

Chaotic 2681

Chapter 2681: He Qianqian's Attempt

"Greetings, miss Qian. I am Yang Yutian, an independent cultivator. I've specially come to join your Heavenly Crane clan to enter the World of the Fallen Beast. I'll be able to offer up some support to your Heavenly Crane clan, and I'll also be able to spare your Heavenly Crane clan from much of the strenuous effort. I'm not a spy." Before the caretaker could finish speaking, Jian Chen interrupted him without any hesitation. He completely ignored the ugliness of the old man's face.

A late Godking was simply far too weak in his eyes, so weak that they were equivalent to ants. He did not even have to use his hands, as just the intent from his Ultimate Way of the Sword would be enough to kill any Godking with the slightest thought.

"Don't you dare! You have no right to speak before miss Qian and the great elder. Why don't you shut up!" said the caretaker forcefully. His expression was ugly.

"You have repeatedly accused me of being a spy. Now that miss Qian and the great elder are here, I obviously have to clear the entire matter up. The Heavenly Crane clan is a famed, peak clan within the Saints' World. I do believe that miss Qian and the great elder can get to the bottom of this entire matter, unlike some other people who would take such laughable actions just for some divine crystals on me," Jian Chen said righteously. This was the first time he had ever met this caretaker, yet the caretaker had specifically targeted him like this. As a result, he had roughly guessed his intentions.

The caretaker had probably seen him hand divine crystals to the two guards, which made him believe that there were a lot of divine crystals on him, making the caretaker want to take them for himself.

If he really were a regular early Godking, the caretaker might have succeeded already. Unfortunately, the person he encountered was Jian Chen.

"How dare you spew lies and slander me!" The caretaker's face was completely sunken. He looked at Jian Chen, and killing intent surged in his eyes.

He Qianqian frowned. She looked back and forth between Jian Chen and the caretaker and said, "Caretaker Xu, tell me, what evidence do you have that indicates Yang Yutian is a spy from another organisation? The great elder is right here, so don't lie anymore. You know what the consequences of the crime of misleading a great elder is."

He Qianqian's merciless reply immediately made the caretaker turn pale. He utterly hated Jian Chen now. However, he knew that not only would everything right now have a direct influence over his future, but it could even touch upon his life.

This was all because his prior actions had already disgraced the Heavenly Crane clan, dealing a blow to their reputation.

He was a completely insignificant figure within the Heavenly Crane clan, while the Heavenly Crane clan was a peak clan in the Saints' World. The stronger an organisation, the more they cared about their reputation. If someone like him openly damaged the Heavenly Crane clan's reputation, the clan would never let him off lightly.

As a result, he could only say reluctantly, "Great elder, Yang Yutian claims that he comes from no sect or organisation and managed to reach Godking within a thousand years through the legacy of a single Infinite Prime. In my opinion, that alone is enough to raise doubts. Any single person who can reach Godking within a thousand years in the Saints' World are prodigies from large clans or organisations and have received guidance from great experts. Even if it is through a legacy, it should be through an extremely impressive legacy, not a mere Infinite Prime's. As a result, I'm extremely certain that Yang Yutian is a spy from another organisation, wanting to infiltrate our clan for some secret reason." The caretaker was rather clever. He knew an explanation like this would only result in the conclusion of him making an incorrect judgement due to limited ability at most, not damaging the Heavenly Crane clan's reputation.

"This kid sure is impressive to reach early Godking within a thousand years," said the great elder of the Heavenly Crane clan. She spoke very indifferently, but the compliment was all that she said.

"Qianqian, you handle the matters here." Throwing that out there, the great elder flashed and disappeared into the divine hall. It was as if she could not be bothered with the insignificant matters there.

With the great elder's departure, the pressure that caretaker Xu was under immediately plummeted. As long as the great elder did not investigate the matter, he could basically reduce the entire incident into a minor one.

He Qianqian bowed towards the great elder as she departed before revealing a cold expression. She stared at the caretaker and inquired, "Just because Yang Yutian reached Godking within a thousand years, you decided to handle him as a spy despite the lack of any solid evidence backing it up? Caretaker Xu, is this how you handle matters?"

"Miss Qian..."

"Enough, don't say anything more. Caretaker Xu, I think it's best if someone with greater ability replaces you. If you continue to hold this position, we'll probably lose all the talents that originally wanted to join our Heavenly Crane clan." A single sentence from He Qianqian had determined caretaker Xu's fate. He had just lost the tiny amount of privilege he could wield.

He Qianqian did not even take a second glance at the pale caretaker Xu. She directly made her way to the divine hall and brushed past Jian Chen. "Yang Yutian, come in with me."

"Yes, miss Qian." Jian Chen was not surprised by this result. He followed He Qianqian into the divine hall calmly.

Within a majestic hall, Jian Chen and He Qianqian stood facing each other. He Qianqian gave off a frigid presence, which made the entire place abnormally cold.

She stared straight at Jian Chen with her beautiful eyes and asked sternly, "Yang Yutian, do you really plan on joining our Heavenly Crane clan, to become a part of our clan, or do you only want to join the group that our Heavenly Crane clan is sending into the World of the Fallen Beast?"

“Miss Qian, I’ve come to enter the World of the Fallen Beast, so I obviously want to join the group. In the World of the Fallen Beast, I’ll stand on the same line as the Heavenly Crane clan, but outside, I will have nothing to do with the Heavenly Crane clan,” Jian Chen said without a second thought.

“Yang Yutian, with the talent that you’ve exhibited, it’s enough for you to become a true member of our Heavenly Crane clan. Have you not considered that?” He Qianqian asked. Her eyes twinkled as she stared right at Jian Chen. She was attempting to win him over.

Across the Saints’ World, only a select few people could reach Godking within a millennium. Every single one of them was a prodigy, a talent that clans could never get enough of. They were enough to be heavily favoured by peak organisations, so He Qianqian obviously would not give up on him.

If she successfully recruited a talent like him, it would be quite the contribution to her clan.

Chapter 2682: An Enormous Group

Jian Chen knew that when He Qianqian asked him to join the Heavenly Crane clan this time, she was not inviting him to accompany her group temporarily. Instead, it was an invitation to truly become a member of the Heavenly Crane clan.

However, Jian Chen had no interest in the Heavenly Crane clan. He wanted to join their group to enter the World of the Fallen Beast to get close to her and slowly learn about the situation on the Ice Pole Plane from her.

What he wanted to learn about was connected to matters that were far too great. It was not as simple as just fairy Hao Yue. It involved the person behind the Moon God Hall where fairy Hao Yue used to reside, Nan Potian, and the even more terrifying peak expert behind Nan Potian, the Flame Reverend!

Nan Potian and the Flame Reverend were both dangerous figures who threatened his sister, Changyang Mingyue.

As a result, for the sake of her safety, he needed to be careful.

The Flame Reverend was just far too terrifying. He was a vicious person who even dared to ambush the Anatta Grand Exalt. Someone like that would obviously be extremely skilled at peering into the heavenly secrets, so Jian Chen needed to handle any and all matters regarding the Polar Ice Plane with extreme caution. He was afraid of leaving behind even the slightest trace, which would allow someone as powerful as the Flame Reverend to uncover everything.

As a result, Jian Chen dared not ask about the Polar Ice Plane directly, much less visit any information brokers. What he wanted to know touched on great secrets, so careless investigation would instead attract the attention on those with malicious intent.

For the sake of his sister’s safety, he did not dare to take any risk.

As a result, Jian Chen declined He Qianqian’s invitation without a second thought.

As she looked at Jian Chen’s determined expression, He Qianqian understood that winning him over was no longer possible. She could not help but become slightly disappointed.

“If that is the case, I won’t force you to do anything. Our Heavenly Crane clan will be entering the World of the Fallen Beast with many other peak organisations from the Saints’ World in three days’ time. We will be led by the young master of the Dire Wolf clan this time. All the organisations and clans need to cooperate with each other, so go prepare.”

“The World of the Fallen Beast isn’t very peaceful right now. Danger has multiplied, so you need to be ready for bloodshed.” He Qianqian treated Jian Chen slightly colder now, no longer behaving as enthusiastic as before. She could not even be bothered to add anything else unnecessary. She turned around and left without even looking back after that.

Jian Chen did not mind. He Qianqian would be entering the World of the Fallen Beast anyway. Coupled with the unrest in there, he believed that he would have many opportunities to come in touch with her.

As a result, he was in no hurry to ask He Qianqian about the Polar Ice Plane. He would wait until they entered the World of the Fallen Beast.

Afterwards, Jian Chen was taken to the resting quarters by a guard. The region was an extremely special place in the divine hall because there was nothing there aside from closely packed rooms.

It was slightly dark in there. The decor was simple, and it was quiet. The many rooms were arranged in an orderly manner, numbering as many as over ten thousand.

“This is the card to your room. There’s a number of there, which records the place where you can temporarily stay in. Go to your room with your card. Don’t blame me for not warning you. This is the divine hall of the Heavenly Crane clan. The artifact spirit is in control of everything here at all times. If you decide to make trouble here, or if you set foot in places where you don’t belong, the artifact spirit will kill you without any mercy,” the guard who led the way for Jian Chen said coldly. Then he passed a jade card to him before leaving.

Jian Chen looked at the many rooms. He could vaguely sense the presences of Godhood cultivators from each room. Most of them were Gods, with only a few Overgods. There was not a single Godking.

He had already guessed that these people had probably been recruited by the Heavenly Crane clan just like himself. These cultivators would supplement their forces that would be entering the World of the Fallen beast.

All of these cultivators remained in their rooms and cultivated in seclusion, adjusting their conditions. None of them wandered about.

Jian Chen looked at the card and found his room quickly in the very depths of the resting quarters. Perhaps due to being a Godking, the room he was allocated to was clearly much larger.

In the following three days, Jian Chen also remained locked up in his own room. He devoted himself to comprehending the Way of the Sword. He was very skilled, having comprehended many laws, but with his current battle prowess, any breakthroughs in the other laws would bring about no significant increase to his battle prowess. Only with a breakthrough in the Laws of the Sword would he be able to reach a whole new level.

So far, his Laws of the Sword remained at the minor achievement of Sword Immortal. Once he broke through and reached partial achievement, not only would his Laws of the Sword attain a new calibre, his

Chaotic Body would be affected as well. He would be able to reach the fifteenth layer of the Chaotic Body.

"I obtained the fleshly core of the dark gold ape king, Gusta. The energy hidden within it is so terrifying that I can easily break through with my Chaotic Body if I reach partial achievement with my Way of the Sword."

"As a matter of fact, I won't even use up all the energy in there by breaking through to the fifteenth layer. The energy is so immense that it can easily provide me with enough energy to reach the sixteenth layer," thought Jian Chen.

In recent years, he had constantly been making progress after he reached Sword Immortal. Even though it was not enough for him to reach partial achievement, it did push him along, making constant progress to partial achievement.

As a result, Jian Chen's current Way of the Sword was much more powerful than when he broke through in the Sword God Mountains. His comprehension was much deeper as well.

The three days passed by in the blink of an eye. The artifact spirit of the divine hall alerted everyone. Jian Chen then felt a powerful energy from the divine hall, and in the next moment, he had been sent outside.

The people sent out with him included the other cultivators who had been recruited by the Heavenly Crane clan; they had also been cultivating in the divine hall.

"Time's up. Get ready to set off. This time, I will personally lead you all into the World of the Fallen Beast." He Qianqian appeared in the air. She was stern, and she gave off an icy-cold presence. Her bearing was lofty and cold, almost unapproachable.

She only gave a simple reminder about a few matters to be careful about before leading the several thousand cultivators into the centre of the square in a grandiose manner. They hovered in the air below the entrance to the World of the Fallen Beast.

The entrance had been completely taken over by the peak clans and organisations of the Saints' World right now, temporarily obstructing any other cultivator from entering.

Several hundreds of thousands of people were gathered below it. These people were all split into several dozen groups. They all occupied a region, quietly hovering below the entrance.

The several thousand cultivators led by He Qianqian seemed completely inconspicuous among the several dozen groups.

Chapter 2683: Within the World of the Fallen Beast

Jian Chen looked at the several hundred thousand cultivators below the age of a thousand within the crowd. He could not help but shake his head secretly. Clearly, he did not place any high hopes on them.

"If the sacrificial soldiers raised through Hundred Tribulations Godking Pills are ignored, less than a hundredth of the people here are actual Godkings. Before the Darkstar race that rules over the World of the Fallen Beast, they're no different from ants," thought Jian Chen. Although he had yet to enter the

World of the Fallen Beast, the Heartless Child's information allowed him to roughly understand the situation there.

As a matter of fact, the Darkstar Emperor alone was enough to easily slaughter everyone, let alone the other unaccounted for factors.

The Darkstar Emperor was a Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime with supreme talent. His battle prowess was great enough to rival Chaotic Primes.

Before such an expert, even Jian Chen did not feel completely confident about victory, let alone Godkings.

"It seems like it won't be easy to save Sacredfeather this time. The other experts of the Darkstar race aren't really a problem. It's just that I have no confidence against the Darkstar Emperor." Jian Chen did not feel particularly optimistic.

He could not bring any god artifacts or treasures on par with the God Tier into the World of the Fallen Beast. Without the Nine Star Sword of Heavenly Ways, his battle prowess would decrease.

With the Darkstar Emperor's battle prowess, it would be a difficult battle even in his peak condition, let alone his current weakened state. The difference between their strength had only grown wider.

Just as Jian Chen pondered about all this, the young master of the Dire Wolf clan, Jin Hong, appeared. He wore grey robes and kept his presence completely concealed. He followed the Grand Prime of the Dire Wolf clan quietly. He seemed to be maintaining a very low profile.

However, no matter how well he hid himself, he still could not avoid the fate of being the centre of attention here. No one paid attention to the Grand Prime of the Dire Wolf clan. Instead, all of the cultivators present were fixated on him.

He simply stood out too much as the successor of a Grand Exalt. In the eyes of some, such a status was even greater than a Grand Prime's.

Grand Primes stood at the apex and were rarely seen by regular cultivators, but every single peak organisation in the Saints' World would have one or more. As a result, they were not exactly special.

On the other hand, the number of Grand Exalt successors could be counted on ten fingers. They were basically mythical.

As a result, Jin Hong was as dazzling as the midday sun just by standing there.

Jin Hong's appearance also meant that all the organisations taking part in the expedition this time had arrived. The many organisations began to enter the World of the Fallen Beast in an orderly fashion.

Very soon, it was the Heavenly Crane clan's turn. The several hundred sacrificial soldiers and several thousand recruited cultivators all vanished into the tunnel under He Qianqian's lead.

As soon as he entered the tunnel, Jian Chen felt a power so terrifying that it irresistibly restricted his movements. This power was just too vast, just too terrifying. It was no longer possible to tell whether it belonged to the Grand Exalt of the Darkstar race or the Wood Spirits, or the World of the Fallen Beast itself.

Wrapped by the power, Jian Chen felt like he crossed through a distant space and time. He lost all senses over the flow of time, so he had no idea how much time had past. It seemed like a few days, but it also felt like a few years. In the end, the power around him trembled, and he had appeared in a gloomy world.

He looked around and discovered that he was standing in a forested region. Above him was the exit to the World of the Fallen Beast. It seemed exactly the same as the entrance above Darkstar City. It was also an extremely large energy vortex.

Jian Chen could not see any celestial bodies within the gloomy world. However, he saw a huge barrier that stood a hundred kilometres away.

The barrier enveloped the exit as a hemisphere; it acted as a powerful defence. There was a thick, grey mist outside. He could vaguely make out mountains.

Jian Chen had already expanded the senses of his soul silently. Since it was the senses from a Primordial realm expert, coupled with his concealment, no one present discovered it.

However, when the senses of his soul came into contact with the barrier, it was blocked.

“This barrier was cast down by a Primordial realm expert. Although I can force the senses of my soul through it, doing so would definitely create quite the disturbance,” thought Jian Chen. According to his knowledge, only the people of the Darkstar race could cast down such a powerful barrier here.

Jian Chen’s surroundings became packed very soon. The presences of Godhood experts merged together, forming something akin to an ocean. It was tremendous.

Everyone taking part in the expedition had gathered here. The sacrificial soldiers and many cultivators all stood in their own smaller groups.

“All gather! don’t wander about.”

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At this moment, several loud shouts rang out. The leaders of each organisation ordered their people; these leaders included He Qianqian.

“People of the Heavenly Crane clan, enter the divine hall. I’ll be taking you to Hundred Saint City via a teleportation formation.” A divine hall appeared in He Qianqian’s hands.

The divine hall was not a god artifact but a supreme quality saint artifact. However, it was extremely close to being a low quality god artifact. It could even be described as a quasi god artifact.

At the same time, the leaders of the other organisations also took out supreme quality saint artifacts to take away their people.

The teleportation formation they would be taking had limited capacity. It could not transport as many people as the tunnel into the World of the Fallen Beast. Hence, they had to minimize the people outside if they wanted to reach Hundred Saint City quickly.

The large scale teleportation formation there originally shone with dazzling light and pulsed with power. However, just when everyone was about to enter the divine halls, it rapidly dimmed. Very soon, it fell silent completely. It was without any energy at all.

The sudden changes with the teleportation formation made all the leaders frown. Immediately, they sent people to investigate.

“Oh no, the connection has been broken. There’s nothing wrong with the teleportation formation here. It must be the one in Hundred Saint City,” the investigating person said with an ugly frown.

“Something must have happened to Hundred Saint City. Young master Jin Hong, I would advise you to change the teleportation destination immediately to an alternative,” a leader suggested to Jin Hong.

All the leaders had been told to obey Jin Hong with regard to everything during the expedition in the World of the Fallen Beast this time. As a result, they would all ask for Jin Hong’s opinion if they wanted to do anything major.

Jin Hong nodded, agreeing to the suggestion.

Very soon, the teleportation formation was adjusted and set to another destination.

However, the faces of the people responsible for adjusting the formation all sank completely.

“There’s bad news. The other teleportation formation is not responding either. It’s the same problem,” someone reported.

With that, everyone’s faces became warped.

“We have a few other alternatives. Let’s adjust the destination again...”

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The teleportation formation was adjusted several times, but the end result was chilling. They discovered that all the teleportation formations in the World of the Fallen Beast, no matter how well hidden they were, had suffered problems. They could not teleport to those places.

The teleportation formations had to be connected on both ends to function. Once something happened to one end, it would cease to function, so teleportation obviously became impossible.

“God dammit, it must be the Darkstar race. Apart from the one in Hundred Saint City, the teleportation formations we’ve cast down are all extremely obscure. Only the Darkstar race has the ability to sniff them all out in the World of the Fallen Beast...”

“It’s troublesome now. How will we go to Hundred Saint City without a teleportation formation? Do we have cross through the Twin World Mountains?”

As soon as the Two World Mountains were mentioned, many of the leaders fell silent. They became very solemn. Some of them even paled in fright.

Chapter 2684: The Two World Mountains

Jian Chen became curious when he heard the surrounding discussion. He arrived before He Qianqian and asked, "Miss Qian, what are the Two World Mountains? Are they very frightening?"

"Do you see those mountains outside the barrier? Those are the Two World Mountains, no, strictly speaking, we're standing in the Two World Mountains right now. Whether it be to the Darkstar race or us outsiders, the Two World Mountains is a forbidden region for us to set foot in, as many Life-devouring Beasts live here."

"It's rumoured that the Life-devouring Beasts originate from the power that the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits had left behind. Each Life-devouring Beast possesses tremendous vitality. Even if it receives the most fatal of attacks, it can recover immediately through its tremendous vitality, making them almost impossible to kill."

"Not only do they have great vitality, but they can also devour life force. Once someone is injured by a Life-devouring Beast, the Life-devouring Beast will devour a portion of their life force; this will happen even if it were just a moment of contact. And that's when there isn't a great disparity in strength. If the difference in strength is far too great, Life-devouring Beasts can even suck away all the life force of a cultivator from afar," He Qianqian said sternly. Fear appeared in her icy-cold eyes.

"If we can't use the teleportation formations, are we forced to cross through the Two World Mountains?" Jian Chen continued to ask.

"That's right, there are only two paths from here, or returning to the Spirits' World. However, as all of our great organisations have sent such huge contingents, they will never accept us returning in failure." He Qianqian's voice clearly became grim. She understood the horror of the Two World Mountains very well. Without Primordial realm experts, the Two World Mountains were basically hell.

Moreover, even if a Primordial realm expert could set foot here, they would still likely be doomed within the Two World Mountains.

That was because most people who could reach the Primordial realm within a thousand years were early Infinite Primes. The Two World Mountains were a place that could threaten late Infinite Primes.

Afterwards, Jian Chen asked a little more regarding the mountains and gradually gained a clearer grasp of it.

He knew that there were at least several Infinite Prime Life-devouring Beasts in the Two World Mountains. The strongest would be the Life-devouring Beast King. It was so powerful that even the emperor of the Darkstar race could not slay it. As a matter of fact, it could even fend off the emperor of the Darkstar race.

The emperor of the Darkstar race was a supreme figure on par with Chaotic Primes in battle. Even someone like that could not kill the Life-devouring Beast King, which only made it evident just how terrifying it was.

"Life-devouring Beasts are actually so powerful, so wouldn't we be in great danger by staying here? The barrier is powerful, but it can't stop those stronger Life-devouring Beasts," a cultivator asked with a pale face from the Heavenly Crane clan's group.

“Don’t worry. As long as we stay within the barrier, we won’t be in any danger. Although our Saints’ World paid an astronomical price for an Infinite Prime of the Darkstar race to cast down this barrier, its purpose is not to fend off the Life-devouring Beasts, as they can’t approach this place. The power of the World of the Fallen Beast is extremely dense near the exit, and the Life-devouring Beasts fear the presence of this power very much,” said He Qianqian.

With that, everyone finally eased up a little. At least they knew that the Life-devouring Beasts would not be able to threaten them right now, even if they were terrifying.

No one had come close to expecting such developments. The malfunctioning teleportation formation had trapped everyone here. Although they could leave, they would be returning with failure. They would never be able to raise their heads in their clans again. They would become the jokes among their generation, and even their futures would be affected drastically.

However, if they tried to pass through the Two World Mountains, they could end up staying here forever.

The descendants and disciples of the several dozen peak organisations from the Saints’ World were stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Afterwards, Jin Hong gathered the leaders of all the organisations and discussed their plans together. In the end, they came up with a decision that was infuriating, but they were helpless about it; they decided to wait.

Including the sacrificial soldiers raised through Hundred Tribulations Godking Pills, several hundred thousand Godhood cultivators all waited quietly within the barrier, hoping that the teleportation formation would be repaired as soon as possible.

Jian Chen also sat on the floor, resting with his eyes closed. He did not try to stand out. However, he did understand that the waiting would lead to nothing. With the failure of several teleportation formations, this was clearly a planned event. There was almost no chance that the teleportation formations would be repaired.

The wait lasted for a month. A month later, many people lost their patience. Some of them had as much time as they wanted, so they did not care. However, the sacrificial soldiers did not. They could only live for a hundred years at most. Once the century elapsed, all of them would be dead.

The sacrificial soldiers were the greatest force under their control. Without them, they would be able to do nothing here.

Some people suggested returning to the Spirits’ World, while others boldly suggested travelling through the Two World Mountains. The several dozen leaders descended into an endless argument.

“Is your Hundred Battle clan really that fearful of death? It’s just the Two World Mountains. What is so scary about it that it has made you frightened like this?”

“Hmph, what is the point of saying all this? Why don’t your Greenfields clan stop hiding in the barrier then and step into the Two World Mountains? I would like to see if any of you return alive.”

After several consecutive days of bickering, Jian Chen became rather impatient as well. He said to He Qianqian, "We can't just keep waiting like this. Miss Qian, may I ask if you have the courage to cross the Two World Mountains with me?"

"Cross the Two World Mountains with you? Heh, where did this kid come from, to be ignorant to the point of even wanting to cross the Two World Mountains? Do you really think you can do whatever you want in the World of the Fallen Beast just because you're a Godking? Hmph, what a reckless kid." He Qianqian said nothing. Instead, a young man in yellow walked over and mocked Jian Chen.

Jian Chen knew this young man. He was also the leader of a peak organisation, reaching Godking under the age of a thousand. He would always go looking for He Qianqian when he had nothing better to do. He was one of her courtiers.

The young man did not take Jian Chen seriously at all. Even though Jian Chen was also a Godking, he had no background. His talent was outstanding, but he was no different from a servant in the young man's eyes. He directly made his way over to He Qianqian. "Qianqian, you've seen it all as well. None of us have anticipated the developments here. I've already agreed with over a dozen other organisations to wait here for three more years. If the teleportation formation doesn't start up again during those three years, we'll back out of here. You could stick with us."

He Qianqian shook her head. "If we just back out like this, our Heavenly Crane clan's status will plummet, and we'll never be able to raise our heads again. I would rather die here than have that happen. At the very least, we would have died for our clans by falling in battle here. We won't disgrace our clans."

"To live is always better than dying. Qianqian, don't think like that. You need to survive first. Only then is there any possibility for something to happen." The young man did his best to convince her.

"Enough. Chu Jie, don't say anything else. Although I, He Qianqian, fear the Life-devouring Beasts, I don't fear death," He Qianqian said firmly.

"Sigh. Then do whatever you want." Chu Jie sighed gently and left in pity.

"Miss Qian, since you've already made up your mind, let's set off now," said Jian Chen.

He Qianqian glanced at Jian Chen coldly. "Yang Yutian, you must remember that you are crossing the Two World Mountains with me, not me with you. I hope you watch your mouth next time. You may be a Godking, but you still have to bear in mind who's in charge."

"Alright, miss Qian," Jian Chen smiled slightly. He did not mind He Qianqian's attitude at all.

He Qianqian's gaze suddenly sharpened. She looked at the hazy mountains and suddenly became extremely determined. "Just our Heavenly Crane clan won't be powerful enough to cross the Two World Mountains. We need to gather even more strength."

Chapter 2685: Setting Off

Jian Chen smiled gently. "The supreme prodigies here all experienced fear as soon as the Life-devouring Beasts were mentioned. They are frightened by them, yet miss Qian chooses to advance courageously,

opting to face the Life-devouring Beasts by entering the Two World Mountains. Just that courage and boldness alone is enough to determine that miss Qian's future will be exceptional."

He Qianqian looked at Jian Chen. Her eyes, cold enough to form a layer of frost, were slightly surprised. "Yang Yutian, you're rather bold as well. I don't see any fear or dread in your eyes at all. I wonder why you are so fearless, or what kind of trump card you are hiding that makes you so unafraid of the Life-devouring Beasts."

He Qianqian continued, "If you are ignorant of the strength and danger that the Life-devouring Beasts pose, then I must warn you. We may have several hundred thousand people here, including many Godkings and sacrificial soldiers, but in the eyes of the Life-devouring Beasts, we are only a slightly larger ant. If we unfortunately come across a Primordial realm Life-devouring Beast, we will probably be annihilated."

"Of course, if you really are relying on a hidden trump card, I still must warn you that you better off take things seriously. Life-devouring Beasts are far more troublesome than you imagine them to be. Do you really think that whatever you're hiding is stronger than us, the outstanding descendants and disciples of various peak organisation across the Saints' World who have practised the greater cultivation methods and battle skills?"

There was a hint of disdain in He Qianqian's voice. She was slightly haughty.

Her disdain was not directed towards Jian Chen's strength. Since he could reach Godking within a thousand years, his talent was already no worse than her own. What really made He Qianqian take Jian Chen lightly was his background.

He Qianqian did not say much to Jian Chen. After a solemn warning, she directly went to discuss with the leaders of the other organisations.

As he watched He Qianqian travel into the distance, the corner of Jian Chen's lips curled up slightly, turning into a gentle smile.

"What? Qianqian, you're mad! You actually want to cross the Two World Mountains..."

"He Qianqian, calm down. You have no idea how terrifying the mountains are. You mustn't act recklessly..."

"He Qianqian, the danger in the Two World Mountains exceeds anything that you can imagine. You must not set foot in there..."

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Very soon, a series of cries rang out from nearby, followed by the mixed sound of argument. Many leaders did their best to try and convince He Qianqian. Even more people stood there with warped expressions, looking at He Qianqian with hostility.

These people were all reluctant to set foot in the Two World Mountains. They had always tried to convince everyone else and Jin Hong so that everyone would return with them. If they all left together,

they would have plenty of excuses to avoid the blame even if they had failed the missions from their clans.

However, if a portion of them chose to cross the Two World Mountains while they chose to retreat like cowards, they would become disgraces.

As a result, He Qianqian's suggestion of crossing the Two World Mountains led to hostility from some people.

"I've already made up my mind. Please set off with me if you are willing to cross the Two World Mountains with our Heavenly Crane clan. If you don't want to, I won't force you to do anything," He Qianqian looked around at the people around her and said loudly. At that moment, she seemed like a female hero, completely fearless of death.

Many people's faces warped. They looked at one another, stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"The Heavenly Crane clan sure has produced a person of talent. He Qianqian, I admire your courage. I, Sun Zhi, am willing to lead our Sun clan with you. Isn't it just the Two World Mountains? If this was the Saints' World, any single great elder from our Sun clan could flatten the entire place. What's there to be afraid of?" said a middle-aged man boldly.

"There are so many men here, yet we can't even match up to a woman like He Qianqian? If this makes it out, wouldn't you all become laughingstocks? He Qianqian, our Man family will attempt to cross the Two World Mountains with you..."

"Don't forget our Empirelotus Sword sect. The Two World Mountains can't stop us..."

"The sword in my hand has always wanted to taste the blood of Life-devouring Beasts..."

There were the cowardly, and there were the courageous. Immediately, some people stepped forward while uttering bold and courageous words, standing together with He Qianqian. Powerful battle intent smouldered within their eyes; they were ready to face the Life-devouring Beasts of the Two World Mountains.

"Enough. Stop arguing." At this moment, a voice rang out, cutting through all the ruckus like a bolt of thunder. The powerful sound wave crushed the vegetation in the surroundings to dust. A few of the weaker Godhood cultivators were deafened as the voice roared through their ears.

Even the souls of the Godkings shook before the powerful sound wave.

The divided groups immediately quietened down to the point where even a pin drop could be heard. Everyone looked in the same direction in shock and fear.

The person who had spoken was Jin Hong. He had maintained an extremely low profile. Even though he was the young master of the Dire Wolf clan and the successor of a Grand Exalt, he did not possess the haughtiness of the supreme prodigies there who were shrouded in light. As a result, even though he was technically the leader of the entire operation, he did not stand out among the crowd at all. He rarely spoke as well, making it very easy to ignore him.

"What a penetrative force..."

“Even with my cultivation, I was stunned by Jin Hong’s voice. Jin Hong is much more powerful than I imagined him to be. He really is the successor of a Grand Exalt after all...”

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The various prodigies were silently shocked. Even though they knew Jin Hong was the successor of a Grand Exalt, none of them had witnessed him fight, so they obviously had no idea about his strength. They all knew they had only seen the tip of the iceberg after that bellow.

“Young master Jin Hong, our great elders have specially told us that we are to follow you this time. May I ask what young master Jin Hong is thinking?” said a supreme prodigy.

Jin Hong looked around. He was extremely calm and said, “All of us will cross the Two World Mountains. No one will stay here. Of course, if there is any person who wishes to return to the Spirits’ World, I won’t stop you. However, I will send people to announce how you have deserted us and let everyone know how incompetent you are.”

Jin Hong did not say much, but just those words alone made some of the fearful leaders change in expression. They were filled with resentment towards Jin Hong now.

“You bastard. Jin Hong, how vicious of you!” The expression of Chu Jie, who had mocked Jian Chen earlier, darkened. Jin Hong’s words at the end had cut off all of their paths of retreat.

“Let’s not waste time and set off right now. We have to reach Hundred Saint City as quickly as possible.” With his mind made up, Jin Hong acted swiftly. He immediately gathered everyone and set off towards the area beyond the barrier.

Chapter 2686: At a Complete Advantage

None of the leaders dared to object to Jin Hong’s orders. That was not only because of his status as the successor of a Grand Exalt. More importantly, it was because they had received orders from their seniors to follow all of Jin Hong’s arrangements during this expedition to the World of the Fallen Beast.

The several hundred thousand people began to move. They determined the direction and slowly approached the barrier a hundred kilometres away.

The power of the World of the Fallen Beast was the strongest within the barrier. As a result, the Life-devouring Beasts would never dare to come close. However, the power of the world would become thin outside the barrier. That would be the territory of the Life-devouring Beasts, which would throw the group into constant danger.

Even though everyone was a Godhood cultivator and could cross a hundred kilometres in the blink of an eye, the distance seemed extremely long right now. Especially when they grew closer and closer to the barrier, some of the prodigies from peak organisations could not help but tremble.

Their fear towards the Life-devouring Beasts had already flooded their minds, causing them to move more and more slowly the closer they were to the barrier.

“Oi, you clans, keep up with the pace. If you fall behind, you might get annihilated when you face the Life-devouring Beasts with your strength alone,” A Godking at the front looked back at the few large groups that had almost fallen behind the majority completely and immediately laughed aloud. Derision appeared in his eyes when he saw the pale faces of the leaders of the groups.

Out of the several dozen leaders, some of them had emerged through blood and death, having undergone devastating trials. They had forged a steel-like willpower, so entering the Two World Mountains obviously did not frighten them.

However, there were also those who were like snowflakes. Through the abundant resources of their clans, they had reached Godking in an extremely short amount of time, but they rarely came close to death through trials and tribulations. Now that they were here, facing the threat of the Life-devouring Beasts, they were obviously scared witless.

“What the hell was the great elder thinking, making me follow all of Jin Hong’s orders? Our Lance Empire is an everlasting empire that has existed since the times of antiquity after all. I’m a mighty prince of the Lance Empire with brilliant talent. I reached Godking in just eight hundred years, and my future accomplishments will be immeasurable, so why must I lay down by life with Jin Hong of the Dire Wolf clan now...”

“Jin Hong, you actually forced me into this. I’ll never spare you...”

“Hmph, does Jin Hong really think he’s invincible after obtaining a Grand Exalt’s legacy, that he can cross the Two World Mountains? He probably hasn’t witnessed the horror of Life-devouring Beasts before. I would like to see how he dies...”

“We should be careful. Once we leave the barrier and come across Life-devouring Beasts, leave Jin Hong to stop them. He thinks he’s so great with his legacy from a Grand Exalt. He’ll get what he has been asking for soon...”

“Remember, do not face the Life-devouring Beasts head-on when you come across them. Let Jin Hong stop them. Once Jin Hong dies, we’ll retreat back into the barrier immediately and return to the Spirits’ World...”

Many of the leaders came up with plans. The light in their eyes all flickered as they stared at Jin Hong at the very front. They gritted their teeth in resentment, but they dared not show it.

“Once we leave the barrier, we’ll be in the territory of the Life-devouring Beasts. We’ll face the danger of attacks at all times. Yang Yutian, you must stick close to me later on. Don’t lose your life here,” He Qianqian communicated with Jian Chen sternly in the Heavenly Crane clan’s group.

Excluding the sacrificial soldiers, Jian Chen was the only Godking aside from He Qianqian within the Heavenly Crane clan’s group. As a result, He Qianqian clearly attached great importance to Jian Chen.

Everyone arrived before the barrier very quickly. Hovering before it, Jin Hong glanced past the mountains outside. He showed no fear, directly stepping through it.

After him were the people from the Dire Wolf clan, ranging close to ten thousand in number.

Following them were the Sun family, Man family, Empirelotus Sword sect, and around another dozen leaders. They crossed through the barrier fearlessly with the people under them as well. They all gave off vigorous battle intent, clearly ready to enter a bloodbath with the Life-devouring Beasts.

“Let’s go!” He Qianqian called out and crossed through the barrier with her group as well.

Close to half of the entire group remained within the barrier. They gazed at the mountains shrouded by grey mist fearfully. They hesitated about stepping through the barrier.

“Haha, just the Life-devouring Beasts have frightened you so much. Cowards like you lot should stay in your respective families obediently and live out the rest of your lives easily. You have no right to set foot in the World of the Fallen Beast...” A prodigy outside the barrier looked at the frightened people inside and snickered fearlessly.

“Hmm? Isn’t that the prodigy of the Chu family, Chu Jie? You’re not injured, are you? Why have you become so pale? And your legs, why are they trembling? You’re a Godking for god’s sake. Can’t you even stand properly?” added another prodigy. He stared at Chu Jie and ridiculed him.

He was the prodigy of the Hai family, Hai Guiyi. The Hai family and Chu family had past grievances, so now that the opportunity to ridicule Chu Jie had presented itself, he obviously could not let it slip.

“Hmph. Hai Guiyi, I’ll let your arrogance slide for now. I would like to see how you die when the Life-devouring Beasts come,” Chu Jie said in resentment. Faced with Hai Guiyi’s mockery, he could only cross through the barrier reluctantly.

Soon, the other prodigies inside the barrier could not endure the insults either after hesitating for a while. Faced with various pressures, they all crossed through the barrier.

All the prodigies who had come to the World of the Fallen Beast had left the barrier now. They stood within the Two World Mountains dominated by Life-devouring Beasts.

“Oh no. The senses of my soul are suppressed. What is this power? My senses are less than a hundredth of their usual capacity.” A cry rang out.

“The senses of my soul are suppressed as well. God dammit, I can only expand my senses to a range of ten kilometres...”

“The senses of my soul are completely useless. It has been firmly locked within me...”

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Jian Chen frowned in response to all these cries. He immediately expanded the senses of his soul as well and discovered that even though they were affected, he could still reach a range of a million kilometres.

A range of a million kilometres was more than enough in the Two World Mountains. He could investigate the surrounding situations beforehand and discover any dangers.

“It’s because of the grey mist. Who knows where the mist comes from. You can’t actually disperse it. It looks like the mist is anything but ordinary.” Jian Chen discovered the reason for his suppressed senses

of the soul very soon. He did not devote too much attention to the mist. Instead, he began to observe the Life-devouring Beasts.

The senses of his soul had already reached a million kilometres away. However, he had no idea how vast the mountains were, as he still could not find the boundary.

However, many Life-devouring Beasts appeared in the senses of his soul. The Life-devouring Beasts varied in size and shape, appearing in all sorts of forms. Some looked like tigers or leopards, while others seemed like ancient beasts. There were even some that existed as vegetation, fusing with the surroundings perfectly. As a result, it was difficult to discover them.

However, no matter what form they took, the presence they gave off and the pulsing of energy was identical.

“There’s a Life-devouring Beasts rapidly approaching this place twenty kilometres away. Twenty-five kilometres away, there’s a Life-devouring Beast in the shape of a huge tree, several hundred metres in height...” Jian Chen found everything with the senses of his soul.

Chapter 2687: An Initial Clash

“The Life-devouring Beast twenty kilometres away is shaped like a leopard, except it has six legs. It has clearly discovered us and is directly heading in our direction,” thought Jian Chen. The powerful senses of his soul discovered the strength of the Life-devouring Beast with perfect precision. It was roughly equal to a late Overgod. It posed no threat to the group.

However, this Life-devouring Beast moved extremely quickly. With its strength equivalent to a late Overgod, it could cross a hundred kilometres in an instant, so twenty kilometres only took it the blink of an eye.

Instantly, the six-legged, leopard-shaped Life-devouring Beast appeared before everyone.

The senses of everyone’s souls were suppressed within the Two World Mountains. Even some of the Godkings could only expand their senses to a range of ten kilometres, which was nowhere near enough for them to receive an early warning. By the time they could sense the Life-devouring Beast, it would have crossed the ten kilometres already and appeared before them.

Roar! Immediately, the Life-devouring Beast produced a beast-like roar. Its eyes shone with a muddy, bloodthirsty light as it directly lunged towards the cultivators nearest to it.

“Be careful, there’s a Life-devouring Beast...”

“It’s a Life-devouring Beast! The Life-devouring Beasts have come! The Life-devouring Beasts have come...”

“Don’t panic! Attack together...”

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The cultivators only reacted when the Life-devouring Beast had already attacked. Their faces changed drastically, and all of them cried out in surprise and fear.

Even the Godkings among them became extremely stern. They seemed very nervous.

Immediately, over a hundred people struck out together. There were Overgods and a few Godking leaders. Even over a dozen of the sacrificial soldiers had struck out together.

All of the attacks formed a blanket of colorful lights that surged towards the Life-devouring Beast mercilessly.

“Oh no, my life force has already begun to leak away. The Life-devouring Beast has already begun to devour my life force.”

At the moment they launched their attacks, a few Gods among the group called out in fear. The Life-devouring Beast had yet to attack them. However, when they were a certain distance away from it, their life force would leak away uncontrollably, surging towards the Life-devouring Beast as strands of energy.

Having appeared out of nowhere, the Life-devouring Beast actually faced all the attacks fearlessly. It suddenly made a turn in the air and lunged in a different direction, dodging everyone’s attacks and invading the group instantly.

It was like a wolf among a flock of sheep, frightening the surrounding cultivators to run all over the place as they screamed in fear. At the same time, a large amount of life force leaked away from the surrounding Gods, and all of it gathered towards the Life-devouring Beast.

Gods were unable to retain control over their life force in the presence of the Life-devouring Beast. Even a few of the weaker Overgods suffered the same fate. However, their life force did leak away at an evidently slower pace.

“Retreat! Don’t approach the Life-devouring Beast!” A bellow rang out, and sword Qi surged in the distance. A strand of sharp sword Qi formed a lotus of great detail and tore through the air.

The prodigy from the Empirelotus Sword sect had launched an attack.

At the same time, the Life-devouring Beast opened its huge mouth and directly chomped down on a God.

The God screamed miserably. His body withered away at an unbelievable pace, as if it had been sucked dry. He was reduced to a bag of bones.

The God had died then and there. His life force had been completely devoured, and the Life-devouring Beast became slightly stronger.

Bang! Only now did the lotus sword Qi land on the Life-devouring Beast. With a rumble, the sword Qi exploded, forming lotus petals that sliced away at the Life-devouring Beast’s body.

The Life-devouring Beast trembled violently. The sword Qi unleashed carnage within its body, ravaging its life force. The Life-devouring Beast produced a howl of pain.

However, it did not die. Its tremendous life force battled the sword Qi, forcing it to rapidly weaken.

In the surroundings, the various Overgods and Godkings used this opportunity to attack once more. This time, two hundred attacks rained in at the same time, landing mercilessly on the Life-devouring Beast.

Boom!

The Life-devouring Beast was unable to dodge this time. With a deafening sound, it was blasted into pieces.

The Life-devouring Beast did not bleed. It only possessed a tremendous presence of life, which seemed to be equivalent to blood.

The chaotic surroundings immediately settled down after the Life-devouring Beast's death. Everyone pointed and murmured at the corpse of the Life-devouring Beast. Some people were pale, still stricken with fear, while others were relieved and disdainful towards the corpse.

"That's a Life-devouring Beast. It's nothing much at all. We crushed it to pieces as soon as we met it..."

"The rumours describe the Life-devouring Beasts to be so, so terrifying, yet now that I look at it, it's clearly an exaggeration. These Life-devouring Beasts are no big deal..."

"Don't you underestimate the Life-devouring Beast. Didn't you see how our life force began to leak away uncontrollably as soon as it approached us..."

"That's because you're too weak. Your weakness makes the Life-devouring Beast appear powerful..."

Many people discussed among themselves.

All the leaders had arrived there as well. They opened up a clearing among the people and collected the remains of the Life-devouring Beast and studied it in their hands. Many of them were stern.

"This Life-devouring Beast was only equivalent to an Overgod, yet it could survive my Lotus Explosion Sword Qi. If it were not for the sheer amount of attacks, killing the Life-devouring Beast would have taken quite the effort, even for me," the leader of the Empirelotus Sword sect said sternly. He did not celebrate over the death of the Life-devouring Beast. Instead, he was solemn.

"The might of brother Chang Sheng's Lotus Explosion Sword Qi is shocking. Even other early Godkings cannot withstand its power without a powerful cultivation method and battle skill, yet this Life-devouring Beast could last for so long as a mere Overgod. It even had the ability to oppose the attack. These Life-devouring Beasts really are very powerful. They really live up to the rumour of being difficult to deal with," another leader added sternly.

"The most terrifying part about the Life-devouring Beasts is their ability to devour life force. If the difference in strength is overly large, just being in their presence will drain away life force. Fortunately, it was only equivalent to an Overgod this time. If a late Godking Life-devouring Beast appeared, we would probably be forced to flee. Let alone fighting it, we would lose control of our life force just by standing within a certain distance from it."

"It's said that there are countless Godhood Life-devouring Beasts in the Two World Mountains, and the most terrifying fact is that there are even Primordial realm Life-devouring Beasts..."

As soon as they heard that, everyone's faces changed drastically.

If they were outside, they would even be able to face off against Infinite Primes with so many people, as they could work together by creating formations. However, facing the terrifying ability of Life-devouring Beasts, even if they created a powerful killing formation, they had no confidence in stopping a Primordial realm Life-devouring Beast.

“These remains are fantastic materials for some pills, so stow them away. Let’s set off quickly. We mustn’t waste time here. We need to leave as quickly as possible,” said Jin Hong. Even though he was the successor of a Grand Exalt and possessed extremely great battle prowess, he was unable to relax at a time like this either.

Chapter 2688: Difficult Progress

The remains of the Life-devouring Beast were split into several dozen portions and handed to the leader of each organisation.

Life-devouring Beasts were an extremely rare type of organism because they only existed within the World of the Fallen Beast. Moreover, any single part of their remains possessed extremely powerful life force. This life force could not be directly absorbed by cultivators. However, they were fantastic materials for various God Tier pills.

As a result, the remains of Life-devouring Beasts might not possess much value within the World of the Fallen Beast, but they would be valued at several dozen times, or even hundreds of times, in the Saints’ World.

Due to the limitations on cultivation, people who could refine the remains of Life-devouring Beasts into pills were basically mythical existences. That was why it was not a resource exploited in the World of the Fallen Beasts. However, it would be a completely different story in the Saints’ World.

In the Saints’ World, the remains of Life-devouring Beasts would be items that powerful cultivators or strong organisations would fight over.

As a result, all the leaders of the groups were rather pleased when they obtained these remains.

“The Two World Mountains may be dangerous, but it’s also a way to get rich...”

“If I collect enough remains when I return to my clan, it will be a service of great merit. I will definitely be rewarded personally by the great elders. It will give me a basis for when I fight for the position of patriarch in the future and increase my chances at success...”

A few prodigies smiled to themselves. Even some of the prodigies who were initially afraid of the Life-devouring Beasts felt their fear subside slightly as they looked at the remains they held.

Afterwards, everyone reorganised their groups and set off once again. No one showed any interest towards the God who had died in the mouth of the Life-devouring Beast.

Jian Chen was the only exception. He arrived before the God’s corpse that had its life force drained and was reduced to a bag of bones, and the light in his eyes flickered.

“A God’s life force was completely drained away in just a few seconds. That Life-devouring Beast had such a great devouring ability.” Jian Chen was secretly surprised. He could tell with a single glance that not only had the cultivator lost all of his life force, but even his soul had dispersed.

Let alone Godhood cultivators, even the weaker Origin realm cultivators could have their souls survive upon the destruction of their bodies. They could subsequently rebuild their bodies.

However, after this God had his life force drained, even his soul did not remain.

“Can the Life-devouring Beasts not only devour life force but also souls?” Jian Chen thought.

By now, the group had already set off again. The dead God was abandoned in the wilderness with no one to take care of his corpse.

With a wave of his hand, a sharp sword Qi immediately shot out, creating a deep pit in the ground. Afterwards, he waved his hand again, and a gust of wind blew the corpse into the pit, burying it there.

Only after doing all that did he turn around a leave, catching up to the main group and returning to He Qianqian’s side.

“Yang Yutian, this is the Two World Mountains. The true danger of the Two World Mountains has yet to appear, so I don’t wish for you to fall behind. The senses of the soul are greatly limited here. Once you fall behind, no one will come to save you,” He Qianqian said coldly as soon as Jian Chen returned to her side.

She clearly knew what Jian Chen had gone to do. She said emotionlessly, “If you want to emerge from the Two World Mountains alive, you must forsake your benevolence, as a moment of benevolence can doom you for eternity and trap you here forever.”

“I obviously wouldn’t joke around with my life. You don’t need to worry at all, miss Qian.” Jian Chen broke into a chuckle. However, as soon as he finished speaking, something happened. A huge tree nearby seemed to come to life at that moment. Thousands of branches rained down, stabbing towards the group of people like sharp swords at lightning speed.

Immediately, cries rang out in the surroundings. Several hundred cultivators were pierced by the branches. Their life force was drawn away by the branches at a terrifying rate, deposited into the main trunk of the tree.

At that moment, the several hundred cultivators lost all of their life force. Even their souls were not spared. They died.

After draining all these cultivators of their life force, the energy within the tree suddenly swelled. Its strength was actually forcefully raised to a higher level. It had reached Godking from peak Overgod.

“This is a Life-devouring Beast. Oh no, it has actually broken through! Kill it!”

A great bellow rang out. The leader of the Empirelotus Sword sect was the bravest. His presence roared, and he killed his way over first. Against the Godking Life-devouring Beast, he did not hold back at all, unleashing his full strength.

At the same time, all the other cultivators in the surroundings struck out as well. Various attacks flooded towards the tree-like Life-devouring Beast.

Facing all these attacks, the Life-devouring Beast took defensive measures. It used its tremendous life force to conjure up a powerful barrier around itself. At the same time, a powerful suction force appeared.

Immediately, all the Gods and Overgods within a radius of three thousand metres lost control of their life force, which rapidly gathered towards the Life-devouring Beast.

“What a powerful ability. Even the life force within me is stirred. I almost lost control. Yang Yutian, all the guards, attack! Kill the Life-devouring Beast immediately!” He Qianqina called out, and the Laws of Ice descended. The surrounding temperature abruptly dropped, and large snowflakes began to fall. She formed a seal with both hands and icicles radiating with coldness condensed in the air. They shot towards the tree with coldness so terrifying that they seemed to be able to freeze up the space there.

“These Life-devouring Beasts don’t seem to be particularly clever. They seem to be moving on instincts alone, or they would be able to understand that with so many cultivators here, they won’t be able to survive even if they can kill a few of us,” thought Jian Chen. He did not stand aside in this. With a flip of his hand, a supreme quality saint artifact sword appeared, and he produced several strands of sword Qi with a few swings. However, the strength he displayed was only a regular early Godking’s.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

With consecutive rumbles, the Life-devouring Beast’s barrier of life force shook and dimmed.

However, the Life-devouring Beast actually managed to withstand all of these attacks alone, even when many of them originated from Godkings. They failed to kill it off.

At this moment, a resplendent spear of light pierced through the sky and stabbed the dim barrier with great force.

The Life-devouring Beast’s barrier was already nearing destruction. Now that it had to withstand the attack from the spear, it immediately crumbled. The spear continued onwards and stabbed into the Life-devouring Beast’s body with a Godking’s pulse of energy.

The wielder of the spear was a prodigy from the Sun family. He seemed to be around forty years of age, a middle-aged man. However, he was extremely courageous at this moment. He wielded a spear in one hand while both of his feet remained planted in the ground. He suddenly jolted and called out, “Mountain-splitting Spear—Crack!”

With that single word, cracks rapidly expanded from where the spear had stabbed into the Life-devouring Beast. Pieces of wood erupted.

However, as soon as the cracks appeared, they closed up due to the Life-devouring Beast’s powerful life force. Such a small wound was unable to pose any threat to it at all.

Even more Godkings arrived before the Life-devouring Beast, encircling it.

The Life-devouring Beast’s regenerative powers were very powerful, making it almost impossible to kill. However, no matter how quickly it could heal, it could not rival so many people. Ten seconds later, the Life-devouring Beast was unable to avoid death. It was smashed into pieces by the Godkings, reduced to thousands of splinters.

Only when the Life-devouring Beast died did the Overgods and Gods become relieved. Before a Godking Life-devouring Beast, they did not even have the right to approach it, let alone fight. They were as helpless as they could be.

“We actually lost eight hundred people from this alone. We can’t let this continue, or we’ll lose more than half of everyone before long,” a Godking said with an ugly expression as he looked at the cultivators who had fallen to the Life-devouring Beast.

“Gods are completely useless within the Two World Mountains, and the assistance that Overgods can provide is basically non-existent as well. I would advise us to stow them away in the divine halls we carry with us, or the weaker cultivators will just become sustenance for the Life-devouring Beasts to become stronger.”

“I agree. We can’t let everyone die here. Once we get to Hundred Saint City, there are more matters for them to attend to.”

“That’s right. The place where we can really use them is the Hundred Saint City, not the Two World Mountains. Let’s get them all to stay in the divine halls. It’ll save them from creating trouble.”

Everyone reached an agreement very soon. The leaders all produced their divine halls and let in all of their Gods and Overgods.

With that, the size of the group suddenly shrunk, going from several hundred thousand to a few tens of thousand in an instant. They were now a tenth of their original size.

All of the people outside were Godkings. Of course, over ninety-nine percent of them were sacrificial soldiers raised through Hundred Tribulations Godking Pills. The actual prodigies who had cultivated to Godking amounted to less than one percent.

As a matter of fact, some of the leaders were not even Godkings themselves, so they ended up hiding within their divine halls as well. They gave the divine halls to Jin Hong to keep.

With that, Jin Hong now carried over twenty divine halls on him. However, he also obtained the authority over the sacrificial Godkings from those organisations as well.

Every organisation had brought several hundred to over a thousand sacrificial soldiers. As a result, the sacrificial Godkings under Jin Hong’s command now amounted to over twenty thousand.

Chapter 2689: Hidden Issues

“Damn it, I never thought these insignificant figures that are merely Gods and Overgods would receive such special treatment. Jin Hong is a supreme prodigy who gained the legacy of a Grand Exalt. Without a single doubt, he’s the strongest among us. Those people hid in divine halls held by Jin Hong, so not only can they avoid the risk of fighting the Life-devouring Beasts outside, but it’ll even save them from the burden of travelling.” The prodigy from the Chu family, Chu Jie, was both jealous and envious as he looked at all the divine halls with Jin Hong.

“Under Jin Hong’s protection, they’re more likely to survive than staying outside here. Damn it. If I had known this earlier, I would have broken through to Godking later. That way, I too can hide within a divine hall and wait comfortably. There would have been no need for me to take risks outside,” Chu Jie

thought. He looked at the divine hall that held thousands of Gods and Overgods in his own hand and sighed to himself.

From the encounter with the tree-shaped Life-devouring Beast, they had understood that Life-devouring Beasts did not only take the forms of animals. They could appear as plants as well. If the Life-devouring Beasts hid well, they would struggle to discover them even if they were nearby. As a result, they had to constantly be on guard against sudden attacks from Life-devouring Beasts. Not only did they have to keep their guard raised constantly, but it would even become exhausting after a long period of time. All of them would become tired. It was nowhere near as comfortable as remaining in a divine hall.

As a result, Chu Jie basically wished he was one of the people who had entered the divine halls.

There were quite a lot of people who shared the same thought as Chu Jie among the Godking prodigies. From their clashes with the Life-devouring Beasts, they saw the cultivators who had fallen to the beasts, which made them feel great fear.

Most of these prodigies were afraid of death. They were snowflakes, nowhere near as courageous and fearless as the prodigy from the Empirelotus Sword sect and the others.

“Young master Jin Hong, I’ve only broken through to Godking recently. I haven’t consolidated my cultivation completely, so I won’t be of any help against Life-devouring Beasts. Why don’t you let me enter a divine hall as well? I’ll leave all the Godking guards under me to your command, young master Jin Hong.” At this moment, the leader of an organisation arrived before Jin Hong and spoke meekly, a little like he was sucking up to Jin Hong. His eyes expressed his desire to enter a divine hall.

The Godkings guards he spoke of were naturally the sacrificial soldiers raised through Hundred Tribulations Godking Pills.

“Guang Wanhua, you’re a mighty Godking no different from us, yet you’re so afraid of death. The Scarlet Light clan should be ashamed for having a descendant like you,” said the prodigal Godking from the Sun family. He was mocking him.

Guang Manhua became completely flushed from that, yet he felt powerless, as most of the Godkings who remained outside were early Godkings, the same as him.

As a matter of fact, some of them had even broken through later than him.

“Guang Wanhua, I’ll turn a deaf ear to what you just said. I just hope you understand that at a time like this, not only do you represent yourself, but you also represent the Scarlet Light clan behind you. The Scarlet Light clan is a renowned peak clan in the Saints’ World after all. In particular, the Scarlet Light Ancestor is a figure of indomitable spirit. As the descendant of the Scarlet Light Ancestor, while there’s no need for you to share the same indomitable spirit as him, you definitely shouldn’t tarnish the Scarlet Light clan’s reputation,” said Jin Hong. He spoke very mildly, completely without being demanding, yet there was a sense for firmness and courage that seemed to be able to stand up to even death.

“Yes. Young master Jin Hong is right,” Guang Wanhua replied in shame, no longer willing to bring up the matter of hiding in a divine hall again.

Originally, Chu Jie also wanted to hide in a divine hall, but once he saw what had happened with Guang Wanhua, he forgot about it immediately.

“Jin Hong sure is a man of talent,” Jian Chen nodded secretly nearby. Jin Hong was not old either, only having cultivated for under a millennium. To be able to accomplish so much in such a short amount of time and still maintain such a calm and steady mindset really was rare. If he did not die young and managed to mature, his future would definitely be extremely astonishing.

The shrunken group gathered back into a circle and continued onwards. They assigned all the Godking guards to the edges, while the prodigies gathered in the centre. As a result, even if a Life-devouring Beast attacked, it would come into contact with the sacrificial soldiers first. They could limit the deaths of normal cultivators.

After all, sacrificial soldiers could only live for a century at most. Among them, some had already lived for several decades, so they did not have much time left. As a result, it was not too big of a deal to lose them.

As the group continued to advance, the grey mist that permeated the mountains and forests became denser and denser. In the end, even Godkings could not see over a hundred kilometres away. Fortunately, they still could use the senses of their souls. Through their senses, they could observe everything within a ten kilometre radius.

Jian Chen looked at the obscuring mist and frowned slightly, as he had discovered that as the mist grew thicker, it gradually changed as well. It was actually leaching into his body slowly through his skin, his pores, or even through his lungs, and then remaining inside and devouring his life force.

Even though it was not evident at all, enough to fool even Jin Hong who had the legacy of a Grand Exalt, it was unable to fool Jian Chen who had reached the Primordial realm and whose soul had also become extremely sensitive after mutating.

“Miss Qian, this mist is strange. If you trust me, immediately cloak yourself with energy. Don’t let the mist approach your body,” Jian Chen said to He Qianqian secretly.

He Qianqian turned around and glanced at Jian Chen in surprise. However, she said nothing. Instead, she closed her eyes and tried to sense for something.

Jian Chen sighed inside at the sight of this. He knew his warning out of goodwill would probably require some explaining, as these Godkings would not be able to discover the hidden issue in the mist.

Let alone Godkings, even some Infinite Primes would not be able to detect it.

The mist seemed like parasites. Once it entered the body, it would silently hide away, fusing with the cultivator. Without any special methods or exceptional cultivation, it was impossible to discover its existence.

Lodged within a cultivator’s body, it would slowly strengthen through devouring the cultivator’s life force. The cultivator would not be able to sense the life force devoured, as the life force would remain within the cultivator’s body. No one would be able to discover anything different. The only difference would be that a portion of the life force would no longer belong to the cultivator.

“I just wonder if this mist in the cultivator’s body will change once again once it absorbs life force to a certain extent,” Jian Chen thought suddenly. He could not help but think about the Life-devouring Beasts in the Two World Mountains and began to guess and hypothesise.

At this moment, He Qianqian opened her eyes and stared at Jian Chen in doubt. “Yang Yutian, I haven’t discovered anything strange at all. What are you trying to say?”

“The mist here is nowhere near as simple as it seems. It can invade and lurk within the body of people. If they don’t guard against it, it will definitely lead to significant problems and unimaginable consequences in the future. As a result, just in case, don’t let the mist approach your body. Don’t ask me why I know. My senses are much sharper, so I can discover things that you can’t,” said Jian Chen.

He Qianqian looked at Jian Chen in doubt. She seemed like she wanted to understand what he was thinking through his eyes, to understand whether Jian Chen was telling the truth or not.

She did not believe Jian Chen at all. She originated from the Heavenly Crane clan. She received the direct guidance of Primordial realm experts since a young age, having been filled up with knowledge. She believed her insight was far greater than the ordinary man’s, so in her eyes, even if there was something wrong, she should have discovered it first. It was impossible for Jian Chen, who was just an independent cultivator, to find out before her. Not to mention that she had discovered nothing when she tried.

He Qianqian snorted in contempt when she heard Jian Chen’s explanation that his senses were sharper. Was she, a supreme prodigy from a peak organisation who had practised various ancient secret techniques, not even as great as an independent cultivator?

Sensing He Qianqian’s doubtful gaze, Jian Chen could not help but feel powerless. “Miss Qian, don’t worry. I hold no ill intentions towards you. Just listen to me.” Jian Chen was unable to find a convincing reason, as he definitely could not afford to expose his strength. Otherwise, once the Darkstar race learnt a Primordial realm expert had come in from outside, they would definitely raise their guard and prepare precautions against him. It would become far, far more difficult for him to save Sacredfeather like that.

He Qianqian put some serious consideration into it before saying, “This place isn’t like the Saints’ World, where you can absorb the origin energy in the surroundings to replenish your own whenever and wherever you want. If I really do cloak myself in energy, I will consume my origin energy extremely rapidly. I’ll go find young master Jin Hong. He’s the successor of a Grand Exalt. Let’s see whether he can discover anything wrong. If the mist really is hiding problems, then you would have done a deed of great merit, Yang Yutian. However, if it does not...”

When she reached there, He Qianqian paused, and her cold eyes suddenly sharpened. She said solemnly, “I hope you understand that in a place like this, once I have discovered you are fooling around with me, the consequences will be thousands of times more severe than any other time.” With that, He Qianqian turned back around and approached Jin Hong.

“Sigh, to return good intentions with ill will.” Jian Chen felt powerless. He directly ignored He Qianqian’s threat. If he wanted to, he could leave this group whenever he wanted.

The Two World Mountains were a hellish place from the perspective of others, but in his eyes, it was like his own backyard.

“Though, the Two World Mountains are too vast. With the senses of my soul suppressed, I can’t get a complete view of this place. Moreover, this world is formed from a huge beast. The area deep underneath the Two World Mountains seems to beat like a huge beast’s heart. Every time it thumps, the geography changes, and our location changes slightly as well. It makes this place no different from a

labyrinth. If I want to make it out, I have to follow these people. I'll only be able to leave easily through their secret techniques which can sense the location of Hundred Saint City," thought Jian Chen.

"Yang Yutian, have you really discovered something strange about the mist here?" Very soon, Jin Hong personally arrived before Jian Chen and asked sternly.

Chapter 2690: Teaching a Lesson

Jin Hong's actions attracted the attention of all the prodigies. At that moment, everyone looked at Jian Chen. Especially when they heard Jin Hong's words, their eyes all lit up. They immediately began to sense for something themselves.

However, they failed to discover anything strange either.

"That's right, the mist is indeed different. It's very difficult to say what negative consequences it'll create for us, but we should take precautions just in case," said Jian Chen.

"You're lying. I've already inspected the mist here, and I haven't discovered anything strange at all. You say there's something off about the mist, so what's so off about it?" The prodigy of the Chu family, Chu Jie, stated his doubts as soon as Jian Chen had finished speaking.

"Even some Primordial realm experts would not be able to discover the peculiarity with the mist. It's also because of my extraordinarily sharp senses that I can discover the problem with it. It only makes sense that you can't find anything." Jian Chen crossed his arms and said leisurely, "Anyhow, I've already warned you all. Whether you believe it or not is your choice."

"How dare you, Yang Yutian? Who do you think you are that allows you to say something like that to us?" Chu Jie's face sank, and his gaze immediately turned hostile. He was already extremely annoyed over the fact that he was forced to cross the Two World Mountains. Now, not only had a mere independent cultivator spoken to him and the other prodigies of peak clans so impolitely, without any hint of respect, but the independent cultivator was even utterly fearless and treated them like nothing significant at all. Chu Jie was unable to accept this and immediately became infuriated.

"Everyone here is a supreme prodigy from a peak clan. We all possess superior status, so how can we allow you, a mere independent cultivator, to act so rudely? Kneel immediately and bow your head in apology. Otherwise, I'll be the first one to teach you a lesson," Chu Jie said viciously.

"This independent cultivator really stepped out of his bounds a little. No, he's rather arrogant. Maybe he's a little prideful over the fact that he could become a Godking in a thousand years. He has no idea that something like that really isn't anything special in our eyes. With our status, we only need a single word to end his life," another prodigy added after Chu Jie. He shot a glance at Jian Chen, and his voice was filled with evident arrogance and deep disdain.

"This independent cultivator has stepped slightly out of line..."

Jian Chen's casual attitude had become a form of arrogance in the eyes of the prodigies. Immediately, it displeased a portion of them, who sneered.

He Qianqian's face sank when she heard what they all said. A vicious light flickered through her eyes. In her opinion, no matter how Yang Yutian had spoken, he was a part of her Heavenly Crane clan. Even if

he were in the wrong, it would be her Heavenly Crane clan that would deal with him. These outsiders had no right to barge into this.

Just when He Qianqian was about to say something, Jian Chen cut her off, "If you want me to kneel, just you won't be enough. Let alone you lot, even if your ancestors were here in person, they would not be able to make me kneel."

"Oh no!" He Qianqian became worried when she heard that. If he had only fallen out with the people here, it would be much easier to deal with. After all, everyone was in a similar position, so no one held fear towards anyone. However, now that Jian Chen had mentioned their ancestors, the matter had become much more severe.

"Yang Yutian, you're looking to die for slandering my ancestor!" Chu Jie flew into a rage. With a flip of his hand, a supreme quality saint artifact sword appeared. A layer of golden, roaring flames from the sun covered the sword and shot towards Jian Chen as a golden streak of light.

"It's the Sword Qi of the Great Sun! That's the Sword Qi of the Great Sun from the Chu family. I never thought Chu Jie would use such a powerful battle skill right from the get go. It looks like he wants to finish him in a single strike..."

"The Sword Qi of the Great Sun was created by a great elder of the Chu family with exceptional cultivation through comprehending a high grade God Tier Battle Skill. Its power is astonishing, and against opponents of the same level, they'll be left heavily injured even if they avoid death if they don't possess a secret technique of similar power..."

"Chu Jie might seem so cowardly, but he's not weak. There's no need to watch any further. The outcome is predetermined. Even if that independent cultivator called Yang Yutian manages to survive Chu Jie's Sword Qi of the Great Sun, he'll suffer miserably..."

"That won't necessarily happen. Yang Yutian was able to become a Godking despite being an independent cultivator. He might possess the legacy of some powerful existence..."

The surrounding prodigies watched on like it was a show. Very few people were optimistic about Jian Chen's fate.

However, Jian Chen remained composed. He directly threw a slap.

With a crisp sound, Chu Jie's roaring presence from using the Sword Qi of the Great Sun ceased. He was knocked aside like a broken kite, flying a hundred metres away before landing on the ground miserably. Half of his face had been reduced to a bloody mess.

Clearly, no one had expected this. It left the surrounding people either stunned or dazed as they stared at Chu Jie who was a hundred metres away. They were shocked.

"What just happened? Did anyone see it clearly..."

"T- that's impossible. Chu Jie was actually sent flying by a slap from Yang Yutian..."

"What? Sent flying by a slap? That's just..."

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Immediately, everyone who had witnessed the event was left dumbstruck. Even He Qianqian became speechless.

A gleam of interest flickered through Jin Hong's eyes. He stared at Jian Chen fixedly and became stern for the first time.

The slap seemed to have left Chu Jie in a daze. He crawled to a feet in some confusion, subconsciously touching the half of his face that had become numb. Only when he saw his bloody hand did he seem to return to his senses. His eyes immediately became bloodshot, and he roared hoarsely, "Yang Yutian, I'll kill you! I'll carve you into a million pieces! Guards of the Chu family, get him! I want Yang Yutian torn to pieces!"

With Chu Jie's command, roughly seven hundred of the sacrificial Godkings from the Chu family moved immediately. All of them erupted with the powerful presence of Godkings; they were about to execute Jian Chen.

"Stop. Yang Yutian is a part of my Heavenly Crane clan. Chu Jie, do you plan on becoming enemies with my Heavenly Crane clan?" He Qianqian stood forward in time. With her action, the several hundred sacrificial soldiers of the Heavenly Crane clan took a step forward as well, stopping the guards of the Chu family.

"Chu Jie, I don't care about any personal grievances you have with Yang Yutian, but if you plan on using your guards, I can't just stand by," He Qianqian said coldly.

"I have suffered such great humiliation, which can only be washed away with his blood. I must kill him today. He Qianqian, do you really plan on stopping me today?" Chu Jie ground his teeth. His eyes were filled with resentment.

"Kill me? Just by you?" Jian Chen said coldly. In the next moment, he appeared before Chu Jie like he had teleported and grabbed Chu Jie by the neck before lifting him up. "Would you believe that if I want you to die right now, even all your guards won't be able to protect you?"