

## Chaotic 2481

### Chapter 2481: The Donglin Clan

In the bustling city closest to the Radiant Saint Hall in the central region of the Desolate Plane, Jian Chen ordered a few small dishes. He was currently disguised as a middle-aged man. He sat in an extremely busy inn and tasted the dishes slowly. He stared out the window in the direction of the Radiant Saint Hall.

The inn had many customers. Not only were there cultivators from everywhere, but white-robed Radiant Saint Masters would come in from time to time as well.

Moreover, since the inn was one of the few high class inns in the city, the prices were extremely high. As a result, all the people who came here were wealthy. From how many of them dressed and acted, it was possible to tell that they came from large organisations with a single glance.

People from many organisations and a few disciples of the Radiant Saint Hall gathered together. They all got along extremely well. As a matter of fact, people dressed like representatives of large organisations would greet the Radiant Saint Masters they encountered with a face full of smiles. They did not act haughty at all.

Ever since the appearance of the protector swords, the Radiant Saint Hall's status had greatly changed. Not only did they become the greatest organisation on the Desolate Plane all of a sudden, but they also became a target for many peak organizations to befriend. Many organisations beyond the Desolate Plane had sent people to visit them with rich gifts.

The city closest to the Radiant Saint Hall obviously became a place for these people to temporarily settle down.

Jian Chen glanced past the guests of the inn from time to time as he sat by the window. He could tell with a single glance that many of them were Godkings, and even Primordial realm experts would appear from time to time.

Moreover, that was not just this inn. He could clearly sense that there were many Primordial realm experts gathered within the city.

Of course, they were basically all Infinite Primes.

"The appearance of the six protector swords has made the Radiant Saint Hall the dominant force on the Desolate Plane, drawing in guests from everywhere. I wonder if the appearance of the protector swords is related with the Tower of Radiance?"

"Ever since I left the Radiant Saint Hall, I lost all contact with the artifact spirit. I wonder how he's doing now..." Jian Chen sat by the window and drank by himself. He thought of many things. "I need to find a way into the Radiant Saint Hall and see teacher Han Xin or Donglin Yanxue. But since they're wielders of protector swords now, their identities are completely different from before. Meeting them will probably be difficult..."

Jian Chen thought inside. It had already been seven days since his arrival. He did not try to infiltrate the Radiant Saint Hall recklessly during those seven days. Instead, he remained here, secretly investigating

everything he could about the Radiant Saint Hall. He needed to understand who the wielders of the protector swords were.

However, the Radiant Saint Hall kept this information a strict secret. Apart from Donglin Yanxue and Han Xin, whose identities they had made public, very few people knew who the other four were.

“I heard that the Chosen Saint has returned to the Donglin clan again. Sigh, it’s all because of that Jian Chen. If it weren’t for him, the Chosen Saint would never distance herself so far from our Radiant Saint Hall...”

At this moment, the conversation between a few Radiant Saint Masters nearby caught Jian Chen’s attention.

“Although the Chosen Saint has become a protector, and her identity as Chosen Saint has been reinstated, I can clearly feel that the Chosen Saint doesn’t have a strong sense of belonging to our Radiant Saint Hall anymore...”

“It’s all because of Jian Chen. Hmph, Jian Chen concealed himself as Chang Yang and secretly infiltrated out Radiant Saint Hall, stealing away our supreme legacy. He’s utterly despicable. Even the Chosen Saint suffered because of him...”

“Isn’t that right? Although the Chosen Saint has become a protector of our Radiant Saint Hall, she feels guilt because of how she worked with Chang Yang when they went to the World of Moon and Star. She no longer feels that she can stay in the Radiant Saint Hall, which is why she remains in the Donglin clan most of the time...”

...

These Radiant Saint Masters were not powerful. They were all either Gods or Overgods. They discussed fearlessly as they enjoyed the delicious food. They would glance at the eavesdropping people of great status in the surroundings from time to time, and they slightly struggled to conceal their pride.

The Radiant Saint Hall had become the greatest organisation on the Desolate Plane, so their regular disciples all gained a sense of supremacy.

“Donglin Yanxue is in the Donglin clan?” Jian Chen was immediately interested. After a moment of thought, he tossed out some supreme grade divine crystals, stood up, and left.

Visiting Donglin Yanxue in the Donglin clan was slightly easier than infiltrating the Radiant Saint Hall.

The Donglin clan was a peak organisation on the Desolate Plane because their ancestor, Donglin Ce, was a Grand Prime.

However, he had only broken through recently.

The Donglin clan was not located in the central region. Instead, it was in the western region, within the territory of a place called the Wilderness Empire.

The Wilderness Empire was among the handful of everlasting empires on the Desolate Plane. They possessed a vast territory and ruled over the western region.

At this moment, there was a flash within Donglin City in the Wilderness Empire. Jian Chen had directly arrived in the western region through a regional teleportation formation.

Donglin City originally possessed a different name. However, after the ancestor of the Donglin clan, Donglin Ce, broke through, the city was bestowed upon the Donglin clan by the Wilderness Empire. Its name was changed to Donglin City. It was no longer under the rule of the Wilderness Empire, becoming the personal property of the Donglin clan.

Their status was equivalent to the Dong'an provincial city in the Pingtian Empire.

The Donglin clan ruled over the Donglin City.

As soon as Jian Chen arrived in Donglin City, he made his way to the Donglin clan.

Everyone knew where the Donglin clan was within Donglin City. He did not even have to investigate it to find its location.

This was because the current Donglin clan was extremely busy. A few visitors from various places would basically gather at the entrance every day.

Even some princes of the Wilderness Empire would come regularly with rich gifts.

Of course, the Donglin clan was rather different from the Radiant Saint Hall. All the visiting organisations would bring their most outstanding juniors along. There were quite a few princes from the other everlasting empires on the Desolate Plane as well.

Their intentions were obvious.

"Your highness, you've come again. If you want to meet our patriarch, you're more than welcome to, but if you want to meet the young lady, it's not like you don't know her temperament..."

"Young master Yan, I must apologise. Our young lady is cultivating. She has specially passed on the message that she's not meeting anyone..."

"How about this, young master Zilin? I'll accept your gift for the young lady for now, and I'll pass on your message to her. However, I can't guarantee whether the young lady will want to see you..."

...

Before he had even gotten close to the Donglin clan, Jian Chen saw many handsome young men in luxurious clothes gathered there. All of their origins were impressive, and they possessed great status. They all wished to see Donglin Yanxue.

Jian Chen immediately frowned at the sight of this. It seems like meeting Donglin Yanxue would not be as easy as he had originally imagined.

Chapter 2482: The Acquaintance from Moon's Reflection Lake

Jian Chen studied the Donglin clan and discovered that the entire place was enveloped by a powerful formation. The formation had already been activated, making the barrier truly impenetrable. The only way in and out was the entrance of the Donglin clan.

Infiltration was completely impossible.

“It looks like secretly meeting Donglin Yanxue is impossible. I can only pay a visit like everyone else. Even if I raise the attention of some people, there’s nothing I can do about it,” Jian Chen thought. After a moment of silence, he finally arrived at the entrance of the clan and said to an attendant, “Please help me pass on the message that an acquaintance has come to visit miss Donglin Yanxue and that the acquaintances hopes to meet the young miss.”

The attendant of the Donglin clan studied Jian Chen. When he saw how Jian Chen had come alone and did not bring anyone with him, he immediately showed a sliver of contempt.

Moreover, what seemed even funnier to him was that all the organisations who had come to visit the Donglin clan bore rich gifts, while Jian Chen had actually come empty-handed. The attendant felt even more disdain towards Jian Chen from how he did not plan on giving anything.

“And you call yourself the young lady’s acquaintance. In my opinion, your so-called acquaintanceship is only seeing each other at most. Now that the young miss has become a wielder of a protector sword, her status has swelled tremendously. You just want to use this tiny connection to befriend the young miss. Who knows how many people like you I’ve seen in the past few years,” thought the attendant.

That was indeed the case. After Donglin Yanxue inherited a protector sword, both her status and identity changed. As a result, many people wanted to befriend her and establish ties with her.

In particular, the stronger disciples of the Radiant Saint Hall, peak lords, or elders would frequently come to the Donglin clan to meet Donglin Yanxue. A few Hallowed Saint Masters who clearly did not have any significant ties with her would use whatever they could to try and get close to her, saying that they were her seniors or had once provided her with guidance. There were all sorts of excuses.

There were plenty of people who had seen Donglin Yanxue once in the past, and then they suddenly refer to themselves as Donglin Yanxue’s acquaintance.

As a result, the attendant was filled with contempt when he heard Jian Chen refer to himself as Donglin Yanxue’s acquaintance.

“Our young lady is not meeting anyone. Please return,” the attendant said neither rudely nor politely.

Jian Chen did not care about his attitude at all. He continued, “Please tell her that the acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake has come to visit. Whether your young lady wants to meet me or not should be up to her to decide.”

“What acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake? Our young lady has said she’s not meeting anyone...” The attendant became fed up.

Jian Chen frowned. He became slightly stern and said forcefully, “I’ll come clean. I have something extremely important to talk to miss Donglin Yanxue about. If something happens, are you able to bear the blame from the young miss?”

“If you tell her, you won’t be in the wrong even if the young lady declines. However, if you really end up getting in the way of the young lady’s matters, the consequences will be severe.”

When the attendant saw how serious Jian Chen was, he became rather uncertain as well. He began to hesitate.

“Alright then. Just wait here. I’ll pass on the message.” In the end, the attendant was scared into doing Jian Chen’s bidding, turning around and disappearing from the entrance of the Donglin clan.

There were many attendants like that at the entrance of the Donglin clan. As a matter of fact, there were people dressed as caretakers in charge of receiving important guests, so what happened with Jian Chen did not raise any attention at all.

The attendant ran over to a beautiful courtyard within the Donglin clan in a hurry. That was where Donglin Yanxue cultivated and resided, but now, the place had been labelled as a forbidden ground by the Donglin clan. No one was allowed to enter.

The courtyard was watched over by its own female attendants. They were basically Donglin Yanxue’s personal attendants.

The attendant arrived before a female attendant and passed on Jian Chen’s message word for word. He had no right to see Donglin Yanxue, so he could only give the message to Donglin Yanxue’s attendant for her to pass it on.

The female attendant was called Qiu Han, the person who had been with Donglin Yanxue the longest. She basically grew up with Donglin Yanxue. Qiu Han basically knew Donglin Yanxue better than anyone else in the Donglin clan. As soon as she heard the message, she scoffed, “What acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake? I’ve been with the young miss for so many years. If the young miss really has an acquaintance like that, how would I not know? It’s probably just someone who wants to grow close to the young lady. There’s no need to pay any attention to someone like that. Send him away.”

The attendant did not dare to say anything else before Donglin Yanxue’s personal attendant. He turned around and left.

Qiu Han looked at the time of the day before entering the courtyard. She arrived beside a lake with great familiarity.

The lake was not large, roughly a hundred metres across. There was a large rock in the centre, and Donglin Yanxue currently sat there. A dense layer of light enveloped her, and the Laws of the Hallowed wrapped around her. Clearly, she was cultivating.

“Young miss, it’s time,” Qiu Han stood by the lake and called out. Her beautiful eyes were filled with undisguised admiration and respect.

After Donglin Yanxue became the wielder of a protector sword, she became treated with great importance by the ancestor of the Donglin clan. He completely treated her like a treasure, personally guiding her cultivation. As a result, Donglin Yanxue would visit the ancestor of the Donglin clan frequently.

Donglin Yanxue stopped cultivating. She opened her eyes slowly and light gathered below her feet. She floated to the edge of the lake like she was a cloud, making her way out.

Qiu Han followed behind her.

“Why do I feel slightly uneasy? Qiu Han, what has happened recently?” Donglin Yanxue suddenly asked as she made her way to where the ancestor cultivated.

Qiu Han followed behind Donglin Yanxue politely. She shook her head and said, “Young miss, everything has been peaceful recently. Nothing major has happened. It’s just that more and more people are coming to visit the young miss. In order to establish ties with the young miss, these people can really come up with anything. They’re basically willing to go to any length. Even some so-called seniors and juniors from the Radiant Saint Hall had come or even some acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake. These people are all shameless. Just to meet the young miss, they’re willing to do anything. However, I’ve followed your orders from before and sent all those people away.”

Donglin Yanxue was originally calm, but when she heard ‘acquaintance from Moon Reflection’s Lake’, she suddenly stiffened. She suddenly stopped, almost causing Qiu Han to run into her.

Donglin Yanxue abruptly turned around and stared right at Qiu Han. She said in a flustered voice, “What did you just say? What did you just say?”

“Young miss, w- what’s wrong?” Qiu Han was stunned when she saw Donglin Yanxue violent reaction. Qiu Han had followed her for so many years, but she had never seen Donglin Yanxue lose her composure.

“Qiu Han, what did you just say? Can you say it again?” Donglin Yanxue struggled to remain composed as she grabbed Qiu Han’s shoulders tightly.

“Young miss, e- e- everything has... been peaceful...” Qiu Han was truly frightened. She felt unsettled and uneasy, repeating what she had just said in a trembling, stammering voice.

“Moon’s Reflection Lake... Moon’s Reflection Lake...” Donglin Yanxue repeated gently. She was extremely excited right now, where even her body trembled gently.

The Moon’s Reflection Lake was where she first met Jian Chen, was it not?

That night, when she met Jian Chen at the Moon’s Reflection Lake, only the two of them knew. There was no one else.

“Where is he? Where is he? Tell me, where the acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake is?” Donglin Yanxue asked hurriedly. She only had one acquaintance from the Moon’s Reflection Lake. No one knew about him aside from her.

“Young miss, I- I’ve already... No, he should still be waiting at the main entrance,” Qiu Han faltered as she paled in fright.

Now, she could tell that this so-called acquaintance of Moon’s Reflection Lake really was familiar with the young lady. Originally, Qiu Haan wanted to say that she had sent him away, but she changed it forcefully when she was about to say that.

Swish!

With a flash, Donglin Yanxue vanished. At that moment, she directly cast the visit to the ancestor of the Donglin clan aside and flew towards the main entrance as quickly as she could.

Qiu Han became sheet-white as she stared in the direction that Donglin Yanxue had vanished off to. She said in a trembling voice, "Oh no, oh no. How is this acquaintance from the Moon's Reflection Lake actually acquainted with the young miss, and looking at how the young miss behaved, they're probably close. Yet I- I've turned him away. I just hope he hasn't left yet, or I- I really don't know how the young miss will punish me."

#### Chapter 2483: They Finally Meet

Jian Chen stood with his hands behind his back at the entrance of the Donglin clan, waiting there quietly.

Very soon, the attendant returned to the main entrance. He glanced at Jian Chen and waved his hand coldly. "Go back to where you came from. Don't stick around. The entrance of our Donglin clan is not a place that just anyone can loiter around."

If it were before, the attendant really would have doubted if this person knew the young miss, so he did not dare to offend him too much. However, now that he had met with Qiu Han, he was completely carefree.

After all, Qiu Han was the personal attendant who had been with the young lady for the longest. If even Qiu Han had not heard of this so-called acquaintance from Moon's Reflection Lake, he obviously did not exist.

As a result, the attendant showed no politeness at all towards Jian Chen after confirming who the latter was.

Jian Chen sighed inside. He knew the attendant did not really pass his message onto Donglin Yanxue, or it would have been impossible for her to not see him.

However, he had no other choice either. After all, he needed to keep his identity concealed. He could not expose his strength, forcing him to take actions that would not raise a lot of attention. Otherwise, with his identity as a Primordial realm expert, he had the right to enter the Donglin clan even if he could not see Donglin Yanxue.

"It looks like I need to come up with another method," thought Jian Chen. He turned around and was about to leave.

However, at this moment, an intense ball of light suddenly descended, shining like the sun.

Donglin Yanxue stood within the light, obscured by it from time to time.

"It's miss Yanxue. It's actually miss Yanxue..."

"Miss Donglin Yanxue, we finally meet..."

"It's almost impossible for us to meet with miss Donglin Yanxue. I never thought miss Donglin Yanxue would actually come out herself..."

...

The eyes of all the visitors gathered at the entrance lit up. They immediately became elated.

Immediately, all the young masters from the peak organisations and the princes of everlasting empires smiled amiably to show off their charm, presenting themselves before Donglin Yanxue in the most perfect manner possible.

In the blink of an eye, a large group of people gathered beside Donglin Yanxue. She seemed like the centre of attention.

“Greetings, young miss!” All the guards and attendants at the entrance of the Donglin clan bowed.

Donglin Yanxue slowly dispersed the light around her. Her eyes were filled with undisguised excitement and eagerness as she glanced past everyone. There was also some fear and worry in her eyes.

She was very afraid and very worried that she had come for nothing and would not meet the person she wanted to see.

In other words, perhaps another person had learnt about what happened at the Moon’s Reflection Lake, and she had reached the wrong conclusion.

To Donglin Yanxue’s disappointment, she failed to see the person she always wanted to see in the crowd.

“H- h- has he already left?” At this moment, Donglin Yanxue became rather gloomy. She felt her heart hollow out as she was unable to hide her disappointment.

“It has been many years. Miss Yanxue’s beauty is even greater than before. I wonder if you still remember me, a past acquaintance of yours?” At this moment, a voice rang out.

Donglin Yanxue subconsciously looked over to where the voice came from. It had come from a white-robed middle-aged man who seemed to be in his forties.

She had never seen this middle-aged man before. She had no impression of him at all. However, when she made eye contact with the middle-aged man, she immediately became stunned.

She could feel a vague sense of familiarity from the middle-aged man. It seemed to overlap with the figure in her head perfectly.

“Are you?” Donglin Yanxue’s heart trembled gently as she asked with uncertainty. She failed to realise that there were still many young masters of great status gathered around her. All she saw was that foreign figure.

Jian Chen nodded with a smile in his disguise as a middle-aged man. He did not answer her.

However, his calm demeanour immediately excited Donglin Yanxue. She looked at Jian Chen deeply as memories and joy rose up in the depths of her eyes.

Jian Chen knew that Donglin Yanxue had already recognized him. He looked around at the surroundings to remind Donglin Yanxue about the circumstances they were currently in.

Donglin Yanxue immediately snapped back to her senses and understood that Jian Chen did not want to expose himself yet. She immediately calmed down, regaining her composure before saying to Jian Chen, “Come in.”



With that, Donglin Yanxue did not glance at Jian Chen again. She turned around and disappeared into the Donglin clan.

“Miss Yanxue, miss Yanxue...” Behind, the visitors and young masters all called out, but Donglin Yanxue did not look back at all. She completely ignored them.

Jian Chen remained at ease, entering the Donglin clan with great composure under the countless envious and jealous gazes. The guards no longer dared to stop him.

“H- h- he actually knows the young lady. Oh no, oh no...” The attendant who had received Jian Chen had already paled from fright. As soon as he thought about how he had treated Jian Chen before, he felt the world around him turn. He felt like the sky was going to collapse on him.

“Who’s that? Why is he allowed to see miss Yanxue while I’m not?”

“Strange. Why do I feel like miss Donglin Yanxue personally came just for him...”

...

A soft discussion immediately sprang up at the entrance of the Donglin clan after Jian Chen had left. The faces of many young masters became rather sunken.

“Investigate his identity. Let’s see what his background is...” Many people immediately passed down orders.

Donglin Yanxue did not walk far after she entered the Donglin clan. Instead, she stood in the distance and stared towards the entrance. She waited for Jian Chen.

As a result, as soon as Jian Chen entered the Donglin clan, he saw her standing below a large tree.

“Here is not a place to talk. Come with me.” Donglin Yanxue beckoned Jian Chen and brought him to her residence.

“Young miss, young miss, the ancestor...” At this moment, Qiu Han ran over. She glanced at Jian Chen curiously before telling Donglin Yanxue with some unease.

“I have something important today, so I won’t be going. Qiu Han, don’t let anyone disturb me today, including my father, understood?” Donglin Yanxue said in an order-like fashion. Her voice was rather cold.

“Y- yes, young miss...” Qiu Han replied politely. She secretly studied Jian Chen as she was filled with suspicion.

Jian Chen followed behind Donglin Yanxue and arrived at her residence before entering a small, wooden building.

The building was primarily decorated in pink. It was possible to tell with a single glance that it was where Donglin Yanxue stayed.

Chapter 2484: Meeting the Protectors

“This is where I stay. Without my permission, no one can enter here, including my personal attendants, and even my father and the ancestor. As a result, you don’t have to worry at all here. No one will learn who you are,” Donglin Yanxue said to Jian Chen. Her cheeks had become slightly blushed as she seemed somewhat unnatural.

This was her personal room. Now that she had let a man into her room, she felt like her face was burning.

Pausing, Donglin Yanxue seemed to be afraid that Jian Chen would misunderstand. She was also afraid that she might seem like she was leading him on. As a result, she explained, “My father and the ancestor can enter the courtyard outside, so it’s not safe.”

Jian Chen glanced at Donglin Yanxue deeply and joked, “And I had thought that after becoming a wielder of a protector sword, miss Yanxue would cease to be the miss Yanxue I once knew. But it looks like my worries were unnecessary.”

“I’m only a wielder of a protector sword. All my power comes from the protector sword. If I lose the protector sword one day, I’ll just be a puny Hallowed Saint Master. There’s nothing to be proud about,” Donglin Yanxue said slowly. She had thought through everything very well. She did not believe she had truly become a peak expert of the Saints’ World just because she wielded a protector sword.

She understood that something that did not belong to her was not hers.

“Jian Chen, how have you been recently? I heard you destroyed a peak organisation on the Aqua Plane,” Donglin Yanxue said. The two of them sat around a jade table as she personally poured a cup of tea for Jian Chen.

Jian Chen nodded. He mentioned the whole matter in a rough manner and did not go into the details. Afterwards, he asked Donglin Yanxue about the protector swords.

“After you left, the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance awakened. The protector swords all came from the artifact spirit...” Donglin Yanxue hid nothing. She told Jian Chen everything she knew, including who the other wielders of the protector swords were.

A gleam of light flashed through Jian Chen’s eyes. After learning who the other wielders were, he understood that these were all the arrangements of the artifact spirit.

The artifact spirit really had not let him down. All the people he had some ties with or had once helped him back in the Radiant Saint Hall had become wielders of protector swords now.

Jian Chen had specially mentioned Bai Yu and Han Xin, so he was not surprised about their possession of protector swords. Jian Chen had some ties with Xuan Ming as well, while the kindness Xuan Zhan had shown was evident. If it had not been for Xuan Zhan, he would not have been able to enter the World of Moon and Star or the Tower of Radiance.

As a result, he was not surprised about Xuan Ming and Xuan Zhan obtaining protector swords. What surprised him was Gongsun Zhi.

Gongsun Zhi was the Grand Exalt's descendant, and after Jian Chen took away the Method of the Exalted Saint, they had basically become mortal enemies. Gongsun Zhi had already developed complete hatred towards him back in the Tower of Radiance.

However, the artifact spirit had actually made Gongsun Zhi a wielder of a protector sword, and it was even the strongest protector sword out of the nine, Godslayer's sword.

Jian Chen felt that something was amiss about that.

"Is the artifact spirit still bound by the lingering consciousness from the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance?" Jian Chen thought. The light in his eyes flickered as he asked Donglin Yanxue, "How has the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance been?"

"Ever since he bestowed the protector swords, sir artifact spirit hasn't appeared again," said Donglin Yanxue.

Jian Chen fell silent as he seemed to think about something. Only a while later did he ask, "Yue Chao of the Martial Soul lineage was injured by the protector swords of the Radiant Saint Hall. Do you know who did it?"

Donglin Yanxue stared at Jian Chen with slight bitterness and asked, "Your main purpose of coming to find me was to investigate the identities of the two people who attacked him, right?"

Jian Chen nodded. He did not try to hide it.

Donglin Yanxue sighed gently inside. However, she also understood that she was a part of the Radiant Saint Hall, while Jian Chen was a part of the Martial Soul lineage. The two organisations would always be on bad terms, so there would always be an uncrossable chasm between her and Jian Chen.

"The person who fought first was Gongsun Zhi. Gongsun Zhi was unable to take down the expert of the Martial Soul lineage, so Xuan Ming took action as well," said Donglin Yanxue.

Jian Chen became relieved. In reality, what he truly worried about was that the people who injured Yue Chao were Donglin Yanxue or Han Xin.

Now that he learnt it was Xuan Ming and Gongsun Zhi, he felt slightly better.

"What about the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall? Didn't he fight?" Jian Chen asked.

"The leader observed from a distance and did not take part. In reality, it was not just the leader. vice-leader Xuan Zhan did not take action either. Vice-leader Xuan Zhan is also a wielder of a protector sword. Even though his protector sword doesn't rank very high, his personal strength is already extremely great, so he can unleash even more power from the protector sword. If vice-leader Xuan Zhan had joined in, the expert from the Martial Soul lineage might not have been able to escape," said Donglin Yanxue. Then she tried to persuade Jian Chen, "Jian Chen, your Martial Soul lineage is no longer the opponent of the Radiant Saint Hall. It's best if you go back and persuade the others from the Martial Soul lineage. Don't let them come provoking the Radiant Saint Hall anymore. Just stay on the Martial Soul Mountain. With the Martial Soul Mountain, the Radiant Saint Hall might not be able to kill their way in even with the protector swords."

“Stay on the Martial Soul Mountain? What if we can’t do that? Will you hunt down the Martial Soul lineage across the entire Saints’ World?” Jian Chen stared at Donglin Yanxue.

Donglin Yanxue shook her head. “Bai Yu, Han Xin, and I have reached an agreement. As long as you are on the Martial Soul Mountain, as long as you are a part of the Martial Soul lineage, the three of us will not actively search for you. We’ll remain on the Desolate Plane and protect the Radiant Saint Hall. Of course, I don’t know what the three other wielders are thinking.”

“What if the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall orders you to attack the Martial Soul Mountain?” Jian Chen asked.

“After we became wielders of the protector swords, we became the protectors of the Radiant Saint Hall. Our statuses are supreme. The leader can no longer order us around. Our current responsibility is to protect the Radiant Saint Hall,” said Donglin Yanxue.

Jian Chen fell silent. After a moment of thought, he said, “Donglin Yanxue, can you help me out? Can you call over Bai Yu, Han Xin, and Xuan Ming? I want to see them.”

...

At the same time, a middle-aged man with a striking appearance was reading a book with great interest inside one of the studies of the Donglin clan.

The middle-aged man was the current patriarch of the Donglin clan, as well as Donglin Yanxue’s father, Donglin Han.

“Patriarch, Qiu Han has something to report!” At this moment, Donglin Yanxue’s personal attendant, Qiu Han, called out from outside.

Donglin Han put his book down and let Qiu Han in.

He knew that anything Qiu Han would report would be related to his proud daughter. As long as it concerned Donglin Yanxue, he needed to take it seriously.

Qiu Han hurried in. She seemed slightly nervous and worried. As soon as she saw Donglin Han, she said in a hurry, “Patriarch, there’s bad news. The young miss has taken a man into her own room. With the young miss’s current identity and prestige, i- if this matter makes it out...”

“What!” Donglin Han’s eyes widened. He leapt to his feet, furious. “How can this happen? Yanxue is far too reckless. Immediately lock down the information and prevent it from making it out. I’ll go pay a personal visit.” Donglin Han was left furious and speechless. Donglin Yanxue’s identity completely outshone the past now. Any man, regardless of identity or background, would sully Donglin Yanxue’s name if the news that he had entered her room was made public.

As Donglin Yanxue’s father, Donglin Han could not allow that to happen.

Chapter 2485: A Secret Meeting

Donglin Han immediately rushed through the door furiously.

However, as soon as he opened the door, he saw a ruddy old man standing outside with his back towards Donglin Han, staring in Donglin Yanxue's direction.

Donglin Han was surprised when he saw the old man. He immediately showed respect and clasped his fist. "Greetings, ancestor!"

The old man was the ancestor of the Donglin clan, Donglin Ce.

"Xiao Han, go back to reading your book. You don't need to look into Yanxue's matters. She's no longer young now. She knows what she's doing." Donglin Ce waved his hand behind him.

"B- but ancestor..." Donglin Han still felt that it was inappropriate. With Donglin Yanxue's current status, how could he just let a foreign man enter her room?

"Enough, enough. I already know about the matter. Go back to reading your book," said Donglin Ce. His old eyes were focused in Donglin Yanxue's direction. They flickered with a wise light as his lips gently perked up.

Within the sacred hall that shone with dazzling light above the clouds in the Radiant Saint Hall, their leader, Yu Chen, stood on the top as he stared at the sea of clouds.

"Leader, we've just received the news that protector Donglin Yanxue has personally received an unknown man and let him into her courtyard," at this moment, a black-robed envoy arrived behind Yu Chen and said politely.

Out of the six protectors of the Radiant Saint Hall, only Donglin Yanxue remained outside in the Donglin clan most of the time. As such, to protect her, the Radiant Saint Hall had hid people in both Donglin City and the Donglin clan, constantly watching over her and keeping her safe, preventing any people from scheming against her.

After all, they could not afford to lose the protector swords. Protecting the protector swords became a great priority of the Radiant Saint Hall.

As a result, when Jian Chen was personally taken into the Donglin clan by Donglin Yanxue, the people in the Radiant Saint Hall learnt of it immediately.

"An unknown man?" A gleam of light flashed through Yu Chen's eyes when he heard that. His brows furrowed in thought. Then he waved his hand and dismissed the envoy. He said gently, "Xuan Zhan, come over."

Yu Chen's voice seemed magical, piercing through most of the sacred hall and ringing out in the head of Xuan Zhan.

Xuan Zhan appeared before Yu Chen. He did not bow, walking over with composure. He asked, "What's the matter?"

"I've just received the news that Donglin Yanxue has personally received an unknown man in the Donglin clan, directly bringing him to her courtyard. Xuan Zhan, what do you think of this matter?" Yu Chen said calmly.

“An unknown man?” Xuan Zhan was also surprised. He roughly understood Donglin Yanxue, so why would she bring an unknown man back to her residence?

After a moment of thought, Xuan Zhan said slowly, “It looks like he’s probably Jian Chen. Afterwards, he stared at Yu Chen with shining eyes and said, “The Method of the Exalted Saint is still on Jian Chen. Now that he has come to the Desolate Plane, should we take action and take it back from him?”

“Gongsun Zhi cares about the Method of the Exalted Saint even more than me. After all, he has already obtained the other portion of the Grand Exalt’s legacy. What he lacks is the cultivation method. If he gets the Method of the Exalted Saint, Gongsun Zhi would have the complete legacy,” said Yu Chen.

In the current Saints’ World, no one else apart from Jian Chen knew that the so-called Grand Exalt’s cultivation method from the Tower of Radiance was actually a cultivation method for the Martial Soul lineage. Even if someone else possessed it, they would be unable to practise it unless they were part of the Martial Soul lineage.

Xuan Zhan frowned and said sternly, “Gongsun Zhi is becoming more and more haughty. He has already begun to eye the position of leader of the Radiant Saint Hall. With his personality and his identity as the Grand Exalt’s descendant, he’ll take the position from you sooner or later. Since getting back the Method of the Exalted Saint will only have it fall into Gongsun Zhi’s hands, I think we should leave the cultivation method with Jian Chen for now. We just can’t let the Method of the Exalted Saint end up with Gongsun Zhi.”

When he reached there, Xuan Zhan suddenly sighed. He became filled with helplessness and bitterness. “Moreover, the Martial Soul lineage is the imperial clan among Radiant Saint Masters, and the master of the Tower of Radiance is also a successor of the Martial Soul lineage. If the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance learns that we’re turning on the imperial clan, I wonder how he would respond.”

“Sigh.” Yu Chen also exhaled softly. When Yue Chao came to the Desolate Plane to investigate, neither he nor Xuan Zhan took action because they were still uncertain about how to treat the Martial Soul lineage.

They had locked down the secret that the Martial Soul lineage was the imperial clan. They did not reveal it to anyone else. Apart from the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance, only the two of them knew.

This was because the grievances between the Radiant Saint Hall and Martial Soul lineage ran too deep; it was to a point where it was impossible for them to reconcile. If the news that the Martial Soul lineage was the imperial clan made it out, it would definitely lead to a great mess. The entire Radiant Saint Hall might even fall apart because of it.

Neither Xuan Zhan nor Yu Chen wished to see that happen.

Yu Chen’s gaze deepened. He said sternly, “There’s one more thing. I think you have some doubts about it just like me, and that’s Bai Yu and Han Xin. Bai Yu is clearly only a one star genius. That’s extremely ordinary in our Radiant Saint Hall and Han Xin is similar as well. Why would they obtain protector swords?”

“Out of the six protector swords, all the wielders, apart from Gongsun Zhi, have a similar point. They all have ties with Jian Chen.’

Xuan Zhan remained silent. He did not say anything. He and Yu Chen had already developed suspicions over the matter.

Three days later, Bai Yu, Han Xin, and Xuan Ming, under Donglin Yanxue's lead, arrived discreetly in a luxurious manor within an extremely busy city in the central region. They secretly met up with Jian Chen.

They had all disguised themselves and concealed their presences, hiding their identities. They came like ghosts and did not alarm anyone.

"Second senior!" Out of the three of them, Bai Yu was the most excited. As soon as she saw Jian Chen, she called out in joy. It was as if Jian Chen would always be her second senior no matter how he seemed to be and no matter his identity.

Han Xin and Xuan Ming were much more composed. Han Xin smiled at Jian Chen and nodded gently, while Xuan Ming's gaze was mixed.

"Junior sister, sir, I had no choice but to disguise myself back then. I've caused you trouble these years," Jian Chen said to Han Xin and Bai Yu apologetically. He knew that Bai Yu and Han Xin had a very tough time in the Radiant Saint Hall before they obtained protector swords, so he always felt slightly ashamed.

"Brother Xuan Ming, please forgive me!" Afterwards, Jian Chen looked at Xuan Ming and clasped his fist.

"Sigh. Jian Chen, you really hid it well from me. I never, ever thought you would be a part of the Martial Soul lineage." Xuan Ming looked at Jian Chen with mixed feelings. There was some unfamiliarity in his gaze towards Jian Chen.

"Tell me, Jian Chen. You've risked your life to come to the Desolate Plane and gathered us here. What's the important matter?" Xuan Ming continued, but his tone was rather cold.

Chapter 2486: Vile Human Nature

Jian Chen was slightly surprised when he sensed Xuan Ming's attitude. He glanced at Xuan Ming deeply. The current Xuan Ming gave him a feeling rather unfamiliar from the person he remembered.

However, he soon thought about how he and Xuan Ming were never on particularly close terms. Their friendship was not particularly special. Coupled with the fact that he was a successor of the Martial Soul lineage and how he was supposed to oppose the Radiant Saint Hall, Xuan Ming's attitude did make sense.

Jian Chen came to a realisation. He did not mind Xuan Ming's attitude. He slowly glanced past Donglin Yanxue, Bai Yu, Han Xin, and Xuan Ming and said solemnly, "In the Radiant Saint Hall, you're the only people that I truly care about. I am unable to change my identity as a member of the Martial Soul lineage, nor am I able to resolve all the grievances accumulated between the Martial Soul lineage and Radiant Saint Hall across all the generations. However, I don't want to become your enemies either, so I hope that you can agree to just one request of mine. From today onwards, unless the Martial Soul lineage actively attacks your Radiant Saint Hall, I hope you don't touch the people of the Martial Soul lineage."

“Of course, that’s only limited to the four of you because you’re the only people I care about. I really don’t want us to become enemies.”

“Jian Chen, your Martial Soul lineage is no longer the opponent of our Radiant Saint Hall now. Even if you attack us, your strength won’t be of much use at all. You won’t be able to change the situation,” Xuan Ming said indifferently, acting as if Jian Chen had almost become a stranger to him.

“Xuan Ming, are you saying that even if the Martial Soul lineage avoids your Radiant Saint Hall, you’ll still attack them?” Jian Chen stared right at Xuan Ming and spoke calmly. Even though Xuan Ming had obtained a protector sword and possessed great battle prowess now, Jian Chen did not fear him.

Han Xin, Donglin Yanxue, and Bai Yu all stood to one side quietly. They looked back and forth between Jian Chen and Xuan Ming.

After a while of thought, Xuan Ming stared at Jian Chen with shining eyes. “Jian Chen, seeing how we were once acquainted, I can guarantee you that I won’t touch the Martial Soul lineage as long as they don’t actively attack the Radiant Saint Hall if you leave the Method of the Exalted Saint behind.”

“You want the Method of the Exalted Saint?” The light in Jian Chen’s eyes changed. He now stared at Xuan Ming like he was looking at a complete stranger. He had never thought Xuan Ming would begin to eye the Method of the Exalted Saint.

Was this still the Xuan Ming he once knew?

“The Method of the Exalted Saint is the supreme treasure of our Radiant Saint Hall. It belongs to our Radiant Saint Hall in the first place,” Xuan Ming said righteously with a sigh. A sliver of desire appeared in his eyes, and he became rather excited as well. He thought, “I already wield a protector sword now. In the current Radiant Saint Hall, no one can do anything to me, including the descendant of the Grand Exalt, Gongsun Zhi. If I get the Method of the Exalted Saint, it’ll be truly perfect. No one will be able to take it from me.” At that moment, a sliver of ambition appeared in his heart.

This ambition had never appeared in his head before. As a matter of fact, it was a thought he could not have even imagined in the past because he was only a slightly talented Radiant Godking back then.

However, it was different now. He was a wielder of a protector sword and was in control of great power. He now had the confidence and courage to attempt matters he did not even dare to think about in the past.

“I am unable to take out the Method of the Exalted Saint. Xuan Ming, you have to think it through. If you actively attack our Martial Soul lineage, we will no longer be friends but enemies,” Jian Chen’s face sank slightly, and he replied rather coldly.

“Jian Chen, if you leave behind the Method of the Exalted Saint, we will still be friends,” Xuan Ming said firmly. His intentions were very clear. If Jian Chen did not leave behind the Method of the Exalted Saint, they would become enemies.

Jian Chen stared at Xuan Ming deeply. After a long while, he finally sighed and said, “If that’s the case, let’s see what happens in the future.” Xuan Ming’s attitude disappointed Jian Chen greatly. At that moment, Jian Chen only felt very tired. A deep sense of helplessness filled his heart. He was no longer in the mood to stay any longer. He wanted to leave.



However, Xuan Ming did not allow him to leave. With a flash, he arrived at the door and coldly said, "Jian Chen, you better leave behind the Method of the Grand Exalt. It doesn't belong to you."

Jian Chen stopped and stared at Xuan Ming sharply. The light in his eyes flickered, causing his gaze to become piercing such that people dared not look into them. He growled and said, "Are you trying to stop me?"

At this moment, Jian Chen was truly angered. Sword Qi seemed to permeate his surroundings.

"Xuan Ming, you can't forget that Jian Chen once helped you. Don't go overboard." Donglin Yanxue arrived before Jian Chen and stared at Xuan Ming with an ugly expression. Her presence surged. "As long as I'm here, your protector sword won't be able to harm Jian Chen, Xuan Ming."

"Senior Xuan Ming, if you plan on laying your hands on second senior brother, I can only work together with sister Yanxue against you," said Bai Yu as she stood forward as well.

"Xuan Ming, your ambitions have run wild. You already wield a protector sword. Don't you know when to stop?" Han Xin also arrived before Jian Chen.

Now, Donglin Yanxue, Bai Yu, and Han Xin all stood together with Jian Chen.

As he faced the three of them, Xuan Ming's expression became rather ugly.

"Ming'er, let's go back." At this moment, a heavy voice rang out. Vice-leader Xuan Zhan suddenly appeared behind Xuan Ming.

Xuan Zhan glanced at Jian Chen deeply and said nothing. He did not even look at Donglin Yanxue, Bai Yu, or Han Xin, whose expressions had changed greatly. He grabbed Xuan Ming by the shoulder and vanished, having left.

"It's vice-leader Xuan Zhan. H- he has actually come as well." Donglin Yanxue paled in fright as she became badly shaken.

In the Radiant Saint Hall, the strongest was no longer the leader Yu Chen but vice-leader Xuan Zhan. She knew was extremely clear that if Xuan Zhan wanted Jian Chen to stay, no one present would be able to stop him.

Not only was Xuan Zhan extremely powerful, but he also wielded a protector sword.

Even though the protector sword he wielded did not have a high ranking, he was actually able to unleash even greater strength due to his higher level of cultivation.

"Xuan Zhan actually did nothing?" Han Xin murmured. Xuan Zhan's behavior dumbfounded him. Did Xuan Zhan not want the Method of the Exalted Saint back?

"Second senior, it's not safe here anymore. You better leave," Bai Yu said in a hurry. She worried for Jian Chen's safety very much with Xuan Zhan's appearance. She was afraid that even more people would find out about his identity.

"Jian Chen, both Xuan Ming and Xuan Zhan know that you're here. It's impossible to be certain that they won't leak the news, so you need to leave the Desolate Plane immediately. Don't worry, Bai Yu and I will

always remain the Radiant Saint Hall cultivating. Unless the master of the Tower of Radiance appears, we won't go out to fight. The leader and vice-leaders of the Radiant Saint Hall can no longer order us around anymore," said Han Xin.

#### Chapter 2487: Xuan Zhan's Stance

Regardless of whether Xuan Zhan revealed the fact that he was present, Jian Chen knew that Xuan Zhan's appearance alone meant that he could no longer remain on the Desolate Plane. He said, "Yunxue, Bai Yu, sir, take care. I must bid you farewell." Afterwards, he looked at Bai Yu and Han Xi with mixed feelings. He said seriously, "Perhaps we really might become enemies in the future, but no matter what happens to us, you will always be my junior sister and teacher in my mind. Farewell."

With that, Jian Chen left without even looking back.

Donglin Yanxue was reluctant for Jian Chen to go as she looked at him. She caught up without any hesitation and said, "Just let me send you off one last time. I'll be able to keep Xuan Ming busy if he plans on attacking you."

"Let's return to Donglin City. There's an interplanar teleportation formation there."

"Xuan Ming." Jian Chen sighed inside when he heard that name again. Although he and Xuan Ming were technically just strangers who had happened to run into each other, they had known each other in the past. He had never thought Xuan Ming would actually become like this today; it left Jian Chen incredibly disappointed.

However, this was related to a Grand Exalt's cultivation method after all. Let alone him and Xuan Ming, even many brothers who had gone through thick and thin together would turn on each other if such a great cultivation method was presented before them.

"Father, why did you take me away? The Grand Exalt's cultivation method is with Jian Chen. That's the greatest cultivation methods in the world. Obtaining it is basically opening up a path to heaven. Even if we ignore Grand Exalts, peak experts only second to Grand Exalts are figures that can shake up an entire world as well." Xuan Ming stared at his father with regret. Currently, they were within the sacred hall above the clouds in the Radiant Saint Hall.

Xuan Ming had become a protector of the Radiant Saint Hall. Both his status and strength were completely different from the past. He now stood at the top, where he had the right to fight for things that would benefit him. The Grand Exalt's cultivation method just happened to be something that interested him very much.

Xuan Zhan stared at the regretful Xuan Ming and sighed gently. "Ming'er, have you really lost your mind over a single protector sword? You need to understand that the power from the protector sword is from a foreign source in the end. Since the artifact spirit of the Radiant Saint Hall could bestow it upon you, he can also take it away. Once you lose the protector sword, do you think you have the ability to keep the Grand Exalt's cultivation method?"

With that, Xuan Ming immediately calmed down. He also understood that everything he currently possessed came from the protector sword.

“Since the protector sword has chosen me, it won’t leave me that easily.” Xuan Ming also became slightly afraid. He had grasped this great power, becoming a supreme existence. He could not accept losing this power and getting reduced to a failure.

Xuan Zhan shook his head. “You’re wrong. You all think the protector swords chose you, but in reality, it was the artifact spirit, not the protector swords.”

“The artifact spirit has full control over who becomes the master of the protector swords, or it would have been impossible for Bai Yu and Han Xin to obtain swords with their talent, let alone the fact that their protector swords’ rankings exceed ours. They’re not descendants of the Grand Exalt after all.”

Xuan Zhan had already explained it so clearly, so Xuan Ming would be far too dim if he still did not understand.

“Father, are you saying that it’s all because of Jian Chen that we’re able to obtain the protector swords?” Xuan Ming paled in fright. Disbelief filled his face.

Xuan Zhan did not provide a straightforward answer. He said sternly, “The Tower of Radiance has slumbered for so long, yet right after Jian Chen enters it, things happen, awakening the artifact spirit. In the miniature world where Jian Chen and Gongsun Zhi competed over the legacy, the gateway suddenly closed after Jian Chen had left as well, trapping all the Radiant Godkings in there. Apart from Gongsun Zhi, who’s the Grand Exalt’s descendant, all the wielders have ties with Jian Chen. Don’t you think that’s a little too coincidental?”

With that, Xuan Ming sank into his thoughts. The light in his eyes changed as he became both surprised and uncertain. He was extremely shocked inside.

“Ming’er, it’s best if you focus on your cultivation next. You don’t have to worry about anything else. Don’t think about obtaining the Method of the Exalted Saint either. Even if you get your hands on it, you will become mortal enemies with Gongsun Zhi. With Gongsun Zhi’s identity as the Grand Exalt’s descendant and the rest of the legacy that he has obtained, he’s basically supposed to obtain the cultivation method,” Xuan Zhan said with mixed feelings. After a long while of hesitation, he still ended up not telling Xuan Ming about the Martial Soul lineage being the imperial clan.

He was still not prepared for someone else to learn about this astonishing news, just in case it upheaved the Radiant Saint Hall.

“W- was I wrong? Did my judgement really become clouded by greed?” At that moment, Xuan Ming could not help but ask himself those questions.

...

Through the interplanar teleportation formation in Donglin City, Jian Chen left the Desolate Plane successfully. He continued travelling without stopping, taking more teleportation formations to return to the Martial Soul Mountain as soon as possible. He reported everything he had learnt to the other seven members of the Martial Soul lineage.

“If there are three wielders of protector swords who don’t target us and only watch over the Desolate Plane, the pressure we face will be greatly reduced.” The other members of the Martial Soul lineage were relieved after receiving Jian Chen’s news.

“The only problem is Xuan Zhan. He was already extremely powerful. Him possessing a protector sword is basically overkill. I need to admit that there’s no one in our Martial Soul lineage who’s Xuan Zhan’s opponent anymore,” Hun Zang said sternly as he frowned heavily.

“Since we’re not his opponent, let’s just defend the Martial Soul Mountain with our lives. As long as we remain on the Martial Soul Mountain, even Xuan Zhan won’t be able to break in with his protector sword,” said Su Qi. The Martial Soul Mountain was the last line of defence for the Martial Soul lineage. Unless it was a supreme expert who had reached the Ninth Heavenly Layer of Grand Prime like the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, no one could breach the Martial Soul Mountain.

“I hope our ninth successor appears as soon as possible. Once the nine successors gather, our Martial Soul lineage will experience an unprecedented high and be able to stand supreme in the Saints’ World. Moreover, the archives have clearly recorded that during the age when the nine successors appeared, our Martial Soul lineage could even face off against Grand Exalts,” Chu Jian said eagerly.

The Martial Soul lineage already had eight people now. They only needed one more person.

Chapter 2488: Subduing the Divine Hall

Jian Chen felt extremely curious after hearing Chu Jian’s words. Would the restraint preventing the Martial Soul lineage from reaching Grand Prime be temporarily removed?

However, even if the restraint was removed, there would still be a tremendous chasm between them and the supreme level of Grand Exalts. He struggled to understand just how the Martial Soul lineage would be able to stand up to Grand Exalts once all nine successors gathered.

However, there was one aspect he was basically certain about. It would definitely not depend on personal cultivation.

This was because there was a huge chasm between Grand Prime and Grand Exalt. It was impossible for people to breakthrough so easily. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for the Saints’ World to only possess a handful of Grand Exalts despite all the Grand Primes.

“It’s just a pity that the age when the nine successors appeared is far too distant from current times. Many of the records and archives have been lost, so we’re unable to look into it in great detail.” Jian Chen felt even more curious about the Martial Soul lineage. He had realised since a long time again that there was probably a huge story behind the Martial Soul lineage. It would never be as simple as it seemed on the surface.

After all, the Martial Soul lineage was the only inheritance in the entire Saints’ World that had gone on unbroken.

“And the Martial Soul Mountain came from the previous aeon at the very least. It’s impossible to get a clear understanding about just how long it has been around from the history on the Martial Soul Mountain alone, and it’s not possible to find out who it came from. Moreover, I feel that it seems to hide even more profound secrets than the Tower of Radiance in the Radiant Saint Hall,” Jian Chen wondered as he looked at the mountain below him.

Very soon, the eight successors of the Martial Soul lineage parted. Jian Chen also returned to where he spent most of his time cultivating.

Along the way, he passed by the Neptunean Divine Palace. He could not help but stop and think about what his fifth senior sister had said; she had told him to go check on Zi Yun.

He stood before the Neptunean Divine Palace as he stared at the deep blue structure. In the end, he did not approach it. Instead, he turned around and left.

He knew Zi Yun had developed feelings for him, but he had no interest in this at all. Since he had already explained everything to Zi Yun, it would be the best for him to maintain his distance and let time dissolve Zi Yun's feelings. Constant contact with her might be detrimental instead.

"Artifact spirit, are you going to yield now, or do you choose to continue being stubborn?" Jian Chen arrived before the divine hall from the Gloomwater sect and asked the artifact spirit indifferently.

He was already prepared to leave the Martial Soul Mountain, but the divine hall before him made him feel powerless. If the artifact spirit still did not yield and continued to resist, it would be impossible for him to take a grumbling divine hall that could shrink and grow whenever with him. He would not even be able to take interplanar teleportation formations.

"Don't you even think about making me yield," the artifact spirit replied stubbornly like before.

"It looks like I can only continue using you for my experiments with Martial Soul Force," Jian Chen said coldly. He sat down before the divine hall and used it to familiarise himself with the techniques involving Martial Soul Force.

He would not be able to leave the Martial Soul Mountain before he subdued the divine hall. After all, the divine hall possessed far too many treasures. It even had hell water, an item that could interest even Grand Primes.

Jian Chen also wanted the hell water because he knew it was a divine item that could refine the soul. It even possessed fragments of ways, making it have wondrous effects.

"I'll practise the Phantasm technique as my third secret technique," thought Jian Chen. The Phantasm technique was different from the Soul-destroying technique and the Heaven-severing technique. If the Soul-destroying technique and Heaven-severing technique were focused on offence, then the Phantasm technique would be for auxiliary purposes.

This was a technique to influence the souls of people through Martial Soul Force, directly creating illusions and disorienting their minds.

Under the influence of the Phantasm technique, people with weaker wills or were far weaker than the caster could even become lost in an illusion for all of eternity.

Of course, this was only one of the effects of the Phantasm technique. It had another effect, which was puppeting the soul.

The so-called puppeting the soul was temporarily gaining control over the target's mind, allowing people to control the target to fulfil their own purposes.

Of course, puppeting the soul was very difficult to achieve. It was useless against cultivators of the same level and was only effective against people much weaker.

Afterwards, Jian Chen began to practise his Phantasm technique on the artifact spirit. He was obviously unable to control the artifact spirit through the technique, but he could subject him to illusions.

The artifact spirit of the divine hall was very powerful, but most of this power came from the divine hall. If he could not use the power of the divine hall, he would be extremely frail.

As a result, Jian Chen was able to influence the artifact spirit with the Phantasm technique.

In the next period of time, the artifact spirit would constantly call out strangely, blabbering about nonsense. Under the influence of the Phantasm technique, he had fallen into illusions, experiencing matters that only he knew.

He would sometimes laugh out loud or cry and sometimes be excited or frightened. His emotions changed frequently, experiencing a multitude of feelings.

“Master, don’t! Don’t erase me! I’ve been loyal to you, whole-heartedly serving you. Please, master, don’t erase me...” Suddenly, the artifact spirit called out in fright as if it had encountered something extremely terrifying.

The light in Jian Chen’s eyes flickered from this sight. He was taken by surprise. “I never thought this Phantasm technique would be so powerful; even the artifact spirit of a medium quality god artifact can’t resist it. Or maybe artifact spirits of god artifacts are more vulnerable to illusions than cultivators?”

Five years later.

“Artifact spirit, let me ask you again. Are you going to accept me as your master? If you do, all your pain and torture will vanish, but if you don’t, there’ll only to be a lot more of it. And if you continue being stubborn, I’ll directly erase you from existence once my Martial Soul Force becomes powerful enough,” Jian Chen called out as he sat before the divine hall.

He had already grasped all three secret techniques during these five years, causing the artifact spirit misery. The artifact spirit had to go through hellish torture daily.

Although Jian Chen was unable to harm him with his current strength, the torture and torment was even more difficult to endure than being heavily injured.

“I- I yield. I accept you as my master...” This time, the artifact spirit finally gave in completely.

“Good!” Jian Chen was overjoyed. He had finally subdued this divine hall after so much difficulty.

The following was far simpler. With the artifact spirit’s cooperation, Jian Chen refined the medium quality god artifact successfully.

At the same time, he learnt the name of the divine hall, the Watercloud Hall.

Chapter 2489: Bidding Farewell to Everyone

“I can only unleash half of the power of this medium quality god artifact. It really is a god artifact for Chaotic Primes. It’s impossible to unleash the full power within a medium quality god artifact without reaching Chaotic Prime,” Jian Chen thought. However, the greatest power of a divine hall was its defence, so he was satisfied even if he could only unleash half of its total power.

Moreover, with the artifact spirit's assistance, his control over the Watercloud Hall would be countless times easier than without an artifact spirit.

With a flash, Jian Chen vanished from the Martial Soul Mountain and arrived inside the Watercloud Hall.

As a medium quality god artifact, the Watercloud Hall was extremely large inside. It was like a miniature world.

However, Jian Chen did not care about this. What truly piqued his interest were the cultivation resources and the various treasures the Gloomwater sect had accumulated over the years.

He was now the master of the Watercloud Hall, so he could control a portion of its power. With a thought, he arrived before the treasury in the Watercloud Hall.

The door to the treasury was forged from impressive God Tier materials. At the same time, there were formations engraved on it, making it extremely tough. Even Chaotic Primes would not be able to open it up easily.

"Open!" Jian Chen called out, and with a heavy rumble, the door opened slowly.

Jian Chen entered the treasury eagerly. When he saw the items inside, he could not help but smile.

As a peak sect, the Gloomwater sect obviously possessed a great assortment of resources. There were countless pills, heavenly resources, and other divine items inside the treasury. Additionally, there were piles of supreme grade divine crystals that stood like mountains. They probably numbered in the hundreds of millions.

"There's actually a million colored divine crystals as well!" When Jian Chen saw the pile of divine crystals that shone with colorful light, his eyes immediately lit up.

Although there were a lot of supreme grade divine crystals, they were only useful to Godkings. Basically all Primordial realm experts used colored divine crystals to cultivate.

At the same time, colored divine crystals were a form of currency worth far more than supreme grade divine crystals.

"It's just a pity that most of these colored divine crystals are one-colored. There are very few two, three, and four-colored divine crystals, and even fewer five-colored divine crystals." Jian Chen felt a slight sense of pity. If the pile of a million colored divine crystals were converted to five-colored divine crystals, there would probably only be a hundred thousand of them.

"Master, this is hell water. The Gloomwater sect can only collect a single droplet every million years. Twelve droplets remain right now," the artifact spirit's voice rang out. The space before Jian Chen pulsed, and twelve pure-white bottles appeared before Jian Chen.

Jian Chen revealed a sliver of desire in his eyes as he looked at the hell water. He had heard about their effects. They were a heavenly resource greatly beneficial to the soul and were even enough to interest Grand Primes.

“Only half my soul remains, and who knows what the effects in the future will be. I hope this hell water can repair my soul,” thought Jian Chen. He took a bottle of hell water and left the Watercloud Hall, planning on ingesting it on the Martial Soul Mountain.

Even though he had become the master of the Watercloud Hall, he still felt that he was safer on the Martial Soul Mountain. After all, he had tormented the artifact spirit of the Watercloud Hall for many years. It would be impossible to ensure that the artifact spirit did not hold grudges towards him. If he suddenly interrupted Jian Chen’s cultivation, the consequences would be unthinkable.

Jian Chen opened the jade bottle and studied it carefully. After confirming there was nothing wrong with the hell water, he downed the droplet.

The hell water dissolved as soon as it reached his mouth, turning into a ball of white mist that drifted towards Jian Chen’s soul.

Immediately, Jian Chen felt his mind shudder. An extremely pleasant feeling appeared in the depths of his soul, making him feel like he was walking on clouds.

At the same time, Jian Chen could clearly sense his soul become even more consolidated from the presence of the hell water.

If his soul had been a gas before, it had begun to condense into a liquid after consuming the hell water.

This was a change in quality, an evolution to a higher level.

Right now, Jian Chen felt like his soul was being reborn, experiencing an extremely great increase.

The effects of the hell water did not just end there. It also contained pure fragments of laws, without any particular orientation. They could assist different people in comprehending different laws.

The effect was just like when Jian Chen had ingested some Comprehension Tea, except the hell water was clearly on a much higher level than the Comprehension Tea he drank in the past.

“There aren’t a lot of fragments of laws in the hell water. If I use them to comprehend the Laws of the Sword, I probably wouldn’t make a breakthrough even if there were a hundred times the amount. It looks like I can only use them to comprehend the Laws of the Hallowed.” Jian Chen immediately concentrated on cultivation, borrowing the fragments in the hell water to comprehend the Laws of the Hallowed.

His cultivation this time lasted for half a month. When he opened his eyes, undisguised joy appeared.

“A single droplet of hell water has elevated my comprehension from early Overgod to mid Overgod. It has saved me several dozen years of cultivation and strengthened my soul,” thought Jian Chen. Although a single droplet of hell water had not been enough to repair his damaged soul, he was very satisfied by the benefits.

Afterwards, Jian Chen ingested another droplet of hell water and only roused after cultivating for half a month.

However, the effects this time disappointed him slightly. The droplet of hell water only allowed his soul to grow by around ten percent, while his Laws of the Hallowed remained at mid Overgod.



“The stronger I become, the weaker the effects of the hell water. When my Martial Soul Force was at early Overgod, I only needed a single droplet to reach mid Overgod, but I need at least three droplets to get to late Overgod.”

“If this continues, I’ll need nine droplets at the very least to reach early Godking from late Overgod. Nine droplets might not even be enough.” Jian Chen felt that it was a pity. Hell water was indeed something good, but there was just too little of it. It was impossible for him to obtain a large quantity of it.

He glanced at the remaining ten droplets of hell water and did not consume anymore. He stowed them away with a wave of his hand before visiting Hun Zang and the others. He began to bid farewell to them.

“Eighth junior, you’re leaving the Martial Soul Mountain?”

The seven other successors were all surprised when they heard that Jian Chen was about to leave.

“My clan is on the Cloud Plane, while my wife’s on the Skyfire Plane. I’ve already spent many years away from them, so I miss them very much. As a result, I must go,” said Jian Chen.

“If that’s the case, we won’t be urging you to stay. Eighth junior, be careful outside. Once you encounter an opponent you can’t defeat, you must call us immediately,” said Hun Zang.

Jian Chen nodded before planning on giving a droplet of hell water to every single one of them.

“Hell water isn’t very useful on me. It’s best if you keep it for yourself, eighth junior. You need it more.” Hun Zang and the others declined his offer.

In the end, only Qing Shan took a droplet of hell water, and Jian Chen put away the six other droplets he offered.

Nine droplets of hell water remained from the original twelve now.

Chapter 2490: The Skyfire Plane

“Eighth junior, this spaceship was forged by your senior sister. Although it’s technically only a low quality god artifact, it has reached the peak of low quality god artifacts. It might not be a medium quality god artifact, but it outshines even medium quality god artifacts in certain aspects of convenience.”

Jian Chen’s fifth senior, Su Qi, took out a sliver-white flying shuttle.

The shuttle seemed like a diamond, hovering in her hand quietly. It shone with a faint layer of light, giving off the pressure of a god artifact.

“Since you’re leaving the Martial Soul Mountain, you must have a lot of traveling to do. The spaceship I’ve forged can match Chaotic Primes. Even some weaker Chaotic Primes can’t catch up to it. Moreover, the spaceship doesn’t just possess speed. It has great defence and can pierce through many things. Once it reaches its full speed, it has extremely powerful attacks, and it can even directly pierce through planets,” Su Qi continued to explain to Jian Chen in detail.

“Thank you fifth senior, but it’s just far too valuable.” Jian Chen declined the gift. A spaceship that was extremely close to being a medium quality god artifact would definitely be worth several times more than regular medium quality god artifacts.

Let alone the difficulty of forging a god artifact like that, the materials for it would be extremely rare as well. As a result, special god artifacts like spaceships were worth several times more than regular god artifacts.

“Eighth junior, just accept it. Your fifth senior sister has quite some skill in terms of refining artifacts. Refining a low quality god artifact has become nothing special for her now. Just take the spaceship,” said the fourth senior brother, Yun Ziting.

“Eighth junior, you can’t decline gifts from fifth senior sister. She has reached the level of grandmasters in terms of refining artifacts. In reality, basically all of your seniors possess a spaceship refined by your fifth senior. Look, here’s mine,” said Qing Shan. A spaceship also hovered in Qing Shan’s hand. It was also diamond-shaped, but its appearance differed from the one that Su Qi was offering.

Qing Shan continued, “Moreover, the spaceships refined by fifth senior aren’t just god artifacts. They also possess the symbol of our Martial Soul lineage. Although our Martial Soul lineage isn’t a superpower that can deter all forces in the Saints’ World, we do have some deterrence. Basically no regular peak organisation dares to actively provoke our Martial Soul lineage. Apart from the Radiant Saint Hall, we don’t have any enemies either.”

Jian Chen stared at the spaceship in Qing Shan’s hand. He could tell with a single glance that Qing Shan’s spaceship was a medium quality god artifact.

Jian Chen no longer tried to turn down the offer after seeing that. He accepted the spaceship from Su Qi.

He understood that even if he did not use the spaceship himself, he could still give it to the Tian Yuan clan in the future.

The spaceship was only the size of a hand when shrunken. An artifact spirit had already been born inside.

Under the artifact spirit’s cooperation, Jian Chen refined the spaceship easily.

Four hours later, a silver-white light shot off from the Martial Soul Mountain. It vanished into the depths of outer space with a flash.

A silver-white, diamond-shaped spaceship just sixty meters in length shot through the icy depths of outer space with extremely terrifying speed.

Jian Chen stood with his hands behind his back inside the spaceship. He looked at the star chart in there and murmured, “The spaceship refined by fifth senior sister really is extraordinary. This speed is at least ten times faster than when I travel alone. Probably even some Chaotic Primes cannot match this speed.”

“The only problem is that the spaceship is a little small inside.” Jian Chen looked behind. The limit of the spaceship was only sixty meters. It could not expand any further.

With the spaceship, Jian Chen completed a journey of three days in just over four hours. He arrived at the interplanar teleportation formation closest to the Martial Soul Mountain. After paying up some five-colored divine crystals, he left through it.

“The Daoist Sect of Divine Sound is on the Skyfire Plane. It has already been so many years, so it’s time for me to go see Mu’er. If it’s possible, I should probably take her back to the Tian Yuan clan,” Jian Chen thought. He teleported across several planes consecutively, directly arriving on the Skyfire Plane.

In the past, he did not have the strength to fetch Mu’er, but he was confident he possessed the ability to do so now. After all, basically no one could pose any threat to him now as long as there were no Chaotic Primes.

That included Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes.

In the past, Jian Chen had used the Profound Sword Qi to kill a Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime back at the Gloomwater sect. After cultivating on the Martial Soul Mountain, his strength had increased once again.

As a result, only Chaotic Primes could threaten him now.

In terms of cultivation resources, he had obtained the Watercloud Hall. With the tremendous amount accumulated in there over the years, Jian Chen was confident that the cultivation resources he possessed were no less than the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound.

After over a dozen teleportations, Jian Chen finally arrived at his destination, the Skyfire Plane.

The interplanar teleportation formation was clearly erected in a city. As soon as he arrived there, he saw the busy square and streets before him.

“It has been so many years. I’ve finally set foot on the Skyfire Plane. I wonder how Mu’er is doing,” Jian Chen sighed emotionally inside as he looked at the Skyfire Plane.

In the distant past, when Shangguan Mu’er was taken away from the Cloud Plane by experts of the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound, the Skyfire Plane was a place so distant that he could only imagine it back then. This was because the five-colored divine crystals needed for a single teleportation was an astronomical figure for him.

Back then, he could only swear that he would use his own strength to cross the vast cosmos one day and fetch Shangguan Mu’er from the Skyfire Plane.

Now, he had finally achieved it.

At this moment, the teleportation formation that Jian Chen had just used shone with intense light once again, and violent energy surged forth.

“Sir, please move to give way to the next people so that you don’t interfere with their teleportation,” a soldier stationed there arrived before Jian Chen and said to him very politely.

None of the people who could travel through these teleportation formations would be simple, so the soldiers did not dare to offend them.

At this moment, the teleportation formation flashed, and five figures were sent over from another plane, appearing there.

Jian Chen could not help but look over. He could tell that the two old men in the group of five were Primordial realm experts, but they were only an early and mid Infinite Prime respectively.

Out of the three remaining people, one of them was a young master with a striking appearance. He seemed rather arrogant. The two others were women who seemed to be attendants.

“Let’s go straight to the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound,” the young master said indifferently, but his eyes told a different story. He seemed rather hurried.

The two female attendants stood to one side quietly, while the two early Infinite Prime old men nodded, immediately taking the three of them away.

“They’re also going to the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound? It looks like they’re also trying to propose a marriage...” The soldier who had spoken to Jian Chen murmured after the five of them had left.

“The Daoist Sect of Divine Sound? To propose a marriage?” Jian Chen heard everything that the soldier had said, which surprised him. He felt rather curious.

After all, he was about to visit the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound. He hoped to learn more about any matters that were relevant to the sect.

“Sir, may I ask which female prodigy these people will be proposing a marriage to when they go to the Daoist Sect of Divine Sound?” Jian Chen asked with a clasped fist.