not stand out at all.

He was Jian Chen, who had disguised himself as Chang Yang.

"The lord of the Snowfall Peak has actually left the Radiant Saint Hall..." Jian Chen stared at the Snowfall Peak from afar. He did not use the senses of his soul, only his regular, superior senses to listen in on the entire conversation between Zhou Mu and the three peak lords.

"Perfect," a gleam of vicious light flickered through Jian Chen's eyes. He hid in the clouds again and vanished as if he was never there in the first place. No one discovered his presence.

Afterwards, Jian Chen concealed his presence. He did not register his leave in the Foreign Affairs Hall. Instead, he avoided everyone and left the Radiant Saint Hall like a ghost.

With his current cultivation, even the Godkings stationed in the Foreign Affairs Hall would not be able to discover him at all if he really wanted to remain hidden. As a result, no one knew about his departure.

Jian Chen continued to cover up his tracks after leaving the Radiant Saint Hall. With a flash, he disappeared into a bush several hundred thousand kilometres away from the Radiant Saint Hall.

A while later, he reemerged. This time, he was dressed in black robes, and his appearance had undergone an overwhelming change. He disguised himself as an especially burly man who stood over two metres tall. He had quite the vicious face.

It was impossible for anyone to connect his current stature with the Radiant Saint Masters that had delicate bodies.

“Although the lord of the Snowfall Peak ventured out, no one knows where he is with how vast the Desolate Plane is. As a result, I can only wait for him in a place he must pass to return to the Radiant Saint Hall,” Jian Chen stared into the distance as his gaze became piercing. They shone with astonishing killing intent.

“I can’t let the lord of the Snowfall Peak return to the Radiant Saint Hall alive this time,” thought Jian Chen. Then he pushed off the ground with his feet as the Laws of Strength revolved around him. Like a loose arrow, he turned into a black streak of light and shot off into the distance with lightning speed. He instantly vanished into the horizon.

In the end, Jian Chen stopped when he was far enough from the Radiant Saint Hall. Afterwards, he found a place to hide and carefully concealed his presence. He waited for his prey silently.

Zhou Yuan had to pass this place to return to the Radiant Saint Hall. Regardless of where he went, he would definitely come here once he wanted to return to the Radiant Saint Hall.

Jian Chen’s wait lasted for three days.

Three days later, peak lord Zhou Yuan dressed in his white robes appeared in a teleportation formation within a bustling city that was closest to the Radiant Saint Hall. He walked out excitedly, and without any hesitation, he immediately took to the air and headed back to the Radiant Saint Hall.

“This trip was worth it. It was completely worth it. I didn’t come out for nothing. Although I’ve basically used up all my savings, I’ve managed to buy this. It’s all worth it.”

“With this, my battle prowess will be no weaker than those Radiant Saint Masters with mid seven-colored soulcores. Although my cultivation is the lowest among the nine of us, my battle prowess is probably enough for me to rank in the top three as long as I use this...”

The peak lord was overjoyed. He had indeed benefited greatly from this trip. It was enough for him to stand out, make a name for himself, and become renowned during the competition between the candidates that everyone paid attention to.

To him, this was a great honour.

Moreover, this honour would only be the start to his wonderful future.

The peak lord left the city very soon. He flew in the sky using Radiant Saint Force. There were no teleportation formations he could use for the remainder of the journey, so he could only fly slowly.

However, when the peak lord flew over a barren mountain range, a black figure suddenly shot up and directly blocked his path.

“Sir, who are you? Why do you block my path?” The peak lord came to a halt as he frowned impatiently.

He was in a hurry to return to the Radiant Saint Hall right now to make his final preparations for the competition between the candidates. He was unwilling to waste any time when every second mattered.

“Zhou Yuan, you’ve forgotten about me so soon?”

The person who blocked Zhou Yuan was Jian Chen, who had disguised himself as a burly man. He stared at Zhou Yuan and sneered. At the same time, his gaze became piercing.

The peak lord was filled with doubt because he was certain that he did not know this black-robed man. However, when he felt the man’s piercing gaze, his heart actually lurched. His heart began to beat faster as he became rather afraid of making eye contact with this person.

“That gaze seems to be rather familiar,” thought the peak lord. Very soon, he shuddered violently and immediately stared at the man in disbelief. He felt emotional turmoil as he cried out, “Y- you’re...”

At that moment, he finally recalled the owner of this familiar gaze. It was the gaze that Chang Yang revealed when the peak lord defeated the lord of the Soaring Clouds Peak, Han Xin.

Chang Yang clearly only had a one-colored soulcore, but he had now completely transformed into a fighter who gave off the presence of a Godking surrounded by the Laws of Strength. Immediately, the peak lord was covered in cold sweat; he was dumbfounded.

He clearly understood what it meant to be both a fighter and Radiant Saint Master.

However, before the peak lord had time to think more about it, Jian Chen had already struck out decisively. His hand directly moved towards Zhou Yuan’s head.

Not only did the palm strike contain the strength of his thirteenth layer Chaotic Body, but it was also amplified by the Laws of Strength. As a result, despite not using the Laws of the Sword, his attack resembled a strike from the Primordial realm. The air rumbled as he struck out; space shook.

The peak lord’s expression changed drastically. He could not dodge or react in time. He could only watch Jian Chen’s hand approach him.

Bang!

Jian Chen’s hand landed on the peak lord’s head without any suspense. Not only did the peak lord’s head directly explode from the terrifying power of the Chaotic Body amplified by the Laws of Strength, but the force of the attack even reduced his body to mincemeat.

The lord of the Snowfall Peak, Zhou Yuan, had died from the first strike!

Chapter 2286: Vice-leader Xuan Zhan (One)

After killing the lord of the Snowfall Peak, Jian Chen did not stick around. He turned around and left. He did not touch any of Zhou Yuan's belongings, as he was afraid of leaving behind clues that could be traced back to him.

Afterwards, Jian Chen disguised himself as Radiant Saint Master Chang Yang again in an obscure location. He made his way around the Foreign Affairs Hall and returned to the Soaring Clouds Peak with an extremely low-profile.

The Radiant Saint Hall learnt of Zhou Yuan's death very soon. Right when Jian Chen returned to the Soaring Clouds Peak, three elders and several violet-robed guards left the Radiant Saint Hall that stood above the clouds in an aggressive manner. They reached the location where the lord of the Snowfall Peak had died very soon.

The faces of the three elders sank the moment they saw the crushed corpse. Their faces became extremely ugly.

Zhou Yuan had died in a place where he had to pass through to return to the Radiant Saint Hall. This was place close to the Radiant Saint Hall, yet someone was bold enough to kill a peak lord here. This matter was basically a slap of naked provocation to the Radiant Saint Hall in the eyes of the three elders.

"Look around. We have to get to the bottom of this. We can't spare Zhou Yuan's murderer."

"How dare he kill a lord of a peak? This person isn't taking us seriously at all..."

"Immediately ask guest elder Mu Tian to come over. Get him to turn back time here. We need to know everything that happened..."

The three elders were furious. They did not care about Zhou Yuan's life. They only cared about the dignity of the Radiant Saint Hall.

He was a peak lord, yet he had been mercilessly slain along the path back to the Radiant Saint Hall. If they did not look into this matter properly and failed to capture the murderer, it would damage the name of the Radiant Saint Hall.

Very soon, a grey-robed old man was brought over under the lead of several violet-robed guards.

He was Mu Tian. He was not a Radiant Saint Master but a fighter. He was an Infinite Prime that held a guest position in the Radiant Saint Hall, enjoying a status similar to the elders of the Radiant Saint Hall.

Mu Tian immediately used a secret technique to turn back time to reveal the events that had occurred.

Very soon, the peak lord's death at Jian Chen's hands was displayed clearly. However, the eyes of the elders and Mu Tian narrowed slightly when they saw the peak lord perish from a single palm strike.

"This person is very powerful. He probably has a foot planted in the Primordial realm. It's quite tough for me to turn back time," Mu Tian said emotionlessly.

"Looks like the black-robed man had grievances with Zhou Yuan. The peak lord's death is related to revenge..."



“Hmph, it doesn’t matter why Zhou Yuan died. He’s still a peak lord from our Radiant Saint Hall. We must get to the bottom of his death...”

“Record his appearance and immediately set up a bounty for him...”

The three elders ordered the setting of a bounty without any hesitation.

Very soon, the bounty was set up, and the search for Zhou Yuan’s murderer began throughout the entire Desolate Plane.

At the same time, their investigation into the black-robed man began.

The Radiant Saint Hall was a peak organisation of the Desolate Plane after all. The more powerful an organisation was, the more they cared about their image. The death of a peak lord along the path back to the Radiant Saint Hall had basically crossed their bottom line. The Radiant Saint Hall would never drop the matter.

Meanwhile, the white-robed Donglin Yanxue was sitting on a bed within the Radiant Saint Hall as she rested with her eyes closed.

There were only three days until the competition between the candidates. She needed to adjust herself to her peak condition so that she could contend for the position she had longed for with all her might.

At this moment, the door was opened, and a graceful woman walked in. Despite looking middle-aged, she was still charming. Her skin was white and filled with a mature sense of beauty.

“Greetings to master!” Donglin Yanxue immediately got off her bed and bowed politely when she saw the middle-aged woman.

The middle-aged woman was Donglin Yanxue’s master in the Radiant Saint Hall; she was also one of the elders. Her name was Mu Shui.

Mu Shui nodded. She looked at Donglin Yanxue gently and said, “Yanxue, I’ve come to tell you something. The lord of the Snowfall Peak, Zhou Yuan, one of your nine retainers, has died outside. You now have a missing retainer spot, and someone new will be chosen soon.”

“The lord of the Snowfall Peak is dead?”

A strange light flickered through Donglin Yanxue’s beautiful eyes immediately.

“That’s right. He’s dead, and he died on his way back to the Radiant Saint Hall. The person who killed him sure is bold, daring to take action right outside the Radiant Saint Hall,” said Mu Shui.

“Master, do you know who the murderer is? The peak lord is one of my retainers after all. I can’t distance myself from his murder at a time like this,” Donglin Yanxue said.

“We have the appearance of the murderer. It’s in this crystal. However, you’re far too weak right now, so you can’t avenge Zhou Yuan. That’s because the murderer is very powerful. I think only the elders of the Radiant Saint Hall can deal with him.”

“Adjust your condition properly in the next two days. I’ll choose your new retainer for you,” Mu Shui left behind a crystal and was about to leave.

“Master, can I choose this retainer instead?” Donglin Yanxue immediately asked.

Mu Shui stopped. She looked back at Donglin Yanxue and sighed gently, “Are you thinking about giving the position to that disciple from the Soaring Clouds Peak? It’s a pity that he’s too weak.”

“Master, I owe Chang Yang a huge favour. Just help me out this time and let me return the favour. Otherwise, I’ll always be in guilt. It’ll affect my future cultivation,” Donglin Yanxue pleaded painstakingly.

Mu Shui sighed gently. She said with some helplessness, “Alright then, I’ll listen to you. I’ll do my best to persuade the other elders. In the end, it’s not my decision to make.”

...

Jian Chen sat in his dwelling on the Soaring Clouds Peak. The light in his eyes flickered as he sank into his thoughts.

“Although the peak lord’s death has opened up a spot among the nine retainers, Donglin Yanxue has said that she isn’t completely confident about this matter. As a result, I can’t place all my hopes on Donglin Yanxue.”

“Looks like it’s time for me to find Xuan Ming,” thought Jian Chen. After making up his mind, he sent a sliver of the senses of his soul into the Anatta Tower immediately.

Chapter 2287: Vice-leader Xuan Zhan (Two)

Xuan Ming was sitting on the floor of the second floor in the Anatta Tower. Currently, he was devoting himself to cultivation. Dense, sacred Radiant Saint Force enveloped him as the Laws of the Hallowed revolved about his surroundings. He was trying his best to condense a soultree.

This was because an extremely powerful demon threatened the lives of Hallowed Saint Masters who reached peak Radiant Godking. As a result, Xuan Ming did not dare to leave this place unless he broke through. He did not dare to go outside and would prefer permanent restriction.

As a result, only by breaking through and condensing a soultree, reaching something akin to the Primordial realm for fighters, would he recover his freedom.

“Xuan Ming!”

At this moment, Jian Chen condensed an illusionary figure using the sliver of his soul and appeared before Xuan Ming silently. At this moment, he was forced to disturb Xuan Ming’s cultivation. He roused Xuan Ming with a gentle call.

“Brother Jian Chen! Haha, long time no see. Oh right, how’s the situation outside right now? Have you avoided the Heavenly King of Azure Brilliance’s pursuit? Have you made it onto the Desolate Plane?” Xuan Ming stopped cultivating and asked several questions immediately. In particular, his eyes lit up with undisguised eagerness when he mentioned the Desolate Plane.

“I’m already on the Desolate Plane,” said Jian Chen.

Xuan Ming's face immediately lit up when he heard that. He said in excitement, "Really? You're already on the Desolate Plane? Fantastic, this is just fantastic. Oh right. Brother Jian Chen, where are you on the Desolate Plane right now? C- can you..." Xuan Ming paused and began to hesitate.

Jian Chen smiled and said, "Xuan Ming, if there's anything you want to say, just say it."

After hesitating for a while, Xuan Ming gritted his teeth and clasped his fist at Jian Chen before saying, "Brother Jian Chen, can you pay a visit to the Radiant Saint Hall and tell my father I'm still alive and safe right now? After all, it has already been far too long since I left the Desolate Plane. I've cut off all contact with my father to avoid being discovered by the great demon for all these years. My father has no idea that I'm well right now."

"Naturally. However, your father is one of the eight vice-leaders of the Radiant Saint Hall. He stands supreme. It's not that easy for me to see him," Jian Chen agreed without any hesitation. Xuan Ming's request happened to align with his needs.

"That's easy!" Xuan Ming bit his finger to draw blood and placed a droplet of it in a jade bottle before passing it to Jian Chen. He said, "Hallowed Saint Masters at my father's level are extremely sensitive to their bloodline. Jian Chen, take this jade bottle and open it near the Radiant Saint Hall. As long as my father is in the Radiant Saint Hall, he'll sense it."

Jian Chen stowed the bottle away. After some thought, he said, "Just this isn't enough. If your father misunderstands me and thinks that I obtained this droplet of blood through other means, I'll be in trouble."

"Then let me write a letter and tell my father that you, Jian Chen, are my best friend," Xuan Ming immediately took out a jade slip from his Space Ring and began to engrave a message in there with the senses of his soul.

"Hold on. I'm using a different name on the Desolate Plane right now. Don't use the name Jian Chen. Use Chang Yang instead. Also, don't mention any details about me to your father. You can't disclose the existence of this tower either."

"You must have sensed it. This tower can hide you from the heavenly secrets, so it is an item of great quality. If your father learns about it, who knows if he'll start targeting me," Jian Chen warned sternly. He could not afford to be careless when handling this.

Xuan Ming thought Jian Chen was still being hunted down by the Azure Peng King, so he guaranteed, "Brother Jian Chen, you do not need to worry at all. The Heavenly King of Azure Brilliance will not dare to take a single step onto the Desolate Plane." However, Xuan Ming still followed Jian Chen's request. After he finished writing, he passed the jade slip to Jian Chen for him to check the contents.

After all, he was hiding with Jian Chen's assistance. He had to listen to Jian Chen for everything. If he angered Jian Chen, he might decide to not go to the Radiant Saint Hall to meet his father.

Jian Chen carefully checked the contents of the jade slip. After confirming several times that there was nothing wrong, he left the second floor with the jade bottle and the jade slip. He arrived on the ninth floor.

Jian Chen moved the droplet of blood to a jade bottle of higher quality on the ninth floor.

“No matter how long this blood stays in this bottle, it will be like it was just drawn. As a result, Xuan Ming’s father won’t be able to tell when this blood was drawn and stored in the bottle,” thought Jian Chen. After arranging everything and ensuring that there were no problems, the sliver of his soul finally left the Anatta Tower.

Jian Chen sat in his dwelling as he looked at the jade bottle. He hesitated slightly before opening the bottle cap.

At the same time, two middle-aged men sat before each other within a well-decorated room of the Radiant Saint Hall.

“Xuan Zhan, who do you think will become Chosen Saint this time?” One of the middle-aged men enjoyed the good alcohol leisurely as he asked in a casual tone. He was rather skinny, but his resolute face possessed a dignified presence of supremacy, much like a king. He just seemed to be naturally awe-inspiring.

He was one of the eight vice-leaders of the Radiant Saint Hall, Mo He.

The middle-aged man referred to as Xuan Zhan seemed especially burly. Just his body alone seemed to possess terrifying amounts of power. His chiselled face seemed cold, and it was enough to cause people to shiver. His gaze was piercing as well. It was difficult to maintain eye contact with him.

There was always worry, sometimes more, sometimes less, on his face; it was like something weighed on his heart permanently.

Xuan Zhan was also one of the eight vice-leaders of the Radiant Saint Hall. He held great authority in the Radiant Saint Hall, making him an existence second to only the leader himself.

“I have no interest in that. It will be up to their luck as for who emerges victorious,” Xuan Zhan said indifferently. Worry always lingered on his face.

Mo He looked at Xuan Zhan and sighed gently, “You’re worrying about your treasured son again?”

Xuan Zhan said nothing. He looked at the sky outside blankly with his piercing eyes.

Mo He sighed inside when he saw this. He had no idea how to comfort Xuan Zhan. After all, Xuan Ming was Xuan Zhan’s only child. Xuan Zhan had always treasured and spoiled Xuan Ming, raising him with everything that he had. If Xuan Ming had really died, Mo He had no idea how great of an impact it would have on Xuan Zhan.

However, at this moment, Xuan Zhan suddenly shuddered. His eyes immediately shone brightly as he leapt out of his seat. He became fixated on a certain direction as he could not help but show excitement.

In the next moment, he took a step and vanished. As if he had teleported, he left the sacred hall and appeared in the mountains below.

“What is Xuan Zhan doing?” Mo He was surprised by Xuan Zhan’s actions. However, he did not follow along. Instead, he sat there to enjoy his rare liquor as he secretly paid attention to everything in the Radiant Saint Hall.

Chapter 2288: Visiting the Sacred Hall

Jian Chen sat in his dwelling as he looked at the open bottle in his hands. He waited quietly.

He knew that Xuan Ming's father would be able to sense the blood of his child. However, this could only happen within a certain range. If he were too far away, even an expert like Xuan Ming's father would lose the ability to do so.

"I hope Xuan Ming's father is in the Radiant Saint Hall," Jian Chen secretly pleaded. He truly required help from Xuan Ming's father if he wanted to enter the Tower of Radiance successfully at a time like this.

Every retainer of the five candidates had people supporting them from behind. If Jian Chen did not find a backer, it would be impossible for him to get selected over the others.

As a result, Jian Chen had no choice but to gain the support of Xuan Zhan's father.

At this moment, Jian Chen suddenly sensed something. Right afterwards, he only saw a blur, and a white-robed, burly, chisel-faced, middle-aged man appeared before him silently.

The middle-aged man had silently appeared like a ghost. The simple formations outside Jian Chen's dwelling were completely useless before him.

The middle-aged man was one of the eight vice-leaders, Xuan Zhan.

As soon as Xuan Zhan arrived, his piercing eyes locked onto the jade bottle in Jian Chen's hand. His cold, hardened face could not help but reveal a look of excitement.

"Where did you get this droplet of blood from?" Xuan Zhan asked. He stared at Jian Chen with a sword-like gaze.

Immediately, Jian Chen felt a piercing pain everywhere. Xuan Zhan's gaze was just too sharp. It actually caused Jian Chen pain.

Jian Chen immediately became polite. He bowed towards Xuan Zhan and said, "Senior must be Xuan Ming's father, right?"

A gleam of light flashed through Xuan Zhan's eyes when he heard that. He called out, "You actually know about Ming'er? Tell me, where is Ming'er?"

"Please do not become flustered, senior. I have something that Xuan Ming has asked for me to bring to senior," said Jian Chen before taking out the jade slip from Xuan Ming.

Undisguised joy covered Xuan Zhan's face when he heard that Xuan Ming had left something for him. He snatched the jade slip from Jian Chen's hands impatiently and immediately checked the contents.

"Ming'er is still alive. He's still alive..." Xuan Zhan viewed everything inside in a single moment. A smile that he had not shown for many years appeared on his cool face. He seemed to lighten up quite a lot then and there.

Indeed, a heavy burden had finally been lifted from Xuan Zhan's heart after he learned that Xuan Ming was still alive. He truly stopped worrying.

“Where is Ming’er right now? And when did you meet him?” Xuan Zhan’s gaze towards Jian Chen immediately became amiable.

This was because Xuan Ming had clearly stated that Chang Yang was his friend and had helped him in the past. Xuan Zhan would obviously treat the person who had assisted his son and brought news of his son with a friendlier attitude.

“Xuan Ming is in a very safe place. There is no need for him to worry about being discovered by the great demon he speaks of at all there. It’s inconvenient for me to tell you where it is. However, I did meet Xuan Ming roughly a few years ago,” replied Jian Chen.

Xuan Ming immediately became cautious and said, “I have been careless. If that is the case, you can’t reveal Xuan Ming’s location at all. That person is just too powerful. His comprehension of laws has greatly exceeded the leader’s. All the people at such a level possess exceptional abilities. Once you tell me, he’ll probably be able to find out where Ming’er is hiding.”

Xuan Zhan paused after that. He looked at Jian Chen with brimming interest and said, “You’re called Chang Yang, right? Since you have ties with my son, and you’ve helped him before, I’ll return this favour for Ming’er as his father. Chang Yang, would you like to become my disciple?”

“Once you become my disciple, I will nurture you with everything I have to offer until you reach mid seven-colored soulcore.”

Xuan Zhan immediately expressed his intention of accepting Jian Chen as a disciple. If this news made its way outside, it would be enough to throw the entire Radiant Saint Hall into an uproar.

In the Radiant Saint Hall, even the five candidates only received guidance from the elders. None of them had the right to have a vice-leader as their master.

Even if it were an ordinary disciple with lacklustre cultivation, becoming a disciple of a vice-leader would immediately lead to their status skyrocketing. Their position would completely exceed the five candidates and would lead to a future of unlimited potential.

Even the Chosen Saint was not as great as a disciple of a vice-leader. Chosen Saints would be selected once every millennium and would only receive a thousand years of support after becoming the Chosen Saint. Meanwhile, the disciples of vice-leaders did not have a time limit.

Throughout the history of the Radiant Saint Hall, even Chosen Saints would not have the right to have a vice-leader as their master. They would only receive the guidance from the vice-leaders or leader from time to time. After the millennium was over, they would go back to what they were before.

In other words, the opportunity presented before Jian Chen was something that all Hallowed Saint Masters would lose their minds over. Even the five candidates could only dream of an opportunity like this.

However, Jian Chen did not waver at all. He said apologetically, “Thank you for your kind intentions, senior, but I already have a teacher. I don’t want to take on another master.”

Xuan Zhan was surprised. He could not help but study Jian Chen properly. He said, “Do you know what it means to become my disciple? I have never taken a disciple in the past. You’ll become my only disciple if

you take me as your master, so your status in comparison to the disciples of the seven other vice-leaders will only be greater.”

“I understand. As the saying goes, the master teaches but achievements still depend on the disciple’s efforts. I have already become a disciple of my teacher, and my cultivation will solely depend on me in the future. Currently, my greatest wish is to enter the Tower of Radiance. I heard that is like the very origin of Hallowed Saint Masters,” said Jian Chen.

Xuan Zhan glanced at Jian Chen deeply and said, “Since you’ve already made up your mind, I won’t force you to do anything. This is my medallion. If you face any problems in the future, come find me in the sacred hall.” Xuan Zhan vanished silently after leaving behind the medallion, having left the Soaring Clouds Peak.

Jian Chen smiled as he looked at the white medallion floating before him. He knew that he would have the right to enter the Tower of Radiance now.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. The competition for Chosen Saint formally began on this day. The various peak lords left their mountains and gathered in the sacred hall above the clouds in the morning.

The competition for Chosen Saint would be held in the sacred hall. Only peak lords and a select few Hallowed Saint Masters with impressive backgrounds had the right to enter.

Jian Chen stood outside his dwelling and gazed into the distance. With his eyes, he could easily see through the clouds and see what was happening a million kilometres away. He clearly saw the various peak lords make their way over to the sacred hall at a steady pace while being surrounded by Radiant Saint Force.

Afterwards, light also permeated Jian Chen’s surroundings. He condensed a pair of Radiant Wings and flew towards the sacred hall.

“Stop! Who are you? How can you trespass the sacred hall?” Before Jian Chen had even approached the sacred hall, he was stopped by a group of violet-robed guard a certain distance away.

The guards glared at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen said nothing. With a flip of his hand, he took out Xuan Zhan’s medallion.

“A vice-leader’s medallion...”

The expressions of the guards changed, and they cried out when they saw the medallion in Jian Chen’s hands. Their gazes towards Jian Chen changed drastically as well.

“May I ask if I have the right to enter the sacred hall now?” Jian Chen asked leisurely as he held the medallion.

“Of course, of course. This way please, this way...” The group of guards immediately became polite and said in a hurry.

Chapter 2289: Contending for the Spot

Jian Chen stowed the medallion away and continued forwards, finally stepping into the sacred hall that stood above the clouds.

When he arrived here, many Hallowed Saint Masters had already gathered in the huge square. Most of these Hallowed Saint Masters were Radiant Godkings and lords of peaks. Only a select few did not possess a seven-colored soulcore and had entered due to their special statuses like Jian Chen.

Even though it was already crowded, it was surprisingly quiet. No one caused a ruckus. Not even soft discussions were occurring. All the Hallowed Saint Masters revered the sacred hall.

“Hmm? Senior brother? Why are you here as well? Strange, how did you get here?” Bai Yu had arrived beside Jian Chen. Her pretty eyes were wide as she asked secretly in surprise.

Bai Yu had an elder as a master. Her status was special, so she naturally had the right to set foot in the sacred hall.

“I obviously have my methods,” Jian Chen smiled mysteriously and secretly replied.

“Hmph, you’re still acting mysterious. Senior brother, tell me quick. How did you get here? Didn’t the guards outside stop you?” Bai Yu became more and more curious as she questioned Jian Chen vigorously.

“It’s time. I hereby announce that the competition for Chosen Saint has formally begun...”

An old elder stood on a huge stage in the centre of the square as he proclaimed as such in a loud voice.

“That is elder Mu Zhong. I heard from my master that elder Mu Zhong has the greatest seniority out of all the elders. He has the greatest prestige among them, making him only second to the eight vice-leaders...” At this moment, Bai Yu stopped her interrogation and explained things to Jian Chen.

At this moment, elder Mu Zhong continued, “In the past competitions for Chosen Saint, the Chosen Saint only chooses nine retainers after obtaining the position. However, following the discussion of the esteemed leader and the eight vice-leaders, we’ve made some changes to the competition this time. The five candidates will all choose nine protectors as temporary retainers. Once the Chosen Saint has been selected, they will keep their nine retainers, while the other four candidates will lose their right to be followed by their nine protectors.”

“But right now, one of the candidates, Donglin Yanxue, is missing a protector. As a result, the missing spot will be filled by a Hallowed Saint Master present. The elders will now recommend people for this position...”

The lord of the Snowfall Peak had died far too close to the beginning of the competition. They were unable to decide on a protector so quickly. As a result, they could only decide on it right now.

The huge square immediately fell silent after elder Mu Zhong said that. All the Radiant Godkings present shut up. Only desire and eagerness burned in many of their eyes. Evidently, they all wanted this spot.

The Tower of Radiance was a holy ground in the hearts of all Radiant Saint Masters. It was a huge temptation towards the Radiant Godkings and even the elders.



However, the Tower of Radiance would only be opened between long periods of time, and even when it did open, they would not necessarily have the right to enter. As a result, becoming the retainer of the Chosen Saint was a shortcut to entering the Tower of Radiance. Naturally, they wanted the spot very much, desiring it for themselves.

The eyes of the elders beside elder Mu Zhong began to flicker with light after hearing his words.

“I recommend Cheng Qing, the lord of the Broken Blade Peak, to become Donglin Yanxue’s ninth protector...” At this moment, an elder finally stated a name.

“I would recommend Liu Qiang, lord of the Black Sun Peak, to fill the last spot...”

“Why not let Yun Wantian of the Verdant Peak become the ninth protector...”

...

A few elders stated names. The people they recommended were all lords of peaks, and most of them possessed mid seven-colored soulcores.

Afterwards, many of the elders began to argue over who should take up the last spot. They fought intensely.

Donglin Yanxue’s master, Mu Shui, became rather troubled when she heard them mention these names. Everyone they brought up were Radiant Godkings. At a time like this, she would become a joke if she followed her disciple’s request and recommended a disciple with weak cultivation.

After hesitating slightly, Mu Shui said, “Everyone, why don’t we let Donglin Yanxue decide for the last spot?”

The prestigious elder Mu Zhong could not bear to watch the bickering between the elders any longer either. He immediately agreed to Mu Shui, “Yes, let’s hear Donglin Yanxue’s recommendation.”

“It’s a pity that teacher Han Xin is still injured, or the last spot would definitely go to teacher,” Bai Yu secretly said to Jian Chen; she sighed gently as she listened to the bickering between the elders.

“Senior brother, who do you think will get the last spot?” Bai Yu continued with her questions.

Jian Chen smiled mysteriously and said, “Isn’t it obvious? Of course it’ll be your senior brother.”

“Psh, how is that possible? If you were a Radiant Godking, there might have been a chance for you. However, your current cultivation isn’t even as great as mine. It would never be you,” Bai Yu shot a glance at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen smiled indifferently. He did not try to explain.

At this moment, Donglin Yanxue had also stepped up onto the stage. She had been below the stage earlier, so she had clearly witnessed the bickering between the elders for the last spot. She could not help but feel troubled over this.

Many of the elders eyed the last position. They wanted to take it and give it to the people they placed the highest hopes on or were the closest with. If she recommended a disciple with just a one-colored soulcore at a time like this, she would definitely face the objection of all the elders.

Even with her master helping her out, she probably would not be able to change the outcome. She had underestimated just how importantly the elders treated this spot.

Donglin Yanxue bowed to the elders first. After a moment of hesitation, she said reluctantly, "I hope I can give the last spot to junior Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak."

Bai Yu immediately became dumbfounded when she heard Donglin Yanxue's words. Her small mouth hung agape in disbelief.

A strange expression covered the faces of many of the lords of the various peaks below.

Chang Yang's name was renowned among the many mountains below the sacred hall. Even many peak lords knew his name.

However, the elders on the stage all became confused.

"The Soaring Clouds Peak? Isn't the lord of the Soaring Clouds Peak Han Xin? Who is Chang Yang?" An elder asked in doubt. He had never heard of Chang Yang before.

Afterwards, a peak lord immediately took the initiative to pass on everything he knew about Chang Yang to the elders.

"And I was wondering who this Chang Yang was. Turns out he's a weaker disciple..."

"You're fooling around. You're basically fooling around. All protectors are Hallowed Saint Masters with seven-colored soulcores. Why is a disciple with a mere one-colored soulcore being thrown into the mix blindly..."

"The mission of the protector is to protect the candidates and take part in the trials. If a disciple with a one-colored soulcore becomes a protector, who is going to be the one protecting who..."

...

Aside from Donglin Yanxue's master, all the other elders objected vehemently after learning about Chang Yang's identity.

### **Chapter 2290: Arresting Chang Yang**

On the stage, Donglin Yanxue felt very helpless as she listened to the objections. With the intense objection of so many elders, there was no hope even if her master had recommended Chang Yang herself.

After all, Chang Yang was simply too weak. He only had a one-colored soulcore. With such puny cultivation, it was impossible for him to receive the focus or support of any elder.

If he became a protector despite such a cultivation level, the candidate would be the one protecting him instead.

Donglin Yanxue sighed gently. She had already tried her best and done everything that she could. However, she was still unable to change the ultimate outcome.

When she thought of the puresoul Chang Yang had given to her prior to all this, Donglin Yanxue could not help but feel deeply ashamed. It would be rather difficult for her to face Chang Yang now. She had never thought that anything would change with the competition this time. In the past competitions, the nine retainers would be completely up to the Chosen Saint after they were selected from the candidates.

This was the Chosen Saint's right.

However, the nine retainers had all been chosen by the elders and the important members of those large clans this time.

"Hehe, you're still thinking about Chang Yang? It's said that Chang Yang has already gone missing for a very long time. His situation is unknown. Let's ignore the fact that he might be dead right now. Even if he were in the Radiant Saint Hall, he would have no right to set foot in the sacred hall. Isn't it absolutely hilarious that a low level disciple who can't even set foot in the sacred hall wants to be a retainer?" At this moment, a voice rang out from below the stage. The white-clothed Gongzheng Xin had called out fearlessly.

Immediately, Gongzheng Xin's voice spread across the entire square. All the Hallowed Saint Masters gathered there heard his voice clearly.

In the past two years, Gongzheng Xin had been cultivating in seclusion. He had heard from his clan that they had already sent people to deal with Chang Yang. He was certain that Chang Yang was dead, as he refused to believe that a Radiant Saint Master with a mere one-colored soulcore could avoid being hunted down by the experts of his clan.

He had only emerged yesterday, so he did not receive news of Chang Yang returning to the Radiant Saint Hall.

"Chang Yang doesn't even have the right to enter the sacred hall. It looks like he's just a weak disciple with no background..."

"Not only is his puny cultivation, but he has no background either. He's just dreaming if he wants to become a retainer like that..."

"Donglin Yanxue actually wants Chang Yang to be her ninth retainer. This sure is rather interesting..."

...

Gongzheng Xin's words immediately caused a discussion between the various peak lords in the surroundings. Many Radiant Godkings discussed the matter secretly.

Jian Chen frowned slightly. His strength was far greater than most of the Radiant Godkings present. Moreover, after the changes to his soul, his senses had become astonishing as well. As a result, many of the secret messages were unable to escape his senses, allowing him to hear them clearly.

A cold light shone through Jian Chen's eyes. He did not try to hide anymore. He called out, "Who says I don't have the right to enter the sacred hall." Jian Chen was loud, so he immediately attracted everyone's gazes.

At that moment, not only did the Radiant Godkings in the surroundings look over, but even the elders who stood on the stage cast their gazes towards Jian Chen.

Naturally, Donglin Yanxue discovered Jian Chen in the crowd from the stage, and a sliver of surprise flashed through her eyes immediately.

Clearly, she had no idea how Jian Chen had managed to appear in the sacred hall, as he should not have had the right to enter this place according to her understanding of him.

“Chang Yang, it’s you!” Gongzheng Xin expanded the senses of his soul without any hesitation. When he discovered Jian Chen, he was dumbfounded. The fact that someone he believed to be dead was standing alive right there left him extremely surprised.

However, soon afterwards, Gongzheng Xin called out with a sunken face, “Chang Yang, how did you enter the sacred hall? You have no right to be here.” Before Jian Chen could reply, Gongzheng Xin immediately said to the elders on the stage, “Master, elders, Chang Yang has snuck his way into the sacred hall and has broken the rules of the Radiant Saint Hall. Please look into the matter, elders.”

On the stage, Donglin Yanxue’s face changed slightly. She secretly became anxious for Jian Chen. The sacred hall was not a place that just anyone could enter. Even the peak lords could not set foot here without an important reason. If Chang Yang had really snuck in here, it would be a huge crime.

“Oh dear. Oh no. Senior brother, what are you going to do now?” Bai Yu tugged Jian Chen’s arm as she became anxious as well.

She also believed that her senior brother had snuck in here because he indeed had no right to enter this place according to her understanding of him.

Many of the elders on the stage became stern. They studied Jian Chen with piercing gazes as an invisible pressure gradually began to radiate from the stage.

“Are you Chang Yang? Chang Yang, tell us the truth, how did you sneak in? If you don’t give us a reasonable explanation, you’re in deep trouble,” elder Mu Zhong said extremely sternly.

Jian Chen remained calm. First, he clasped his fist at the stage before saying, “Disciple Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak greets the elders. Elder Mu Zhong, you’ve made it a little serious. I only have a one-colored soulcore, so how would I be able to bypass the strict security? I would probably be arrested by the guards outside before I could even approach the sacred hall. Naturally, I entered here honestly.”

“Which one of you let Chang Yang into the sacred hall?” Elder Mu Zhong looked at the other elders on the stage at the same time as he extended the senses of his soul into the sacred hall and asked the other elders.

The sacred hall was a sacred existence in the hearts of all Radiant Saint Masters. It could not be infringed on at all. If a low-level disciple had really entered the sacred hall without permission, it would be a huge crime. He would not be spared easily.

The other elders all shook their heads in response to the question.

“Master, please help out Chang Yang. The favor I owe to Chang Yang is extremely great,” Donglin Yanxue also realised the severity of the matter, so she quickly asked Mu Shui in secret.

Mu Shui shook her head gently and said sternly, "Chang Yang's actions have infringed on the sacred hall. He has gone too far. I definitely cannot help him."

Very soon, elder Mu Zhong received the replies from the other elders. None of them had let Chang Yang into the hall.

At that moment, elder Mu Zhong's gaze became piercingly hostile.

"Guards, immediately arrest Chang Yang of the Soaring Clouds Peak for trespassing on the sacred hall!" elder Mu Zhong called out.