

Chaotic 3101

Chapter 3101: Explosive Growth of the Soul

Time trickled by silently. In the blink of an eye, a good part of the year had passed already. Only three months remained before Jian Chen returned to the Tian Yuan clan.

Jian Chen did not remain in the Watercloud Hall during this final period of time. Instead, he summoned everyone who had originally ventured to the Saints' World with him from the Tian Yuan Continent.

Shangguan Mu'er, Qing Yixuan, Nubis, Xiao Jin, and Xiao Ling all gathered together.

They were the only ones who remained with the Tian Yuan clan now after coming to the Saints' World together back then.

Shen Jian and Sacredfeather were cultivating with the Wind Venerable, while Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu had left the Tian Yuan clan a long time ago. Jian Chen had owed a great favour to them back then on the Tian Yuan Continent. No one knew where they had gone.

As for the people from the World of Forsaken Saints who had followed the Spiritking, Shen Jian, up from the lower world like Xiong Zhong and Cheng Jingyun, they had left the Tian Yuan clan a long time ago too.

They had left the Cloud Plane to wander the Saints' World alone.

Kai Ya had died to the Elder of Mountains and Seas many years ago.

Fairy Hao Yue was heavily injured and in the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng right now. Even Jian Chen did not know how she was faring.

As for uncle Houston, Jian Chen had learnt from Mo Tianyun that he had been accepted as a disciple by the master of the Emyrean Demon Orb. He had spent the past few years cultivating in seclusion within the Emyrean Demon Orb.

The five people before him were all that remained by Jian Chen's side.

"Jian Chen, I won't be going to the Saints' World. I've basically been reduced to a cripple, so it's inconvenient for me to move around outside. I don't really have any attachments to the lower world either, so it's best if I spend my time in peace in the Tian Yuan clan," Nubis sat back in the chair lazily and said in an unconcerned manner.

Jian Chen nodded. He looked at Nubis and said solemnly, "Nubis, don't worry. I'll definitely find a Sovereign Fruit of the Dragon God this time so that you can make a complete recovery."

"I don't plan on returning either. I have no attachments to the lower world, so even if I go back, it's pointless," said Qing Yixuan. She was indifferent.

"Fair enough. The resources on the Tian Yuan Continent are scarce, nowhere near as abundant as the Saints' World. If you go to the Tian Yuan Continent, it'll only get in the way of your cultivation." Jian Chen looked at Qing Yixuan and showed a sliver of delight. "Qing Yixuan, you should be reaching the Primordial realm soon."

Qing Yixuan had only come to the Saints' World recently, but she had obtained the swordmaster Yun Chi's golden core of Laws of the Sword, so her progress in the recent years could only be described as swift and vigorous. Her future accomplishments would be limitless too.

Noticing Jian Chen's delight, Qing Yixuan immediately felt strange inside. She shot a glance at Jian Chen in displeasure and snorted. "Don't look at me like that. Don't forget, I'm a few thousand years older than you."

Jian Chen smiled and asked, "Mu'er, Xiao Jin, Xiao Ling, what about you? Are you ready to go down with me?"

"Ah! Do you even need to ask me? Both master and big brother Jian Chen are going, so of course, I have to come along. Hmph, big brother Jian Chen, you and master are not allowed to abandon Xiao Ling and leave by yourselves, or Xiao Ling will ignore you in the future," said Xiao Ling. As for Xiao Jin, Jian Chen knew the answer without even asking him. These two natural spirits never seemed to have separated ever since they had met each other.

"You don't need to ask me. I'll be coming along no matter what. We already have a footing in the Saints' World now, so I'll bring Xiao Bao up with us this time." That was Shangguan Mu'er's resolve.

"Jian Chen, I might not be able to return to the Tian Yuan Continent. In three days' time, I need to return to the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng for secluded cultivation. It might be a very long time before I see you again." Ming Dong was dejected. He seemed completely unwilling.

"I'm only still attached to one person on the Tian Yuan Continent, which is the great elder of Mercury City, uncle Tian. My brother, you have to bring uncle Tian up with you this time."

Three days later, the eighth majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, Bai Rong, came to the Tian Yuan clan personally and forcefully took the reluctant Ming Dong away. Ming Xie and Yun Xiaoyan left soon afterwards.

In the blink of an eye, another month had passed. Only two months remained before they headed off for the Tian Yuan Continent. Mo Tianyun returned with Ning Shuang.

As soon as he saw Jian Chen, Mo Tianyun frowned. Despite Jian Chen doing his best to hide it, how could he fool the eyes of an expert like Mo Tianyun with his feebleness?

"What happened? How did you end up like this?" Mo Tianyun asked with a frown.

"In order to give fairy Hao Yue a chance at survival, I attempted the Bridge of Life and Death from the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, so I paid a price."

"And how did it turn out?"

"Fortunately, everything worked out. Fairy Hao Yue's wounds should not be a concern anymore." Jian Chen smiled with ease.

Mo Tianyun nodded. He scanned Jian Chen carefully with his sharp gaze as if he was trying to understand Jian Chen inside and out.

“Your soul is far too injured. It might affect our trip to the Xuanhuang Microcosm. After all, opening up the Xuanhuang Microcosm requires your assistance. But it’s fine. The issue with your soul isn’t that difficult to deal with.” As Mo Tianyun said that, a puresoul immediately appeared out of thin air.

“This is the puresoul refined from the Saint of Grand Harmony’s soul. It’s also what I promised to you back then. It’s basically perfect for you right now.”

“The injuries to your soul are extremely severe. The very foundations are already damaged. Under this state, there are only a very small number of resources in the world that can still heal you, but puresouls happen to be one of them.”

Mo Tianyun pressed down on the top of Jian Chen’s head gently, and the puresoul immediately merged with his soul. At the same time, he said, “Refine it quickly!”

Jian Chen immediately felt a cluster of extremely pure power surge into his soul. The puresoul to Jian Chen’s feeble soul was like sudden irrigation to a parched rice field. Not only did the puresoul revive its vitality, it even began to prosper and flourish too.

Jian Chen subconsciously closed his eyes and began to dismiss his thoughts, focusing on absorbing the puresoul.

The puresoul turned into a ball of pure and tremendous energy, rapidly merging with Jian Chen’s soul. Immediately, he began to recover at an unbelievable rate.

The puresoul did not do something as simple as heal Jian Chen’s soul. It touched on the very structure of his soul, repairing and consolidating its foundations.

After all, this was a puresoul refined from a Grand Prime. The energy it contained was nowhere close to what its original master’s soul possessed, but it triumphed in quality. Such a tremendous and high level puresoul obviously brought immeasurable benefits to Jian Chen’s soul.

The energy from the puresoul was rapidly depleted. Jian Chen’s damaged foundations were completely repaired in an extremely short amount of time.

After repairing the foundations, quite a bit of the energy still remained. Without a master, it all merged with Jian Chen’s soul, causing his soul to swell up at a visible rate.

Very soon, his feeble soul that was less than a third of its peak condition had recovered to a half of its peak condition.

However, it did not stop there. His soul continued to grow and recover, getting closer and closer to its peak condition.

Mo Tianyun remained right by his side during this process. His eyes remained glued to Jian Chen, constantly paying attention to the changes in his soul and the situation of his recovery.

However, his frown gradually deepened. He murmured to himself, “His soul has merged with a sliver of true Chaotic Force, so it’s different from regular cultivators’. As a result, when it recovers, the amount of puresouls it requires is far more than other cultivations. I originally thought this puresoul alone could completely cure all of the problems and make his soul grow drastically. As it seems, I was too optimistic.”

With a flip of his hand, another puresoul appeared, also of quite a high grade. Not only was the quality of the energy inside high, but the quantity was alarming too.

This had also been refined from a Grand Prime's soul!

"I refined this puresoul from a Grand Prime from the Ice Pole Plane. He wasn't as powerful as the Saint of Grand Harmony, but it's more complete than the Saint of Grand Harmony's puresoul. I'll give them both to you today." As he said that, Mo Tianyun sent the second Grand Prime's puresoul into Jian Chen's head without any hesitation.

With the second puresoul, the rate at which Jian Chen's soul grew immediately increased abruptly. Very soon, his soul had completely returned to its peak condition.

However, the energy within the puresouls did not run out. After making a full recovery, his soul continued to grow, becoming stronger and stronger, larger and larger. It climbed towards a higher realm in an unstoppable manner.

Suddenly, there was a rumble in Jian Chen's soul. At that moment, his soul seemed to overcome some kind of restraint. It experienced a qualitative change, stepping into a whole new realm.

Chaotic Prime!

At this moment, Jian Chen's soul had broken through to Chaotic Prime before everything else! It was currently at the First Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

However, that was not the end! His soul continued to grow rapidly. Not only did it continue, but the rate of absorption almost became two or three times greater than before with his soul's breakthrough and as his soul strengthened.

Boom!

Abruptly, Jian Chen's soul shook. He made another breakthrough, reaching the Second Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime with his soul!

He still did not stop. There was still energy remaining in the puresoul, which merged with Jian Chen's soul at an even faster rate.

The Third Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

The Fourth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

The Fifth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

Finally, after reaching the Fifth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime, the two puresouls from Grand Primes ran out of all of their energy.

Chapter 3102: An Increase in Laws

The Fifth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime!

That was the current realm of Jian Chen's soul.

Of course, this was an increase limited to the soul. His Chaotic Body and Laws of the Sword still remained the same as before, without any growth at all.

After all, puresouls were not all-powerful. They could only strength one's soul. They could not directly increase the realm of his laws.

In that short moment, his soul had progressed rapidly from the Ninth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime, directly reaching the Fifth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime at an unbelievable rate.

It had grown so quickly that Jian Chen felt like he was dreaming. It was all so surreal.

However, he also understood that he could not afford to experience these rapid increases too often. Even if his soul grew very quickly, the price he paid was extremely great as well. It took up two puresouls at the level of Grand Primes.

That was equivalent to the lives of two Grand Primes.

Even across the entire Saints' World, how many experts like that were there?

Jian Chen understood that Mo Tianyun had given him a colossal blessing this time!

However, the increase in Jian Chen's strength did not seem to stop there. Right when the cultivation realm of his soul consolidated, the power of the beast soul from the Spatial Insect Emperor hidden within his body suddenly surged out, merging with his soul.

The power of the beast soul contained the profound Laws of Space. When it merged with Jian Chen's soul, Jian Chen's comprehension of the Laws of Space rapidly began to increase.

His grasp over the Laws of Space had been at the Eighth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime, but now, it actually reached the Ninth Heavenly Layer very quickly.

Afterwards, without any surprises at all, his comprehension of the Laws of Space broke through to Chaotic Prime like it was perfectly natural. After that, it continued to increase.

The space throughout the entire highest floor of the Watercloud Hall sank into a blur, like countless ripples through water.

The Laws of Space there seemed to be disturbed. The entire region seemed like a messy mixture. Everything was in a blurred state.

Jian Chen's figure faded in and out with the violent pulses of space, sometimes blurry and sometimes clear. It was as if he resided in a different space altogether.

Mo Tianyun and Ning Shuang remained where they were, constantly paying attention to him while watching over him.

"Tianyun, why has his Laws of Space increased so rapidly all of a sudden? T-this is clearly illogical." Ning Shuang could obviously sense the space around Jian Chen. Surprise filled her eyes.

"His soul previously merged with the beast soul of a Spatial Insect Emperor. He's currently absorbing the power of the beast soul. The more he absorbs, the stronger his Laws of Space will become," Mo Tianyun

said indifferently. An invisible power permeated his surroundings, so he and Ning Shuang were completely unaffected by the space around them.

“Ning Shuang, you don’t need to be too worried. Throughout the six worlds, probably only Jian Chen can increase his comprehension like this, as his soul has merged with a strand of Chaotic Force. That’s true Chaotic Force, not the fake Chaotic Force you’ve seen in the past.”

“Jian Chen is extremely special, as things that should be impossible have happened to him. As a result, we cannot apply normal logic to him.” Mo Tianyun explained.

Jian Chen was completely engrossed in the growth of his Laws of Space. As he absorbed more and more of the beast soul, his grasp over space became stronger and stronger as well.

His Laws of Space broke through again and again. In the end, when they reached the Fourth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime, his soul finally reached a full state, and it stopped absorbing the beast soul’s powers.

His soul had reached the Fifth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

His Laws of Space had reached the Fourth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime.

Even though his Laws of the Sword had not increased at all, the progress with the Laws of Space alone had made his strength increase drastically.

Now, his mastery over the Laws of Space had completely surpassed his Laws of the Sword.

“Each breakthrough of my Chaotic Body requires a corresponding level of comprehension of the laws of the world. The comprehension of the laws is the only shackle that prevents progress with the Chaotic Body.”

“In the past, out of all the laws I grasped, my Laws of the Sword was always in the lead, so breaking through with the Laws of the Sword was the only way to release these shackles on the Chaotic Body. But in reality, the Laws of the Sword is not the only way. Any of the laws will work.”

“Now, my Laws of Space far exceed my Laws of the Sword, so I’ll obviously use the Laws of Space to reach a higher realm of the Chaotic Body.”

“My Chaotic Body can reach the sixteenth layer at any time now.” Jian Chen opened his eyes slowly with a satisfied smile on his face. However, when he sensed his chaotic neidan that was only a fraction of its previous size inside his dantian, he sighed gently.

Originally, before he attempted the Bridge of Life and Death, the energy within his chaotic neidan had already reached the limit. In the end, when his chaotic neidan shattered on the Bridge of Life and Death, he had exhausted a colossal amount of Chaotic Force in that short moment. Even after his chaotic neidan was miraculously repaired, the lost Chaotic Force never returned.

If he still had Gustas’ fleshly core, Jian Chen could absorb the energy within it to recover, or even directly make a breakthrough and reach a higher realm.

However, he had left the fleshly core with his elder sister, Changyang Mingyue.

“The Tian Yuan clan’s resources should be enough for me to break through, but I have no way of estimating how many resources I’ll need. I might even exhaust the entire clan’s supply.”

“Moreover, I haven’t completely recovered the vitality and vital energies I burned on the Bridge of Life and Death. My foundation is damaged, so it’s not appropriate for me to break through right now, or it’ll lead to big problems.”

“Whatever. We’re making the trip to the Xuanhuang Microcosm soon anyway. I’ll just break through in the Xuanhuang Microcosm. There should be enough heavenly resources in there to repair my foundations,” Jian Chen thought to himself. He wrapped up with his cultivation, and the space that pulsed violently around him gradually settled down as well.

“The year is up. The Rain Abbess of the Delight Plane has even spent a month waiting for you. Since you’re done with cultivation, it’s time for us to set off.” At this moment, Mo Tianyun’s voice rang out.

Chapter 3103: Interworld Teleportation

The concept of time was non-existent when it came to cultivation. It was completely impossible to sense the passage of time. Obviously, Jian Chen had not sensed that his period of cultivation had lasted longer than the year they previously agreed on, so he immediately became alarmed when he heard how he made the Rain Abbess wait a month for him.

What kind of expert was the Rain Abbess? That was a powerful existence that could defeat the Icecloud Founding Ancestor. Her strength was unfathomable. What gave him the right to make a supreme figure like the Rain Abbess wait for him?

Jian Chen immediately got to his feet. After clasping his fist in gratitude towards Mo Tianyun, he immediately gathered everyone, formally setting off for the lower world.

Jian Chen did not consider bringing too many people with him this time, as the existence of the Xuanhuang Microcosm was still a secret. In order to keep it a secret, it would be best if he kept the number of people who knew about it at a minimum.

Shangguang Mu’er, Xiao Jin, and Xiao Ling were the only ones in the Tian Yuan clan he planned on having venture to the lower world with him.

Jian Chen had notified the Martial Soul lineage, but due to their special characteristics, they did not have a particularly large demand for heavenly resources as people who cultivated Martial Soul Force. Martial Soul Mountain was the only place that could allow their strength to increase rapidly.

As a result, even when the Martial Soul lineage was aware that Jian Chen knew the location of a Xuanhuang Microcosm, they were not tempted.

To them, what was the point of obtaining all those heavenly resources? The Ninth Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime was their limit.

Jian Chen quickly gathered some necessities before leaving the Tian Yuan clan with Shangguan Mu’er, Xiao Jin, Xiao Ling, and Mo Tianyun.

Mo Tianyun carried them with him along the way. They left the Cloud Plane and advanced through the vast outer space, covering a tremendous distance with each step. The surrounding stars would change as they moved extremely quickly.

Before long, they had travelled far away from the Cloud Plane, stopping in a region of asteroids in the end.

Billions of asteroids floated through this region, varying in size and packing the place densely. They filled the entire space.

At the very centre of these asteroids, Jian Chen saw a familiar figure.

It was the greatest expert of the Delight Plane, the Rain Abbess!

The Rain Abbess had changed into a set of black robes. She sat in the space there with her back towards them; she was like a statue, not moving at all.

Mo Tianyun approached her. In a single step, he had arrived beside the Rain Abbess with Jian Chen and the others.

“You’re late!” the Rain Abbess opened her eyes slowly and said indifferently.

“I lost track of time while cultivating, so I’ve made you wait. Please forgive me!” Jian Chen immediately clasped his fist and said apologetically. Jian Chen truly felt rather ashamed after making an expert like the Rain Abbess wait an entire month.

The Rain Abbess did not look at Jian Chen. She did not seem to particularly care about the fact that he was late either. She continued with the same indifferent voice, “Since you’re here, let’s set off.” With that, the Rain Abbess extended a finger. In the next moment, the asteroids there suddenly erupted with brilliant light. Energy surged out of every single asteroid.

In that instant, the asteroid cluster of billions was assembled into a colossal teleportation formation. Its area was so large that it was on par with an entire region on the Cloud Plane.

Jian Chen was shocked at the sight of the indescribably large teleportation formation. This was definitely the largest out of all the teleportation formations he had seen.

The teleportation formation alone covered an area equivalent to the southern region of the Cloud Plane. That was simply unimaginable.

“There are many lower worlds. Are you in possession of a spatial marker? If you don’t have a spatial marker, searching through them one by one will take quite a lot of time,” the Rain Abbess said.

“Are you referring to this by a spatial marker?” Jian Chen immediately took out an item. When he left the Tian Yuan clan back then, he had left behind teleportation markers in the lower world for the sake of convenience when he wanted to return in the future.

And to be safe, he had made many of them. He had cast down several teleportation formations in the lower world too for the sake of convenience when they returned.

The item he had taken out was one of the many teleportation markers.

The Rain Abbess accepted Jian Chen's spatial marker and tossed it into the interworld teleportation formation before warning sternly, "We are about to venture into the space of a lower world. The space of lower worlds is extremely fragile, so you must all seal up your strength, or it'll lead to unimaginably severe consequences."

Jian Chen nodded, expressing that he understood. Soon afterwards, he and Shangguang Mu'er immediately got to work, sealing up their strength. As for Xiao Jin and Xiao Ling, Mo Tianyun personally sealed it up for them.

In that instant, their presences rapidly diminished, falling to the level of Saint Emperors.

It was also at this moment that the interworld teleportation formation erupted with light, glowing with a radiance that was several times stronger than the sun. The powerful energy turned into a terrifying storm, immediately swallowing everything there.

This was an interworld teleportation formation, something at a level even higher and even stronger than interplanar teleportation formations. As a result, it led to a tremendous disturbance as soon as it was activated.

However, the disturbance did not leave the vicinity of the asteroids, as a powerful formation silently appeared around the outskirts of the asteroids, sealing in all of the energy.

Even further away, the mountain soul of the Martial Soul Mountain hovered in the dark space like a ghost. With Hun Zang at the lead, the seven successors of the Martial Soul lineage were on guard, watching over this place carefully.

Everyone residing in the interworld teleportation formation had already vanished. Under the powerful teleporting force, they had already left this world.

Boom! As soon as the teleportation was complete, the interworld teleportation formation exploded loudly, sweeping through the space there as a destructive storm. As it wreaked havoc, it erased all of the traces in the area.

"Eighth junior brother has already ventured down successfully. C'mon, let's go back." Hun Zang let out a sigh of relief on the mountain soul and waved his hand at the others. The mountain soul gradually disappeared.

Countless lower worlds existed beneath the Saints' World. The number of lower worlds were as numerous as the sands of the Ganges, completely immeasurable.

Beneath each large world were countless lower worlds.

Right now, in one of the inconspicuous spaces, an asteroid that seemed perfectly normally hovered through the silent outer space.

The asteroid had been hollowed out, forming an empty cavern several hundred metres across. At the very centre of the hollowed space sat a teleportation formation.

It had clearly existed there for many years already, as the entire teleportation formation was covered in a thick layer of dust like it had been abandoned a long time ago.

But at this moment, the abandoned teleportation formation abruptly erupted with blinding white light without any prior signs. The space there distorted violently.

This lasted for over a minute. During that time, the pulses of energy became more and more intense as if it was carrying out a teleportation of extraordinary distance.

A while later, by the time the light subsided, several figures had appeared there silently.

They were Jian Chen and the others who had arrived from the Saints' World.

Chapter 3104: The Situation of the Lower World

"I'm finally back!" Gazing at the dusty teleportation formation, Jian Chen was both excited and thrilled. He found a sense of familiarity, one that he had not felt in a very long time, from the teleportation formation, as well as a sense of closeness.

He had personally set up this teleportation formation here when he left the Tian Yuan Continent. Its purpose was to let him return from the Saints' World conveniently in ten thousand years' time.

However, plans never varied fast enough to keep up with changes. Who would have thought that he would return here again in less than a thousand years after leaving.

This world was Jian Chen's homeland, as well as where he had grown up. He had left behind far, far too many traces here. As a result, Jian Chen immediately developed a special feeling for this world as soon as he returned.

Shangguang Mu'er struggled to hide her excitement as well. Her attachments to this world were nowhere near as plentiful as Jian Chen's, but as a mother, she thought about Xiao Bao more than anyone else.

"The space here is extremely fragile. You must control your powers carefully, or you might destroy this world," Mo Tianyun warned everyone before vanishing with Ning Shuang, Xiao Jin, and Xiao Ling. He immediately crossed the distant space and reached the Tian Yuan Continent.

"Mu'er, let's go back too!" Jian Chen glanced at Shangguang Mu'er's alluringly beautiful face and gently brought his arm around her waist before immediately vanishing.

Compared to the durable space and complete laws of the Saints' World, the world that the Tian Yuan Continent resided in was clearly much weaker. In such a low-level space, everyone's abilities had been drastically magnified.

For example, the range of their senses were several dozen times greater than when they were in the Saints' World, or even a hundred times greater. The range they could envelope with the senses of their souls was no different.

In the Saints' World, a full-powered strike from them could shatter a tiny portion of space temporarily, but here, a casual strike from them could even destroy the entire world.

In a single instant, Jian Chen and Shangguang Mu'er appeared above the Tian Yuan Continent, standing in the sea of clouds like they were standing on flat ground. Even without releasing the senses of his soul

intentionally, a rough outline of the entire world appeared in Jian Chen's head clearly. He could even sense the existence of the World of Forsaken Saints.

Mo Tianyun and the Rain Abbess did not linger on the Tian Yuan Continent. They directly made their way to the sea realm before seemingly entering a different space, searching for the Xuanhuang Microcosm's whereabouts.

As for Xiao Ling, she moved through the bustling cities with her childish nature on full display. An innocent, naive smile hung on her face as she had the time of her life. Xiao Jin was completely different from his appearance. Despite still looking like a child, he gave off a sense of maturity and level-headedness that conflicted with his age. He stuck closely to Xiao Ling's side.

Jian Chen did not keep an eye out for Xiao Ling and Xiao Jin. He let them wander through the Tian Yuan Continent and have their fun. There was no longer anyone in the lower world that could threaten her, not to mention the fact that she even had a great expert, Xiao Jin, as her bodyguard.

Jian Chen began paying attention to the Tian Yuan Continent. With a single thought, the current situation on the continent appeared in his head clearly, but he immediately frowned from what he saw.

He had discovered that the Tian Yuan Continent clearly seemed like it had just gone through a brutal war. Almost half of the entire continent was covered in pits and ditches, and the ground was dyed red with many corpses strewn around. Many rivers and lakes had turned red.

"Why did such a brutal war happen on the Tian Yuan Continent?" Shangguang Mu'er noticed that something was amiss too. Her gaze immediately sharpened, giving off a great sense of worry at the same time.

As a mother, the first thing she thought of under these circumstances was her child, Shangguan Aojian!

Shangguang Aojian had already grown into a powerful expert who could carry his own weight when they left. Jian Chen had even given him a lot of the heavenly resources he had obtained from the Xuanhuang Microcosm last time, so his strength definitely would have progressed rapidly given his talent. It might have even been possible that he had already become the greatest expert in the world.

However, care and concern led to irrational thinking. After personally witnessing the traces of war on the Tian Yuan Continent, Shangguan Mu'er still could not help but become deeply worried.

She could tell with a single glance that many Saint Emperors had participated in the battles that swept through the continent. There were even traces left behind by experts that had surpassed Saint Emperor.

In the next moment, the senses of Shangguan Mu'er's soul expanded suddenly, enveloping the entire world instantly. On top of that, her soul spread through the tunnel between the two worlds and directly reached the World of Forsaken Saints.

In that instant, basically everything across the two worlds was within Shangguan Mu'er's grasp.

With her strength as an Infinite Prime, she could achieve this with ease in this lower world.

However, her expression became rather ugly. She turned towards Jian Chen and said in great unease and worry, "I can't find any traces of Xiao Bao. H- he's gone."

Jian Chen's expression changed slightly too. He said calmly, "Mu'er, don't panic. Let's see what exactly happened here over the years." With that, Jian Chen's gaze immediately deepened, like they hid two vast galaxies that spun away in the depths of his pupils. At the same time, his eyes shone with a profound light.

In that instant, his soul merged with the world, and he peered into the ultimate secrets of the world. Using the various traces and imprints in the surroundings as a medium, he peered into the past and the future.

The level of laws in the lower world was nowhere close to the Saints' World's, so Jian Chen could easily peer into everything that had happened in the past few centuries. He could even see the future to a certain degree.

Immediately, everything that had happened in this world since his departure appeared clearly in his eyes. Through these images, he found Shangguan Aojian's figure, and he saw how Shangguan Aojian's strength skyrocketed with the resources he had left behind after the entire cultivation environment drastically improved with the resolution of the disaster of the world.

A century after his departure, Shangguan Aojian had already reached Reciprocity, becoming the greatest sovereign in the world that no one could displace. He was invincible.

He kept the experts of the various races under watch, protecting the peace of this world.

By the second century after his departure, Shangguan Aojian had broken the restraints of this world, reaching Godhood in an unbelievable manner in this lower world. He forged an eternal legend.

Meanwhile, the great elder of Mercenary City, Tian Jian, as well as the many seniors and experts of the ten protector clans, the sea realm, and the Beast God Continent also broke through consecutively with the improvement of the cultivation environment and the availability of the World of Forsaken Saints as a training ground. They all broke through to Saint Emperor and even reached the Origin realm.

On top of that, Jian Chen saw that by the third century after his departure, Shangguan Aojian had formed a powerful group of several dozen Origin realm cultivators from the experts of the various races and even some experts from the World of Forsaken Saints. Then, he ventured to a boundary of the world. In the end, they breached the world barrier and ventured off to other lower worlds.

Tian Jian of Mercenary City had been part of this group.

During the years with Shangguan Aojian's presence, the various races of the Tian Yuan Continent and the World of Forsaken Saints were in a state of peace. They got along reasonably well. Despite the different races constantly producing experts, never did a brutal, high-level slaughter erupt between the various races and organisations due to Shangguan Aojian.

However, the peace in this world gradually vanished with Shangguan Aojian's departure with the various Origin realm experts.

Jian Chen even discovered that the initiators of this horrific war that had almost swept across the entire Tian Yuan Continent were the Flame Mercenaries!

Chapter 3105: The Flame Empire

As Jian Chen's soul merged with the world, everything that had occurred in this world in the past few centuries was revealed to him without any details hidden. It was like turning this world into a single memory crystal.

Right now, he was flipping through the memory crystal. Everything that happened in this world was not a secret at all in his eyes. This was not turning back time, but it bore a similar effect.

In the Saints' World, certain experts with an extremely deep comprehension of the ways possessed the ability to completely erase all traces and marks, such that no one could peer into the past.

However, the Tian Yuan Continent clearly could not produce an expert like that. As a result, the entire world had nothing to hide from the eyes of an expert like Jian Chen. He peered into everything that happened in the past with ease.

He traced all the way back to three centuries after his departure, to the Flame Mercenaries that had gradually changed after the departure of Shangguan Aojian and the other experts.

The Flame Mercenaries had become the greatest organisation on the Tian Yuan Continent a long time ago, and Flame City that served as the headquarters had become the greatest city in the world. Their reputation was so great that no person or organisation in the world could shake them or replace them.

Throughout these years, the Flame Mercenaries had remained under Jian Chen's younger sister, Bi Lian, the entire time. It had already been several centuries since she became the captain of the Flame Mercenaries. The Flame Mercenaries were completely under her control, which turned her into the person that bore the greatest authority in the world.

During the three centuries following Jian Chen's departure, Bi Lian had managed the Flame Mercenaries well. They had been flourishing and developing the entire time, making great contributions to maintaining the peace on the Tian Yuan Continent and the stability of the world. The Flame Mercenaries and Shangguan Aojian could be regarded as the lower and upper authorities, watching over organisations and experts of different levels.

If Shangguan Aojian kept the Origin realm experts of the various races in line, such that these experts never killed one another due to their various interests, then the Flame Mercenaries kept the Mortal realm and Sainthood cultivators, as well as the corresponding organisations, across the world in line. It severely reduced the grievances and slaughter between organisations, maintaining stability.

Although Shangguan Aojian had departed from this world with a group of Origin realm experts afterwards, the status of the Flame Mercenaries had not been affected at all. It remained as the greatest organisation in the world.

This was all because of a group that possessed extremely terrifying strength in the Flame Mercenaries, the Divine Guards of the Flame!

The Divine Guards of the Flame did not have many members, only a measly several dozen, but even the weakest ones among them were Saint Emperors.

Saint Emperors only formed half of the Divine Guards of the Flame. The other half were all Origin realm experts who had surpassed Saint Emperor. A small handful of them had even reached Reciprocity.

They had not left with Shangguan Aojian. Instead, they stuck to their duty, protecting the Flame Mercenaries diligently. They were the most loyal guards of the Flame Mercenaries.

It was exactly because of the existence of the Divine Guards of the Flame that the Flame Mercenaries' status was firm like bedrock. They were absolutely unshakeable.

Through his connections with the world, Jian Chen saw the changes in the Flame Mercenaries. Everything slowly occurred fifty years after Shangguan Aojian's departure.

That day, an extremely striking person suddenly appeared in the Flame Mercenaries. He demonstrated extraordinary talent and leadership. Very soon, he caught the attention of the captain, Bi Lian, and earned her favour.

As a result, under Bi Lian's promotions, he made it into the upper ranks of the Flame Mercenaries very quickly. He came up with strategies for Bi Lian as he began a furious pursuit for her, gradually leaving her with a favourable impression. In the end, he was actually selected from the upper ranks and promoted to the advisor of the Flame Mercenaries.

After becoming the advisor, he worked diligently for the Flame Mercenaries and made a colossal contribution. Under his furious pursuit, he gradually stole Bi Lian's heart too. Nothing formal existed between the two of them, but he had already planted a seed of love successfully in her heart. Everything he did had a certain level of influence over her.

Afterwards, under the urgings of this advisor, Bi Lian finally changed their method of rule of only holding their ground. Instead, she listened to the advisor's suggestions and began unleashing the Flame Mercenaries' great power under the name of world peace, carrying out a large-scale invasion across the entire continent.

Under the personal command of this advisor, the invasion had almost swept across the entire continent. All those who submitted prospered, and all those who resisted perished. The only fate awaiting resisting organisations on the Tian Yuan Continent was destruction, regardless of their size.

Against the forces of the Flame Mercenaries, there was not a single organisation on the Tian Yuan Continent that was their opponent. Even when they worked together, they stood no chance against the Divine Guards of the Flame.

Afterwards, the Flame Mercenaries began to occupy various regions across the Tian Yuan Continent in an unstoppable manner. The empires that dominated whole regions were destroyed, while the countless clans and sects either submitted or faced destruction.

Under the flames of war, a vast number of lives were lost on the Tian Yuan Continent, and the common people lived in destitution. The land was littered with corpses and blood too.

The ten protector clans of the Tian Yuan Continent, including the Changyang clan, had all tried to stop them, but no one could persuade Bi Lian. On top of that, Bi Lian possessed an invincible weapon that was the Divine Guards of the Flames, such that even the ten protector clans were completely powerless against her.

Because of this, the Changyang clan in Lore City had stepped forward too. The old patriarch that had stepped down many years ago, as well as Bi Yuntian, visited Bi Lian numerous times, doing their best to

change her mind. However, an intense argument ended up erupting between them, such that they parted with ill feelings.

In the end, through the planning and scheming of the advisor, the Flame Mercenaries officially abandoned their name as a group of mercenaries under Bi Lian's lead, founding a country, the Flame Empire!

By now, the Flame Empire had become the only empire on the Tian Yuan Continent. The powerful kingdoms beneath the empires were either annexed or destroyed. In the end, only the Qinhuang Kingdom maintained their independence.

As for the smaller kingdoms, only the Gesun Kingdom remained.

The situation on the Tian Yuan Continent had been completely rewritten by the Flame Empire.

The strange light slowly dispersed from Jian Chen's eyes, and they recovered their usual colour. In that short moment, he had learnt everything that had happened over the past few centuries.

However, Jian Chen flew into a fury about learning about all this. Even his face darkened as a result.

"C'mon, let's go to the Qinhuang Kingdom!"

Chapter 3106: King of Qin

The Qinhuang Kingdom had already become a dominant kingdom on the Tian Yuan Continent even before the events that transpired afterwards. After the Tian Yuan Continent became connected with the World of Forsaken Saints, the Qinhuang Kingdom even used their relationship with the human sovereign, Jian Chen, to achieve rapid development in both their might and influence. They had made great progress.

By now, the Qinhuang Kingdom had become a peak organisation that dominated a region on the Tian Yuan Continent, a terrifying force that no one could simply ignore.

The reason for their status was not just the dozen or so Saint Emperors in the kingdom. Most importantly, there were two existences that had surpassed Saint Emperor in the current Qinhuang Kingdom.

It was exactly because of these two Origin realm experts that the Qinhuang Kingdom became an existence almost on par with the protector clans.

One of these Origin realm experts was the Imperial Protector, Qin Yunlong!

The other was the current king of the kingdom, Qin Ji!

Qin Ji had become a great ruler whose contributions stood out in the history of the Qinhuang Kingdom a long time ago. During the years he spent as the king, he led the Qinhuang Kingdom into a period of unprecedented glory.

In reality, Qin Ji had abdicated from the throne a long time ago when he became a Saint Emperor, passing it onto his descendants and retiring away from the public.

However, with the establishment of the Flame Emperor and the battles that raged through the Tian Yuan Continent, Qin Ji was forced to assume the throne again. He understood the severity of the matter, tending to the situation in person.

Under Qin Ji's personal watch, the Qinhuang Kingdom had indeed enjoyed several years of peace. Despite the worsening situation across the entire continent, they managed to remain uninvolved, becoming one of the few places where peace still remained.

The Qinhuang Kingdom could not maintain this peace for too long either. Finally, the Qinhuang Kingdom had also come to a critical moment that decided their fate.

At this moment, over a hundred people stood above a fortress on the boundary of the Qinhuang Kingdom. They were divided into two sides.

Even the weakest cultivators hovering in the air was a Saint King, while the strongest had surpassed Sainthood and reached the Origin realm.

In the sky, it was a confrontation between Sainthood and Origin realm experts, while on the ground, there was a great mass of Mortal realm cultivators, amounting into the millions.

One of the sides was obviously the Qinhuang Empire.

The other side was all dressed in fiery-red armour. They seemed like a burning ball of flames.

They were the army of the greatest organisation on the Tian Yuan Continent, the Flame Empire!

"King of Qin, the five decades are up. It's time for your Qinhuang Kingdom to make a final choice," an Origin realm expert said sternly from the Flame Empire's side. His gaze towards the king of Qin was filled with mixed feelings and powerlessness.

The king of Qin, Qin Ji, was extremely stern. He was also slightly sorrowful. "The old captain of your Flame Mercenaries was once a brother of mine. On top of that, he had served as an Imperial Protector of my kingdom. Our relationship with Jian Chen truly spans far and wide, now that you mention it. Yet now, as former subordinates of Jian Chen, you actually want to annex my Qinhuang Kingdom. Is your Flame Empire truly going to be so heartless?"

The Qinhuang Kingdom only had two Reival experts, while the Flame Empire possessed five Origin realm experts and an absolute numerical advantage. Their strongest expert had even surpassed Reival and reached Returnance.

In terms of peak strength alone, the Qinhuang Kingdom was at a complete disadvantage.

"King of Qin, this is her majesty's orders. We're merely following orders," the middle-aged man who had reached Returnance clasped his fist and said from among the five Origin realm experts of the Flame Empire. He was reluctant to do this, but he had no other choice either.

The five Origin realm experts from the Flame Emperor were all members of the Divine Guards of the Flame. They were obviously aware of the relationship between Jian Chen and Qin Ji, as well as the close connection between Jian Chen and the Qinhuang Kingdom. However, the emperor's order could not be defied. Since their superiors had already issued the order, then all they could do was carry it out as members of the Divine Guard of the Flames.

Otherwise, defiance would be viewed as a form of betrayal!

“If Jian Chen wants to lead our Qinhuang Kingdom, we’ll be more than willing to serve him, and we’ll follow everything he says without any complaints. Not only is Jian Chen an Imperial Protector of our Qinhuang Kingdom, but he’s also a great sovereign that’s saved all the lives of this world. As for the emperor of your Flame Empire, Bi Lian, please forgive us over the fact that we cannot follow her. If your Flame Empire insists on making things difficult, all our Qinhuang Empire can do is put up a struggle to the death!” Qin Ji said firmly. His face was filled with resolve. At that moment, he seemed to have cast death aside. He was ready to sacrifice himself for the kingdom.

“Sigh, then all we can do is cause offence, king of Qin.” The Returnance expert from the Flame Empire let out a gentle sigh before waving his hand suddenly.

Immediately, the four Receival experts beside him took action, lunging towards Qin Ji and Qin Yunlong, outnumbering them two to one.

“Don’t be too heavy-handed. Capturing them is enough. They have close connections with the old captain after all. Once we return, we’ll plead for mercy with the empire. Hopefully, we can protect their lives.” The Returnance expert immediately conveyed to the four Divine Guards of the Flame.

Determination and resolve filled the eyes of Qin Ji and Qin Yunlong. The two of them immediately began to resist them without any hesitation.

However, right when the six Receival experts were about to become locked in battle, the space there suddenly froze. At that moment, time seemed to freeze, and the world descended into silence. The six Receival experts were all frozen in the exact same postures as before.

Even the powerful energy that erupted from them and the powerful battle skills and secret techniques they had cast were frozen by the still space.

The abrupt twist in the situation shocked all of the Origin realm experts present, as only they could sense how tough the frozen space around them had become.

In the frozen space, not only were they immobilised, but they could not even move a finger.

“Who? Who is it? How does the world possess an expert like this?” Apart from Shangguan Aojian, who had already left this world, the strongest experts of this world were all at the Origin realm. As a result, the Origin realm experts were all shocked by this twist.

However, before they could think too much about it, two figures appeared silently between the two armies.

All of the Origin realm experts stared at the two figures immediately. When they recognised who they were, they were all taken aback before being overcome with undisguisable excitement.

It was also at that moment that the frozen space in the surroundings returned to normal. The energy given off by both the four Divine Guards of the Flame and Qin Ji and Qin Yunlong of the Qinhuang Kingdom had vanished. A force of space separated them.

“Old captain. Old captain, is it really you?” The five Divine Guards of the Flame were all emotional. They stared straight at Jian Chen as their surprised and joyous gazes were filled with disbelief. Soon afterwards, the five of them knelt down in the air and said excitedly, “Greetings, old captain!”

“Brother Jian Chen, is it really you? You’ve returned from the Saints’ World?” Qin Ji stared at Jian Chen emotionally as well as his voice trembled away.

Chapter 3107: Bi Lian

Several dozen Saint Rulers, Saint Kings, and Saint Emperors hovered behind the five Divine Guards of the Flame. On the ground, there was the densely-packed army that amounted to more than a million.

As the five Divine Guards of the Flame bent their knees, they immediately alarmed all the experts from the Flame Empire. At that moment, clear disbelief flooded the eyes of countless people. Countless hearts began to churn.

The Divine Guards of the Flame formed the very foundation of the Flame Empire. They were also its source of stability. They were important beings that guarded the fate of the entire empire.

In the hearts of countless people, the Divine Guards of the Flame were god-like existences. They were existences beyond the reach of countless people.

Yet at this very moment, five of them actually bent their proud knees in full view of the public. This was unbelievable to countless people.

That was because even the emperor of the Flame Empire had no right to make the Divine Guards of the Flame bow down.

“It’s captain Jian Chen! It’s captain Jian Chen! Captain Jian Chen has returned!”

“Sovereign Jian Chen! It’s actually sovereign Jian Chen!”

Shortly afterwards, countless people recognised Jian Chen, and their faces immediately became filled with excitement. They all knelt down behind the five Divine Guards of the Flame too.

At that instant, the black mass of people on the Flame Empire’s side knelt down in waves whether it was in the air or on the ground.

“Brother Qin Ji, we can catch up later.” Jian Chen nodded towards Qin Ji before glancing in the direction of the Flame Empire. In the end, he stared at the five Origin realm guards.

Jian Chen was not unfamiliar with these people, as only a few dozen people out of the Divine Guards of the Flame he had founded back then remained here in the end. He had devoted a tremendous amount of effort into nurturing every single member of the Divine Guard of the Flames.

That was why Jian Chen knew every single member of the Divine Guard of the Flame.

“I know you’re acting under orders, but you should be aware of my friendship with Qin Ji and my relationship with the Qinhuang Kingdom. Don’t tell me you’re actually going to destroy the Qinhuang Kingdom just because Bi Lian told you to do so?” Jian Chen said to the five Divine Guards of the Flame. His voice deepened slightly, clearly slightly angered inside.

“Please calm down, old captain. We’re obviously aware of the old captain’s close connections with the Qinhuang Kingdom, but military orders cannot be defied. Since the emperor has ordered us to target the Qinhuang Kingdom, we can only carry out the order, or it’ll be viewed as a form of betrayal. Within our Divine Guard of the Flame, all forms of betrayal are absolutely forbidden. Demonstrating absolute loyalty and carrying out all orders unconditionally is the greatest duty that each member of the Divine Guard of the Flame possesses,” the strongest expert that had reached Returnance said politely.

“Old captain, when you left back then, you told us to listen to captain Bi Lian’s orders, so we carried out all of her orders unconditionally, whether they were wrong or right. All of us understand the meaning of our existence, and we’ve never forgotten our duty either. We can’t defy any orders from captain Bi Lian.”

“Please calm down, old captain. If you want to punish us, we’ll accept it all.”

The five Divine Guards of the Flame knelt down in the air. They showed great respect and even a hint of undisguisable excitement.

Their old captain had returned. Their old captain had actually returned from the Saints’ World. This was news that boosted the morale of every single Divine Guard of the Flame.

“Sigh, get up, all of you.” Jian Chen sighed gently. He truly was unable to bring himself to punish these loyal Divine Guards of the Flame, as they were only following orders. If they really were wrong, then the greatest fault would lie with him.

“Do you listen to my orders now or Bi Lian’s?” Jian Chen asked.

“We will always serve as the most loyal guards of the old captain, in the past and in the present, as well as in the future,” the five Divine Guards of the Flame said in high spirits.

“Alright. I order you right now to never harm a single thing that belongs to the Qinhuang Kingdom from now onwards, not even a blade of grass. Not only are you forbidden from harming them, but if the Qinhuang Kingdom faces any difficulties, all of you must provide assistance. Do you understand?” Jian Chen asked.

“As you wish!” the five Divine Guards of the Flame answered together.

“B- b- but the advisor has specially warned us that the Qinhuang Kingdom is the greatest obstacle if we want to bring peace to the world. If the Qinhuang Kingdom remains standing, h- h- how are we going to answer to the advisor? How are we going to answer to the emperor?” a Saint Ruler emerged from the crowd and said in a troubled manner.

However, as soon as he said that, a Divine Guard of the Flame turned around and slapped him across the face. His eyes were filled with anger as he bellowed, “How dare you! How dare you show such disrespect before the old captain!”

“Kneel!” a second Divine Guard of the Flame also bellowed out. He reached out and sucked the Saint Ruler over before pressing his head down in the air.

“Old captain, how do you want to deal with this person?”

“I’ll leave it up to you.”

With the height that Jian Chen currently stood at, a trifle like this could not raise his interests. He waved his hand casually and left this matter to the Divine Guards of the Flame to deal with themselves before turning to Qin Ji. "Brother Qin Ji, let me go back and deal with these matters first. We can get together another day."

After a short conversation, Jian Chen left with Shangguan Mu'er.

In the Flame Empire, within a beautifully-decorated palace. Bi Lian sat on a dragon throne in a dignified manner, dressed in dragon robes with an emperor's crown on her head. She listened to the reports from her court of officials and generals.

She had already become the emperor of the Flame Empire!

By her side was a handsome young man with a striking appearance. He was the advisor of the Flame Empire. He had always handled the planning and strategising for the Flame Empire's development.

"Your majesty, our army had already arrived at the boundary. If the Qinhuang Kingdom still refuses to surrender, we can take them down in under a day. Once the final obstacle is cleared away, your majesty can issue a decree and truly bring peace to the world." The advisor on the side bowed slightly towards Bi Lian and said in a rather polite manner, "By then, your majesty's great wish will truly come true. Your majesty will create a great age of prosperity that no one has managed to achieve throughout the history of the Tian Yuan Continent. Under your majesty's lead, the entire continent will welcome a brand-new age that will be recorded in the annals of history."

"Your majesty will also become the greatest emperor throughout the history of the Tian Yuan Continent," the advisor bowed deeply and said in high spirits.

Sitting on the throne, Bi Lian nodded and said, "The Qinhuang Kingdom does go back very far with my elder brother, after all. Unless I have no other choice, I really don't want to clash with them. However, I have no other choice for the sake of world peace. Advisor, have you told this to the people over there? Once they truly do clash, we have to show mercy to the important figures of the Qinhuang Kingdom, particularly to the people that my brother was acquainted with."

Chapter 3108: An Argument of Reason

"Don't worry, your majesty. I've already instructed them. The Divine Guards of the Flame shouldn't act recklessly," the advisor below bowed and said respectfully.

However, he soon showed hesitation. He said in complete worry, "It's just that the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom possesses extremely impressive talent. Despite his young age, he's already surpassed many senior experts, reaching the Origin realm first. If the king doesn't die early, it's extremely likely for him to reach Reciprocity. He'll definitely bear a grudge against us now that we've destroyed the Qinhuang Kingdom. If he comes for revenge after he reaches Reciprocity, it'll be a colossal problem for our Flame Empire."

"As a matter of fact, the king of the fallen kingdom might even become an unimaginable disaster for our Flame Empire."

The advisor was extremely stern. Afterwards, a smear of viciousness and determination appeared in his eyes. "Your majesty, I have a suggestion. We might as well go all the way and have the Divine Guards of the Flame directly kill him before he's reached Returnance so that we can avoid this problem forever!"

"No, definitely not. I don't care about the others from the Qinhuang Kingdom, but the king is a good friend of my elder brother after all. If he dies at our hands, my brother will never forgive me when he returns ten thousand years later." Bi Lian turned down the advisor's suggestion without hesitation.

"Hmph, so you still remember that you have a brother like me!"

However, as soon as Bi Lian said that, a sneer rang out in the majestic hall. With the voice, two figures appeared silently before the full court of officials and generals.

They were Jian Chen and Shangguan Mu'er.

"Brother!" Bi Lian widened her eyes on the throne, staring straight at Jian Chen. Her eyes were filled with great joy and disbelief.

"Brother, is it really you? Is it really you?" Bi Lian's voice trembled slightly. She stood up from the throne all of a sudden, about to rush down.

"Hold on, your majesty! Be careful, it might be a scheme!" The advisor's expression changed. He stood in front of Bi Lian in a flash, also staring straight at Jian Chen. His gaze filled with shock and disbelief also hid a sliver of fear and dread.

As a matter of fact, there was even a hint of hatred!

However, the hatred was immediately drowned out by fear, unable to resurface again.

"Divine Guards of the Flame! Where are the Divine Guards of the Flame? T- this person is a fake!" the advisor called out loudly. Figures immediately flickered through the hall. Divine Guards of the Flame appeared one after another.

"Someone is pretending to be Jian Chen. Divine Guards of the Flame, what are you waiting for? Capture him!" the advisor yelled at the guards.

However, none of the twenty or so Origin realm Divine Guards of the Flame acknowledged his words. They all looked at Jian Chen as their faces gradually became filled with excitement. In the end, they all knelt down on the ground and said in high spirits, "Greetings, old captain. Welcome back, old captain."

"It's the old captain. It's actually the old captain. The old captain has actually returned!"

"Captain Jian Chen, is it really you?"

With the Divine Guards of the Flame kneeling, many people confirmed Jian Chen's identity. Immediately, the entire court of officials below became extremely excited too.

When the Flame Mercenaries turned into the Flame Empire, the people who held responsibilities in the Flame Mercenaries also changed in status, becoming subjects of the Flame Empire.

Jian Chen discovered many acquaintances among the officials and generals, such as Dugu Feng, Yun Zheng, and Senior An he had met early on. They had all become important subjects of the Flame Empire.

Jian Chen waved his hand to make everyone rise. He stared at Bi Lian and said, "I handed the Flame Mercenaries over to you back then, but take a look at what you've turned the Flame Mercenaries into. Bi Lian, you've caused me far too much disappointment."

Bi Lian immediately pushed aside the advisor in her way before jogging over to Jian Chen. Gazing at his sunken face, she also became slightly uneasy. She said nervously, "Brother, listen to me. I did this all for the sake of the people in the world. All of this was for the sake of ushering an age of peace across the entire world."

"For the sake of the people in the world? For the sake of an age of peace?" Jian Chen snorted coldly. "Why do I only see extermination, corpses, and bloodshed? Is this your so-called 'for the sake of the people of the world'?"

"This is the age of peace you've brought to the world?"

"Have you brought an age of peace? Or is it a living hell?"

With a sunken face, Jian Chen spoke more and more sternly. He was absolutely furious.

Bi Lian was clearly rather agitated. She explained anxiously, "Brother, please calm down for now. Listen to me. Everything you see right now is only temporary, and this is a sacrifice that must be made for the Tian Yuan Continent to completely enter an age of peace. You have to believe me. Once our Flame Empire completely unifies the Tian Yuan Continent, I will issue new laws and set up a brand new system. The primary objective of these laws is to keep those experts under control."

"You can even say that these laws are for controlling and punishing all bad people. It will be the guardian of all commoners in the world, as well as the protector god of the weak. The weak that don't possess great power won't have to suffer from wanton damage and death from experts."

"Brother, you also climbed your way up slowly on the Tian Yuan Continent, so you should understand even more than me that the brutality of the Tian Yuan Continent has already reached a level enough to leave anyone bristling with anger. Those cultivators that possess great power wantonly kill the weak. The fates of the weak completely depend on the whim of these experts."

"When some of these weaker people accidentally obtain some treasure or cultivation method, or if they possess wealth that others covet, their only fate will be those stronger experts robbing them. In the end, they'll just become corpses under the hands of experts."

"And over the years, the Tian Yuan Continent seemed peaceful on the surface, but it was actually filled with battle and slaughter. The battles between Saint Rulers and Saint Kings were commonplace, and it would be devastating the moment they launched an attack. Often, the consequences of a battle between two Saint Rulers would be enough to destroy a small city. Countless common people die as a result."

"And that's just Saint Rulers. The consequences were even more severe when it came to Saint Kings and Saint Emperors who were even stronger. In particular, countless weaker cultivators and common people have died as an unintentional consequence of their battles throughout the Tian Yuan Continent."

"These experts do suffer from Celestial Decay, but they need to slaughter millions before it takes effect."

“Brother, whether it’s you or me, or anyone here, we’ve all made it to our current position today step by step as mortals. However, countless mortals living on the Tian Yuan Continent live under constant threat from experts. Some mortals even enter the mountains to pick some medicinal herbs, only for a few fighting experts to suddenly appear above. In the end, the mortals die to the consequences without even knowing what had happened.”

“Countless common people still live in distress. They’re just mortals incapable of cultivation. They do not possess great powers. As a matter of fact, some of these common people can never walk around with their heads held high in some larger cities, just because they’re afraid that something they accidentally do will lead to their deaths.”

“My original intention behind founding the Flame Empire was to set down laws that restrained everyone in the world. I want to stop those so-called experts from acting recklessly again, preventing them from harassing or killing weak existences. It’ll also give the common people who lack power greater courage and greater ease to live freely. Brother, do you still think that everything I did was still a mistake?” Bi Lian said emotionally and with absolute confidence.

Chapter 3109: The Advisor’s Identity

“Brother, I know that you can easily envelope the entire world with the senses of your soul at your level, so nothing that happens on the Tian Yuan Continent can be hidden from you. I know you’ve seen the horrible state of the continent already too, but I can tell you that the devastation and destruction you see is not entirely caused by our Flame Empire.”

“As our Flame Empire tried to unify the Tian Yuan Continent, the various organisations across the continent also began turning their swords towards each other.”

“The Tian Yuan Continent is littered with organisations. Every single organisation has their grievances, even mortal enemies. After all, under this law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak, countless battles occur every day, and countless grievances are produced every day. These organisations and individual cultivators obviously understand our intentions to unite the Tian Yuan Continent. They also understand that some strict laws will be passed in the future.”

“As a result, many of these organisations decided to get their revenge before our Flame Empire passed the laws. They killed the people that they needed to kill and did the things that they needed to do.”

“Just a single clash between experts is devastating, so a portion of the dead cultivators and common people that you saw died to various attempts at revenge. Another portion died to the consequences from the battles between experts. On top of that, this basically happened in every single region of the Tian Yuan Continent every year during the several centuries you were gone, brother. As a matter of fact, it’s not just our Tian Yuan Continent. Even the sea realm and the Beast God Continent were no different. It was only not on such a large scale.”

“Now, due to the drastic improvement in cultivation environment on the Tian Yuan Continent, coupled with the addition of the World of Forsaken Saints as a place of trials and training, experts have been appearing at an unprecedented rate. In the past, cultivators with the talent to become Earth Saint Masters could easily become Saint Rulers, Saint Kings, or even Saint Emperors.”

“Meanwhile, all the experts with the talent to become Saint Kings have basically all reached the Origin realm. With the appearance of a large number of Sainthood or even Origin realm experts, the devastation and disasters they’ve caused on the Tian Yuan Continent cannot be compared to that age in the past.”

“I only decided to unify the Tian Yuan Continent through the Flame Mercenaries’ strength to change this so that I can bring peace to this chaotic world.”

“Brother, just like how nothing new can arise without destruction, the chaos you see right now is only temporary. It’s a phase that the Tian Yuan Continent is going through to shed the old and embrace the new. It’s a path we have to take, a sacrifice we have to go through.”

Jian Chen’s anger immediately vanished as he listened to Bi Lian’s explanation. Afterwards, he let out a long sigh. “Bi Lian, protecting the weak and giving the weak an environment to live and grow in is a good idea, but you’ve been far too naive.”

“You want to build a just world where experts who possess great power dare not harm the weak recklessly. That seems just on the surface, but in reality, great injustice hides behind this so-called justice. It’s an injustice to the powerful and an injustice to the system of strength that this world possesses.”

“Justice has never been a concept in this world. You should follow the rules and laws that the world has set down by itself. Since these rules and laws could last for such a long time, they obviously exist for a reason. If you overturn it forcefully, you’ll just be making a blunder while thinking of yourself as clever.”

“Blind peace is not necessarily good, while brutal competition is not necessarily bad either, as all worlds, or even just regions, will struggle to make progress if there is a lack of competition and a sense of danger.” Jian Chen looked at Bi Lian and sighed gently. “Bi Lian, listen to me. Give up on unifying the Tian Yuan Continent immediately.

Bi Lian immediately found this difficult to accept. She said in an aggrieved, “B-b-but our Flame Empire has almost unified the Tian Yuan Continent.”

Jian Chen’s face sank slightly in response. “I’m not going to be staying for too long this time. When I leave, I will take you with me to the Saints’ World, so you don’t have much time left in this world either.”

“Huh? What? Going to the Saints’ World?” Bi Lian was startled. She waved her hands in a hurry. “No, I don’t have any plans of going to the Saints’ World right now, brother. Just let me stay here for a few more years. Please, brother.” As she said that, she subconsciously glanced towards the uncomfortable advisor behind her.

“You don’t want to leave because you can’t bear to part with this so-called advisor of the Flame Empire?” Jian Chen stared at Bi Lian calmly.

“Huh? No, definitely not. Brother, what are you thinking about?” Bi Lian immediately became flustered.

Jian Chen sighed gently. “Bi Lian, do you know this advisor’s true identity?”

Before Bi Lian could answer him, Jian Chen continued, "In the past, he was the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. He only used a special method to change his appearance. I didn't expect him to become the advisor of the Flame Empire."

"What? The advisor is the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom?"

"Heavens! That's unbelievable! The advisor is actually the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom!"

Below, many of the original members of the Flame Mercenaries cried out among the entire court of officials. The way they looked at the advisor all changed.

"What? The advisor is a-a-actually-" Bi Lian was dumbfounded too. Her face was filled with disbelief.

The advisor's face changed too, but he was still someone that had lived for several centuries after all, so what had he not witnessed before? As a result, he feigned composure and explained, "Old captain, you must have mistaken me for someone else. I don't even know what the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is, so how can I be the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom?"

"Second prince, with my current cultivation, I can peer into your past life effortlessly. I can even see your future with ease. You're completely overestimating yourself if you still think you can hide any secrets from me." Jian Chen sneered at the advisor.

The advisor immediately began to pale with that. At this moment, he finally understood that Jian Chen's cultivation had already reached a height well beyond his imagination. Before an expert like that, perhaps he really did not have any secrets to hide.

Jian Chen's gaze gradually sharpened. "Originally, I had already set aside all of our grievances from back then. I can't be bothered with settling them either, as to me right now, it's no different from a small argument in the moment. If you've really changed your ways, I'd actually be happy to see you serve as the advisor of the Flame Empire."

"However, you never, ever should have set your eyes on Bi Lian, much less collude with an outsider in an attempt to take over the Flame Mercenaries and the Flame Empire."

Chapter 3110: The Sacred Fire King

Originally, Bi Lian was already shocked enough when Jian Chen revealed the advisor's true identity. Now, her face immediately changed again. She held back her shock about the advisor's true identity and said in doubt, "Brother, what did you say? H-h-he's trying to take over the Flame Empire?"

"N-no, t-that's not true." With all of his secrets and motives exposed, the advisor struggled to remain composed no matter how level-headed he was. His face paled as a sliver of despair and regret appeared in his eyes. Even the silken tongue he had developed over the years and his ability to twist the truth drastically was useless.

Jian Chen could see through his past life with a single glance and even foretell his future. He truly felt unprecedented despair this time.

Jian Chen had reached a height well beyond the limits of his understanding. He could see through all of his secrets in a single glance. Under these circumstances, could he still argue against him?

Jian Chen glanced deeply at Bi Lian. "You think the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is pursuing you and actually likes you? No, right from when he joined the Flame Mercenaries, he had an ulterior motive."

"His motive was to use his talents to persuade you into unifying the Tian Yuan Continent through the forces of the Flame Mercenaries. Once the Flame Empire you founded truly achieved its goals, he'll use that opportunity to marry you. Once you're married, you'll die to the hands of an expert from the World of Forsaken Saints at a convenient time."

"No, that's impossible. I'm under the protection of the Divine Guards of the Flame. How can someone from the World of Forsaken Saints kill me? A-and they don't even have the courage to touch me." Bi Lian shook her head. She struggled to accept this reality.

"Bi Lian, everything is much more complicated than you can imagine." Jian Chen let out a gentle sigh and shook his head. Soon afterwards, he extended his hand and reached towards the empty space in a very casual manner.

At the same time, in the World of Forsaken Saints, a middle-aged man sat on the ground and cultivated in an extremely dangerous environment. The presence he gave off had reached late Returnance.

Ever since Shangguan Aojian left with the many experts, Returnance was a cultivation at the very peak.

However, a hand silently appeared before this expert at this very moment before grabbing him by the neck and dragging him into space.

The sudden incident took the expert by great surprise. It also left him slightly dazed. In a state of cultivation, he had completely no idea what had happened. He only felt his neck abruptly tighten. By the time he opened his eyes again, he had appeared in a majestic hall.

"T-t-this is the imperial palace of the Flame Empire!" The expert's face changed drastically. The World of Forsaken Saints and the Tian Yuan Continent resided in different spaces. Even Reciprocity experts needed to use the spatial tunnel to move between the two worlds.

At this moment, he had actually arrived on the Tian Yuan Continent instantly from the World of Forsaken Saints. How could he not be shocked by that?

"It's the Sacred Fire King!" As soon as he appeared, many experts in the court of officials cried out.

The Sacred Fire King was a renowned peak expert of the World of Forsaken Saints. He was one of the two kings that stood equal to the Stupa King.

However, many years ago, with the previous Spiritking's departure with Shangguan Aojian, the Sacred Fire King and the Stupa King became locked in an intense battle over the position of the ruler of the World of Forsaken Saints. In the end, the Sacred Fire King was defeated and vanished from sight.

"This person, or the Sacred Fire King you speak of, is actually the master of the advisor, as well as the person behind everything. In reality, the two of them have planned long ago for you to die at the hands of an expert from the World of Forsaken Saints. After that, they planned to use the power of the Divine Guards of the Flame to overthrow the current Spiritking, allowing him to take the throne successfully."

“By then, not only will he be the Spiritking of the World of Forsaken Saints, but he’ll also be the person secretly in control of the Flame Empire, as he planted a secret technique on the advisor a long time ago. He can control the advisor as he pleases.”

Jian Chen spoke indifferently. When his soul merged with the world, the entire world basically became transparent in his eyes. As a result, he could see through all lies and witness the truth in a low level space like the Tian Yuan Continent.

Only now did the dazed Sacred Fire King finally recognise Jian Chen. His face immediately became extremely pale as his lips trembled. It was as if he wanted to say something, but he could not come up with anything at all. He seemed to have realised his fate too, which immediately left him ashen.

In the next moment, Jian Chen reached out again. Another expert who stood at the apex of the world was brought here by him. This time, it was the current Spiritking, as well as the only Spiritking.

Ever since Shen Jian’s age, the system of ruling in the World of Forsaken Saints had been completely changed. As a result, the World of Forsaken Saints only ever had one Spiritking. They would not have multiple experts holding that position like in the past.

“In consideration of this senior, I’m not going to kill you today. I’ll leave the Spiritsages to settle the matters of the Spiritsages by themselves,” Jian Chen said to the Sacred Fire King before informing the current Spiritking about everything that had happened.

In the end, the Spiritking bowed politely towards Jian Chen before leaving the Flame Empire with the Sacred Spirit King.

When he departed, an invisible power of laws descended, suppressing the Sacred Fire King’s strength to Saint Emperor.

The Sacred Fire King wanted to usurp the position of the ruler, so his fate went without saying.

After personally witnessing the fate of his master, the Sacred Fire King, the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had already fallen to the ground in fright. He was in a state of panic.

“The advisor has actually been colluding with an outsider in an attempt to claim the position of emperor. That is a crime punishable by death.”

What advisor? My ass! Even he thinks he can be the imperial advisor of our Flame Empire?”

“He is the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, an enemy of the old captain. He cannot be spared.”

After a moment of silence in the Spiritking’s presence, the majestic hall erupted into a commotion.