

Chaotic 2581

Chapter 2581: Instantaneous Comprehension

As soon as Jian Chen struck out, he shone resplendently. He emitted streaks of light that outshone the scorching sun in the sky, making the world pale in comparison. It was an extremely astonishing sight.

Swish!

The streak of light moved extremely quickly, arriving before Mu Lin in an instant. It was even faster than lightning.

“Perfect! I want to settle everything from the past with this battle!” Mu Lin called out. He did not cover either. Surging energy erupted from his body, causing the space there to tremble. A sword also appeared in his hand, and he swung it. Nine dazzling stars immediately condensed, giving off the might of the world. They seemed to contain the power of the ways.

“Apparition of the Nine Stars!” As Mu Lin pointed out with his sword, the nine resplendent stars shot through the air, charging towards Jian Chen in a single row.

This time, Mu Lin used his full strength right from the start. He directly used a God Tier Battle Skill. He dared not be as careless as before.

Jian Chen unleashed the full power of the Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways in his hands and also conjured nine illusionary stars. They received the first incoming star and collided together, immediately erupting with a deafening boom.

The star was cut to pieces by Jian Chen’s attack. However, the star came from a God Tier Battle Skill after all. It was already enough to threaten Chaotic Primes to a certain degree since a Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime was using it.

As a result, as soon as he cut the first star into pieces, Jian Chen’s entire right arm grew numb. If it were not for his tough Chaotic Body, his entire right arm probably would have been shaken to pieces.

Jian Chen was indifferent. Chaotic Force surged through his body as he completely unleashed the great defence of the Chaotic Body. He struck out nine times with lightning speed, using the full power of the sword each time. He destroyed Mu Lin’s God Tier Battle Skills as the star were extinguished.

With nine deafening rumbles, terrifying energy exploded in the air. Sword Qi scattered out in all directions, punching bottomless holes in the ground below. Meanwhile, space was ripped wide open.

Jian Chen drifted backwards in the violent energy. The storm of energy was simply too violent. Even Mu Ling struggled to remain stable, so he was sent backwards by it as well.

“Starfall!” Along the way, Mu Ling used another God Tier Battle Skill. This God Tier Battle Skill also came from the Star Brilliance Mountain, and it was created by the Nine Brilliance Star Lord.

As soon as he used the battle skill, Mu Lin felt like he had established an obscure connection with an unknown space. Afterwards, a crack several dozen metres in length suddenly appeared in the space above his head. A star, shining with hazy starlight, flew out.

The star was not big, only several dozen metres across. It would not raise any attention at all in a sea of stars, but it did hide a terrifying energy.

Immediately, a terrifying pressure appeared. The appearance of the star seemed to affect the space there, making him heavier and denser.

The star was not condensed from energy. Instead, it was a true star, a star with extraordinary power.

At the same time, half a sword suddenly appeared from behind Mu Lin, stabbing towards the back of his head silently.

However, Mu Lin had already prepared himself for Jian Chen's Laws of Space. He was completely covered in a god artifact armor. His defences were basically airtight.

The Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways stabbed his armor, but it only left behind a shallow mark. It failed to injure Mu Lin at all.

Mu Lin's battle prowess was indeed much greater than the Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime from the Four Symbols Alliance that Jian Chen had killed.

After all, he came from the Star Brilliance Plane. Both his cultivation method and battle skills could not be compared to those possessed by regular Primordial realm experts.

"Hmph. Jian Chen, my defeat at your hands last time was only because of my carelessness. I'll like to see how you defeat me this time. You even boasted that you'll kill me. You overestimate yourself." Mu Lin snorted coldly. He formed a mental connection with the star he had summoned, making it lock onto Jian Chen's presence firmly. He surged with killing intent.

As he looked at the star that had appeared from the spatial crack and sensed the pressure from the space in his surroundings, there was a flash through Jian Chen's head. He immediately understood something.

The God Tier Battle Skill, Starfall, was created by the Nine Brilliance Star Lord and contained the truths of the ways of the world. Even though the truths came from a completely different path of cultivation from the laws that Jian Chen comprehended, it became a sort of stimulation in that moment, stimulating Jian Chen's way and allowing him to achieve a sudden comprehension.

Abruptly, Jian Chen lifted up his sword and swung it at the star gently.

The swing abided to the trajectory of ways. Additionally, it contained a mysterious power. When he slashed out, the Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways in his hand completely vanished as if it had fused with the surroundings.

Crack!

Silently, the star that fell from the sky was directly split into two down the middle. The tremendous energy inside immediately leaked away, and with a boom, it exploded and collapsed space.

"I- i- impossible!" Mu Lin stared at the star in complete disbelief.

Starfall was different from other God Tier Battle Skills. It was more like a special secret technique than a God Tier Battle Skill, as it was created by the Nine Brilliance Star Lord. Every single star had been forged by the Nine Brilliance Star Lord before being subsequently imbued with his great might. Even though Mu Lin was unable to summon the most powerful star with his cultivation as a Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime, he was able to threaten some weaker Chaotic Primes.

As a result, Mu Lin believed that even if he could not kill Jian Chen with a single strike, Jian Chen would have to pay a certain price at the very least to fend off the attack.

But in the end, Jian Chen easily dealt with his Starfall, and he even seemed to do it effortlessly. Mu Lin struggled to accept that.

It basically meant that Jian Chen's strike was close to matching up to the attacks of Chaotic Primes.

Jian Chen did not strike out again after destroying Mu Lin's Starfall in a single move. He remained where he was in a trance as if he was daydreaming.

His mind remained fixed on the move earlier. The feeling, comprehension, and usage of the Laws of Space and the Laws of the Sword allowed him to enter a wondrous state.

Mu Lin was uneasy. He had been startled by Jian Chen's strike earlier. As he stared at Jian Chen, he suddenly felt something unfathomable for some reason. Making up his mind, he no longer tried to fight anymore. He turned around and fled towards the Four Symbols Alliance.

"Space can actually be combined with the sword in such a manner," Jian Chen murmured. His eyes became extremely bright. He stared at Mu Lin as he fled and slowly raised the Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways. He simply swung it gently towards Mu Lin from far away.

The swing contained the truths of the Laws of the Sword and the Laws of Space. It also seemed to follow the trajectory of ways, fusing with the ways and the world.

When he slashed out, the sword immediately vanished as if it had truly fused with space.

Several hundred kilometres away, Mu Lin immediately felt his hairs stand on end. A bone-chilling coldness ran down from the top of his head to the bottom of his spine.

Chapter 2582: The Shadowless Lifetaking Strike

Mu Lin was frightened. Who knows how long it had been since he experienced such an intense feeling of danger. Most importantly, this sense of danger came from all directions, so he felt like he could not dodge it.

Mu Lin surged with energy as the low quality god artifact armor on his body emitted dazzling light as he pushed its defences to the limit.

However, in the next moment, intense pain suddenly appeared. It immediately made Mu Lin's face pale.

He subconsciously lowered his head to take a look, and immediately, he was frightened out of his wits.

His body had actually been cut in half along the waist. Even his god artifact had been cut into two.

Against the attack of unknown origins, even the low quality god artifact was unable to do anything. It had been cut in half like a piece of paper.

Now, only Mu Lin's top half hovered in the air. His legs and everything else fell down with the other half of the god artifact.

"Who is it? Who launched a sneak attack against me?" Mu Lin called out in fright. He had been utterly frightened by this strange attack. Even though he had realised that it was from Jian Chen, he refused to believe it. He would rather believe that a Chaotic Prime had launched a sneak attack against him.

"So powerful!" In the distance, Jian Chen was stunned as well. He stared at Mu Lin's two halves as he felt great shock.

"I managed to comprehend such a powerful technique from that moment alone. However, it's only one move. I'll call this move the Shadowless Lifetaking Strike," Jian Chen murmured. Even he himself was uncertain whether the technique he comprehended was a God Tier Battle Skill or a secret technique.

Jian Chen arrived before Mu Lin silently with the Laws of Space. He looked at the frightened Mu Lin calmly, but his eyes were shining with killing intent.

Mu Lin was finally overcome with fear when he sensed Jian Chen's killing intent, but he tried putting on a strong front and said, "Jian Chen, I admit that I've underestimated you, but so what if you've defeated me? I come from the Star Brilliance Plane. I belong to the organisation under the Nine Brilliance Star Lord. Are you bold enough to kill me?"

"Why wouldn't I?" Jian Chen snorted coldly. He slowly raised his Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways and killing intent surged from him. He seemed to have made up his mind, making him fearless in his actions.

Jian Chen's battle prowess had multiplied after comprehending the Shadowless Lifetaking Strike. Mu Lin's destroyed god artifact was now as fragile as paper in Jian Chen's eyes.

"D- don't you dare!" Mu Lin tried acting tough. Jian Chen's ice-cold killing intent left him truly afraid.

Although he was a Primordial realm expert, he struggled to maintain his usual composure in the face of death.

"Patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan, please stay your hand. He belongs to the Nine Brilliance Star Lord after all. A slight punishment is enough. If you really kill him, it'll be troublesome." At this moment, an old voice rang out in Jian Chen's head.

The moment that the voice rang out, Jian Chen immediately felt a powerful and mysterious power influence the space around him. As if space had been locked down, he felt like he had fallen into mud, and all his actions consequently became sluggish.

The mysterious power was far, far greater than Jian Chen's level. They could not be compared with one another. Even with Jian Chen's Laws of Space, he was unable to do anything about his sluggishness.

"Who are you?" Jian Chen's face sank, and he asked sternly.

"I am the Gentle Breeze Ancestor, one of the five ancestors of the Four Symbols Alliance. Patriarch of the Tian Yuan clan, I hope that you can do it for the sake of me and spare him," said the Gentle Breeze Ancestor.

"Hmph, the Four Symbols Alliance? I still haven't gotten around to you, yet you still have the audacity to plead for mercy? I am definitely killing this person today. If your Four Symbols Alliance dares to interfere, I'll go to your headquarters to kill him," Jian Chen snorted coldly. He was extremely determined, leaving no room for negotiation.

At the same time, there was a flash beside Jian Chen, and Xu Ran arrived from the Tian Yuan clan. Her face was slightly cold. With a wave of her hand, the invisible restraint around Jian Chen immediately vanished.

"Sigh..." A long sigh rang out in the sky. The senses of the Gentle Breeze Ancestor's soul had departed. Even though saving Mu Lin would be a piece of cake for him, he did not choose to do so in the end.

He had a lot of worries. He did not hope to offend the Tian Yuan clan and end up provoking the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng before the Four Symbols Alliance had truly managed to ally themselves with the young star lord.

Spurt!

Jian Chen struck out without a second thought. His sword shone with starlight as he directly slashed out. Under Mu Lin's fearful gaze of disbelief, he beheaded him. Sharp sword Qi directly tore his soul to shreds, killing him off.

"Mu Lin is dead."

The moment Mu Lin died, a heavy voice rang out from a majestic divine hall from the Star Brilliance Mountain on the distant Star Brilliance Plane.

The renowned Nine Brilliance Star Lord sat on a throne on the highest floor of the divine hall. His deep eyes flickered with starlight as he stared off into the distance in a daze.

It was as if his gaze had pierced through the endless sea of stars, allowing him to see the distant Cloud Plane.

"Everything is going according to plan. Tian Yao, I hope you don't disappoint me," the Nine Brilliance Star Lord said sternly. At that moment, a smear of coldness suddenly appeared in his eyes.

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After killing Mu Lin, Jian Chen returned to the Tian Yuan clan with Mu Lin's corpse. He placed his head before Tian Shuang.

Tian Shuang felt a multitude of emotions as she looked at the bloody head and Jian Chen's clothes that were messed up from the battle. She could not help but think about how the Godsfallen clan had annulled the marriage proposal with the Xuandao Empire, which made her sigh emotionally.

Only a while ago, Jian Chen was a puny Overgod, someone tiny who did not raise much of her attention at all. But now, he possessed such great strength. Jian Chen had personally slain a Ninth Heavenly Layer

Infinite Prime that the Xuandao Empire could do nothing amount in such a short time. Tian Shuang was thrown into emotional turmoil as a result.

“Senior Tian Shuang, princess Xing’er and princess Lan’er are in this divine hall.” Jian Chen took out the divine hall from Mu Lin and directly passed it to Tian Shuang.

This divine hall was a low quality god artifact. The artifact spirit had already yielded to Jian Chen in fear. It now sat in Jian Chen’s hand as the size of a fist.

“Thank you, thank you.” Tian Shuang felt mixed emotions as she constantly thanked him. She accepted the divine hall from Jian Chen and said in a rather self-deprecating manner, “How can you call me senior now? Jian Chen, you better call me by just my name.”

“That... works,” Jian Chen agreed after a slight hesitation. When he met Tian Shuang for the first time, she was a supreme Primordial realm expert in his eyes. He was supposed to call her senior back then.

However, the title of senior did not come with age. Instead, it came with strength. With his current strength, there was truly no need for him to refer to Tian Shuang as his senior any longer.

Of course, the people he respected were exceptions.

“Jian Chen, this person hails from such a great background. Will his death lead to problems for your Tian Yuan clan?” Tian Shuang asked with slight worry.

Chapter 2583: Internal Fragmentation

“Don’t worry. Our Tian Yuan clan has already fallen out with them. There will be a great battle sooner or later,” Jian Chen shrugged and said without minding it so that Tian Shuang would stop worrying.

Tian Shuang had already taken the divine hall from Jian Chen. She released Xing’er and Lan’er, who had been trapped within the divine hall.

After so many years, the two princesses became even more beautiful. Not only did the two of them possess the unique physique of the Heavenly Yin Body and the Innate Body of Ways, but their beauty was also enough to outshine the moon. They also possessed a noble bearing due to how they were raised. It was enough to entice people into wanting to dominate them.

But now, both of them were pale. Despair, sorrow, and fury filled their eyes.

They had been abducted by Mu Lin. They had watched the two ancestors of the Xuandao Empire die, as well as their father being buried under the rubble with heavy wounds. All of this had been firmly embedded in their heads. They struggled to accept this as they had never encountered anything like this before.

Xing’er and Lan’er turned around with rather hollow eyes as soon as they emerged from the divine hall. They immediately saw Tian Shang standing beside them, and a sliver of colour finally appeared in their dim eyes.

“Ancestor!” Xing’er and Lan’er both sobbed sorrowfully. They clung onto her arms as tears rolled down their cheeks. Their bodies trembled gently.

“Xing’er, Lan’er, don’t be scared. You’re safe now. Jian Chen saved you.” Tian Shuang looked at the two of them rather tenderly. She said gently, “Xing’er, Lan’er, why don’t you thank young master Jian Chen?”

With that, Xing’er and Lan’er raised their heads and looked around. They saw the bloody head nearby with a single glance and hatred immediately filled their eyes.

Afterwards, they looked at Jian Chen and thanked him. They were in grief.

“Ancestor, who is this person? What grievances does our Xuandao Empire have with him? Why has he come to destroy our Xuandao Empire?” Xing’er stared at Mu Lin’s head in hatred as she grinded her teeth.

“He doesn’t have any grievances with your Xuandao Empire at all. I’m guessing he only attacked you because you belong to the Righteous Alliance,” Jian Chen answered Xing’er’s question.

Jian Chen knew extremely well that Mu Lin had come for their unique physiques. Destroying the Xuandao Empire was probably secondary. However, in order to spare the two princesses from the psychological burden, he made the Righteous Alliance the reason.

Otherwise, if the two princesses learnt that they were the reason for the crisis of the Xuandao Empire, they would probably never forgive themselves. They would dwell in pain and self-blame.

“As long as I exist, the Xuandao Empire will not be destroyed. What happened this time is only a test in the Xuandao Empire’s path to becoming powerful. Xing’er, Lan’er, stay in the Tian Yuan clan for now. I’ll return to the Xuandao Empire and check on the situation there,” said Tian Shuang. She had completely calmed down now, recovering her demeanour of an ancestor of the Xuandao Empire.

With that, she left the Tian Yuan clan alone, returning to the Xuandao Empire with her Disc of Heavenly Ways.

At the same time, the five ancestors of the Four Symbols Alliance gathered together in the headquarters.

“Mu Lin is dead. We can’t keep this a secret. He’s the only bodyguard that has come from the Star Brilliance Plane with the young star lord. His death will probably upset the young star lord. Gentle Breeze, you clearly could have saved Mu Lin but you didn’t. Was that really the right decision?” asked Gong Ji of the five ancestors. There was clearly some doubt in her voice.

“If we don’t interfere, we can remain uninvolved, but once we do, we’ll really be a part of it all. The young star lord seems to be on our side for now, but we haven’t really managed to ally ourselves with the Star Brilliance Mountain yet. As a result, we can’t interfere at all. Once we offend Jian Chen, that’ll be equivalent to offending the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng,” said the Gentle Breeze Ancestor with a lot of worry.

“Gentle Breeze, you’re far too cowardly. Have you ever considered that if we keep doing things half-heartedly and remain unwilling to truly assist the young star lord, he’ll be repulsed by us and leave us in the end? I know you’re thinking for the alliance. You both want to ally us with the young star lord while not offending the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng. However, if you don’t pay a certain price, how will you ever get anything in return?” said Wu Lu of the five ancestors firmly. He clearly disagreed with the Gentle Breeze Ancestor’s thoughts.

“Gentle Breeze, I originally thought of the same thing as you, thinking that we should just try rope in the young star lord and avoid offending the Tian Yuan clan and Heavenly Palace of Bisheng. However, with the developments so far, I’ve gradually understood something. How can things be so perfect in this world? I think it’s time for us to make our decision about this whole matter. If we keep acting half-heartedly, we’ll only lose out on everything and end up suffering instead,” Gong Ji said sternly. She agreed with Wu Lu on this.

Today, the first disagreement between the ancestors of the Four Symbols Alliance happened since the founding of the alliance. In the end, they ended their meeting in disagreement.

“What? Mu Lin is dead? He was personally slain by Jian Chen?” Before long, the young star lord received the news of Mu Lin’s death in a luxurious residence within the Four Symbols Alliance. He immediately flew into a rage.

“Alright. Alright. Alright. Jian Chen, I swear I will never spare you for killing a person that belongs to me. I will never return to the Star Brilliance Plane until you are dead.” The young star lord grinded his teeth as his face darkened from anger.

At that moment, his killing intent and resentment towards Jian Chen had reached the maximum.

Ever since he was born, he had never resented or hated someone so much.

“Young star lord, if you plan on dealing with the Tian Yuan clan, I can assist you.” At this moment, a voice rang out. An old woman with peppered hair walked in gradually.

She was one of the five ancestors of the Four Symbols Alliance, Gong Ji.

“And me!” Behind her, Wu Lu appeared as well.

Two of the five ancestors had come to the young star lord’s residence together. They kept their presences concealed and seemed just like mortals.

Chapter 2584: A Letter

“You’re willing to take action?” The young star lord did not lighten up from that at all. Instead, he frowned.

He already knew that the Four Symbols Alliance had always been half-hearted about dealing with the Tian Yuan clan, so he never really liked the ancestors of the Four Symbols Alliance. As a matter of fact, he was slightly repulsed by them.

Gong Ji and Wu Lu arrived before the young star lord. They presented themselves in an extremely ordinary manner, without putting on any airs at all.

“Gentle Breeze is too fearful with whatever he does. He worries that our participation will lead to a war with the Righteous Alliance, but I think that with the young star lord, they won’t have the courage to take such action,” said Gong Ji.

“You can’t blame Gentle Breeze for this. Gentle Breeze is considering the bigger picture. After all, our Four Symbols Alliance isn’t the opponent of the Righteous Alliance right now,” Wu Lu spoke for Gentle

Breeze. Although there were disagreements between the five of them about the Tian Yuan clan, they were still allied with one another.

At the same time, the Gentle Breeze Ancestor did possess quite some prestige in the Four Symbols Alliance.

“Young star lord, you know that the Tian Yuan clan is backed by the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, right? The Heavenly Palace of Bisheng is far more powerful than anything our Four Symbols Alliance can deal with. We can destroy the Tian Yuan clan for you, but you must help us deal with the threat of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng first,” Wu Lu continued. As if he could sense that the young star lord was repulsed by the Four Symbols Alliance, he directly laid everything out on the table.

“That’s right. If there wasn’t the threat of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng and the Righteous Alliance, we could easily destroy the measly Tian Yuan clan,” Gong Ji said coldly. It was as if she did not take the Tian Yuan clan seriously at all.

“Alright. If that’s the case, I’ll promise to protect you in the future. If the people from the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng come to make trouble, I will stand forward personally. Hmph, the current Heavenly Palace of Bisheng depends on the first majesty alone. Do they really think they’re the same as in the past? Moreover, the first majesty has grievances with the Heaven-splitting Ancestor. If the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng falls out with our Star Brilliance Mountain as well at a time like this, they would just be looking to be destroyed,” the young star lord said coldly.

“There’s even less reason for you to worry about the Righteous Alliance. Once my training ends, I can call on the experts of the Star Brilliance Plane at any time to destroy them.” The young star lord was extremely arrogant.

However, he indeed possessed the ability to do so. The Nine Brilliance Star Lord was the supreme ruler on the Star Brilliance Plane. Although the Star Brilliance Plane was not exactly under his complete control, there was almost no difference from that. As the only child of the Nine Brilliance Star Lord, the young star lord possessed influence that could not be underestimated.

“We don’t have to worry since the young star lord has said that.” As if Gong Ji and Wu Lu had finally been liberated from the burden of worry, they could not help but smile at ease.

In reality, basically no one who possessed a cultivation like theirs would want to rely on others. However, the threat from the Righteous Alliance forced their Four Symbols Alliance to find someone to depend on.

Otherwise, even if they did not offend the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, they would still meet their end when the lord of the Heaven’s Link Peak made a breakthrough in cultivation.

“Come with me tomorrow morning to destroy the Tian Yuan clan. I want Shangguan Mu’er alive so that she can serve me obediently. As for Jian Chen, I want to cut him to pieces personally.” The young star lord smiled evilly.

“We will support the young star lord. We need to destroy the Tian Yuan clan quickly, just in case the Righteous Alliance sends reinforcements,” said Gong Ji.

“Young star lord, someone has sent a letter. It’s specially directed to the young star lord,” a guard reported from outside. Afterwards, he walked in politely with an envelope in his hand.

“Hold on! Be careful!” Gong Ji and Wu Lu changed in expression. Before the young star lord could accept the envelope, they reached out and the envelope flew over, restrained by powerful energy. They said sternly, “There’s almost no people who know the young star lord’s identity. How does the person who sent the letter know of this? And he even knows the young star lord is in our Four Symbols Alliance. We have to be careful.”

“Hmph, you’re all cowards. Who dares to harm me in the Saints’ World?” The young star lord said extremely confidently.

“There aren’t any lingering traces of presences. Who sent the letter?” Gong Ji and Wu Lu thought. They carefully inspected the envelope. After confirming there was nothing wrong with it, they could only hand it to the young star lord.

The envelope held a letter written on a beast’s hide. The young star lord opened the envelope and took out the beast’s hide.

The beast’s hide was as thin as paper and extremely tough. However, it was completely blank, without any words at all.

“An imprint of consciousness!” The young star lord murmured. He had great insight, so he could tell with a single glance that the beast’s hide possessed an imprint of consciousness.

An imprint of consciousness was like a medium. As long someone that the owner of the imprint recognised made contact with the imprint of consciousness with the senses of their soul, they would be able to undergo a conversation from a great distance away.

However, if it were someone who was not recognised, nothing would happen.

The young star lord was interested. He expanded the senses of his soul without any hesitation, making contact with the imprint of consciousness on the beast’s hide.

“Can you tell who left behind this imprint of consciousness? Is it someone we know?” Wu Lu asked Gong Ji secretly.

“The person who left it behind purposefully concealed their identity. It’s difficult to tell.” Gong Ji shook her head gently. The light in her eyes flickered with uncertainty.

Very soon, the young star lord opened his eyes. He smiled mysteriously and murmured, “I never thought it would be like this. Interesting, quite interesting.”

“Young star lord, may I ask who left this imprint of consciousness?” Gong Ji asked.

“You all know this person. His name is Luo Mantian,” said the young star lord.

“What? Luo Mantian?” Gong Ji and Wu Lu were shocked.

However, soon afterwards, their hearts sank. They became rather worried.

Luo Mantian had actually made contact with the young star lord. Did the Righteous Alliance plan on roping in the young star lord as well?

This was bad news to them.

They knew extremely well that the connection between the Tian Yuan clan and the Righteous Alliance was not actually very deep. The only reason they had said all that was to prevent the young star lord from going to the Righteous Alliance and leaving them.

“The situation has changed. We can’t destroy the Tian Yuan clan so soon. We need to pressure them slowly and force out the people from the Righteous Alliance.” The young star lord smiled slyly as if victory was within his grasp.

Chapter 2585: The Argument Between the Protectors

Looking at how confident the young star lord was, Wu Lu and Gong Ji looked at each other as their brows furrowed. They had already guessed something.

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On the distant Desolate Plane, many people still had not forgotten Jian Chen’s name even after so many years; this was despite the fact that the mess Jian Chen created back then had already settled down. It was just that very few people mentioned it.

Only the huge, gaping hole on the plane indicated just how great of a disturbance Jian Chen had caused in the past.

The huge hole was naturally created from the astonishing strike from the eight experts deep underground.

However, the hole seemed much smaller compared to the past.

Cultivators from various large organisations were slowly filling it in. It would return to its previous state before long.

The Celestial Sword Saint remained in the Sword God Mountains, ignoring the affairs happening around him. He held an extremely great status, firmly holding the position as the greatest expert of the Desolate Plane. Meanwhile, open and concealed struggles continued between the organisations on the plane. The Desolate Plane did not seem any different from before Jian Chen had come.

Of course, that was only on the surface. Intelligent people could clearly sense that the situation on the entire Desolate Plane had undergone an overwhelming change.

This was because the Radiant Saint Hall that was only average among all the peak organisations on the Desolate Plane before was now showing signs of being able to conquer the entire plane.

This was all because the Radiant Saint Hall possessed a few protector swords.

At this moment, one of the wielders of the protector swords, Han Xin, sat atop the Soaring Clouds Peak. He faced the cliff as he stared at the sea of clouds in a daze.

Behind Han Xin was a scholarly, middle-aged man. He possessed a striking appearance and was an Infinite Prime. He possessed the bearing of someone who held power, making him awe-inspiring.

However, at this moment, his face was filled with smiles. He seemed rather restrained as he stood behind Han Xin. He said some things carefully, and he sounded rather awkward.

“Han Xin, I know you have great prejudice towards the clan, but no matter what, the blood of the Han family flows through your veins...”

“The two ancestors in the clan talk about you daily. They say that you’re the greatest pride of our Han family, and all the important members of the clan take pride in you...”

“Han Xin, whether it be the two ancestors or the young children in the clan, they all think about you everyday. Do you think you... you can make some time and go back to have a look?”

...

The scholarly, middle-aged man was the patriarch of the Han family. He held an extremely great status in the Han family, but now, he seemed very careful before Han Xin. He even spoke gently, kind of like he was fawning over Han Xin. It was as if he was afraid of displeasing him.

Han Xin sat on the edge of the cliff silently. He stared at the clouds in a daze and did not move at all. He only sighed inside and thought, “If I hadn’t obtained a protector sword, I wonder what I’ll be like right now.” Han Xin looked down at the foot of the Soaring Clouds Peak. Many peak lords had gathered there along with two elders.

These people had come to visit him. They waited patiently at the foot of the mountain. Without his permission, even the two elders dared not set foot on the Soaring Clouds Peak.

Dong!

At this moment, a long, bell rang out from the sacred hall that stood above the clouds, resounding through the entire Radiant Saint Hall.

This was a signal to summon the entire upper echelon of the Radiant Saint Hall.

“Sir!” A white figure flew out from a cave on the mountain, quickly arriving before Han Xin.

She was Bai Yu. She wore the white robes that represented Radiant Saint Masters and stood gracefully. She possessed an otherworldly bearing and a terrifying power seemed to be hidden within her, as if it were hibernating.

That was the power from the protector sword that ranked fourth, Cliffgrinder’s Sword!

“It’s junior Bai Yu. Junior Bai Yu has become even prettier since the last time I saw you.” The patriarch of the Han family smiled as he greeted Bai Yu politely.

Bai Yu furrowed her brows and subconsciously took a step away from the patriarch of the Han family, as if being called junior Bai Yu left her extremely uncomfortable.

“Bai Yu, let’s go.” Han Xin stood up. He ignored the patriarch of the Han family and called Bai Yu, taking to the air with her and heading directly to the sacred hall.

As wielders of protector swords, Bai Yu and Han Xin possessed extremely great statuses in the Radiant Saint Hall. They could enter the sacred hall and Tower of Radiance freely. Even the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall had no right to control the protectors.

However, they had already grown accustomed to living on the Soaring Clouds Peak, so even after they became protectors, the two of them continued to stay on the Soaring Clouds Peak. They rarely ventured into the sacred hall.

At the same time, the two elders waiting at the foot of the mountain flew towards the sacred hall as well.

Before long, the sacred hall was filled with people. The leader of the Radiant Saint Hall, Yu Chen, the eight vice-leaders, the wielders of the protector swords, Han Xin, Bai Yu, Xuan Ming, Donglin Yanxue, and Gongsun Zhi, along with all the elders were gathered there now.

“Gongsun Zhi, what’s the important matter for gathering us all here by ringing the sacred bell?” Yu Chen sat at the very front and asked Gongsun Zhi.

Gongsun Zhi stood with his hands behind his back. He looked around and glanced past the eight vice-leaders and all the elders. He said, “I’ve already found Jian Chen’s whereabouts. He’s currently hiding in a place called the Tian Yuan clan in the southern region of the Cloud Plane. That little thief used the name of Chang Yang to infiltrate our Radiant Saint Hall and stole our greatest legacy, the Method of the Exalted Saint. It’s time for us to take back the cultivation method now.”

“Hmph, quit spewing lies, Gongsun Zhi. My senior brother is no thief. He changed his name and hid in our Radiant Saint Hall because he had the Anatta Tower on him. He was hunted down by all the experts of the Saints’ World. And as for the Method of the Exalted Saint, why don’t you think about it was exactly him who received it, not anyone else? It clearly means that the Method of the Exalted Saint is supposed to go to my senior brother,” Bai Yu retorted firmly as soon as Gongsun Zhi finished speaking, showing no respect towards him.

They were both protectors, so they could not harm each other at all, as the protector swords forbid it. As a result, the protectors did not fear one another.

“It goes without saying just how wondrous a Grand Exalt’s legacy is. There has only ever been someone who is chosen by a supreme legacy like this. There has never been an example where someone steals it, unless they’re exceptional peak experts. Jian Chen is clearly not the latter, so I agree with junior Bai Yu. The legacy chose Jian Chen. He did not steal it,” said Donglin Yanxue, disagreeing with Gongsun Zhi as well.

Chapter 2586: Challenging the Leader

Gongsun Zhi snorted coldly. He looked at Bai Yu and Donglin Yanxue in fury and said, “The legacy came from my ancestor. Even if it’s supposed to go to someone, it’s supposed to go to a descendant. Jian Chen is an outsider and a member of the Martial Soul lineage. What right does he have to obtaining the legacy?”

“Moreover, my ancestor’s legacy had already chosen me in the Tower of Radiance. It was Jian Chen who forcefully stole it. He stole the Method of the Exalted Saint from the legacy, or the cultivation method would have been mine already.”

Gongsun Zhi looked at the several dozen elders present and asked, “Tell me, is Jian Chen a thief or not?”

“Isn’t that obvious? Everything has been laid out on the table. Jian Chen is obviously a thief,” an elder said as soon as Gongsun Zhi asked the question.

“Most importantly, Jian Chen is a member of the Martial Soul lineage. The supreme cultivation method of our Radiant Saint Hall cannot end up in the hands of the Martial Soul lineage...”

“We need to retrieve the Grand Exalt’s cultivation method...”

The elders asserted from below. At least half of them spoke out and opposed Jian Chen.

Gongsun Zhi could not help but smile complacently when he saw so many people stand on his side.

Ever since he gained a protector sword, ever since he learnt that he was the descendant of a Grand Exalt, his wild ambitions had swelled. Han Xin and Bai Yu had spent the past few years cultivating, whereas he had moved around in the sacred hall, using his special identity as a protector to begin developing his own faction. Now, roughly half of the elders in the Radiant Saint Hall stood on his side.

As a result, some elders immediately supported him when he expressed his opinion.

Bai Yu and Donglin Yanxue’s faces darkened in anger when they saw so many elders voice their opinions against Jian Chen, but they could do nothing about it.

After all, these elders were their seniors. They possessed great authority in the Radiant Saint Hall and were respected. Against so many elders, they too felt powerless.

The leader of the Radiant Saint Hall, Yu Chen, watched on calmly. He said nothing. He did not voice his opinion regarding this matter.

“Cough, cough.”

With the gentle coughs, the noisy hall immediately fell quiet.

One of the vice-leaders seated there stood up and said, “Since we already know Jian Chen’s whereabouts, I think we should take back the Method of the Exalted Saint as soon as possible.” With that, the vice-leader clasped his fist towards Yu Chen and asked, “I wonder what the leader thinks.”

Immediately, all the people in the hall looked towards the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall. Whether the Radiant Saint Hall would attack Jian Chen and take back the Method of the Exalted Saint would be completely up to the leader.

After all, the leader was the person who held the greatest authority in the Radiant Saint Hall. He was the final decision maker. Even the wielders of the protector swords could not match up to him in terms of that.

Yu Chen remained calm. He showed no particular emotions at all. He glanced at Gongsun Zhi deeply before scanning past Bai Yu, Donglin Yanxue, Han Xin, Xuan Ming, and Xuan Zhan. He said, "What do you think? You better speak your minds as well. After all, you are protectors of the Radiant Saint Hall."

With that, Donglin Yanxue and Bai Yu immediately began to retaliate.

"It doesn't matter whether he's Chang Yang or Jian Chen. He was my student in the past after all, my proudest student. If you plan on targeting him, I will never agree to it," Han Xin expressed his personal opinion.

Three of the six protectors had already spoken that they opposed doing anything to Jian Chen.

Gongsun Zhi snorted coldly. He glanced past Han Xin, Bai Yu, and Donglin Yanxue coldly before folding his arms and looking to another side. He was not surprised by this. He already utterly resented the three of them.

The vice-leaders and the elders of the Radiant Saint Hall and looked towards the father and son pair, Xuan Zhan and Xuan Ming.

Without a single doubt, Gongsun Zhi was the person who wanted the Method of the Exalted Saint back the most. Out of the six protectors, only the duo had yet to express their opinion.

Xuan Ming thought over it a little when he sensed everyone's gaze. He said, "I'll do whatever my father does. What my father chooses is my choice as well." With that, Xuan Ming shut up and stood to one side quietly.

"Vice-leader Xuan Zhan, the Method of the Exalted Saint is the greatest legacy of our Radiant Saint Hall. We can't let it end up in the hands of the Martial Soul lineage, or it'll form a great problem in the future. As a matter of fact, our Radiant Saint Hall might be destroyed as a result," said Gongsun Zhi. The opinions of the protectors would influence the final decision of the leader, so before Xuan Zhan had spoken, Gongsun Zhi butted in and attempted to persuade him.

Xuan Ming thought about the whole thing. Only then did he ask, "Gongsun Zhi, may I ask how your cultivation of the secret techniques from the legacy is going?"

Gongsun Zhi frowned as he felt contempt inside. He thought Xuan Zhan was threatening him. He thought Xuan Ming wanted the secret techniques from the legacy, or he would not stand on his side.

"All the ancient secret techniques and battle skills in the legacy are extremely strange. To be honest, I haven't managed to comprehend any single one of them completely, which is why the Method of the Exalted Saint is crucial to practising these ancient, powerful secret techniques. Without this crucial cultivation method, these secret techniques are useless." Gongsun Zhi looked right at Xuan Zhan. Although Xuan Zhan was both a wielder of a protector sword and the leader of the eight vice-leaders, he showed no respect at all. Instead, he began to despise Xuan Zhan secretly due to his question. He continued, "Of course, if vice-leader Xuan Zhan is interested in these secret techniques and doesn't believe me, I'm willing to make a few public so that everyone here can check."

"There's no need for that." Xuan Zhan waved his hand. He said, "I'm not interested in the items of the legacy. I just want to confirm some of my thoughts and now, I've basically confirmed them all."

Xuan Zhan paused and looked at the leader. He said, "Leader, I think this matter isn't as easy as it seems. We need some time to properly investigate it and get to the bottom of it all."

"What's there to investigate? It's such a simple matter, so why do you need to investigate at all?" Gongsun Zhi flew into a fury. What Xuan Zhan said basically meant that out of all the protectors, everyone apart from him stood with Jian Chen.

As Gongsun Zhi was furious, he felt extremely puzzled as well. He could understand why Bai Yu, Donglin Yanxue, and Han Xin would support Jian Chen. After all, they had ties with him in the first place. What truly confused him was Xuan Zhan's decision.

"Enough. Stop arguing," said the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall. He sat calmly on the throne and said with great authority, "It's rather strange that Jian Chen could obtain a portion of the legacy. I will converse with the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance about this. Once I understand everything, I will make my decision."

"The artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance has already fallen into a slumber again. If it doesn't wake up, when are we supposed to wait until?" Gongsun Zhi snarled. He refused to accept this very much. His face had already darkened.

"Perhaps, he might awaken very soon." Yu Chen glanced at Gongsun Zhi deeply and felt even more displeased with him.

"The meeting ends here. Everyone is dismissed," Yu Chen ended the meeting and immediately stood up, about to leave.

"Hold on!" Gongsun Zhi called out. His face was sunken as he stared right at Yu Chen with an icy-cold gaze. He said, "Leader, the Method of the Exalted Saint is the greatest legacy of our Radiant Saint Hall. It's utterly crucial to us. Yet, you always remained reluctant to take it back as the current leader of the Radiant Saint Hall, allowing the Martial Soul lineage to grow more powerful with each coming day. What intentions are you harbouring?"

Chapter 2587: Usurping Power

"How dare you! Gongsun Zhi, watch your mouth!" Xuan Zhan, who had remained calm the entire time, immediately became infuriated when he heard Gongsun Zhi's words. His bellow created a terrifying sound wave that made the entire sacred hall rumble. All the elders in the sacred hall were deafened by it as their souls shuddered.

A dazzling light rose up from Gongsun Zhi. The power from the protector sword protected him.

The protector swords that belonged to Han Xin, Bai Yu, Donglin Yanxue, and Xuan Ming automatically responded as well.

"So powerful! Xuan Zhan is exceedingly close to Grand Prime!" The seven other vice-leaders narrowed their eyes as they became more wary of Xuan Zhan.

Yu Chen, who was about to leave, paused as well. He looked back at Gongsun Zhi calmly and asked, "Gongsun Zhi, tell me, what can I be harbouring?"

Gongsun Zhi did not answer the question. He glanced past the vice-leaders and all the elders below and said slowly, "I believe that Yu Chen is no longer appropriate for the position of leader. The leader of the Radiant Saint Hall should be someone else."

The entire sacred hall was thrown into an uproar with that. The expressions of many of the elders changed as they cried out. Even the expressions of the eight vice-leaders changed, as they were unable to remain composed any longer.

Gongsun Zhi was publically opposing the leader. If he did this in any other organisation or clan, it would be treachery or treason. It was a crime that could get him beheaded.

For a moment, everyone was stunned by Gongsun Zhi's words.

The only person who remained calm was the person being challenged, the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall, Yu Chen.

"How dare you! Gongsun Zhi, do you know what you are saying..."

"Gongsun Zhi, you're committing treachery! The standard punishment is death! Why don't you hurry up and kneel and apologise. The leader might be willing to be lenient with your punishment..."

Two vice-leaders immediately called out. Their faces had darkened from anger. They were furious.

Below, a few elders criticized Gongsun Zhi as well.

However, these people only made up a tiny fraction of all the elders present. More people chose to remain silent. There were even some people who looked back and forth between Yu Chen and Gongsun Zhi. The light in their eyes flickered as if they were measuring something.

"Death? Leniency? Hahahahaha..." Gongsun Zhi could not help but break out into laughter, as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world. His laughter echoed through the entire hall. It seemed to stand out a lot.

"My ancestor is the supreme Grand Exalt of the Radiant Saint Hall. I am the descendant of the Grand Exalt, and even the Tower of Radiance came from my ancestor. Moreover, I wield the leading sword of the nine protector swords, Godslayer's sword. May I ask who will punish me in the Radiant Saint Hall? Who has the right to judge me?" Gongsun Zhi said extremely arrogantly. He thought of himself as superior to everyone else, completely looking down on the upper echelon of the Radiant Saint Hall, including the leader.

"Gongsun Zhi!" Xuan Zhan bellowed out. He leapt to his feet as he glared at Gongsun Zhi. Killing intent surged within his eyes as a powerful presence erupted from his body.

However, Gongsun Zhi was fearless as he faced Xuan Zhan, a fellow protector sword wielder. He stared at Xuan Zhan in a rather provoking and despising manner and said, "What? Does vice-leader Xuan Zhan plan on laying his hands on me? I would really like to see whether you can defeat my Godslayer's sword that ranks first with your Mindwaker's Sword that ranks last."

"Xuan Zhan!" The leader of the Radiant Saint Hall spoke out to stop Xuan Zhan from getting further agitated. He remained composed, as if he was not angered by Gongsun Zhi's words at all. Instead, he

stared at him calmly and said, "Gongsun Zhi, since you think I don't have the right to the position of leader, who do you think has the right?"

As soon as the leader said that, the huge discussion hall fell silent. It was so quiet that it would be possible to hear a pin drop.

"Hmph, isn't that obvious? You can actually say that the Radiant Saint Hall came from my ancestor's generation, so my ancestor is the true, supreme figure of the Radiant Saint Hall. As for me, I am the only person who possesses my ancestor's bloodline so far, and I am also the undisputed master of the Tower of Radiance in the future. I think it's obvious who's suitable for the position of leader," said Gongsun Zhi as he boasted shamelessly. He did not try to hide any of it, as ever since he gained Godslayer's sword, he had always eyed the position of leader. Now that an opportunity had finally presented itself, he obviously would not hesitate at all.

He had already waited for too long for this day.

With that, many of the elders fell silent. They could not argue back.

He was the descendant of the Grand Exalt, the wielder of the Godslayer's sword, and the future master of the Tower of Radiance. The current Gongsun Zhi really could not be underestimated.

Although the Tower of Radiance had yet to accept a master, the elders were already certain that it would become Gongsun Zhi's possession sooner or later.

That was because the master of the Tower of Radiance was Gongsun Zhi's ancestor. Gongsun Zhi was the only person with the Grand Exalt's bloodline who had appeared so far, so he was indeed the most suitable candidate for inheriting the Tower of Radiance.

They could tell when he obtained Godslayer's sword. Clearly, the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance was taking special care of him.

"In terms of strength, Gongsun Zhi is indeed no weaker than any regular Grand Prime with Godslayer's sword. He might even be more powerful than them," mumbled an elder.

He spoke softly, but everyone in the hall possessed great cultivation. They heard exactly what he said.

Xuan Zhan snorted coldly as his gaze became utterly piercing. He suddenly locked his eyes onto an elder in the crowd and directly took a step forward.

"Vice-leader Xuan Zhan, what are you trying to do? Are you doing whatever you want just because you're stronger? Why don't you have a look at where you are?" Gongsun Zhi directly drew his protector sword. Enveloped by its dazzling light, he appeared before Xuan Zhan in a flash.

"Gongsun Zhi, you are trying to revolt. Think about it all. Are you really suitable for the position of leader with your current cultivation? You're only a Radiant Godking after all. If you didn't possess a protector sword, you wouldn't even have the right to set foot in this hall. You would struggle to make everyone yield to you," Xuan Zhan said coldly.

"I would struggle to make everyone yield to me?" Gongsun Zhi sneered. He glanced below and said, "Since vice-leader Xuan Zhan says that I, Gongsun Zhi, would struggle to make everyone yield to me, I

would like to see if there are any people who support me, and how many people who do. Those who support me, please move to my side.”

Immediately, the elders in the discussion hall began to move. After a moment of hesitation and thought, people began to make their way behind Gongsun Zhi.

Gradually, more and more elders moved. In the end, there were actually half the elders who stood behind Gongsun Zhi.

Xuan Zhan’s face became extremely sunken when he saw this. Even Bai Yu, Han Xin, and Donglin Yanxue’s expressions became very ugly.

Chapter 2588: A New Leader

The remaining half of the elders were clearly surprised when they saw so many people support Gongsun Zhi. Their original beliefs began to waver. In the end, another portion of people arrived behind Gongsun Zhi.

Now, sixty percent of the elders supported Gongsun Zhi.

“Sigh. Gongsun Zhi is the descendant of the Grand Exalt after all.” Suddenly, a vice-leader let out a soft sigh and slowly stood up as well, arriving beside Gongsun Zhi.

“With Gongsun Zhi’s identity and status, I don’t oppose him if he wants to control our Radiant Saint Hall,” said another vice-leader. Although he did not stand with Gongsun Zhi, his words had already expressed his support of Gongsun Zhi.

“Gongsun Zhi wields the most powerful protector sword. I believe as he grows in strength, he’ll be able to unleash more and more of the power from the protector sword. I believe the Radiant Saint Hall will become more and more powerful under Gongsun Zhi’s lead,” said a third vice-leader, standing with Gongsun Zhi.

Immediately, the discussion hall fell silent again. The atmosphere was rather strange.

More than sixty percent of the elders and three vice-leaders chose to support Gongsun Zhi. This outcome caught many people off-guard. They found it rather difficult to accept.

Even Xuan Zhan was silenced.

He had never thought that Gongsun Zhi would have gained such a great influence over the Radiant Saint Hall unknowingly.

“Leader Yu Chen, I, Gongsun Zhi, hereby challenge you formally. If you defeat me, I will never mention this matter ever again in the future,” Gongsun Zhi called out. His face had become flushed from his emotions. He clearly seemed extremely excited.

Even though Yu Chen was the only Grand Prime of the Radiant Saint Hall, Gongsun Zhi possessed a protector sword. He did not fear Yu Chen at all.

The sacred hall was thrown into an uproar. Someone had actually challenged the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall publicly. This was definitely unprecedented in the history of the organisation.

This was because the leader was the most powerful person in charge of the Radiant Saint Hall. They could mobilise everything that the Radiant Saint Hall had. They were the person who possessed the greatest authority.

Challenging the leader was opposing the leader. There would never be a good outcome for doing so. The consequences would be extremely severe.

However, at this moment, everyone discovered in their misery that there was no longer anyone who could keep Gongsun Zhi at bay within the Radiant Saint Hall.

Apart from his identity as the Grand Exalt's descendant, just being a wielder of a protector sword made him undefeatable.

"Gongsun Zhi, if you want to challenge the leader, you need to get through us first..."

"Gongsun Zhi, why don't you try not using the protector sword's power..."

Bai Yu and Donglin Yanxue stood forward together. Their protector swords flickered brightly as a holy light wrapped around them. They stood up to Gongsun Zhi.

"Gongsun Zhi, you better give up. Many of us won't yield to you even if you become the leader, as you lack the prestige that can convince everyone," Han Xin said as well, trying to persuade Gongsun Zhi.

"You want to stop me?" Gongsun Zhi's eyes shone with cold light. Killing intent appeared. He did not try to hide any of it.

Bai Yu and Donglin Yanxue did not shy away at all. They seemed like they were ready to stop Gongsun Zhi even if at the cost of their lives.

The protectors of the Radiant Saint Hall were about to clash. They were ready to start fighting at any time. Even though they could do nothing to one another, they did not lose out in comparative might.

"Stop!"

Just when the protectors were about to start fighting, the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall, Yu Chen, called out, stopping the protectors just in time. He said sternly, "The protector swords are the greatest power of our Radiant Saint Hall. The only reason our Radiant Saint Hall possesses such a great status on the Desolate Plane right now is because of the protector swords. As wielders of the protector swords, you should be united. Do not fight among yourselves, or it will be the greatest loss for our Radiant Saint Hall," Yu Chen said powerfully. He radiated with righteousness, shining with light. At that moment, he seemed like such a great man, so selfless.

"Gongsun Zhi!" Yu Chen looked at Gongsun Zhi. His eyes shone brightly as he said in a rather liberated fashion, "Since you want the position of leader, I'll step down from now onwards. I won't be the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall anymore."

Yu Chen's words were shocking. His decision immediately threw the sacred hall into an uproar. Everyone experienced emotional turmoil.

Although a group of people supported Gongsun Zhi in becoming the leader, these elders were still heavily impacted when Yu Chen truly stepped down. Some of them even began to question their own decision.

“Leader, you must not...” Xuan Zhan and the other vice-leaders called out and did their best to persuade Yu Chen.

Yu Chen raised his hand to stop them. He said in a righteous manner, “I’ve already made my decision. There’s no need to say anything more. As long as the Radiant Saint Hall can become more and more prosperous, anyone can become the leader.”

“Gongsun Zhi, I hope the Radiant Saint Hall will become more and more prosperous under your lead.” Throwing that out there, Yu Chen drifted away. He left in an extremely straightforward manner. He felt no reluctance towards letting go of the position as leader. Instead, it felt like he had been freed.

“Brother Yu Chen...” Xuan Zhan immediately chased after him.

“Leader...”

“Leader...”

...

From behind, the furious and unhappy voices of the elders rang out. Many of the elders followed him closely.

Gongsun Zhi smiled victoriously inside the majestic sacred hall. He looked at the throne that represented supreme authority as his eyes lit up with desire and uncontainable excitement.

Bai Yu, Han Xin, Donglin Yanxue, and Xuan Ming remained silent. They were powerless to change anything now that this had already happened.

“I never thought that Gongsun Zhi would have already roped in so many members of the upper echelon. It was the decision from these elders and the three vice-leaders that forced the leader to leave, as the leader did not wish to see the Radiant Saint Hall collapse from within. He could only give up the position as a result,” Xuan Ming said to Donglin Yanxue, Han Xin, and Bai Yu secretly. His voice was filled with helplessness.

Tens of thousand of kilometres beyond the Radiant Saint Hall, the white-robed Yu Chen and Xuan Zhan stood atop a mountain shrouded by clouds. Yu Chen, who had just stepped down, was composed and unrestrained. However, Xuan Zhan, who stood before him, had a heavy heart.

“Brother Yu Chen, why must you do this?” Xuan Zhan looked at Yu Chen deeply and sighed.

Yu Chen stood with his arms behind his back. He looked in the direction of the Radiant Saint Hall. Warmth filled his eyes; it was just like a child looking at his mother. It was filled with a gentle and indescribable feeling. “The Radiant Saint Hall is my home. As long as my home is here, as long as it still exists, it isn’t important who makes the decisions.”

“Gongsun Zhi refused to continue with his ordinary life after receiving the protector sword. He became brimming with ambition. I could tell that my position caught his eye long ago, so everything that

happened today was within my expectations. If I did not step down, the Radiant Saint Hall would not be able to avoid internal conflict. If it grew severe, the entire Radiant Saint Hall would even be ripped apart, divided into pieces. That is not what I wish to see.”

Yu Chen looked at Xuan Ming calmly. He did not feel anything from losing the position as leader, as if these names of renown and positions of power were nothing in his eyes. “The Radiant Saint Hall now faces a rare age of prosperity, which requires you all to be united even more. Only with unity can you be powerful. Nothing can be allowed to happen to us internally at a time like this, let alone internal conflict. Xuan Zhan, I hope that you understand this.”

“Brother Yu Chen.” Xuan Zhan was embittered. He had no idea what to say. Just how many people in the Radiant Saint Hall would be able to behave as selflessly as Yu Chen, devoting themselves wholeheartedly so that the Radiant Saint Hall would grow in power? He even gave up his position as leader to avoid internal strife.

Otherwise, it would have been impossible for Gongsun Zhi to obtain the position, as five of the six protectors stood with Yu Chen.

“Xuan Zhan, you should return. With Gongsun Zhi’s prestige, he will struggle to make everyone accept him. I hope that you can assist him for the sake of the Radiant Saint Hall. You can’t let anything happen to the Radiant Saint Hall internally no matter what. I’ll leave Donglin Yanxue, Han Xin, and Bai Yu for you to persuade,” Yu Chen requested seriously.

“Brother Yu Chen, you’re leaving?” Xuan Zhan stared at Yu Chen blankly. If their identities on the surface were discarded, he and Yu Chen were actually the best of brothers. They had gone through thick and thin together.

Otherwise, when Jian Chen was exposed in the past and emerged from the Tower of Radiance afterwards, the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall would have never let Jian Chen leave simply over something Xuan Zhan said.

Yu Chen nodded. He was surprisingly stern as he said, “So far, only you and me know the secret of the Martial Soul lineage being the imperial clan. I plan on leaving and investigating the history between our Radiant Saint Hall and the Martial Soul lineage.”

“It’s said that the world of the Spiritsages was the doomsday battlefield for the last aeon. Even though the entire world was ruined, many ancient traces remain. I plan on visiting that world and seeing if I can find anything.”

“And the Spiritsages. They’re the descendants from that world. They’ve existed for an extremely lengthy period of time. I plan on visiting them and seeing if I can find anything from them.”

Chapter 2589: Something Major

Xuan Zhan knew that Yu Chen had already made up his mind. As such, no matter what he did, he would not be able to stop Yu Chen from leaving the Desolate Plane. He could only let out a long, helpless sigh.

He understood Yu Chen. He knew that Yu Chen had no desire to rule. The Radiant Saint Hall was his home. As long as this home was fine and could grow in prosperity, he would be satisfied. Whether he was in charge did not seem all that important.

Stepping down as leader gave Yu Chen a sense of liberation.

He took on the position in the past because the Radiant Saint Hall needed him. They needed an expert like him.

Now that the Radiant Saint Hall had their protectors, it was no longer necessary for him to watch over it.

“Brother Yu Chen, take care!” Xuan Zhan clasped his fist towards Yu Chen and bid him farewell.

“Xuan Zhan, you take care too. You have to pay more attention to the artifact spirit of the Tower of Radiance once I leave. As soon as the artifact spirit awakens, you have to get to the bottom of the matter with the Martial Soul lineage.” This was the last thing that Yu Chen said. With that, he turned into a streak of white light and shot off into the horizon, vanishing in an instant. He left the Desolate Plane alone, without any reluctance.

Xuan Zhan remained where he stood. He stared in the direction that Yu Chen had left in for quite some time before gradually returning to his senses.

However, he seemed lonely at that moment.

“Gongsun Zhi,” Xuan Zhan uttered Gongsun Zhi’s name. He ground his teeth as his eyes were filled with coldness.

But very soon, he calmed down. He returned to normal, returning to the Radiant Saint Hall like nothing had happened at all.

However, when Xuan Zhan returned to the Radiant Saint Hall, Gongsun Zhi was already sitting down on the throne for the leader eagerly. He was in high spirits, and he seemed like he looked down upon the world.

“Xuan Zhan, where is Yu Chen?” Gongsun Zhi immediately asked in an arrogant manner like he was in charge when he saw Xuan Zhan return.

“He has already left the Desolate Plane,” Xuan Zhan said emotionlessly.

“What? Yu Chen has left? He has left the Desolate Plane? Really?” Gongsun Zhi beamed. He immediately lightened up with that news. He felt at ease.

Yu Chen had assumed the position as leader quite some time ago, so he held great influence in the Radiant Saint Hall. That made Gongsun Zhi worry very much. He was worried that Yu Chen’s existence would threaten his position one day. Now that he had left, Gongsun Zhi became completely fearless.

“Xuan Zhan, I’ve never found Gongsun Zhi pleasing to the eye. Now that he has become the leader, I oppose this all the most. Why don’t you take us and leave the Radiant Saint Hall? We can found our own organisation,” Mo He of the eight vice-leaders said to Xuan Zhan secretly at this moment.

“That’s right. Xuan Zhan, we’re willing to found our own organisation with you as the leader...”

“Xuan Zhan, I would hate to see that bastard Gongsun Zhi order us around. Hmph, does he really think he’s a big deal? If he doesn’t have a protector sword, I could crush him with a single finger. Who cares

what bloodline he possesses? If he angers me, I'll kill him even if he's a direct descendant of a Grand Exalt..."

...

The other vice-leaders all added secretly after Mo He. They were unwilling to yield to Gongsun Zhi's rule. They would much rather leave with Xuan Zhan.

After all, not only was Xuan Zhan the leader of the eight vice-leaders, but he was also a straightforward person that garnered respect. He was also a wielder of a protector sword, so the other vice-leaders were completely willing to follow him.

Xuan Zhan shook his head gently. He stopped the vice-leaders. He did not wish for the Radiant Saint Hall to just be torn apart like this.

"In three days, I, Gongsun Zhi, will formally hold the ceremony for ascending to power. I will invite the leaders of all the major organisations on the Desolate Plane to celebrate with me. Afterwards, I will personally lead everyone to the Cloud Plane to take back the Method of the Exalted Saint..."

...

Jian Chen remained within his residence in the Tian Yuan clan. He looked at an extremely beautiful flower that stood at only two metres tall before him with great eagerness.

The flower was very special. It was not rooted to the ground. Instead, it hovered in the air, and its roots moved around and extended casually like living tendrils. They seemed to glisten with light, and they would emit powerful pulses of energy from time to time.

It was evidently trying to conceal the energy to the best of its ability, but it was clearly unable to present itself in its most basic form. A sliver of energy would always leak out accidentally.

The flower was the Immortal Devouring Orchid that Jian Chen had been raising.

"Late Godking already. It looks like the corpses of Primordial realm experts really are great nourishment for you. If this continues, you'll probably break through again and reach the Primordial realm before long," Jian Chen muttered to himself as he looked at the Immortal Devouring Orchid.

As if it could understand Jian Chen, the Immortal Devour Flower unfurled every one of its petals like it was smiling in its own way. At the same time, it gave off a mental pulse that was filled with joy.

Ever since it became a Godking, the Immortal Devouring Orchid could communicate mentally with Jian Chen.

However, perhaps as a result of natural restrictions, it still could not assume a human form.

"Once you reach the Primordial realm, you might be able to assist me," Jian Chen added. He became more and more eager about the future.

The Immortal Devouring Orchid grew at a rate that was far too astonishing. It was as if as long as it had sufficient nourishment, it could continue to grow without any obstruction. It was like no bottlenecks existed for it at all.

Jian Chen had a strong feeling that the Immortal Devouring Orchid really might be of great help to him in the future. It might surpass him with its current rate of growth.

Moreover, this feeling became more and more intense as the Immortal Devouring Orchid grew.

The Immortal Devouring Orchid swayed gently in the air. It bent down and nudged Jian Chen's arm gently. It seemed extremely close to Jian Chen.

It was as if being able to help Jian Chen was the happiest thing it could do.

"A war is coming. I don't have time to accompany you. Work hard on cultivation. You've already consumed several Infinite Prime corpses. I think the effects of the Infinite Prime corpses will decrease once you reach the Primordial realm. It looks like I need to prepare some corpses of Chaotic Primes for you," Jian Chen said softly. He said that easily, but if anyone else heard his words, they would be utterly frightened.

Chaotic Primes were basically all figures equivalent to great elders in any peak organisation. They possessed great authority and exceptional abilities, yet he treated them as simply nourishment.

The Immortal Devouring Orchid wrapped around the two Infinite Prime corpses Jian Chen had given it before entering Jian Chen's Watercloud Hall. It continued to cultivate.

After the Immortal Devouring Orchid vanished, Jian Chen stood up and made his way out. He looked into the distance and murmured, "It looks like the Four Symbols Alliance is about to do something major this time."

Chapter 2590: Facing a Ruler

"The peak experts of the Four Symbols Alliance are on the move. I can sense the presence of two Grand Primes. They're making their way over here with the young star lord."

As soon as he emerged from the residence, Xu Ran appeared before Jian Chen and said sternly.

"The two Grand Primes have not concealed themselves. They've come with quite the scene, which is why I was able to sense them. It looks like the situation is far more severe than last time," Xu Ran said sternly. Her expression was very ugly. She could not deal with Grand Primes yet.

Even Xu Ran felt powerless in the face of Grand Primes.

Jian Chen's eyes narrowed. He stared at the eastern fortress of the Pingtian Empire and coldness flashed through his eyes.

The eastern fortress of the Pingtian Empire was in ruins. The ground was uneven, littered with various holes of various sizes. These holes were craters left behind by the intense battle when the young star lord attacked the Pingtian Empire.

The huge, majestic wall was like a huge dragon that had been cut in half. There was a gaping hole as it stood damaged.

"Quick, quick! Move some rocks there and fill up the hole..."

“Contact the group collecting rocks and get them to hurry up. Filling up these holes require a tremendous amount of materials...”

“Quick, move all the waste collected from the fortress to the group for refining artifacts. The materials used to build the fortress are extraordinary. Don’t waste them. The group can recycle or reuse them...”

...

There was no peace within the ruined eastern fortress at all. Various cries rang out in the surroundings. Instead, it seemed busy.

Tens of thousands of cultivators were scattered about the fortress. Under the coordination of many group leaders, they cleaned up the battlefield and rebuilt everything.

Such scenes were not limited to the eastern fortress. It was the same with the two other destroyed fortresses.

In the years when Ming Dong watched over the Pingtian Empire, they developed extremely rapidly. Their accumulation of both wealth and heritage during those years was incomparable to the past. Even though their strength was nowhere close to the Blood Sun Empire, Xi Empire, and other everlasting empires that had stood for millions of years, they could endure the losses from a war or two.

Boom!

At this moment, a great rumble rang out. Powerful energy surged out, causing the entirety of the ground that the fortress stood on to shake.

Dust was kicked into the air where cultivators gathered in groups. Wails constantly rang out.

Moments before, powerful energy shot over from the sky, leading to a great explosion there. It took the lives of several dozen cultivators on the spot and injured even more people.

The cultivators responsible for cleaning up the battlefield and the reconstruction were relatively weak. Most of them were at the Origin realm, and only a tiny portion of them were at Godhood. The energy that shot over from the sky had reached Godking, so there would obviously be casualties.

“How dare you? Who has attacked our Pingtian Empire?” A call rang out. A Godking shot over with lightning speed. He unleashed his presence, enveloping the entire fortress.

He was an early Godking, an expert responsible for watching over the eastern fortress temporarily. Eight Overgods stood behind him.

Not a lot of experts were stationed here where a damaged fortress of the Pingtian Empire stood, as many Godkings were injured during the battle several days ago. Only an early Godking was station here.

“Hahahaha, the Pingtian Empire actually wants to rebuild the fortress here? Have you asked for my permission?” Thunderous laughter rang out from the horizon, echoing through the sky.

A group of people steadily approached the Pingtian Empire from the horizon. The person at the very front was a handsome young man who only seemed to be in his twenties. He had a striking appearance and was haughty. He did not seem to take anyone seriously.

He was the young star lord, Tian Yao.

An old woman and a middle-aged man followed behind the young star lord. Even though the two of them had concealed some of their presence, those with sharper senses could still feel a terrifying energy, enough to shake up the world, was hidden within their bodies.

They were two of the five ancestors from the Four Symbols Alliance, Gong Ji and Wu Lu.

Behind them were experts of various levels from the Four Symbols Alliance.

Of course, these people actually belonged to Gong Ji and Wu Lu's organisations.

"W- who are you..." The Godking's expression changed. He glanced past the cultivators behind the young star lord and could tell with a single glance that they were wearing the uniform of the Four Symbols Alliance.

The space above the fortress pulsed, and Jian Chen appeared silently along with Xu Ran.

Jian Chen was calm. As he faced the experts from the Four Symbols Alliance, he did not become flustered at all. He looked past the young star lord and stared at Wu Lu and Gong Ji behind him. "Even the two of you have personally come. It looks like your Four Symbols Alliance is determined to become enemies with our Tian Yuan clan."

Although the young star lord had lead the people of the Four Symbols Alliance to attack the Pingtian Empire last time, all those people had changed their identities, and they had fought under a banner with nine stars. They could place all the responsibility on the young star lord and distance themselves from the entire matter.

But this time, they had directly come while wearing the uniform of the Four Symbols Alliance, allowing people to recognise them in a single glance. This clearly meant that the Four Symbols Alliance was formally opposing the Tian Yuan clan. They were becoming enemies.

"Our Four Symbols Alliance has already yielded to the Star Brilliance Mountain. The young star lord is our young master. We all obey him," Gong Ji said. She knew Jian Chen's composure came from the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, so she mentioned the Star Brilliance Mountain.

Only with the Star Brilliance Mountain did their Four Symbols Alliance become fearless of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng.

At the same time, the Gentle Breeze Ancestor, Zheng Hu, and Changfeng Yun stood on a mountain in the headquarters of the Four Symbols Alliance, staring in the direction of the Pingtian Empire.

Even though they were extremely far away from the Pingtian Empire, they could see the entire Cloud Plane with a single glance, let alone the southern region.

The senses of Grand Primes' souls were powerful enough to envelop an entire plane.

"Sigh. Gong Ji and Wu Lu are far too impulsive." The Gentle Breeze Ancestor sighed gently. He knew that now that all of this had happened, he could no longer stop them. He could no longer stop anything.

“Now, we can only hope that everything develops optimistically.” Changfeng Yun felt extremely powerless as well.

“Let’s watch on for now. Gong Ji and Wu Lu definitely have their reasons for making this decision. Benefits don’t come without a cost,” said Zheng Wu. Internally, he agreed with Wu Lu and Gong Ji’s thoughts to a certain degree.