

Chaotic 2521

Chapter 2521: Tidying up the Clan (One)

In an instant, protector Shan arrived beside Jian Chen. He extended his hand with lightning speed, directly reaching towards three droplets of hell water.

As he struck out, his presence as an Eighth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime reached the limit as well, enveloping Jian Chen completely to suppress him.

Even the three droplets of hell water he eyed were surrounded by a mysterious power, preventing Jian Chen from taking them back.

When protector Shan moved, all the Primordial realm experts in the hall focused their attention, concentrating on the matter.

This was the most critical moment. Hell water was so precious that if protector Shan really took the droplets away, Jian Chen would be humiliated.

"The entire time, Jian Chen seemed like he knew what he was doing. He hasn't begun to panic at all. I wonder what he's depending on. Is it senior Ming or senior Xu? It shouldn't be. I've stayed in the Tian Yuan clan for so long, but I've never seen the two of them interfere with the internal matters of the clan," thought protector Xue. As he looked at protector Shan, a sliver of hesitance appeared in his eyes. He wanted to stop protector Shan, but he controlled himself in the end.

Protector Xue still recognised this patriarch who had suddenly returned to a certain degree.

"They're really putting on a good show. I wonder how Jian Chen will deal with this. Will he ask protector Xu to take action?" Mei Ji's eyes lit up as well. She stared right ahead with great curiosity and eagerness.

Protector Xing and protector Bai were the same, bearing similar thoughts to Mei Ji.

Of course, not all the Primordial realm experts thought like that. A few of them sneered gently; they wanted to see Jian Chen embarrass himself.

It all happened in a split second. With a flash, protector Shan's hand arrived above a droplet of a hell water. He moved so fast that he had surpassed the reaction speeds of Godkings. Only Primordial realm experts could see everything happening.

Protector Shui's lips had already curled up into a gentle smile. He was extremely excited. He treated the hell water like it was his already.

However, at this moment, an extremely powerful sword intent suddenly appeared. Sword Qi permeated the entire hall in an instant.

A strand of finger-sized, white sword Qi hovered above Jian Chen's head, shining resplendently.

The appearance of the sword Qi immediately shocked all the Primordial realm experts in the hall. They were taken aback.

They felt a bone-chilling power of slaughter from the sword Qi. They could not help but become frightened.

The sword Qi was small, only the size of a finger, but the power it possessed was earth-shaking.

Protector Shan was shocked as well. His eyes narrowed to the size of pin heads as he stared right at the tiny sword Qi above Jian Chen's head. He felt fatal danger.

He did not hesitate at all, giving up on the hell water that he had almost reached decisively. He retreated with even faster speed, immediately pulling away from Jian Chen.

However, it was already too late. Jian Chen's Profound Sword Qi had already shot off. It moved with unbelievable speed as if it had surpassed the limits of space and time. It arrived near protector Shan's forehead in an instant and pierced his soul.

"Argh!" Protector Shan immediately cried out miserably. His soul had been heavily injured, almost severed into two by the Profound Sword Qi.

At the same time, Jian Chen stood up from the patriarch's throne. His gaze was cold as he slammed his hand into protector Shan's chest with tremendous might.

The power of his palm strike was extremely great. Protector Shan basically could not defend at all because his soul was injured, so the attack directly struck his frail body. His chest was almost punched through by Jian Chen's hand, which reduced all his organs to pulp.

Protector Shan shot off like a cannonball, flying directly out of the discussion hall. Blood sprayed from his mouth wildly as he cried out painfully on the ground. He no longer had the power to stand up.

His soul was heavily injured, almost to the point of dispersion. He was at death's door.

All the seated Primordial realm experts were stunned. Their eyes widened as they blankly stared at protector Shan as he wailed out on the cold, hard ground outside. As they felt shock, they also struggled to accept this all.

Protector Shan was an Eighth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, the undisputed strongest out of all the Primordial realm protectors of the Tian Yuan clan. Despite that being the case, he had been reduced to such a sorry shape in Jian Chen's hands, heavily injured from a single clash.

None of them had expected this.

"Just what level of cultivation does Jian Chen possess?" At that moment, all the Primordial realm protectors thought the same question.

Their understanding of Jian Chen was based on when he fought against the Empyrean Demon Cult with the Divine Kingdom of Pingtian several decades ago.

Back then, Jian Chen was only an Overgod. He was not even a Godking.

Yet now, he had heavily injured protector Shan, an Eighth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, from a single clash. This stunned them all, making them gasp.

"Jian Chen is actually so powerful!" Mei Ji's eyes lit up after she overcame her shock. She stared right at Jian Chen.

“The patriarch’s strength is actually so terrifying. T- this...” The original members of the Tian Yuan clan were left dumbfounded as well. They were filled with disbelief as they saw protector Shan in such sorry shape.

“Protector Shan, you committed treachery by attempting to steal hell water from my hands. You should deserve death, but since you are a protector of the Tian Yuan clan, I will spare your life. Come and take him away. Once he wakes up, have him return everything he owes. Dismiss him as a protector and chase him out of the clan,” Jian Chen sat back down slowly and ordered emotionlessly. He possessed a dignified bearing, where he could not be defied.

He had already shown protector Shan mercy. He had purposefully weakened the Profound Sword Qi, or protector Shan would have suffered far worse injuries than now. He might have even passed away from that strike alone.

A few Godkings immediately arrived outside the discussion hall and took protector Shan away.

“Xi Yu, regardless of their cultivation, dismiss the three protectors who haven’t come to the meeting and expel them from the clan. Our Tian Yuan clan does not need such people.” Jian Chen followed up with a second order with lightning speed. He did not treat Infinite Primes like they were a big deal at all.

Chapter 2522: Tidying up the Clan (Two)

Jian Chen’s order immediately threw the crowd into an uproar. All the high ranking members of the clan were stunned, and the Infinite Primes all looked at each other, as if they had never expected Jian Chen would be so vicious against the three protector who did not come.

After all, they were not protector Shan. Protector Shan had gone overboard in the discussion hall, so expelling him from the clan did make sense.

However, the three protectors were being expelled purely because they had not come to the meeting. Were Infinite Primes worth nothing?

At that moment, basically everyone present had such a thought.

After all, they were Primordial realm experts, not Overgods or Godkings.

In many large organisations, any Primordial realm expert would be revered as an ancestor. The organisation would do their best to fulfil whatever they wanted, afraid that they would displease them. There was no one like Jian Chen, who would directly dismiss them over something as small as this.

After all, these were only so many Infinite Primes in the current Tian Yuan clan. Without any exaggeration, every single one of them held an extremely great status.

“Xi Yu, Hei Ya, immediately go to their residences with some people and ask them to leave the Tian Yuan clan,” Jian Chen said coldly and firmly. He left no room for negotiation.

“J- patriarch, w- we shouldn’t do that, right? They’re Primordial realm experts after all, and two of them are at the Fifth Heavenly Layer,” a Primordial realm expert in the hall stood up and asked for mercy.

Originally, he wanted to call Jian Chen by his name, but as soon as he thought about the strength Jian Chen displayed when he injured protector Shan, he changed his words.

“So what if they’re Fifth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes? They use the resources of our Tian Yuan clan, yet they ignore the rules. Let alone Fifth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes, even Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes have no reason to stay if they’re like that,” Jian Chen said coldly. He had enveloped the Tian Yuan clan with the senses of his soul, so he knew the three of them were not cultivating.

There was definitely no reason for him to keep people who only knew how to laze around.

Xi Yu and Hei Ya immediately left the discussion hall with over a dozen Godkings and went to where the three Primordial realm experts resided.

The Godkings were obviously useless before Primordial realm experts, but they were high ranking members of the clan’s disciplinary hall. They were responsible for upholding rules, so it only made sense for them to handle the matter.

Very soon, the three Primordial realm experts were called out, and when they learnt that they had been expelled from the clan by the patriarch, they all became furious.

“What? Jian Chen is expelling us from the Tian Yuan clan? Just him? Hmph, we’re Primordial realm experts. We’ve come to serve young master Ming. Who does Jian Chen think he is? What right does he have to expel us from the clan?” The three Primordial realm experts called out loudly as they directly made their way to the discussion hall to confront Jian Chen.

Of course, even though the three of them were angered, they dared not start fighting like protector Shan. After all, the Tian Yuan clan had Chaotic Primes. They could take Jian Chen lightly, but they had to consider the presence of the two Chaotic Primes.

“Let’s go. Let’s go find young master Ming and get him to dismiss Jian Chen from the position of patriarch. Does he really think he can directly order us because he’s the patriarch? He doesn’t have that right yet.”

The three Primordial realm experts left the discussion hall furiously to find Ming Dong.

Ming Dong strolled through a garden of exotic flowers within the forbidden grounds of the Tian Yuan clan with Yun Xiaoyan. They remained in their own quiet, little world. They were at ease and relaxed, paying no attention to any matters of the clan, as if they did not care at all.

At this moment, a female attendant reported that the three Primordial realm experts wanted to see Ming Dong.

Ming Dong frowned when he heard that. He had already established that they should not disturb him unless there was something particularly important, as he never liked to deal with such matters.

Moreover, now that Jian Chen was back, even if there was anything particularly important, he was there to deal with them. Why had the three Primordial realm experts come to him?

“Ming Dong, are the three protectors looking for you because of your brother Jian Chen?” Yun Xiaoyan said gently from beside Ming Dong.

A gleam of light flashed through Ming Dong’s eyes from that. He could not ignore matters regarding Jian Chen, so he immediately met up with the three protectors.

“Greetings, young master Ming!” Very soon, the three protectors appeared before Ming Dong. They dismissed their haughtiness and showed great respect.

Afterwards, they vented all their unhappiness, roughly explaining Jian Chen’s ruthless actions while warping certain aspects, making him antagonistic.

However, before they had even finished speaking, Ming Dong frowned and stopped them by raising his hand. His face sank slightly, and he said, “Are you saying that Jian Chen is expelling the three of you from the clan?”

The three protectors rejoiced inside when they saw Ming Dong’s expression change. They thought Ming Dong had become displeased by Jian Chen’s ruthless actions, so they clasped their fists in a hurry. “Indeed. Young master Ming, please correct this injustice for us.”

Ming Dong’s face sank. “Jian Chen is the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan. What he says is the ultimate decision of the clan. Since he has expelled you from the clan, you no longer belong to the Tian Yuan clan.”

The expressions of the three protectors changed. “Young master Ming...”

“Shut up. Jian Chen has gone through thick and thin with me. Offending him is even worse than offending me, yet you speak of him poorly before me. You even want me to dismiss him from the position of patriarch. Do you think that you’ve surpassed the patriarch just because you’re Primordial realm experts? That you can ignore the patriarch’s orders?” Ming Dong snorted coldly.

Ming Dong’s attitude made their expressions change. They looked at one another, and their faces became very ugly. They had never thought that Ming Dong would favour Jian Chen so much.

They were Primordial realm experts after all. Even in peak clans, they would hold a certain level of status. Now that they spoke so submissively, they were firmly rejected instead. It was quite a horrible feeling.

“Uncle Ming, chase the three of them out of the Tian Yuan clan.”

With that, Ming Xie appeared silently, causing the three protectors to pale in fright.

In the end, the three Infinite Primes left the Tian Yuan clan in low spirits.

All the Primordial realm experts seated within the discussion hall became stern. They had always been paying attention to the three protectors with the senses of their souls. Although they were unable to observe the happenings in the forbidden grounds due to the formations, they did see the three protectors enter the forbidden grounds and emerge miserably. After that, they tidied up their things and left the clan in low spirits.

All of the protectors originally believed that they could get Ming Dong to deal with Jian Chen, but the fate of the three protectors made all their hearts sink. Their final light of hope was extinguished.

Chapter 2523: Tidying up the Clan (Three)

Originally, the protectors never took Jian Chen seriously.

Only after they witnessed Jian Chen injure protector Shan and saw the astonishing strength he displayed did they truly understand his power.

The patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan definitely was not as weak as rumoured.

Not to mention that not only was he powerful, but his actions were also extremely ruthless and decisive. He expelled three Primordial realm experts just because they had not shown up for a meeting.

As a result, none of the protectors dared to take Jian Chen lightly anymore. They began to accept him as the patriarch.

Jian Chen sat on the patriarch's throne and glanced past the protectors coldly. He knew that he had already managed to establish his might, but this was not the end.

"Who is protector Xiang?" Jian Chen asked emotionlessly.

As soon as Jian Chen mentioned protector Xiang, Mo Yan's face immediately lit up as she stood near the entrance. Excitement filled her face.

The eyes of Mo Ling, the past ancestor of the Mo clan, lit up as well. He seemed to guess something, and he became eager.

"I am Xiang Ping, and I greet the patriarch!" A bald old man stood forward and clasped his fist at Jian Chen. He behaved in an approachable manner, without putting on any airs as a Primordial realm expert.

Of course, this was only because he had witnessed Jian Chen's strength earlier.

Jian Chen looked at protector Xiang and said, "Protector Xiang, I heard you injured a founding member of the Tian Yuan clan?"

The eyes of all the Primordial realm experts in the discussion hall narrowed, and they stared at protector Xiang. Some of their faces became very unnatural.

From Jian Chen's tone, they could all tell that he was about to punish protector Xiang.

He had only injured a puny figure, someone who was essentially ant-like in their eyes, yet he would be judged and punished before everyone. This made all the Primordial realm experts sense an ill omen.

After all, they had done quite a lot of things in the Tian Yuan clan in the past. If Jian Chen decided to go through them one by one, many of them would face miserable outcomes.

It was impossible to defeat him in battle. Even the strongest protector, protector Shan, was not his opponent, let alone them. Even their last sliver of hope, young master Ming, stood on Jian Chen's side.

Without any exaggeration, if the patriarch decided to punish them for past matters, there really was no way for them to avoid it.

Protector Xiang could sense what Jian Chen wanted to do as well. His heart sank slightly, and he said, "Patriarch, there's probably a misunderstanding. I hope the patriarch can get to the bottom of this!"

"Mo Ling, tell me how protector Xiang treated you in detail, as well as everything that led up to it," said Jian Chen.

Mo Ling was overjoyed as he began to go through the matter carefully.

The Tian Yuan clan had already investigated a few matters with regards to protector Xiang's past. He had fallen out with an ancestral emperor of the Heavenly Moon Empire many years ago and had once been hunted down for around a century, so he resented the Heavenly Moon Empire. He wanted to destroy them.

Unfortunately, his strength was limited, so he was unable to destroy the empire with his strength alone. At the same time, he faced the pursuit of the ancestral emperor at all times, so he ended up joining the Tian Yuan clan.

Protector Xiang had used various reasons to urge on the high ranking members of the clan many times. He had even directly roped in a few protectors to suggest that they should conquer the Heavenly Moon Empire.

On the surface, he seemed like he did this completely out of consideration for the clan's expansion, giving suggestions and advice to assist the clan. However, in reality, he wanted to use the Tian Yuan clan's might to destroy the Heavenly Moon Empire and fulfil his personal objective.

His suggestion had received the support of many important members of the clan back then, but due to Mo Ling's intense objection, the idea fell through and was rejected in the end.

Infuriated, protector Xiang directly grabbed Mo Ling by the neck and threw him out, injuring him.

Protector Xiang's expression became rather ugly after Mo Ling's narration.

"Protector Xiang, do you admit to this?" Jian Chen looked at protector Xiang coldly.

"Patriarch, I suggested conquering the Heavenly Moon Empire purely out of consideration for the clan's development. I definitely have no selfish intentions behind it. As for Mo Ling, he's only an Overgod, yet he dares to stand up to me. I only punished him slightly. Am I in the wrong for doing that as well?"

"Am I, a Fifth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, not even as great as an Overgod in the Tian Yuan clan?" Protector Xiang refuted as he felt wronged.

Many of the protectors nodded and agreed with protector Xiang. They believed that an Overgod deserved some punishment if he challenged their words.

Jian Chen snorted coldly from the patriarch's throne. "Primordial realm experts do possess very great status in the clan, but if you want to use that status to do whatever you want, there's only one outcome for you." With that, Jian Chen suddenly vanished. He arrived beside protector Xiang like he had teleported, and sword Qi surged from his body. The power from the Ultimate Way of the Sword gathered in his hand as he struck out, shattering space as he attacked protector Xiang with lightning speed.

At the same time, formations rose up and enveloped the entire discussion hall, protecting all the protectors and high ranking members of the clan.

Jian Chen's sudden attack caused protector Xiang's expression to change drastically. However, he was experienced in battle as a Primordial realm expert, so he immediately responded. He placed a low quality god artifact shield before him.

Boom!

Jian Chen's hand struck the shield, and a rumble immediately rang out. Powerful energy shook it up, knocking protector Xiang away with the shield.

Jian Chen's current battle prowess was far beyond the Fifth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime. The difference in strength was far too great. As a result, even when protector Xiang wielded a god artifact shield, he struggled to endure the might of a blow from Jian Chen.

Protector Xiang landed on the floor in sorry shape. His face was pale as blood sprayed from his mouth. He was heavily injured.

Jian Chen stood in the centre of the discussion hall with his hands behind his back. He glanced at protector Xiang coldly before swinging his arm and turning around, returning to his throne. He said, "From today onwards, anyone who touches members of the Tian Yuan clan will suffer the same fate as protector Xiang. Protectors do possess status, but they cannot ignore the rules of the clan. They do not stand above the disciplinary hall."

The discussion hall was dead silent. Everyone was stunned, and no one said anything. Some of the protectors even became covered in cold sweat. They were unsettled.

"From today onwards, Xiang Ping is no longer a protector of the Tian Yuan clan. He is expelled!" Jian Chen passed down another command.

Chapter 2524: A Renewed Clan

Protector Shan had been expelled from the clan, the three protectors who ignored the patriarch's summonings were expelled, and now, even protector Xiang was expelled.

In the blink of an eye, five of the eighteen protectors of the Tian Yuan clan had been expelled.

Primordial realm experts held extremely great statuses in the Saints' World because they were existences who stood at the apex. Even weaker Infinite Primes would possess quite some weight in peak organisations.

Yet at this moment, Jian Chen had directly expelled five of them without even batting an eye. In particular, three of them did not even commit any horrible mistakes in the eyes of the other protectors.

Jian Chen's attitude towards Primordial realm experts made the hearts of the remaining protectors sink slightly. Some of them even became unsettled and uneasy.

This was because many of them had ignored the rules of the Tian Yuan clan. They had caused quite some trouble to the upper echelon of the Tian Yuan clan.

They were able to act in such a manner because Ming Dong did not care. He did not manage the clan. As Primordial realm experts, they were unrestrained, so they naturally became rather fearless.

Now that Jian Chen was settling matters of the past ruthlessly, the protectors who had gone a little too far in the past became uneasy. They were afraid that they would be in trouble next.

They did not want to leave the Tian Yuan clan just yet because they could obtain items here that other organisations could not provide. As a matter of fact, it would be easier for them to obtain treasures, legacies, heavenly resources, and so on in the Tian Yuan clan compared to other organisations.

“This patriarch really is different. He doesn’t treat us as a big deal at all. It looks like we need to properly serve this patriarch if we want to remain in the Tian Yuan clan comfortably in the future,” protector Xing and protector Bai thought to themselves. They wiped their cold sweat as they felt lingering fear.

This was because they had almost laid their hands on Jian Chen the first time they met him.

Now that they had personally witnessed Jian Chen’s strength and ruthlessness, they both felt extremely fortunate.

“I never thought the patriarch would be so ruthless. Not only is he powerful, but he’s handsome too. Only a man like that is worthy for me to serve.” Protector Mei remained rather composed. The light in her enchanting eyes flickered as she stared right at Jian Chen in a strange light.

“Xi Yu, have any other protectors ignored the rules of the clan and gone overboard? If they have, list them for me,” Jian Chen continued. This time, he had made up his mind. He wanted to tidy up the clan properly this time, purging all the problems without leaving a single one behind.

With that, the Primordial realm experts in the discussion hall immediately became rather pale.

Xi Yu stood up and mentioned a few names. As the princess of the Xi Empire with a Chaotic Prime as a father, her status was extremely great. She did not have to worry about revenge from these people. She was bold enough to do what others dared not.

As a result, she mentioned another seven names without any hesitation. At the same time, she listed the errors that they had committed in the past varying in severity.

In the end, five of the seven protectors committed rather severe mistakes, so they were expelled from the clan without any hesitation. The other two made smaller blunders, so they remained as protectors to make up for their mistakes through their future services.

A total of ten protectors were expelled from the clan by Jian Chen, leaving only eight behind in the end.

“Patriarch, our clan possesses a great amount of cultivation resources and various cultivation methods of various levels, but there are issues with their distribution. There has always been arguments regarding this in the clan. Although we’ve come up with many methods of distribution in the past, they were either turned down, or they were difficult to actually implement. Since the patriarch has returned, please settle this matter,” said Xi Yu.

Jian Chen rubbed his temples. Ming Dong truly paid no regard to the whole matter. It had been so many years already, yet the distribution of the resources still had not been properly decided.

The meeting this time went on for a very long time. Jian Chen first expelled ten protectors with lightning speed before dealing with the problems that Xi Yu and the various other people could not settle.

In the end, everyone present reached an agreement. They decided on a rather perfect way to distribute the valuable resources and various legacies.

Three days later, the first meeting Jian Chen held since returning came to an end. Before long, a list of contributions and a list of missions appeared in the Tian Yuan clan. The clan would set various missions, and the members who completed them would receive a corresponding amount of merit. They could use this merit to exchange for various resources, precious heavenly resources, or even Primordial realm legacies, various cultivation methods, and battle skills.

The appearance of the two lists shook up the entire clan and garnered everyone's attention.

However, this all had nothing to do with Jian Chen. He was the same as Ming Dong, not exactly skilled in clan management. After deciding on the major and important matters, he left the rest up to Xi Yu and the others, allowing them to take over completely. Meanwhile, he stood aside just like Ming Dong.

Mo Xingfeng had also returned to the provincial city. He maintained a low profile while Jian Chen held the meeting. After waiting for several days, he finally met Jian Chen.

Mo Xingfeng had become the emperor of the Pingtian Empire. He controlled a vast territory and a great military. Even though he was only a God, his position as emperor did not waver at all because the Tian Yuan clan stood behind him.

"Patriarch Mo, don't worry and just manage the Pingtian Empire. If you encounter any problems, the Tian Yuan clan will be your sturdy support," Jian Chen said to Mo Xingfeng. He referred to Mo Xingfeng in the same way as before, which demonstrated that he still treated Mo Xingfeng with the same importance as before. It did not change after Jian Chen's strength increased.

Jian Chen obviously had to take good care of Mo Yan's father and Xi Yu's foster father.

Without any doubt, Jian Chen's words completely brought Mo Xingfeng to ease. He clasped his hands in a hurry and said, "Don't worry, patriarch. I will definitely work tirelessly and do whatever I can for the development of the clan."

"Patriarch, the emperor of the Heavenly Moon Empire and the two ancestral emperors have come to visit!" At this moment, an attendant reported.

"The Heavenly Moon Empire," Jian Chen murmured. As soon as he heard the Heavenly Moon Empire, he could not help but think of the two peak sects in the empire, the Earth Spirit sect and the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds.

Chapter 2525: The Heavenly Moon Empire Yields

Several decades ago, Jian Chen had grievances with both sects, and the grievances ran deep.

Of course, out of the two sects, Jian Chen hated the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds the most.

Although he had old grievances with the Earth Spirit sect, all his conflicts with the sect were out in the open. On the other hand, the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds appeared to be extremely amiable and held Jian Chen in great esteem, yet at a crucial moment, one of their Godkings actually disguised himself and tried to assassinate Jian Chen while the war between the Divine Kingdom of Pingtian and the Emphyrean Demon Cult waged on.

Jian Chen could remember the assassination attempt like it was yesterday. He had an extremely deep impression of it. If it were not for the fact that he had some trump cards, he would have died at the hands of that Godking long ago.

“Let them in and bring them here,” Jian Chen said to the attendant calmly.

Several decades ago, before he had left the Cloud Plane, the Heavenly Moon Empire was an insurmountable existence in his eyes, an ancient empire that he could not provoke.

But now, they were nothing in his eyes.

Even if he ignored Ming Dong, he could deal with the entire empire alone.

Very soon, the guests from the Heavenly Moon Empire arrived. There were a total of three people, the current emperor of the Heavenly Moon Empire and two ancestral emperors who had abdicated many years ago.

The two ancestral emperors were old men. They were dignified, and their eyes shone brightly. They had a majestic gait, and they gave off a natural sense of authority.

This had been naturally established after holding a high position in the empire for many years.

However, right now, they completely concealed their presences in the Tian Yuan clan. They did their best to appear ordinary. They had come fearfully.

As for the current emperor, he was a middle-aged man with a striking appearance. He wore dragon robes and gave off the dignified sense of an emperor. However, he did hide it.

These three important members of the Heavenly Moon Empire arrived in the Tian Yuan clan carefully. They were cautious with all their actions, unwilling to show any disrespect.

“Seventh Heavenly Layer and Second Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes,” Jian Chen glanced past the two ancestral emperors and determined their cultivation levels.

The current emperor was a peak Godking.

The three of them bowed when they saw Jian Chen. They did their best to maintain a low profile. As a matter of fact, they even showed some respect.

They dared not show any rudeness towards the patriarch who had suddenly returned, as they had already learnt some things about the events of the Tian Yuan clan in the past few days.

It was the patriarch right before them, the one who did not give off any pressure and seemed just like an ordinary person, who expelled ten Primordial realm protectors swiftly.

Even the Eighth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, protector Shan, had been injured by him.

Although it had only been a few decades, the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan’s strength had risen in an unbelievable manner. In the eyes of all the protectors, Jian Chen’s current cultivation could be described as unfathomable.

The ancestral emperors greeted Jian Chen first and exchanged some pleasantries casually before approaching the main topic. They wanted to form an alliance with the Tian Yuan clan.

Jian Chen remained silent and did not reply. However, Mo Xingfeng replied as the emperor of the Pingtian Empire, "With the strength of your Heavenly Moon Empire, you have no right to form an alliance with us. After all, even if we include the Earth Spirit sect and the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds, you only have four Infinite Primes, while our Tian Yuan clan has a Sword God Army that can sweep through your lands, let alone our protectors."

The ancestral emperors and emperor of the Heavenly Moon Empire fell quiet. The Sword God Army of the Tian Yuan clan was known for their strength in the southern region of the Cloud Plane. Even though there were only ten thousand in number, the entire army was composed of cultivators at God or beyond. The number of Overgods amounted to a third of the entire army, and there were even quite a few Godkings.

Additionally, the Sword God Army had grasped a battle formation. Once they fell into formation, their battle prowess would multiply. Through a formation scroll from Ming Dong, they could even stand up to Primordial realm experts if they gathered all their strength together.

"Our Heavenly Moon Empire is willing to yield to the Tian Yuan clan and become a subsidiary," said one of the ancestral emperors in the end.

The situation across the entire Cloud Plane had changed with the formation of the Righteous Alliance and the Four Symbols Alliance. All the organisations belonged to one of the two alliances. Apart from the Tian Yuan clan, there were no exceptions.

The Heavenly Moon Empire originally belonged to the Four Symbols Alliance, but they were expelled for some reason and were now independent.

The Heavenly Moon Empire had tried to yield to the Tian Yuan clan several times, but protector Xiang would hinder them every time, resulting in the matter's failure.

Mo Xingfeng dared not accept the Heavenly Moon Empire. Instead, he looked at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen lowered his head in thought. After careful consideration, he nodded in the end and allowed the Heavenly Moon Empire to yield to the Tian Yuan clan.

Neither the Tian Yuan clan or the Pingtian Empire sought complete domination. However, they did need to expand if it was appropriate.

The two ancestral emperors of the Heavenly Moon Empire beamed. They immediately clasped their fists towards Jian Chen and bowed. They believed the Heavenly Moon Empire would truly be free of worries now that they had joined the Tian Yuan clan. They no longer had to worry about the greedy eyes of the organisations that were part of the Four Symbols Alliance.

The ancestral emperors left the Tian Yuan clan very soon and announced that their Heavenly Moon Empire had become a subsidiary of the Tian Yuan clan as quickly as they could.

Immediately, the Heavenly Moon Empire was in uproar, but many of the elders in the Earth Spirit sect were unhappy. The ancestor of the Earth Spirit sect was in thought as well, rather unwilling to accept this reality.

As for the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds, the elders who knew about the assassination attempt on Jian Chen felt their hearts grow heavy. They felt an ill omen.

The ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds revealed an extremely horrible expression.

He had actually secretly allowed the assassination in the past. He had wanted to shift the blame of Jian Chen's death onto the Earth Spirit sect, which would lead to conflict between the Earth Spirit sect and the Divine Kingdom of Pingtian.

"The elder who went to assassinate Jian Chen is dead, but Jian Chen is still alive. I wonder if Jian Chen knows who that elder was. If he does and comes to our sect, it'll be a disaster."

"I hope the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan, Jian Chen, doesn't know the elder's identity," the ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds tried to comfort himself as he held onto this last sliver of hope.

Jian Chen finally managed to free up some time. He gathered with his friends from the Tian Yuan clan in the forbidden grounds and celebrated together.

He also met the princess of the Thousand Lotus Empire who was always with Ming Dong, Yun Xiaoyan.

He had once clashed with Yun Xiaoyan in the Neptunean Divine Palace. Now that he learnt that Yun Xiaoyan and Ming Dong were bound by their former lives, it completely amazed him and left him taken aback.

Chapter 2526: The Seven Imprints

Since Yun Xiaoyan was now with Ming Dong, Jian Chen naturally did not try to settle what happened back in the Neptunean Divine Palace.

Very soon, they ate and drank to their satisfaction. Jian Chen also parted with his close friends and returned to his residence.

The Tian Yuan clan had been expanded many times while he was gone. During the expansions, he was obviously given the best area in the clan as the patriarch, and the largest residence was constructed for him.

The residence seemed just like a palace. It was majestic and grand on the outside, giving off an invisible pressure, and its interior was luxuriously decorated. There were many precious items and priceless jades used for decor, as well as extraordinary flowers and herbs. They gave off a faint fragrance that could clear the minds of people with a single whiff.

All the flowers and herbs were actually renowned plants. They had all reached God Tier, making them extremely valuable.

Yet, they were only enough to be used as decoration.

Jian Chen shook his head. He was rather speechless as he looked at his residence that was even more luxurious than an emperor's palace. He could not even imagine something like this when he left the Cloud Plane several decades ago.

"Jian Chen!" At this moment, Qing Yixuan's voice rang out from outside the residence.

Jian Chen glanced at the entrance before waving his hand, and the door opened automatically. Qing Yixuan walked in slowly from outside, giving off a righteous spirit.

When she saw the white-robed Jian Chen with his hair down, a mixed light flashed through her eyes.

"Qing Yixuan, you've come looking for me so late. It should be something important, right?" Jian Chen looked at Qing Yixuan calmly.

Qing Yixuan looked at Jian Chen. She did not reply immediately. Instead, she said gently after a moment of silence, "Jian Chen, do you still remember that place where I obtained swordmaster Yun Chi's legacy underground?"

Jian Chen nodded. "Of course, I remember. Are there any problems?"

Qing Yixuan looked at Jian Chen with some worry and said, "The golden core of laws I obtained from swordmaster Yun Chi hid a message. The message was extremely well-hidden, deep within the golden core of laws. I only absorbed this information several months ago when my comprehension of the Way of the Sword progressed to a certain level."

"It's about the seven other peak experts who suffered with swordmaster Yun Chi. Swordmaster Yun Chi seems to worry about them quite a lot, and he even wants me to tell you that you should be careful of the seven of them if you are still fine."

With that, Jian Chen sank into his thoughts.

Qing Yixuan was worried. She continued, "The seven peak experts passed away many years ago. Although I don't know why swordmaster Yun Chi is worried about them or why he wants me to warn you, but they're all terrifying figures of exceptional ability for being able to reach such a level of cultivation. I fear that they might have prepared something and plan on doing something detrimental to you."

"I understand. Thank you for your warning, Qing Yixuan," Jian Chen smiled faintly, as if it was nothing for him to worry about.

Qing Yixuan immediately became slightly frustrated by Jian Chen's attitude. At the same time, she became rather worried inside. She said, "Jian Chen, don't you believe what I said?"

"No, I believe you. Don't worry. I know what I'm doing. Everything is within my control," Jian Chen said with composure. He was not worried at all.

After Qing Yixuan left, Jian Chen thought over some things in the hall of the residence before making his way over to a secret room for secluded cultivation. He sat down on a jade bed.

His consciousness had completely submerged into his soul, allowing him to 'see' his entire soul with even greater clarity.

Jian Chen could hazily sense seven specks hidden in an extremely remote region of his soul.

The seven specks were seven imprints of consciousness. They were extremely well hidden, and it was as if they had completely fused with Jian Chen's soul.

If it were not for the fact that Jian Chen's soul had changed after fusing with the strand of true Chaotic Force, becoming much more powerful than before, he might have failed to discover their existence.

"Zi Ying, Qing Suo, when are they going to wake up?" Jian Chen communicated with the sword spirits with his mind.

The sense of unease he experienced for some reason as he absorbed the golden cores of laws to cultivate made him cautious from that moment onwards.

Afterwards, as he grew in strength, and his soul rapidly strengthened, he finally found the seven imprints of consciousness due to the peculiarity of his soul.

"The seven imprints of consciousness are still extremely weak. It'll take a very long time for them to wake up," the sword spirits said.

"It looks like I need to find a way to make these seven imprints recover sooner in the future, or they might be useless when they wake up naturally," Jian Chen thought. Although the seven experts had given their golden cores of laws to him, he did not owe them.

His relationship with the seven experts was a purely business one. He had struck a deal with them, and the deal even exposed him to the Bloodtear Grand Exalt, allowing the Grand Exalt to see through him completely and learn about all his secrets.

Despite that being the case, the seven experts actually prepared something else behind the deal, harbouring ill intentions.

"Since you are scheming against me, you can't blame me anymore. Once my Chaotic Body advances to the next layer, I'll try to awaken you sooner. By then, I'll surprise you all," Jian Chen sneered inside.

For the next few days, it was rather peaceful for Jian Chen. He temporarily stopped cultivating, either spending all his time beside Shangguan Mu'er, celebrating with Ming Dong, Nubis and his other old friends, or discussing some matters of the Saints' World.

The return of the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan gradually spread during this time. Organisations of various sizes from across the Cloud Plane sent people to visit and pay respects to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen naturally let Xi Yu and the others handle these matters. He would only personally receive a few extremely special guests such as the empress of the Xi Empire.

"Jian Chen, Jian Chen!"

On this day, as Jian Chen and Shangguan Mu'er held hands and strolled through the gardens, Nubis ran over excitedly from the distance.

"Nubis, what has gotten you so excited?" Jian Chen asked, feeling rather curious. Nubis' face had even turned red from joy. This was extremely rare according to his understanding of Nubis.

“Hahaha, Jian Chen, there’s good news! Good news! I, the great Nubis, have just received reliable news that there’s an Infinite Prime Golden-striped Silver Snake on the Delight Plane. You should know just how important the essence of my clansmen are to me. That’s something crucial for increasing my strength rapidly. It can even make my bloodline constantly evolve, so I have to obtain that old snake’s essence no matter what,” Nubis said in high spirits.

“Alright then. I’ll go to the Delight Plane with you,” said Jian Chen. He had already learnt about the gruesome growth of Golden-striped Silver Snakes from Nubis.

“There’s no need for that. The Tian Yuan clan is no longer a small clan. As the patriarch, how can you go personally? Just get protector Xue to come with me. Protector Xue would never listen to me for something that’s unrelated to the clan,” said Nubis.

Chapter 2527: Settling Debts

“Have you completely investigated the Golden-striped Silver Snake’s strength?” Jian Chen asked.

“I have. He’s a Fifth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, and he has only broken through recently. With protector Xue’s cultivation as a Seventh Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, it won’t be a problem at all,” said Nubis. He was only a late Godking right now, so he could only seek reinforcements to deal with a Fifth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime.

“Alright then. Protector Xue, please come over.” Jian Chen stopped worrying. He called for protector Xue. His voice passed through the layers of formations and rang out in the courtyard where protector Xue stayed.

Protector Xue was currently sitting beside a pool of water. He was in pure white robes as he stared at the golden turtle that swam around aimlessly in the pool.

Protector Xue had personally cast down formations to envelop the pool of water, isolating it from all senses of the soul.

At this moment, Jian Chen’s voice rang out.

Protector Xue did not hesitate at all after hearing Jian Chen’s beckoning. He immediately stood up and left. He passed through the various structures and arrived before Jian Chen with a few flashes.

“Greetings, patriarch!” Protector Xue clasped his fist towards Jian Chen, giving him the respect he deserved.

Jian Chen had completely consolidated his prestige in the clan. None of the Primordial realm protectors of the clan dared to take him lightly anymore. They truly accepted him as the patriarch of the clan.

Every single order from him represented the clan. No one dared to question him anymore.

“There’s no need to be so polite.” Jian Chen remained approachable. He did not act haughtily as the patriarch of the clan. He waved his hand for protector Xue to stand up straight before saying, “Protector Xue, accompany Nubis to the Delight Plane. Nubis will explain the exact details to you.”

“Since the patriarch has spoken, I will naturally abide,” said protector Xue.

Afterwards, protector Xue returned to his residence. He carefully stowed the golden turtle in the pool into a divine hall before leaving the Tian Yuan clan with Nubis. They headed straight to the Delight Plane.

“It’s just a pity that the vice-leader of the Emyrean Demon Cult, Huai An, has gone missing. I don’t know where he is,” Jian Chen thought about Huai An, who had forced him off the plane in the past. Jian Chen experienced a sense of pity after Nubis’ departure.

He had already used the power of the clan to investigate Huai An’s whereabouts, but to his pity, Huai An had left the Cloud Plane after the Tian Empire was destroyed.

The Saints’ World was so vast. They had a total of forty-nine great planes and eighty-one great planets. Finding a single person was more difficult than finding a needle in a haystack.

Jian Chen had drawn up Huai An for Hei Ya to look at in the past, but Hei Ya did not memorise the appearance of a person with his innate ability, but the soul, presence, and some special features of their lives. As a result, Hei Ya could do nothing from just an image.

“It’s time for me to go to the Heavenly Moon Empire. Hei Ya, come with me!” Jian Chen’s eyes deepened. He thought about how he had been ambushed during the war between the Divine Kingdom of Pingtian and the Emyrean Demon Cult again.

He was not powerful enough back then, but it was time for him to settle some debts now that he was.

The news that the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan wanted to go to the Heavenly Moon Empire reached the ears of the protectors very soon. They had heard about his grievances with the peak sects in the Heavenly Moon Empire to a certain degree, so they immediately connected the matter to Jian Chen settling his debts. As a result, they all emerged from seclusion and asked Jian Chen for orders in an attempt to accrue merit. They were willing to go along with him.

After all, the resources and various legacies of the Tian Yuan clan were all in Jian Chen’s hands.

“Patriarch, it’ll be a rather boring journey for you, so why don’t you let me come with you? I can divert the patriarch from boredom along the way.” The enchanting protector Mei walked over gently and winked at Jian Chen flirtatiously. She was extremely charming.

“Patriarch, we are willing to come along and handle any miscellaneous matters for the patriarch...”

The other protectors all asked for orders.

“There’s no need. Just stay in the clan. I only need Hei Ya to come with me,” Jian Chen said, turning down all the protectors’ offers. He left the Tian Yuan clan with Hei Ya.

Shangguan Mu’er remained in the Tian Yuan clan to cultivate. Jian Chen left the Watercloud Hall behind and left the fortune jade in there to assist Shangguan Mu’er’s cultivation.

Along the way, Jian Chen stopped when he passed the Swordseeking province.

The Swordseeking province was originally the leading province of the Divine Kingdom of Pingtian. Not only was Ling Hougong of the Swordseeking province a contributor to the founding of the kingdom, but he also had close ties with Jian Chen.

As he looked at the Swordseeking province below him, memories flashed through Jian Chen's eyes. Afterwards, he descended and went to visit the Ling family there.

Jian Chen's personal visit shook up the entire Ling family. The patriarch of the Ling family, Ling Mojian, immediately led a group of important members of the clan to receive him. They were taken aback and extremely polite.

Jian Chen and Hei Ya were invited into a hall by the people of the Ling family, and they even offered Jian Chen the highest seat. However, Jian Chen declined and just sat down anywhere.

The patriarch of the Ling family did not dare to take the highest seat now that Jian Chen sat where he did. Instead, he sat down cautiously beside Jian Chen, while the important members of the clan stood behind him.

"Ling Hougong still hasn't returned?" Jian Chen asked Ling Mojian.

Ling Mojian shook his head and replied carefully, "The ancestor still hasn't returned. Moreover, we completely lost contact with him thirty years ago. We don't know what his current situation is like."

Jian Chen sank into his thoughts. He did not know a lot of people in the Saints' World, but Ling Hougong was one of them.

"Take this medallion. If your Ling family encounters any problems you can't deal with, go to the Tian Yuan clan with this medallion." Jian Chen did not remain for long. He left behind a medallion as a proof of identity before leaving with Hei Ya.

Ling Mojian accepted the medallion with trembling hands. As if he had just obtained a great piece of treasure, he was utterly overjoyed. He thanked Jian Chen in a hurry. The high-ranking members of the clan were in joyous spirit as well.

With the Tian Yuan clan's current status and strength, they deeply understood the value of the medallion.

The Heavenly Moon Empire was the ancient empire closest to the Pingtian Empire. They possessed a long history, having existed for over a million years now. Even among all the ancient empires in the southern region, they were powerful enough to occupy third place.

The Heavenly Moon Empire possessed a total of five Infinite Primes. The Earth Spirit sect and the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds possessed one each, while the remaining three belonged to the imperial family. They were the two ancestral emperors who had abdicated already and a Grand Imperial Protector.

On this day, soldiers stood unmoving like statues on the walls of a fortress near the boundary, as if they were prepared for anything. They silently protected the peace there.

There was a hubbub near the gateway of the fortress. Cultivators and merchants flowed in and out. Luxurious carriages would fly past, kicking up long streaks of dust.

At this moment, there was a flash of resplendent light above the fortress, just like a meteorite. It shot brightly across the sky with unbelievable speed, leaving behind a beautiful white streak. It vanished into the horizon in an instant.

Many people failed to even react to it. The streak of light had already travelled very far away before they could even look at the sky.

“What speed! T- that’s definitely a Primordial realm expert!” An old general in armor stood in a tower within the fortress. He gave off the presence of a Godking as he stared at the sky with eagerness and envy.

This was a desire for the Primordial realm.

Chapter 2528: Severing an Arm

Although he discovered that a Primordial realm expert had entered the territory of the Heavenly Moon Empire, the old general did nothing, as this was beyond his powers.

Experts of the same level from the empire would obviously come to deal with the intruding Primordial realm expert. The matter had nothing to do with him.

“I wonder why this Primordial realm expert has intruded on our Heavenly Moon Empire. However, it doesn’t seem like he has come with good intentions.” The old general stared in the direction that the Primordial realm expert had vanished in as he became worried.

In recent years, the Heavenly Moon Empire was not as peaceful as it seemed on the surface. Ever since it was expelled by the Four Symbols Alliance, the Heavenly Moon Empire became completely independent. They were eyed by their neighbouring forces, which made them feel like a candle flame in the wind, where they could be extinguished at any time.

“However, our Heavenly Moon Empire has already pledged its loyalty to the Tian Yuan clan. We’ve become a subsidiary of the Tian Yuan clan. We no longer fear any organisations now,” the old general murmured to himself, and he relaxed a lot.

It was as if the Tian Yuan clan had become his greatest source of comfort.

At this moment, a streak of light shot through the territory of the Heavenly Moon Empire, moving with unbelievable speed.

Two blurry figures could be vaguely seen within the light. They rapidly covered ground.

The two of them were naturally Jian Chen and Hei Ya.

However, Jian Chen had grabbed Hei Ya by the shoulder and was pulling him along.

“This should be the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds.”

A while later, Jian Chen and Hei Ya arrived before a towering mountain. The light dispersed, revealing the two of them.

The towering mountain was abundant with energy. It was beautiful, and the peak of the mountain would be obscured by mist from time to time. It really did seem like an otherworldly place.

Moreover, powerful energy pulsed in the depths of the mountain. It was a formation in operation, isolating the entire place from the senses of souls.

“It really is an honour for our Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds to welcome the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan. I am Sheng Ping, and I have brought all the elders of the sect to welcome the patriarch.” At this moment, the formation around the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds opened up, and a blue-robed old man flew out. A large group of people followed behind him.

The blue-robed old man was the Primordial realm ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds. His name was Sheng Ping.

Sheng Ping led everyone to welcome Jian Chen. He was extremely submissive, almost to the point of seeming like he was grovelling. He was filled with respect.

He had already guessed the reason for Jian Chen’s visit. He was filled with fear and unease.

Now that the entire Heavenly Moon Empire had yielded to the Tian Yuan clan, the leader of the Tian Yuan clan only needed to utter a word to determine the fate of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds. How could they not show him respect?

Almost twenty Godking elders held their heads low behind Sheng Ming. They all experienced mixed feelings.

They could not help but think about how the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan was only an Overgod a few decades ago, yet he had undergone a complete transformation now. He had become a powerful figure that even their ancestor had to lower his head to, someone that even the imperial clan of the Heavenly Moon Empire bowed down to.

While they were amazed, they also felt very jealous and troubled.

They had cultivated for tens of thousands of years, over a hundred thousand years or even longer, but they were only Godkings right now. Meanwhile, Jian Chen had become a powerful Primordial realm expert in just a few decades. All of them felt some envious because of this, calling the world unfair.

Jian Chen was politely invited into the main hall by the ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds. All the Godking elders accompanied him quietly, standing towards the back with their heads lowered. None of them dared to say anything.

The Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds was located in the Heavenly Moon Empire. Due to their huge disparity in strength in comparison to the imperial family, they would follow some of the arrangements of the imperial family from time to time. However, the imperial family now followed Jian Chen.

As a result, Jian Chen was now like the master of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds.

Jian Chen sat down in the main seat without holding back at all while Hei Ya stood behind Jian Chen silently like a loyal bodyguard. He glanced past everyone present in the main hall indifferently.

“Sheng Ping, you seem to be very nervous. What’s wrong? Why have you become so afraid just because I’ve come? And why do your elders have such ugly expressions? You’re all Godking experts, so why do your legs shake? Can’t you even stand still as Godkings?” Jian Chen sat in the main seat casually as he glanced past everyone. He seemed to be making fun of them.

However, Sheng Ping and the elders could clearly sense a hint of coldness in Jian Chen’s smile.

“The patriarch holds great authority now. A simple flick of your hand can produce rain and clouds. Our Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds is just too puny in the eyes of the patriarch. Naturally, we would be alarmed by the patriarch’s personal visit.” Sheng Ming smiled along with him as he broke into a sweat. He understood very well that it would be completely up to the patriarch’s mood whether the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds could continue existing.

“The ancestor is right. The patriarch has come to visit this tiny daoist temple of ours, which alarms us. How can we remain composed over such a matter?” A few Godkings added in a hurry out of respect.

Jian Chen broke into laughter from that. “I never thought that I, Jian Chen, would actually frighten you so much. Am I really that scary? Or should I say that your conscience is tormenting you?”

Sheng Ping’s expression changed. This was directly related to the survival of his Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds, so he dared not be careless. Although he had permitted the attack on Jian Chen in the past, he could not admit to it.

Sheng Ping opened his mouth to explain, but Jian Chen waved his hand rather impatiently. “Enough, I don’t have enough time to waste it here. Sheng Ping, don’t you dare tell me you don’t know about what happened in the past. The behaviour of you and your elders has already betrayed you.”

“I’ll give you a choice right now. The first one would be that everyone involved severs one of their arms and do not regrow it for a century. The second would be for me to take personal action and handle your Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds like you are enemies. What you choose is up to you.”

Jian Chen had already said that, so Sheng Ping knew that if tried to argue or deny it, he might displease Jian Chen instead, leading to an even more painful fate.

He immediately made his decision. He gritted his teeth and said, “Thank you for sparing our lives, patriarch! Our entire Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds will only listen to the patriarch from now on!” With that, Sheng Ping drew a sword and cut off his left arm without any hesitation at all.

Spurt! Blood spurted, and his left arm was separated from his body. He had severed his own arm.

“Ancestor!” The expressions of some of the Godkings who were clueless about the whole matter changed drastically. They were both frightened and at a loss. They did not know what was going on.

After Sheng Ping, a few other elders there drew weapons and severed their own arms without any hesitation as well. Blood sprayed out and dyed the ground red.

Immediately, the clueless elders were left stunned. No matter how dim-witted they were, they could guess that these people probably had an unknown grievance with the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan in the past. This made the elders pale in fright as they became badly shaken.

Chapter 2529: The Death of the Earth Spirit Sect’s Ancestor

“I was muddle-headed in the past, and I did not restrain my elders well, almost leading to a huge mistake! I thank the patriarch for your wise words and forgiveness!” the ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds, Sheng Ping, bowed and said carefully.

He placed particular stress on ‘wise words’, as if he was afraid that Jian Chen would regret his decision.

After all, he and the elders had already expressed that they knew about what happened in the past and even permitted it to happen by severing one of their arms. If Jian Chen really wanted to settle it as a debt of blood, no one in the sect would be able to survive.

The Heavenly Moon Empire had already pledged itself to the Tian Yuan clan. They had become a subsidiary organisation of the Tian Yuan clan. Jian Chen only needed to say a single word to have the experts of the Heavenly Moon Empire kill their way through the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds.

Jian Chen glanced past the elders who had severed one of their arms coldly. Apart from the ancestor of the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds, there were five other elders.

Whether it be Sheng Ping or the five elders, they all felt chills run down their spines when they faced Jian Chen's gaze.

Jian Chen's gaze seemed to contain unlimited sword Qi to them, where just a single glance made them feel like they were pierced by swords. It struck fear into their hearts.

"Even his gaze is so terrifying. Just what level of cultivation has the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan reached now? How did he increase his cultivation at such an unbelievable rate in just a few decades?" Sheng Ping thought to himself. As he was filled with fear, he also felt extremely shocked.

"I will drop the matter of the past. However, from today onwards, if your Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds dares to do anything to the Tian Yuan clan, I will definitely destroy you," Jian Chen said coldly.

"How would we dare..."

Jian Chen departed from the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds. He stood outside the formations and subconsciously looked in the direction of the Earth Spirit sect. However, he did not go there in the end.

His grievances with the Earth Spirit sect had already been resolved under the assistance of the divine king back then. The elder of the Earth Spirit sect would guard the Tian Yuan clan for ten thousand years to make up for it.

However, at this moment, Jian Chen's heart suddenly tingled. He felt an urge and began to peer into certain matters.

Peering into things was an ability that all experts possessed. They would use their comprehension of the ways of the world to peer into a fraction of the heavenly secrets and deeper secrets of the world.

However, as the comprehension of the ways of the world varied from cultivation to cultivation, their ability would vary as well.

Jian Chen's eyes suddenly became as profound as the cosmos as streaks of light from the laws appeared. At that moment, his eyes seemed to become a part of the ways, allowing him to see the secrets of the world.

This process lasted for around eight minutes. In that short amount of time, Jian Chen depleted half of the power of his soul.

Peering into the heavenly secrets, into the past and the future, placed an extremely great burden on the soul. Aside from Grand Primes, no one could keep it up for very long.

“As it turns out, the ancestor of the Earth Spirit sect, Sang Tu, was so easy to negotiate with not because of the divine king but because fairy Hao Yue had paid a visit.” Jian Chen understood some of the hidden details.

However, he did not manage to see fairy Hao Yue. After all, Jian Chen was still unable to peer into any matters regarding her with his current strength. He could only infer from what he saw from the heavenly secrets.

“After I left the Cloud Plane, the Tian Yuan clan faced a great crisis. They were almost destroyed by the ninth prince of the Blood Sun Empire. It was because the Flower of Ways in the Yin Mountains of Sevens Despair belonged to the ninth prince. The reason why the ninth prince was able to trace it back to the Tian Yuan clan involved the ancestor of the Earth Spirit sect, Sang Tu,” Jian Chen murmured softly. His voice was frigid. His sudden urge had shed light onto some unknown secrets.

In the next moment, he flew off to the Earth Spirit sect with Hei Ya as a streak of light.

Very soon, Jian Chen arrived at the Earth Spirit sect. His identity was no longer the same as before, so the Earth Spirit sect received him as the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds did. Sang Tu led all the elders to receive Jian Chen with quite a grand ceremony, welcoming him.

Jian Chen sat in the main seat within the hall of the Earth Spirit sect. He cut right to the chase. He directly stared at Sang Tu and said with a sunken face, “Originally, my grievances with the Earth Spirit sect were resolved. I did not plan on coming to the Earth Spirit sect, but I did in the end. Sang Tu, do you know why?”

“I do not. I hope the patriarch can explain.” Sang Tu clasped his fist as he experienced a multitude of feelings.

Jian Chen was only an Overgod in the past, an ant-like existence that he could easily crush. Yet, in just a few decades, he had become someone so great that he needed to grovel before him.

“In the past, you almost destroyed the Tian Yuan clan. If the emperor of the Xi Empire had not arrived in time, the Tian Yuan clan would no longer exist in the Dong’an province.” Jian Chen stressed every syllable. His voice was chilling. It hid surging killing intent.

Sang Tu’s heart sank from that. He sensed that things were taking a bad turn, but he behaved like he was innocent, acting like he had no idea at all. “No I didn’t. Patriarch, there must have been some misunderstanding.”

“The only way for others to not know what you have done is to not do it in the first place. Sang Tu, did you really think that no one would know as long as you hid it well? It is impossible to keep anything hidden from someone far more powerful than you,” Jian Chen said coldly.

“Patriarch, I don’t understand. If you insist that I once brought a crisis onto the Tian Yuan clan, please show me evidence, or I will never accept it,” Sang Tu said through gritted teeth. In reality, he already understood what Jian Chen was referring to. However, he knew that Jian Chen had no evidence because he had left behind no traces at all. It was impossible to find anything through investigation.

Jian Chen ignored Sang Tu’s objection. He said to himself, “Even though the Daoist Sect of Calm Clouds tried to assassinate me in the past, I only made the people involved cut off an arm of theirs because they

only targeted me. They did not lay their hands on the people around me. However, you almost destroyed the entire Tian Yuan clan. Back then, there were many people in the Tian Yuan clan whose lives I hold even more dearly than my own. However, you almost doomed them all. Sang Tu, what do you think you deserve?”

Before Sang Tu could reply, Jian Chen continued, “The only thing you deserve is death!” With that, Jian Chen charged toward Sang Tu as a streak of light. He was unbelievably fast, to the point where Sang Tu could not respond.

He shot past Sang Tu as a streak of light and stopped at the entrance of the hall, facing everyone with his back.

Sang Tu’s eyes immediately blanked out. They became hollow and dull. At that moment, a thin red line appeared on his forehead. As the line grew longer, his entire head split open right down the middle.

Sang Tu was dead.

Chapter 2530: A Battle at the Apex

All the elders gathered in the hall were left stunned as they stared at Sang Tu whose head had been cut in half. Disbelief filled their faces.

Sang Tu, the ancestor of the Earth Spirit sect, was a mighty Primordial realm expert, yet he had been slain so easily right before them, unable to fight back at all. All of them struggled to accept this.

After all, the strongest among them were only Godkings. Primordial realm experts were supreme existences in their eyes. They were invincible and insurmountable, figures they could only look up to.

However, a Primordial realm expert had just been slain in a single blow right before them. Their invincible impression of Primordial realm experts immediately crumbled.

Very soon, the Godkings returned to their senses. Sorrow filled all of their faces, and tears streaked across some of their faces.

The hall was extremely quiet. Even though the elders were overwhelmed by their feelings, none of them dared to make a sound. None of them dared to object.

They all knew that the fate of the Earth Spirit sect now lay in the hands of the patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan.

As a result, even when their ancestor, their only Primordial realm expert, was slain before them, they dared not make a sound at all.

After killing Sang Tu, Jian Chen did not trouble the elders of the Earth Spirit sect because he did not see any of the elders being involved when he peered into the heavenly secrets.

Afterwards, he exited the hall and shot off into the distance as a streak of light. He departed from the Earth Spirit sect.

Hei Ya stared at the ancestor's corpse with mixed feelings as he felt amazed inside, "A Second Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime could not even withstand a single blow from master. Master's increase in strength is just too terrifying. If this continues, master will reach Chaotic Prime before long."

Hei Ya followed behind Jian Chen and left the Earth Spirit sect while feeling amazed.

However, at this moment, the entire starry space beyond the Cloud Plane suddenly warped. In that instant, the sun stopped shining, and the sea of stars vanished. The Cloud Plane descended into complete darkness.

It was completely pitch-black, with no light at all.

Jian Chen came to a halt outside the Earth Spirit sect. He raised his head to look at the sky, and his expression immediately became extremely stern. Like swords, his eyes shone as two streaks of white light, piercing through space and the darkness to see the depths of the universe.

At the same time, five figures appeared in the Four Symbols Alliance of the southern region. They were also stern as they stared at outer space in shock.

The lord of the Heaven's Link Peak, who originally sat on the top of the mountain, suddenly stood up in the central region. He was also alarmed as he stared at outer space in shock.

In various other locations of the Cloud Plane, all the Primordial realm experts sensed something at that moment and emerged. They hovered in the sky silently as they stared at the sky.

"There are supreme experts fighting. The shockwaves of their battle have interfered with the space beyond the Cloud Plane, causing space to distort. It's blocking out all light..."

"What a terrifying pressure, what a terrifying pulse of energy. T- this truly is devastating..."

...

The powerful Primordial realm experts cried out from various locations on the Cloud Plane. They all paled from shock.

Outside the Earth Spirit sect, Jian Chen was extremely stern as well. He could gradually see that the changes to the Cloud Plane were actually caused by a battle between supreme experts.

"Just the shockwaves of battle have led to such a shocking sight. Just what level of cultivation do these people possess?" Even Jian Chen was shocked. It was on a level far too terrifying and far too distant. It was something that he could not understand given his current knowledge and insight.

At this moment, the space beyond the Cloud Plane suddenly ripped open. A million-kilometre-long crack appeared out of nowhere. It seemed like the sky had cracked open, creating a shocking and terrifying sight.

Extremely resplendent light shone within the crack. The power of laws revolved around it, making it seemingly resonate and fuse with the world.

The ball of light came from a person. It was thousands of times more radiant than the sun, so just his existence alone illuminated the entire Cloud Plane.

Suddenly, the figure extended a huge hand towards the Cloud Plane. The hand was condensed from the power of laws as the inscriptions of the ways flickered. It seemed to extend without end, falling towards where the Pingtian Empire stood.

Jian Chen's face immediately changed drastically. How could he not understand that the person was targeting the Pingtian Empire?

"Don't you dare!"

At this moment, a woman's voice rang out from the spatial crack. Although the voice was cold, it was pleasant. The sound waves were countless times more terrifying than the thunder in heaven, causing the dark space to ripple.

Another ball of light appeared in the huge crack. It was also extremely resplendent, thousands of times brighter than the sun. It was the light of ways.

She struck out firmly. With a wave of her hand, a stream of light that seemed like a galaxy collapsed the hand that reached towards the Cloud Plane.

However, the figure who targeted the Cloud Plane did not give up. He extended towards the Pingtian Empire below, and immediately, the space there actually froze up at an unbelievable rate.

"You're looking to die! The Ways are in Heaven..."

"And I stand in the World..."

"For I am the Heavenly Ways..."

The woman bellowed out, and immediately, a mysterious, terrifying power suddenly appeared, enveloping the supreme expert before her.

Immediately, the space there was reduced to chaos. Only a terrifyingly powerful pressure appeared. No one knew what was happening there.

When everything cleared up again, the light around the supreme expert who first appeared from the spatial crack dimmed. The power of ways around him thinned out, revealing his appearance.

"It's the Heaven-splitting Ancestor!"

The lord of the Heaven's Link Peak cried out from the central region.

Above the Cloud Plane, one of the two supreme experts was the ancestor of the Heaven-splitting clan, an existence who stood at the apex of the Saints' World, someone only second to Grand Exalts.

However, at this moment, his face was extremely pale—sheet-white, as a matter of fact. He seemed to have aged as blood oozed from the corner of his mouth.

He was already heavily injured.

"The Authority of the Grand Exalt is indeed very powerful, but it's still not enough to kill me!" The Heaven-splitting Ancestor said calmly and relaxedly. Even though he was badly wounded, he did not

care at all. Afterwards, he fused with the space there, combining with the ways of the world before shooting off in an instant. He vanished from the space there.

The shining woman behind him vanished as well. She pursued him relentlessly.

With their departure, the abnormalities of the Cloud Plane gradually vanished, and the sky slowly cleared up.

However, Jian Chen was heavy-hearted. He said nothing. He did not even think about the battle that occurred beyond the Cloud Plane. He made his way back to the Pingtian Empire as quickly as he could.

Very soon, he returned. He only became relieved when he learnt that everyone was fine.

He clearly saw that the hand had fallen towards the Dong'an province. Fortunately, it had been stopped.

"It was the battle between the first majesty and the Heaven-splitting Ancestor."

Very soon, Jian Chen met up with Ming Dong, and he finally learnt the true identities of the two supreme experts.

"Who knows what's going on with the first majesty, suddenly coming into conflict with the Heaven-splitting Ancestor as if they have deep grievances. She has already chased the Heaven-splitting Ancestor around for decades now." Ming Xie sighed gently as he felt extremely troubled.

"I can tell that the Heaven-splitting Ancestor is already heavily injured. His protective light has been dispersed. He shouldn't be able to last much longer," Jian Chen said. He had no good impression of the Heaven-splitting Ancestor. No matter why the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng was hunting him down, he was naturally happy to see the Heaven-splitting Ancestor suffer.

"It's not as simple as you imagine it to be. It seems like the first majesty is definitely much more powerful than the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, but they are at the same level of cultivation after all. As a result, defeating the Heaven-splitting Ancestor is easy, but killing him will be extremely difficult."

"Unless the Heaven-splitting Ancestor stays behind for a battle to the death, it's basically impossible to kill him as long as he insists on running," said Ming Xie.