

Chaotic 981

Chapter 981: Resolution

Cangqiong spoke nonchalantly. He felt no fear toward Kaiser, as he was also one of the people in control of the Beast God Continent. He controlled a third of the land along with Kaiser and Lankyros.

Although some difference in strength existed between the three of them on the Beast God Continent, their statuses were the same.

Kaiser's face sank as he heard what Cangqiong said. He glared at Cangqiong and said angrily, "Cangqiong, as a part of the Beast God Continent, you should be thinking for the Beast God Continent. The Winged Tiger God is the beast god of our continent, so we need to bring it back no matter what."

"Cangqiong, the Winged Tiger God has ended up in the hands of humans. It's in danger right now. You're still one of the people in charge of the Beast God Continent. How can you just watch the Winged Tiger God be oppressed by humans?" Lankyros said urgently. He was busy with Rui Jin and Hei Yu right now. He needed to be cautious as he faced the attacks from the origin energy weapons, as it was enough to injure Saint Emperors.

Cangqiong did not waver whatsoever and said coldly, "How can it truly grow without experiencing hardships? Not to mention, the Winged Tiger God is young right now, so it needs to go through these matters to a greater extent. Moreover, the Winged Tiger God is a beast god. It possesses the body of a beast god, so how can it be injured so easily by others. I will naturally appear to help it when it truly faces danger." With that, Cangqiong stared deeply at the battle between Lankyros and the other two, before directly leaving through a Space Gate he created. He had returned to the Beast God Continent.

Cangqiong's departure caused the expressions of Kaiser and Lankyros to both become extremely ugly. They were both busy with the path lord of carnal desires as well as Rui Jin and Hei Yu, so they had no extra energy to go capture Jian Chen and take the Winged Tiger God. The experts from Mercenary City and the ten protector clans were also spectating the battle from the surroundings.

The experts from the Tian Yuan Continent immediately sighed a breath of relief with the departure of a Saint Emperor from the Beast God Continent. With one less Saint Emperor, it was much less pressure. They could devote more energy into dealing with Kaiser and Lankyros.

"Guests of the Beast God Continent, please return," said the path lord of carnal desires.

Kaiser's eyes flickered for quite a while as he hesitated. He too understood that the two of them were unable to take advantage of the current situation, so he immediately swung his hand. A Space Gate appeared before him. Then, he straightforwardly left through it after he eyed Rui Jin and Hei Yu coldly.

With Kaiser's departure, Lankyros stopped his fight with Rui Jin and Hei Yu as well. He immediately backpedaled, gazing at Jian Chen and the weapons and armor on Rui Jin and Hei Yu for a while. He said coldly, "I'll let you off for today. Next time, you won't be so lucky." Lankyros also ripped open a Space Gate and left through it after throwing this threat down.

The region of space immediately fell into a temporary silence with the departure of the three Saint Emperors. The three Saint Emperors had stayed here for less than ten minutes from arrival till

departure. However, everything that had occurred in that short amount of time was enough for people to think about for quite some time.

The battle between the path lord of carnal desires and Kaiser was particularly sensational, shocking everyone present. The strength of the path lord's seven emotions and six desires attacks had exceed everyone's imaginations.

Rui Jin and Hei Yu stowed their weapons away, but remained clad in the origin energy armor. They would rely on the armor to withstand attacks from Saint Emperors.

"Human Saint Emperor, our battle has yet to conclude," Rui Jin said as he looked at the path lord of carnal desires. The pearl that could block soul attacks remained floating above them, encasing the two of them with a glimmering light.

The path lord of carnal desires looked at the pearl for a while as a sliver of sternness flashed through the depths of his eyes. He said hoarsely, "Which side do you belong to?"

"We are independent. We belong to no side," said Rui Jin. A hidden sliver of loneliness flickered through the depths of his eyes, but it disappeared very quickly.

"If that's the case, there's no need for us to keep fighting. You can go," said the path lord of carnal desires. He no longer had any interest in fighting the two of them, because his most powerful attack was not physical but his soul attacks he had created. Now that both Rui Jin and Hei Yu possessed protective treasures—the pearl for soul attacks and the armor of physical attacks—he could no longer do anything to them. Victory would be difficult to discern even if they kept fighting.

Rui Jin and Hei Yu looked at each other and accepted this outcome. They did not force him to keep battling, also giving up on any intent to keep fighting. Afterward, they both arrived before Jian Chen, who seemed to be in a rather horrible shape. Rui Jin asked him, "Brother Jian Chen, are you fine?"

The expressions of the people from the ten protector clans changed slightly when they saw that Jian Chen actually knew Rui Jin and Hei Yu. An ill feeling had already begun to loom faintly over their hearts, while the people of the Changyang clan were all delighted. They had personally witnessed Rui Jin and Hei's strength; although they were Saint Kings at Great Perfection, they were difficult to deal with even when for a Saint Emperor.

Jian Chen smiled as he looked at the armored pair. He replied, "I'm fine. Thank you seniors for helping me."

"It's just a small matter. There's no need to be so polite," Hei Yu waved a hand and said uncaringly. It seemed like he had done something not worth mentioning.

Hei Yu's attitude warmed Jian Chen's heart. He did not think it was a small matter. If it were not for the assistance from Hei Yu and Rui Jin, he would not have been able to resist at all when faced up against the path lord of carnal desires. His Octoterra Divine Hall would have been destroyed and the white tiger taken in the end. Even the saint artifact would not have been enough to protect him, it was extremely likely it would be broken into pieces by the path lord of carnal desires.

Although the artifact spirit possessed the strength of a Saint Emperor inside the artifact space, it was still an auxiliary artifact in the end. It did not possess much battle prowess. Even if the artifact spirit

possessed the power of a Saint Empeorr, it was probably the weakest kind. It was not the path lord of carnal desires' opponent.

The divine hall's defences were equivalent to the saint artifact. All it could do was block attacks from Saint Kings, and would become damaged once it received attacks on the level of Saint Emperor or even break.

The path lord of carnal desires tightly furrowed his brows when he saw how close Jian Chen was with Rui Jin and Hei Yu. The fact that Jian Chen was a member of a protector clan did not scare him. It was Rui Jin and Hei Yu that pained him greatly.

"Crap, I didn't think Jian Chen would be so close with the two of them. What do I do now? And they seem to care very much about the Winged Tiger God. If they take part in protecting the Winged Tiger God, how do I take it from Jian Chen?" The path lord of carnal desires thought as he stood still. He glanced toward the ten protector clans from time to time as the light in his eyes flickered.

The people from the protector clans all became uneasy. Light flickered in their eyes, as if they were hesitating something. Only the Changyang clan was ecstatic, to the point where their joy had reached an absolute limit. Meanwhile, the people from the Pure Heart Pavilion remained calm. To them, it was enough as long as the Winged Tiger God did not end up in the hands of the Beast God Continent. They did not care at all which protector clan it ended up with.

Rui Jin secretly glanced past the people from the protector clans and the path lord of carnal desires. He said to Jian Chen, "Do you have any unfinished business, brother Jian Chen?"

Jian Chen immediately looked toward the great elders of the Yiyuan sect when he heard that, before finally shaking his head after hesitating slightly. Rui Jin and Hei Yu had already helped him enough. They had first saved his life on Dragon Island by helping him avoid the pursuit of the dragon souls, and then helped him retrieve the Dragon's Saliva. Then, they had helped him stop the path lord and the Saint Emperors of the Beast God Continent this time. He had owed them enough and did not want to deepen the debt.

"Since you've dealt with all your business, let's not stay in outer space anymore and return to the continent," said Rui Jin. Afterward, he grabbed Jian Chen's shoulder and flew toward the Tian Yuan Continent.

The ten protector clans and the path lord of carnal desires hesitated slightly as they watched the three of them fly off. In the end, they did not stop them and dispersed instead.

Although Jian Chen's name was not guaranteed to resound through the entire continent after what had happened this time, his strength had been witnessed by several ancestors of ancient clans and a few independent Saint Kings. Through them, Jian Chen's infamy and terror would definitely spread through all the ancient clans, making them all fear him.

This battle had basically consolidated his power and status on the Tian Yuan Continent.

Jian Chen returned from outer space and directly arrived in the air above Flame City. He glanced coldly past the people of the Extinguishing Alliance as Rui Jin and Hei Yu hovered beside him.

The Extinguishing Alliance was already in a state of high alert as over twenty Saint Rulers floated in the air as they gazed toward outer space. Their expressions immediately warped when they saw Jian Chen return unharmed.

Chapter 982: Retaking Flame City

“Y- y- you’re actually still alive!”

“How is it possible for you to return alive after the ten protector clans have personally descended!?”

“You’re still not dead. How is that possible!?”

The expressions of the Saint Rulers of the Extinguishing Alliance all changed as they shouted out. They were dumbstruck by the fact that Jian Chen had returned safely, overwhelmed with disbelief.

Although they did not personally witness the battle that had occurred far away, they still knew about the arrival of the protector clans. According to their understanding, Jian Chen should have died at the hands of the protector clans long ago. This made it completely impossible for him to return. They naturally thought that the protector clans had taken the Winged Tiger God from Jian Chen in outer space. They imagined that a great battle had erupted as they fought for the Winged Tiger God. They did not anticipate Jian Chen’s safe return.

Jian Chen could not help but sneer as he saw the shocked Saint Rulers, “Looks like you all would’ve loved it if I had died but I’m sorry to disappoint. Not only did I survive, I have returned fine. Even the ten protector clans can’t do anything to me.”

“Impossible, this is impossible. The ten protector clans are the most powerful organizations on the Tian Yuan Continent. They’re extremely tough, so how can they be helpless against you. Jian Chen, did you form some agreement with them?” growled a Saint Ruler. His expression was extremely ugly.

Jian Chen sneered, “You still don’t have the right to know about that. Now, it’s time for you to pay the price for the idiotic actions you did all those years ago. My Flame Mercenaries will be retaking Flame City today and no one can stop me. Even the protector clans can’t stop me,” Jian Chen spoke extremely loudly, causing his voice to echo through the surroundings. Everyone in the city heard his words clearly. Immediately, the Extinguishing Alliance began to panic. Fear overwhelmed many people. The people who were originally part of the Flame Mercenaries and had defected to the Extinguishing Alliance began to regret. If they knew that captain Jian Chen would return so powerfully, they would not have changed sides in the very beginning.

The Saint Rulers of the alliance all became sheet-white. They had lost all heart to resist after witnessing Jian Chen’s strength.

Even the Fifth Heavenly Layer Saint King, Bi Yifei, had been slain by him easily. With this being the case, how could they resist with their current strength? Although they possessed a supreme advantage in numbers, the difference between Saint Ruler and Saint King was as large as a chasm.

“Jian Chen, we will immediately lead our people out of Flame City and swear that we will never become enemies of the Flame Mercenaries again,” said a Saint Ruler. He had also begun to refer to Extinguished City as Flame City again.

“You devastated my Flame Mercenaries all those years ago, and occupied Flame City for so much time. Do you really think this matter will be dismissed so easily? You wish,” sneered Jian Chen as powerful killing intent flickered in his eyes.

The Saint Rulers paled even further when they sensed Jian Chen’s dense killing intent. One of them explained hurriedly, “Jian Chen, listen to us. The things we did all those years ago were spurred on by Bi Jian. We had no other choice either. The prime culprit is Bi Jian and not us.”

Jian Chen’s eyes turned cold. “Do you really think I’m easy to fool?” As he said that, his Emperor Armament appeared in his hand. It radiated with a terrifying energy, causing the surrounding space to warp and almost shatter.

The Saint Rulers of the alliance began to panic even more. One of them said, “Jian Chen, just what do you want to do before you are willing to let us go?”

“You’re deluding yourselves if you think I’d let you go. I will be claiming all your lives today,” Jian Chen said mercilessly.

All the Saint Rulers shivered when they heard this. Despair gradually flooded their hearts. One of them was still unwilling to give up and spoke out, “Jian Chen, if you let me go, I am willing to swear my loyalty to you and become a part of the Flame Mercenaries. I am willing to work for you.”

Jian Chen’s expression remained as cold as before. The killing intent in his eyes did not decrease at all as he sneered, “So many of my brothers from my Flame Mercenaries died in your hands all those years ago. If you become part of the Flame Mercenaries, not only will I fail to make up to those dead brothers, I’ll fail to make up to the people you chased out of Flame City. Only by killing you all can I relieve myself of this rage.”

The Saint Rulers became completely despaired with that. All of them understood that they would probably face their deaths today now that Jian Chen had put things this way.

“Pay for what your previous actions!” Jian Chen bellowed. He no longer bothered with them, charging toward the Saint Rulers threateningly as he wielded his Emperor Armament.

Jian Chen was as strong as a Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint King with the Emperor Armament. His strength was not something twenty-odd Saint Rulers could fend off. As he stabbed out, he killed off three Saint Rulers in a single stroke, directly impaling their foreheads and wiping out their souls.

The other Saint Rulers scattered with this ugly development. They fled in all directions as fast as they could in an attempt to keep Jian Chen busy and make more time for escape. Although they knew the chances were almost non-existent, this was the only way they could survive. Even if they knew they were going to die, they still needed to try.

Jian Chen’s face sank. Although he had the strength of a Saint King, his comprehension of the mysteries of the world was just too limited. It was only at the level of a Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler, so he was unable to rip open a Space Gate and travel a large distance. It would be very difficult for him to catch the Saint Rulers after they had fled into the distance.

Jian Chen looked back at Rui Jin and Hei Yu and asked, "Senior Rui Jin, please seal this region and stop them from running away." Jian Chen needed to kill the Saint Rulers of the Extinguishing Alliance. Only with that could he avenge the Flame Mercenaries. He was unwilling to leave any one of them alive.

Rui Jin nodded and pointed at the empty air. The energy of the world immediately began to ripple violently, forming a transparent barrier that encased a radius of five kilometers. It trapped all the Saint Rulers inside.

The Saint Rulers immediately became frantic as they saw how they were trapped inside. They attacked the barrier as if their lives depended on it, wishing to break through and escape. However, a barrier personally cast by Rui Jin was nowhere close to something that they could break. It did not even tremble when their most powerful attacks struck it.

"I'd like to see where you run off to now!" Killing intent surged from Jian Chen. He collected their lives one by one with the Emperor Armament. Although some of them resisted, it was pathetic and of no use whatsoever.

In the blink of an eye, the Saint Rulers were all killed by Jian Chen. The barrier around the area disappeared and the Saint Ruler corpses all fell out of the air and landed on the ground heavily.

Many people from the alliance witnessed this scene where over twenty Saint Rulers were slain. They all became stunned and despair flooded their gazes.

Jian Chen's fury finally let up slightly after killing the Saint Rulers. He looked toward the millions of people in the city. After a slight deliberation, he did not attack them in the end.

With the growth of his strength, Jian Chen's outlook and mental state had also improved. With his current status, he had no need to be petty with the ant-like people before him. There were several million people in the city; if he killed all of them, he would have committed a massacre and suffer the punishment of Celestial Decay.

Existences at Saint Ruler and beyond could not kill ordinary people casually. It was fine if they only killed a few, but if they took the lives of too many, they would suffer Celestial Decay.

The existence of Celestial Decay restrained Saint Rulers and beyond, protecting weaker groups. However, the slaughter of Saint Rulers and anything greater could not incite Celestial Decay.

"People of the Extinguishing Alliance, leave the city immediately if you want to live," called out Jian Chen from the air.

The flames of hope immediately reignited among the despaired eyes of the people when they heard this declaration. They were overwhelmed with emotion; without any hesitation, they tidied their belongings and dragged their families out of Flame City.

Two figures descended from the sky. They were the grand elder of Mercenary City, Tian Jian, and Houston. The two of them watched on with smiles as the people of the Extinguishing Alliance left the city.

"Looks like we were just over-worrying. Jian Chen has not become blinded by hatred and did not start a massacre in the city," Houston said in relief.

“Sigh, Jian Chen is still too young after all. Possessing such great strength at such a young age, he’ll take the wrong path as soon as he loses control. That will become a misfortune of the continent. But looks like we were indeed over-worrying with everything that has happened so far. Jian Chen may be young and may get involved with conflicts as he does things, but he should be fine on the whole,” sighed Tian Jian.

“His strength has grown to an unbelievable level in just a few short years. He’s also obtained an Emperor Armament and a divine hall. He must have been involved in a lot of bloodshed in those years. Once he deals with his matters, I’ll get him to settle down in Longevity Valley for ten years and get him to properly calm down. It’ll be helpful to him,” said Houston.

Another few people descended from the sky. The great elders of the protector Changyang clan had arrived as a group, floating nearby as they watched Flame City quietly.

“Sigh, he still wants to take back the city and develop his own organization. Is this supposed to be a good thing?” Changyang Zu Xiao sighed deeply. He was filled with helplessness.

The protector Changyang clan could no longer control Jian Chen. Since Jian Chen wanted to take back Flame City and break the rules between the protector clans, all they could do was stand to one side obediently. They did not dare to get in the way.

Changyang Qing Yun stared at Jian Chen from afar as light flickered in his eyes. “He is a member of our Changyang clan no matter what. This is an unchangeable fact.”

Chapter 983: Returning to the Changyang Clan

Jian Chen naturally discovered Houston, Tian Jian, and the great elders of the Changyang clan. He dismissed his thoughts and glanced toward the people from the Changyang clan, before casually looking toward Tian Jian and Houston. He immediately flew up to them and bowed courteously toward Tian Jian and Houston, “I greet senior Tian Jian and uncle Xiu!”

Jian Chen was an awe-inspiring expert now, but he still retained some respect from the bottom of his heart toward Tian Jian and Houston. This respect did not vary with his increase in strength.

Tian Jian looked at Jian Chen with a mix of emotions and sighed gently. “Thinking back to when I first met you, it was during the time the last Gathering of Mercenaries was held. You were still a small Earth Saint Master, yet your strength has reached an unimaginable level in just a few dozen years. It really is unbelievable.” Tian Jian became emotional as melancholy filled his face. He seemed to be thinking back to when he first saw Jian Chen.

Jian Chen immediately became absent-minded when he heard this, as if he too was thinking back to everything that had happened then.

Houston looked at Jian Chen happily and said with his old voice, “Jian Chen, you really haven’t made me disappointed.” It was just a mere sentence, but it conveyed Houston’s happiness and approval toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen conversed with Houston some more, before Tian Jian spoke out, “Jian Chen, the great elders of the protector Changyang clan are right on the other side. They’re still members of the extended Changyang family, so you should still go meet them.”

Jian Chen turned around and stared at the great elders when he heard that. The light in his eyes flickered uneasily, but he did not go over in the end after some hesitation.

“Jian Chen, you’ve only just returned from the sea realm, so there are quite a few things waiting for you. Go do what you need to do. After you’re done, come to Longevity Valley. I have some things I want to ask you,” said uncle Xiu. He was filled with suspicion toward Jian Chen’s divine hall, but chose not to mention the matter at this very moment.

“Yes, uncle Xiu!” Jian Chen replied.

Afterward, Houston left through a space gate, returning to Longevity Valley with a hoe on his shoulder to continue his ploughing.

“Jian Chen, Ming Dong and Tie Ta are cultivating in my Mercenary City. Tie Ta’s identity is rather sensitive, so come visit Mercenary City when you have the time,” said Tian Jian.

Jian Chen could not help but think of his parent’s bodies that he had left at Mercenary City as soon as he heard the city’s name mentioned. His iron heart immediately began to ache slightly.

“Senior Tian Jian, I will head over immediately to Mercenary City after I deal with the matters at hand,” Jian Chen declared.

Originally, the first thing he wanted to do as soon as he returned to the continent was revive his parents. However, he had left for so long and things had happened to the Flame Mercenaries. This made him miss Bi Lian and the others very much, so he wanted to go back and see them.

Tian Jian stared deeply into Jian Chen’s eyes before leaving as well. He returned to Mercenary City.

The only ones that floated in the air now were Rui Jin, Hei Yu, and Jian Chen, as well the great elders of the Changyang clan.

The great elders all cast mixed gazes toward Jian Chen from afar. They originally wanted to say some things to Jian Chen, but then they thought about what they had said and the choices they made when Jian Chen faced up against the other protector clans. These thoughts shut them up at the same time.

Back then, they were indeed afraid of standing with Jian Chen and helping him resist the other protector clans, but they were filled with regret now. If they had known that Jian Chen had the help of Rui Jin and Hei Yu, two experts who could fight Saint Emperors, they would have had no need to fear the other protector clans.

Jian Chen arrived before Rui Jin and Hei Yu, thanking them one more time. Afterward, he said, “Senior Rui Jin, can you create a Space Gate that directly leads to the Gesun Kingdom?”

Rui Jin naturally would not have agreed before because of his status as a dragon king, but it was different now. He agreed without any hesitation, personally ripping open a region of space to form a Space Gate.

Jian Chen left through the Space Gate and directly arrived outside Lore City, while Rui Jin and Hei Yu also followed along. They tailed Jian Chen into the city.

The great elders watched Jian Chen leave but none of them said anything. They all knew that Jian Chen did not want to admit himself as a member of the protector Changyang clan.

A long while later, Changyang Zu Xiao sighed deeply and said, "Kicking out Changyang Zu Yunkong all those years ago was a wrong decision. By the look of things, we seemed to have made a wrong decision yet again just now."

The great elders all stood silently. Changyang Qing Yun only spoke out after a while, "Let's go to the Changyang clan of Lore City!"

Jian Chen's return to the clan resulted in utter joy throughout the entire place. All the elderly and important members came out to welcome him. To no surprise, the people who lead them was Changyang Zu Yeyun and Changyang Zu Yunkong. Changyang Zu Yeyun was deeply grateful toward Jian Chen, so as soon as she met him, she did not try acting superior due to her seniority at all. She grabbed his hands enthusiastically, constantly thanking him. She understood that if it were not for Jian Chen, she probably would not have been able to see her son ever again.

Jian Chen learned the woman's identity from Changyang Zu Yunkong. She was actually his great grandfather's mother. He was immediately shocked and bowed toward the woman. Jian Chen did not have any good impressions of the protector clan, but she was still the mother of his great grandfather.

"My great grandson has finally returned. The most outstanding member of my Bi family has finally returned safely," Bi Hai smiled from afar as he watched on. Tears of joy actually ran down his face.

Jian Chen's first aunt Ling Long and his second aunt Yu Fengyan also watched on with smiles. They had already began viewing Jian Chen as their own son long ago. Only the third aunt, Bai Yushuang, had mixed emotions as thick envy flooded her eyes. When she saw Jian Chen, she could not help but think of her own son. Jian Chen was now an expert who stood on the apex of the continent and had done great deeds on the continent. Meanwhile, her own son always seemed to be running about without any strength or success. He was now a person in his thirties, yet he had just become a Great Saint Master. He had not even reached Earth Saint Master yet.

Jian Chen conversed with all the people of the clan for a little, before calling You Yue, Bi Lian, and all the members of the upper echelon from the Flame Mercenaries into his temporary residence. After the recent years of development, there were quite a few high-ranking and loyal members. There were more than forty people present, excluding You Yue and Bi Lian. Ever since Flame City had been taken, these people lead a small group of their mercenaries, traveling a hundred thousand kilometers by foot and horse to arrive at Lore City. Then, they finally settled down in the clan.

Jian Chen secretly nodded when he saw all the high-ranking members. He said, "Flame City has been retaken from the Extinguishing Alliance. I wonder how the situation of the Flame Mercenaries are right now."

The people present immediately became joyful when they heard that Flame City was back in their possession. You Yue said, "Jian Chen, after the recent years of development, our mercenaries have reached into the hundred thousands in terms of numbers. Many Heaven Saint Masters joined us and our strength increased every day. However, ever since the battle with the Extinguishing Alliance, our group

has basically collapsed. People left and dispersed. There are only several tens of thousands of people that are hell-bent on following us.”

“Several tens of thousand.” Jian Chen furrowed his brows. The number was much lower than he had anticipated. It seemed like the Extinguishing Alliance had indeed caused unbelievable damage to the Flame Mercenaries.

Jian Chen stood up from his seat and said, “Since there are still this many people who are loyal and are hell-bent on being a part of the Flame Mercenaries, raise them as elites. Also, lead the remaining members of the Flame Mercenaries back to Flame City tomorrow. We will be reoccupying Flame City and reviving the Flame Mercenaries.”

Just as Jian Chen was discussing the plans for development with them, the great elders from the protector Changyang clan arrived. They immediately called Changyang Zu Yunkong into a room all by himself, discussing some secret things with him. The entire room was enveloped in a powerful barrier, so no one knew what was happening inside.

Jian Chen naturally sensed their arrival, so he could not help but pause the discussion about the Flame Mercenaries. His eyes began to flicker as he became suspicious.

The great elders did not talk for very long with Changyang Zu Yunkong before they emerged from the room. They did not stay, immediately ripping open a Space Gate and returning to the protector clan. Only Changyang Zu Yunxiao stayed behind, his faced filled with helplessness.

Jian Chen discussed with the upper echelon for two whole hours before finally handing over the matters for the future developments of the mercenaries. Then, he exited the room.

Outside, Changyang Zu Yunxiao and Changyang Zu Yeyun had waited for a very long time. As they watched Jian Chen walk out, their gazes became mixed with emotions.

Jian Chen no longer looked toward Changyang Zu Yunxiao as coldly as before. He had learned exactly what had happened all those years ago when the Extinguishing Alliance took Flame City from You Yue and Bi Lian. He knew that it was all because of Changyang Zu Yunxiao that they could arrive back at Lore City safely. If it were not for him, they probably would not have been able to get past Bi Jian.

“Jian Chen, we want to talk about some matters with you in private,” Changyang Zu Yunxiao said softly.

“Is it about my identity? If that’s the case, there’s no need,” replied Jian Chen.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao sighed gently and continued, “Jian Chen, you’ve guessed half of it. This matter doesn’t just affect your identity, it affects your great grandfather as well. It affect his future.”

Chapter 984: Tip of the Iceberg

Jian Chen’s gaze immediately froze when he heard that it would relate to his great grandfather Changyang Zu Yunkong’s future. He could disregard the protector clan, but in no way could he just ignore his great grandfather. Only Jian Chen understood just how much agony his great grandfather had suffered in the past years. He had essentially lived a life where he would much rather be dead back on Three Saint Island.

Jian Chen followed the couple into a room and Changyang Zu Yunxiao personally cast down a barrier.

Jian Chen's heart immediately shivered when he saw how cautious Changyang Zu Yunxiao was acting. He now understood that what they were about to do was going to be quite significant.

With the barrier set down, Changyang Zu Yunxiao and Changyang Zu Yeyun crossed their legs and sat down before Jian Chen. The two of them looked at Jian Chen with extremely mixed gazes. This was the first time they had ever needed to treat a junior as an equal despite their statuses.

Jian Chen sat down on the cold floor as well and looked at the couple calmly. He did not try to initiate the conversation.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao could only break the silence himself given that Jian Chen was unwilling. He coughed twice and said, "Is your name Jian Chen, or is it Changyang Xiangtian?"

"Great grandfather, you should call me Jian Chen. I like that name very much, and I've used it for so long already. I don't want to change it back," Jian Chen said with no further consideration. Changyang Zu Yunxiao was Changyang Zu Yunkong's father, so he was Jian Chen's senior by countless generations. As they were all his senior, Jian Chen just referred to them as great grandfather or great grandmother.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao sucked in a deep breath and said helplessly, "Alright, then I'll call you Jian Chen." He paused slightly there, before continuing, "Jian Chen, the reason why I've asked to talk to you this time is actually in regards to your great grandfather Changyang Zu Yunkong. You should know about the seal in his head, right?"

Jian Chen nodded his head but said nothing. He waited for Changyang Zu Yunxiao to continue.

A sliver of pain appeared on Changyang Zu Yunxiao's face as he said, "Back then, Yunkong was expelled from our clan as he had committed a grave mistake, and a seal was implanted into his head, preventing him from reaching Saint Ruler for the rest of his life as a punishment. Originally, it would have been impossible for Yunkong to return to our clan again, but this changed ten years ago. Due to some reasons, the great elders of our clan removed Yunkong's punishment together and allowed him back into the clan. He has become a member of the protector clan again."

Changyang Zu Yunxiao paused once again as he stared deeply into Jian Chen's eyes. He said, "Jian Chen, do you know why the great elders were willing to remove Yunkong's punishment and let him back into the clan?"

Jian Chen replied after coming to a realization, "If I've guessed correctly, it's related to the fact that the Winged Tiger God was with me. If I became a member of the protector clan, the Winged Tiger God would also belong to the Changyang clan."

"Correct, it was indeed because of you. Your existence brought hope to Yunkong's situation," said Changyang Zu Yunxiao. He purposefully avoided the matter of the Winged Tiger God.

"But the seal remains in Yunkong's head even though the clan has reaccepted him. Yunkong may be a Saint Ruler now, but his strength can no longer increase due to the seal. Jian Chen, you're still Yunkong's descendent in the end. Do you really want to watch your great grandfather stagnate at the First Heavenly Layer for the rest of his life? I hope you can help your great grandfather and get the seal in his head removed." Changyang Zu Yunxiao's voice made it seem like he was pleading. Even though Jian Chen was a member of a younger generation, Yunxiao could not forcibly order him to do anything.

“What do you need me to do? What are the conditions the protector clans are asking for to remove great grandfather’s seal?” Jian Chen asked. Jian Chen already had some understanding toward the seal in Changyang Zu Yunkong’s head. It was cast down by several Saint Kings of the protector clan through a secret technique. Not only was it extremely powerful, it was extremely profound as well, such that even the artifact spirit could do nothing about it.

Saint Emperors could forcefully break through it, but that would definitely harm Changyang Zu Yunxiao. It would probably lead to his death if it was forcefully removed. The only way to undo it without injuring anyone was to use the matching secret technique.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao said, “The other great elders of the protector clan have spoken. They said that if you want the seal removed, Yunkong must do something great for the clan to make up for what he did all those years ago. And this thing would be having you return to the protector clan.”

Jian Chen’s face sank slightly and a cold smile formed on his lips. He said, “So that’s really the case. I thought that the protector clans would do something like this. Probably getting me to return is just a cover. Their true intentions should be taking the Winged Tiger God.”

“Jian Chen, I know you have a bad impression of the protector clans, but with your current strength, we no longer have the right to make you do anything you don’t want to do. The great elders have formed an agreement over this. We can give up on the Winged Tiger God, as well as assist you in holding off the other protector clans, but only given that you are a member of the protector clan,” said Changyang Zu Yunxiao.

“I can already hold off the other protector clans by myself. I don’t need the protector clan’s help,” said Jian Chen.

“Sigh, Jian Chen, you think of the protector clans too simply. I know you have a divine hall protecting you, and that anything below a Saint Emperor can’t injure you. However, your divine hall is not impossible to crush before the protector clans. If it weren’t for the obstruction of the grand elder of Mercenary City in the battle today, your divine hall probably would’ve been smashed to pieces by the Yiyuan sect already,” said Changyang Zu Yunxiao.

Jian Chen began to recollect as he heard that. He could not help but think back to when the great elders of the Yiyuan sect mentioned the Emperor Armament. However, before he could ask about it, Changyang Zu Yunxiao had already begun to explain.

“Every clan of the ten protector clans has a single Emperor Armament. These Emperor Armaments have an extremely lengthy history. They have existed since the ten clans were established, all the way until now.”

“These Emperor Armaments exceed anything that you can imagine in strength, because they were forged together by several dozen or even over a hundred Saint Emperors. It is one of the two supreme treasures of every protector clan.”

“We, the protector clans, have an extremely lengthy history on the Tian Yuan Continent. There always used to be a Saint Emperor appearing in virtually every generation. In our most glorious times, the Changyang clan had a total of eight Saint Emperors at the same time. We possessed supreme power. However, after some changes to the world due to some unknown reasons, it became harder and harder

to break through for everyone. Not only was the Tian Yuan Continent affected, even the Beast God Continent and the Wasteland Continent inhabited by the Hundred Races were affected. In the end, Saint Emperors finally stopped appearing in the ten protector clans.

“In the past, we once had most of our Saint Emperors pour all their strength, as well as their vital essences, into the Emperor Armament when they reached the end of their life. This allowed the Emperor Armament to constantly power up. Our Emperor Armaments are only able to be so unbelievably powerful today due to all those Saint Emperors. They’re far greater than the Emperor Armament you currently possess, so your divine hall can’t resist any one of the Emperor Armaments from the protector clans.

Jian Chen became slightly grim and said, “Looks like the Yiyuan sect wanted to use their Emperor Armament to deal with me.”

“Correct. The Yiyuan sect indeed wanted to use their Emperor Armament, but the grand elder of Mercenary City stopped them. If it weren’t for that, your divine hall would be in pieces by now,” said Changyang Zu Yunxiao. “However, the Emperor Armaments are just too powerful. Even Saint Kings at Great Perfection will struggle to control it, so it can only be used when several Saint Kings work together, and they will all suffer a backlash. Even Saint Kings at Great Perfection will be injured from the backlash after using it, so the Emperor Armament has already become a forbidden weapon of our protector clans. It can only be used to repel foreign invasions or when the protector clans face life-threatening dangers. It’s their last line of defense.”

Jian Chen immediately fell silent after hearing that. Only now did he learn that the protector clans were not as simple as he had imagined. They actually possessed such terrifying weapons. If it were not for Tian Jian earlier today, his Octoterra Divine Hall would have definitely been crushed even though he might not die.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao continued as he looked at the silent Jian Chen, “Jian Chen, you should return to the Changyang clan. Once you embrace your ancestry, you will be a part of the protector clan. The Changyang clan will definitely help out if the people of the Yiyuan sect still want to use the Emperor Armament against you. We can find ways to persuade the other protector clans in regards to the Flame Mercenaries.” Changyang Zu Yunxiao’s voice was hopeful.

Changyang Zu Yeyun also began to speak, “Jian Chen, great grandmother knows that you dislike our Changyang clan, but we hope you can consider things for Kong’er. It’ll all be depending on you if Kong’er’s seal can be removed and if he can climb to higher levels of cultivation in the future,” Changyang Zu Yeyun spoke with a pleading tone.

Jian Chen could not help but hesitate. This matter directly affected his great grandfather Changyang Zu Yunkong, so he needed to think over it seriously. No other person could remove Changyang Zu Yunkong’s seal other than the protector Changyang clan after all. This included Saint Emperors.

Jian Chen nodded in agreement in the end after much hesitation. He said, “Alright, I’ll return to the protector clan with you so that my great grandfather can cultivate again. However, now’s not the time. Let me deal with my matters first.”

Changyang Zu Yunxiao and Changyang Zu Yeyun immediately became delighted when they heard that. They became emotional.

Jian Chen and the couple left the room after the discussion. They saw Rui Jin and Hei Yu waiting outside as soon as they exited.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao's gaze underwent some changes as soon as he saw the two of them. It was replaced by some respect—respect toward the powerful. The two people before him were so powerful that even the path lord of carnal desires and the tiger emperor Lankyros could not defeat them. Even the protector clans could not afford to offend them.

“Senior Rui Jin and Hei Yu, is there something you need?” Jian Chen asked.

“Nah, it's nothing. We're just standing around so that the people from the protector clans can't oppress you,” smiled Hei Yu. He was extremely friendly toward Jian Chen.

Chapter 985: Yi Yangzi's Ambush

Changyang Zu Yunxiao naturally became delighted when he saw how Hei Yu treated Jian Chen. As his own great grandson and a descendant of the Changyang clan, he obviously hoped that Jian Chen could be as close to Rui Jin and Hei Yu as possible. That way, the Changyang clan could benefit from them as well.

Jian Chen's heart warmed from Hei Yu's concern. He said to the two of them, “Seniors, my Changyang clan eagerly welcomes the two of you as guests. If you like it here, why don't you stay for a few more days?”

Hei Yu looked at Rui Jin after hearing that, before smiling at Jian Chen once again. “We really did consider that. We just don't happen to have a place to stay on the Tian Yuan Continent, so we might as well just settle down in your Changyang clan. We do hope that it won't be troublesome for you.”

Jian Chen was completely delighted with that. The Changyang clan could be considered as impregnable now that the two of them had settled down here. Even if the protector clans came personally, they would fail to gain any advantages over the clan.

“Don't say that! It is my honor that the two seniors are willing to settle down in my humble abode. I can't welcome you two enough, so how can it be troublesome?” Jian Chen said hurriedly. He was extremely happy inside.

Changyang Zu Yunxiao also became delighted. He quickly added some polite words. Only Changyang Zu Yeyun who did not know Rui Jin and Hei Yu's strength remained doubtful. However, she could guess that the two of them were definitely not simple seeing how her husband treated the pair.

Afterward, Jian Chen quickly ordered the mercenaries in the clan to organize the best courtyard for Rui Jin and Hei Yu, allowing the two of them to settle down.

However, Jian Chen still felt suspicious throughout this entire time. He was not very close with Rui Jin or Hei Yu; he could barely even describe them as chance acquaintances, so he had no idea why Rui Jin and Hei Yu would continue to help him regardless of the consequences. Not only did they become enemies of the path lord of carnal desires and the Saint Emperors of the Beast God Continent, the two of them

actually waited outside when he spoke with Changyang Zu Yunxiao just earlier. Jian Chen was very surprised by this.

Even when ignoring their great strength, just Rui Jin's status as a dragon king made him countless times more prestigious than Jian Chen.

"Is it because of the Winged Tiger God that Rui Jin and Hei Yu are extremely willing to help me and even protect me? Do they only want to protect the Winged Tiger God?" Jian Chen thought. He felt like this was more and more possible, so he relieved himself of his doubt afterward.

In the morning of the next day, many unfamiliar guests had gathered outside the Changyang clan of Lore City. They all walked to the main entrance of the clan with invaluable gifts, before politely communicating with the guards outside. They were only let in after a very long time.

They all came from ancient clans. A Saint King ancestor would personally lead the important people of their clan to visit the small Changyang clan in Lore City. Over a dozen clans came, and the numbers kept increasing. Each clan would bring at least a dozen people.

Their arrival immediately made the Changyang clan lively, alarming all the members of the upper echelon of the Changyang clan. Changyang Zu Yunkong personally received them, and even Jian Chen made an appearance.

The people of the ancient clans all possessed great statuses, but they behaved extremely amiably when they came to the Changyang clan today. They did not act arrogantly at all, and some people even seemed a little unnatural.

The ancestors of the ancient clans all gathered around Jian Chen when he appeared. They constantly congratulated him as they smiled kindly, trying to curry some favor.

The ancestors had all personally witnessed Jian Chen fending off the protector clans and knew that this unprecedented genius of the continent had matured at an unstoppable rate. He had already become an existence that they needed to be wary of despite being less than fifty years old. He was so powerful that even the protector clans could do nothing to him.

All the ancestors of ancient clans were extremely sharp. They could see Jian Chen's terrifying talent and immeasurable achievements, and they all expected Jian Chen to become something no less than a Saint Emperor. As a result, they all came to visit him at this moment, to form a friendly tie with him before he had reached Saint Emperor.

"Brother Jian Chen, I never thought you would be an awe-inspiring expert now, making our clan's ancestor personally pay a visit. You really do make me envious." At this moment, an enchanting voice rang out from nearby. Jian Chen heard it clearly.

Turning toward the sound, Jian Chen saw a lady in a pink dress standing with an elderly couple. She stared unblinkingly at Jian Chen with mixed emotions.

Jian Chen could not help but think back to when he took part in the Gathering of Mercenaries at Mercenary City where he first saw the woman. He immediately became melancholy, but he did not show it. He smiled toward the lady, "Miss Tianmu Ling, I didn't know you had come as well."

This lady was Tianmu Ling from the ancient Tianmu clan. Ten years had passed in the blink of an eye, yet her appearance was no different from before. She did not seem old at all, and the only change was that she seemed much more mature than before.

“My my, brother Jian Chen. We haven’t met in so many years yet you still recognize me. You sure make me so emotional,” said Tianmu Ling with a giggle. She smiled seductively, as beautiful as the blooming of flowers. She paid no attention to the weird gazes that the ancestors from the other ancient clans looked at her with.

Probably only Tianmu Ling would dare to speak so brazenly to Jian Chen out of all the people that had come today.

However, Tianmu Ling was nowhere near as calm as she seemed on the surface. Her heart had already begun to churn long ago. She was definitely not calm.

Back then, she was still someone who had the same level of cultivation as Jian Chen, also taking part in the Gathering of Mercenaries. She was part of the five experts. There was a slight difference between their strength, but it was nothing that could not be made up for. Yet now, Jian Chen had become a supreme expert, standing as an equal to the ancestor of her clan. Many Saint King ancestors from other ancient clans had also personally come to visit, treating him extremely politely and courteously. It was glorious for him.

On the other hand, she was still an Earth Saint Master. She had improved greatly throughout the years as well, but the difference between her and Jian Chen was now at a dumbfounding level. The difference could be analogized as the sky and the earth.

Tianmu Ling experienced extremely mixed emotions currently. She felt indescribably envious of Jian Chen’s current achievements, but she also felt a sliver of admiration.

“Sigh, back then, he was on the same level as me, yet now he has become something that I can only look up to but never match,” Tianmu Ling sighed inside.

“Hahaha, I never thought my friend Jian Chen here would know my great granddaughter. It really is her honor,” the Saint King ancestor from the Tianmu clan immediately began to laugh from the bottom of his heart as he saw how close Tianmu Ling was with Jian Chen.

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The next day, the guests from the ancient clans all left. Afterward, even more ancestors from hermit clans paid a visit with valuable gifts. Jian Chen allowed Changyang Zu Yunkong and Bi Hai to receive them, while he himself did not make an appearance. Instead, he left the clan all by himself and traveled toward Mercenary City.

At the same time, the remaining members of the Flame Mercenaries left Lore City under the lead of the high-ranking members, forming a huge group that they traveled toward Flame City.

Jian Chen left the Gesun Kingdom all by himself as he made his way toward Mercenary City. He was happy but also felt some mixed emotions. He was now a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master, so he could revive the dead. He could bring back his parents.

Jian Chen became uncontrollably excited when he thought about how his parents would be soon revived. He had waited for this day for far too long.

Something suddenly happened as Jian Chen was thinking about his parents. The space around him froze up in that instant, immobilizing him tightly.

Jian Chen was surprised by the sudden occurrence and the random thoughts in his head disappeared in that instant. He looked forward and produced a shocking glare.

A ruddy old man had appeared at some point in time in the direction of Jian Chen's sight. He floated fifty meters before Jian Chen, staring at him coldly.

"It's actually you, Yi Yangzi of the Yiyuan sect," called out Jian Chen. Killing intent and anger immediately began to skyrocket inside him, burning like a scorching flame.

"Jian Chen, my Yiyuan sect is a mighty protector clan. It is not something that you, a little brat, can insult. You even heavily injured the great elder Ling Yuanzi, reducing him to just his soul. My Yiyuan sect will be taking revenge for this no matter what. There has never been anyone in the past who has come out unharmed after offending my protector clan. This applies even if you have the Changyang clan supporting you," Yi Yangzi said coldly. Afterward, he pointed toward Jian Chen and spat out the words, "Secret Laws of Yuan-returnance, Index Finger of the Mountainous Five Fingers."

Invisible World Force began to condense in that instant as Yi Yangzi pointed out. A three-inch-long finger immediately shot toward Jian Chen.

The finger exceeded the constraints of time and space, arriving before Jian Chen in the next moment. It traveled directly toward the center of Jian Chen's eyebrows.

Yi Yangzi clearly wanted to kill Jian Chen. His attack toward the center of Jian Chen's eyebrows was an attempt to wipe out his soul.

Chapter 986: Rui Jin's Assistance

Yi Yangzi was extremely powerful. He was the most powerful member of the Yiyuan sect, having reached the Great Perfection of Saint King long ago. The space personally frozen by him was extremely tough, trapping Jian Chen tightly in place.

Yi Yangzi's finger drew extremely close to Jian Chen. In this moment of life and death, Jian Chen roared out angrily and Chaotic Force trembled within his body. In the end, it flowed out like a flood, surrounding his body with black flames.

Immediately, an energy of destruction filled the surroundings, causing the clouds to churn. The terrifying energy ripples expanded in all directions, causing even the surrounding space to shake.

Crack! Crack!

Under Jian Chen's full-powered resistance, Yi Yangzi's frozen space immediately shattered, causing the space around him to tremble constantly.

However, since Yi Yangzi was brave enough to attack Jian Chen, he had naturally timed himself extremely accurately. He did not give Jian Chen any time to bring out the divine hall. Just as Jian Chen

broke free, the finger from Yi Yangzi was already less than three inches from Jian Chen's forehead. It continued toward his soul with an incomparable speed.

Jian Chen's eyes suddenly narrowed. He was completely unprepared, making him fall into the jaws of danger. He had been thinking about his parents earlier and did not expect someone as honorable as a member of the protector Yiyuan sect would attack him while he was off-guard. Although he had the divine hall that could protect him, he had no time to bring it out this time.

In this moment of life and death, a golden streak of light shot out from the center of his eyebrows with a flash. It formed a fist-sized golden tower, blocking Jian Chen's forehead.

Boom!

Yi Yangzi's attack struck the golden tower viciously, immediately producing a deafening boom. It echoed in the surroundings, spreading far and wide while the residual energy swept out in all directions as a terrifying storm. The surrounding space constantly shook due to it.

Jian Chen's clothes were immediately reduced to shreds by the violent energy storm, revealing the golden silkmail. At the same time, he was knocked backward.

Jian Chen shot backward like a cannonball as Chaotic Force constantly circulated within his body. He pushed his Chaotic Body to the absolute limit in an attempt to resist the energy storm, while the golden tower remained floating before him. It was ready to block Yi Yangzi's attacks at any time.

Yi Yangzi stared at Jian Chen throughout the whole process. His face could not help but sink as he watched the golden tower block his attack. He growled, "I didn't think you'd have the saint artifact of the Radiant Saint Master Union protecting you as well other than the divine hall. I really have miscalculated." He took a step out as soon as he finished speaking, crossing through the region of violent energy and arriving behind Jian Chen in an instant. He pointed toward the back of Jian Chen's head this time.

Jian Chen's presence had flooded the region long ago, so he clearly sensed Yi Yangzi's movement. Under the control of his mind, the golden tower immediately moved to protect the back of his head. At the same time, he grabbed the Octoterra Divine Hall with his right hand.

"Jian Chen, you're dead now." Suddenly, Yi Yangzi's sneer rang through Jian Chen's ears. He had appeared silently to Jian Chen's left, pointing toward his head in a flash. However, there was still a Yi Yangzi behind him.

Jian Chen's face changed. He could feel the Yi Yangzi behind him, but the Yi Yangzi to his left of him was real as well. Two Yi Yangzis had suddenly appeared, shocking him greatly.

Jian Chen had still yet to completely expand the divine hall. He used the saint artifact to block the attack from the Yi Yangzi behind him, but he was powerless against the second Yi Yangzi's attack. In this crucial moment, all he could do was turn his head as hard as he could in an attempt to dodge the life-threatening attack from the second Yi Yangzi.

Jian Chen failed to dodge the attack completely even after using all he had. However, since he moved his head, Yi Yangzi's attack missed his soul and struck his face instead. It cut through his Chaotic Body easily.

Jian Chen's heart immediately shuddered coldly when he sensed Yi Yangzi's attack enter his body. The attack possessed great energy. If it erupted, it was enough to blow his head into pieces. At that time, he would be heavily injured even if he managed to survive.

Without any hesitation, Jian Chen basically threw his head backward, breaking away from Yi Yangzi's attack. Afterward, he backpedaled quickly and the Octoterra Divine Hall flew out of his hand at the same time. It quickly enlarged above his head.

The second Yi Yangzi slowly disappeared. The remaining Yi Yangzi looked at Jian Chen's injuries with regret. He thought, "It's a pity that my control over the clone isn't great, or that attack would've taken his life."

Jian Chen immediately tried to enter the divine hall as he paid no heed to his wound.

Yi Yangzi's eyes immediately turned cold as he sensed Jian Chen's intentions. He called out loudly, "Don't you dare enter the divine hall."

The distance between them was nothing to Yi Yangzi. He took a step out and immediately traveled several dozen meters, arriving in between Jian Chen and the divine hall. He swung downward with a palm strike, wanting to prevent Jian Chen from entering the divine hall.

Jian Chen understood Yi Yangzi's strength, so he did not want to take him on forcefully at all. The saint artifact blocked the attack.

Although Jian Chen could hide inside the saint artifact, he would lose the ability to flee. This was because Yi Yangzi could take the artifact back to his protector clan and then use the clan's Emperor Armament to crack it open.

As a result, Jian Chen could only use the saint artifact to block things. He could not hide in it like the divine hall.

Yi Yangzi's palm strike was so powerful that Jian Chen was knocked far away along with the saint artifact. It widened his distance from the divine hall.

Jian Chen became extremely grim as he saw how he got further from the divine hall. With a thought, he quickly pulled it toward him.

"Jian Chen, with me present, I'd like to see how you enter the divine hall," sneered Yi Yangzi. He stepped out and arrived before Jian Chen again, striking out with his palm. The great force knocked both Jian Chen and the saint artifact backward once more. He remained a certain distance from the divine hall in the end.

An extremely great killing intent appeared in the surroundings in that moment, making Yi Yangzi's expression change. Following this presence, a voice boomed out loudly, "I never thought that an esteemed great elder of a protector clan would ambush a junior here. Is this how the protector clans do things? I've finally witnessed it today."

As the voice boomed out, the space a hundred meters away began to ripple. Energy filled the empty space and a Space Gate opened with difficulty as it resisted the messy collisions of energy in the region. Two tremendous presences began to radiate from within it.

Yi Yangzi's expression changed drastically. He was extremely familiar with these two presences, as they belonged to the two experts who could fight even-handedly with the path lord of carnal desires and the tiger emperor. They were Rui Jin and Hei Yu.

Yi Yangzi was confident, but he did not believe that he was their opponent. Without any hesitations, he struck toward the forming Space Gate with a palm and shattered it.

"Do you think you can stop me from coming just because you destroyed my Space Gate?" An angry roar boomed from afar. The voice constantly grew louder and by the time it reached Jian Chen's location, it had become thunderous.

Rui Jin used a secret technique as he flew over from Lore City with incredible speed. From afar, a dazzling streak of golden light quickly approached the region, and a tremendous presence arrived with it.

Yi Yangzi became unprecedentedly stern as he watched Rui Jin rapidly draw closer. His eyes became filled with deep fear. He knew that he had to leave now or he would be stuck here.

Yi Yangzi looked at Jian Chen sternly and gnashed his teeth. "Jian Chen, I'll let you off today and let you live for a few more days." Yi Yangzi immediately ripped open a Space Gate after saying that. He wanted to leave.

Jian Chen drew his Emperor Armament from his Space Ring and chopped out toward the Space Gate with a sword Qi. He wanted to stop Yi Yangzi from fleeing.

Yi Yangzi smiled disdainfully. He gently extended a finger and a force shot out, shattering Jian Chen's sword Qi. He said coldly, "You truly overestimate yourself by trying to stop me from leaving with just yourself." With that, Yi Yangzi directly disappeared through the Space Gate.

Rui Jin arrived very quickly. He looked toward the bloody-faced Jian Chen and immediately became furious. He asked with concern, "Brother Jian Chen, are you fine?"

Jian Chen's gaze was cold. He put away the Octoterra Divine Hall and the saint artifact. Then, he shook his head gently. "I'm fine. I thank senior for arriving in time and thus scaring away Yi Yangzi. Otherwise, there would've only been death for me today."

Rui Jin looked in the direction that Yi Yangzi had fled and growled, "The protector clans have gone too far. Even people of such status are trying to ambush you here. Let's go, brother Jian Chen. Hei Yu and I'll kill our ways into the protector clan with you and get you the justice you deserve," Rui Jin said righteously. He was extremely angry, as if he would not be satisfied if he did not throw the protector clan into turmoil.

"Senior, I am extremely grateful for your help, but I will be personally taking revenge for this," Jian Chen said with a dark face as blood continued to flow.

Afterward, Hei Yu hurried over as well. He stood angrily beside Rui Jin and also swore to take revenge for Jian Chen, to turn the Yiyuan sect into a mess. However, he was declined by Jian Chen tactfully.

This was because Jian Chen had already learned from Changyang Zu Yunxiao just what power the protector clans were hiding. Their Emperor Armaments possessed the power of Saint Emperors. Jian

Chen did not want the two of them to take the risk even though they were powerful and had the origin energy armors.

Also, Rui Jin and Hei Yu had helped him many times already along the way. He did not want to always be indebted to them.

Chapter 987: Seeing Xiao Ling Again

“Brother Jian Chen, we’ll talk about revenge in the future then since you want to do it yourself. However, when the time comes, feel free to speak out if you need the two of us. We will help you with everything we have,” Hei Yu said seriously. He did not seem like he was joking at all.

“I thank seniors’ concern. However, when I become powerful enough to deal with the Yiyuan sect in the future, I might not need your help at all,” Jian Chen thanked with clasped hands. He was extremely grateful toward the two of them.

However, in Jian Chen’s heart, he credited Rui Jin and Hei Yu’s treatment of him to the white tiger.

Afterward, Rui Jin and Hei Yu decided to go with Jian Chen to Mercenary City in case the Yiyuan sect and other protector clans wanted to ambush Jian Chen again. Jian Chen used a sliver of the origin energy from the Radiant Saint Force to heal his wound, before leaving with Rui Jin and Hei Yu.

Although Mercenary City was extremely far away, the distance was nothing to Jian Chen as he had two true Saint Kings beside him. Hei Yu directly ripped open a Space Gate and traversed the distance, arriving outside the city.

Jian Chen saw the huge, familiar barrier around Mercenary City from afar. He could not help but think of Xiao Ling’s naive smile.

He had already learned just how terrifying and powerful Xiao Ling was from the sea goddess. Although Xiao Ling seemed like an eleven or twelve year old, she possessed strength that did not match up to her appearance at all. Her actual age was at a dumbfounding level, and she originated from the ancient times. Several hundreds of thousands or even millions of years had passed since them.

Jian Chen did not worry about his safety at all with the protection of Rui Jin and Hei Yu. As a result, he let out the white tiger who was suffocating inside before making his way toward Mercenary City with Rui Jin and Hei Yu.

The white tiger was unable to erase its presence like Rui Jin and Hei Yu. As soon as it appeared, the pressure from its bloodline as the Winged Tiger God naturally pervaded the surroundings, causing the magical beasts ridden by the mercenaries nearby to collapse onto the ground and tremble. They would not get up no matter how much the mercenaries urged them, confusing them all.

Mercenary City did not change at all despite so many years. It was exactly the same as when Jian Chen first came here. He could see groups of mercenaries in varying attires ride in and out of the city on magical beasts. The city was bustling.

The white tiger leaped around on Jian Chen’s shoulders as the size of a cat, while it constantly blinked its small bright eyes. It constantly looked around, as if it found everything to be interesting.

“Big brother, it’s big brother’s smell. Xiao Ling can smell big brother and master’s smell. Big brother has finally come to see Xiao Ling. Xiao Ling misses big brother so much.”

Xiao Ling’s voice rang out as soon as Jian Chen entered the barrier of Mercenary City. Jian Chen heard it clearly, and Xiao Ling’s figure slowly materialized before him. Her young face was filled with happiness.

Jian Chen could not help but smile from the bottom of his heart after seeing Xiao Ling’s naive face. “Xiao Ling, big brother has come to see you.”

Xiao Ling furrowed her brows and revealed a sliver of unhappiness. She pouted, “Bad big brother. Big brother broke his promise. Xiao Ling has waited for so long before you came to visit me. Hmph, Xiao Ling is very upset. Xiao Ling is angry.”

Jian Chen smiled bitterly. “Xiao Ling, it’s not that big brother didn’t want to see you, but I was forced into hiding somewhere else from the continent by the protector clans and the Beast God Continent. I only returned recently. Xiao Ling, if I didn’t do that, not only would it have been impossible for me to see you today, I would never be able to see you ever again.”

Jian Chen did not notice Rui Jin and Hei Yu look toward him weirdly at all. He just devoted all his attention to Xiao Ling. Only Jian Chen could see her, while Rui Jin and Hei Yu could not sense her existence at all. To them, Jian Chen was talking to empty air and smiling idiotically at it. He stood there as he mumbled to himself, as if he had lost his mind.

Besides Rui Jin and Bei Yu, a few mercenaries and merchants passing by also noticed his ‘strange’ actions. They all cast odd gazes toward him.

Xiao Ling lowered her head in thought after hearing Jian Chen’s explanations and finally stopped furrowing her brows. She smiled sweetly once again and said naively, “Okay then, if that’s the case, Xiao Ling will forgive big brother then. But big brother has to come see Xiao Ling often in the future. If those bad people want to bully big brother, just come to where Xiao Ling is. Xiao Ling will protect big brother and chase the bad people away.”

Jian Chen nodded very much. “Yeah, when big brother comes across bad people he cannot defeat, he’ll be troubling Xiao Ling.”

“Hehe, don’t worry big brother. With Xiao Ling here, no one can bully you,” said Xiao Ling as she smiled happily.

Hei Yu was finally at the bottom of his line as he watched Jian Chen constantly mumbling to himself. He touched Jian Chen and stared at him in doubt. “Brother Jian Chen, are you fine? Why are you talking to yourself? Who are you talking to?”

Jian Chen finally returned to his senses when Hei Yu said that. Only then did he suddenly realize that no one else could see Xiao Ling unless she wanted them to.

Jian Chen laughed dryly and said to Hei Yu, “Senior, I was talking with a friend just then. The identity of my friend is relatively special. No one can see her unless she wants you to be able to see her.”

“Is that so? We actually can’t see your friend with our strength?” Hei Yu refused to believe that there were still people in the present day that could be so close to him yet not fear him. That person would just be too terrifying.

Even Rui Jin struggled to believe this. He immediately mumbled inside as he saw how serious Jian Chen was, “Is there really such a terrifying existence in the present world?”

Jian Chen paid no attention to Rui Jin and Hei Yu’s shock and continued to talk with Xiao Ling, “It’s not convenient to talk here, Xiao Ling. Let’s go somewhere else.”

“Yeah, okay!” Xiao Ling nodded obediently. She was just about to disappear, but then her eyes lit up. She appeared beside Jian Chen and sniffed him forcefully. She immediately cried out, “Big brother, master’s smell on you is getting heavier and heavier. Did you see master? Hmm? Why does it smell like master as well? And its scent is even heavier than big brother.” Xiao Ling was stunned as she pointed toward the white tiger. However, she came to an understanding very quickly and became even happier. She called out constantly, “Big brother, you must have seen master. You must have seen master. Right, right? Tell Xiao Ling quickly. Xiao Ling misses master so much. Where is master?” Toward the end, Xiao Ling’s voice almost became sobs and her eyes became misty.

“Xiao Ling, I indeed saw your master, but all he left behind was a sliver of his soul. Your master told me to inform you that once you fulfill your mission, you can be free. Also, you need to work hard on the cultivation method your master passed on to you all those years ago,” said Jian Chen. Then, he glanced at the white tiger. He was doubtful as well. When he first saw Mo Tianyun, Mo Tianyun was only a soul. Also, Xiao Ling had said that the smell of Mo Tianyun on him had faded as time passed the last time he met her, yet how was it possible for it to still remain even after so much time since then? Also, Mo Tianyun’s smell was even heavier on the white tiger? Jian Chen could not understand this.

Back then, the white tiger had only been out of the artifact space for a short time, nowhere as long as the time he and the Heavenly Enchantress were in contact with Mo Tianyun. Even if it now smelled like Mo Tianyun, it should be impossible for the scent to be heavier than the smell on himself.

“Is it because the white tiger has always stayed in the artifact space that Mo Tianyun’s smell disappeared more slowly, while I had virtually spent the past years fighting and meeting people, thus making Mo Tianyun’s smell disappear faster?” Jian Chen thought.

“Sobs, where is master?” Xiao Ling said as she choked back her tears.

Jian Chen shook his head and replied, “Xiao Ling, I don’t know where your master is right now either. However, if your master isn’t dead, you should work hard on your cultivation. Once you fulfill your mission and become free, you can go looking for him.”

The flames of hope immediately ignited in Xiao Ling’s eyes. She shook her head determinedly and said, “Big brother is right. Xiao Ling will work harder on cultivation in the future. Xiao Ling will definitely go find where master is after Xiao Ling completes her mission.”

Suddenly, Xiao Ling raised her head. She furrowed her brows and said, “Why did you come again? And this time, you’re standing in the air above Mercenary City. That’s disrespecting master. Move immediately, or I’ll teach you a fierce lesson. It’ll be even worse than last time.” As she said that, the

barrier of Mercenary City suddenly began to shine with a blinding light. A half-meter-wide pillar of light shot from the top of the barrier toward the sky.

Boom!

The space shattered as the residual energy ran amok. It caused the entire sky to darken.

A middle-aged man appeared in the empty sky as he constantly shook. His clothes and hair were a mess. He was in a horrible shape.

“The human Saint Emperor!”

“The path lord of carnal desires!”

The expressions of Jian Chen, Rui Jin and Hei Yu all changed the moment the middle-aged man appeared.

The path lord of carnal desires looked down in shock as soon as he appeared. Afterward, he immediately ripped open a Space Gate and left without any hesitation. He thought, “Looks like my guesses were right. Jian Chen really does have a close relationship with the barrier spirit of Mercenary City.”

Chapter 988: Tie Ta’s Identity

Jian Chen struggled to calm down even a long time after the path lord of carnal desires left. His heart was heavy, and even his face sank.

He had never thought that the path lord of carnal desires would follow him secretly to Mercenary City. If it were not for Xiao Ling, probably no one would have realized that the path lord of carnal desires was secretly surveilling him.

“Looks like the human Saint Emperor has yet to give up on the Winged Tiger God,” growled Rui Jin. He immediately understood what Jian Chen was worrying about when he saw Jian Chen’s grimness. As a result, he comforted him, “Brother Jian Chen, you don’t need to worry. As long as the two of us are here, the human Saint Emperor can’t harm you.”

“Brother Jian Chen, the two of us will block him for you if he dares to attack. Don’t worry,” Hei Yu also comforted.

Jian Chen’s heart warmed up when he heard the two of them speak and he responded politely.

Afterward, Rui Jin and Hei Yu looked toward the huge barrier in the sky. Seriousness and curiosity filled their faces. They truly struggled to believe just how powerful the protective barrier of Mercenary City was with what they had just witnessed. Just a mere strike was enough to scare away a Saint Emperor.

Xiao Ling then looked toward Rui Jin and Hei Yu after repelling the path lord of carnal desires. She said after some thought, “The two of you are magical beasts. Master said to not let magical beasts Class 7 and up in, but since you’re big brother’s friends, Xiao Ling won’t chase the two of you away. However, don’t make trouble in here.”

Although Rui Jin and Hei Yu could not see Xiao Ling, they had heard her voice clearly. Their expressions immediately changed and they began to look around. They tried to find the speaker, but they found nothing even after searching for quite some time.

“Who is it!? Who is the one talking!?” Hei Yu called out. He revealed a rather ugly expression, as it was just too terrifying that he could not find the speaker with his current strength.

Rui Jin also became stern. He became filled with caution toward the hidden person.

Jian Chen hurried to explain as he saw how nervous Rui Jin and Hei Yu were. The barrier spirit of Mercenary City was no secret to a few hermit clans, and almost everyone relatively experienced on the Tian Yuan Continent knew about it. Only Rui Jin and Hei Yu knew nothing about it as they had just come out from the artifact space and were limited in their understandings of the Tian Yuan Continent. It was fine if Jian Chen told them about Xiao Ling’s existence.

Although Rui Jin possessed some knowledge due to the inherited memories that had been passed on with each generation as a Golden Divine Dragon, Mercenary City still had not been founded when the artifact space sucked in Rui Jin’s ancestor. The barrier spirit had not been created yet, so he knew nothing in regards to this.

The two of them became shocked when they learned about the barrier spirit. They sighed in surprise and said, “I never thought that the barrier spirit of Mercenary City would have such a lengthy life. No wonder she can repel the path lord of carnal desires so easily.”

Jian Chen did not reveal the fact that Xiao Ling was a spirit of the earth. He did not want too many people knowing about that.

At this moment, more than ten tremendous presences began to radiate from the center of the city. A group of experts hurried over with the grand elder Tian Jian at the forefront.

Xiao Ling created a huge disturbance throughout the entire city when she used the barrier’s power to repel the path lord of carnal desires. As a result, it attracted all the high-ranking members of Mercenary City.

“Jian Chen, you’ve come.” From afar, Tian Jian noticed Jian Chen and smiled gently. At the same time, he quickly glanced past Rui Jin and Hei Yu who stood beside him. Interest flashed through Tian Jian’s eyes.

Tian Jian knew that Jian Chen was close with the barrier spirit so he asked Jian Chen, “Jian Chen, do you know what happened just then? Why did the power of the barrier suddenly surge?”

“It was the path lord of carnal desires...” Jian Chen explained what had happened Tian Jian’s face sank slightly right after he heard everything, and he said, “I never thought that the path lord would come to my Mercenary City. Looks like he didn’t suffer enough last time. But we have the protective barrier, so he can’t enter no matter what.”

Jian Chen and Tian Jian conversed some more, before being taken into the independent space by Tian Jian through a special technique. It was the space where the divine hall floated, while Rui Jin and Hei Yu were left behind in Mercenary City. He did not bring them along.

Arriving in this somewhat familiar space once again, the feeling it gave Jian Chen was worlds apart from the previous times. As his strength increased, he could feel how wondrous the technique used to carve out the space was with more and more clearly.

Jian Chen floated in the space as he faced the divine hall he had seen many times. He did not know the origins and strength of the divine hall before, but now, he could tell from a single glance that it was also one that was made by a Saint Emperor. He could even feel a great pressure from it vaguely as if it stood like a mountain. It was suffocating.

Tian Jian smiled and he explained when he saw Jian Chen staring unblinkingly at the divine hall, "This divine hall is one of the most valuable treasures of Mercenary City. It was personally created by the city lord all those years ago. It's extremely tough, such that even Saint Emperors can't break through it."

"Once upon a time, there were some disagreements between my Mercenary City and the ten protector clans. All ten protector clans sent out all their people, resulting in over twenty Saint Emperors arriving. Only our Saint Emperor grand elder fought them, using the divine hall to suppress the ten protector clans. He had even succeeded in heavily injuring over a dozen Saint Emperors."

"The divine hall before you is different from other divine halls. Other divine halls created by Saint Emperors have no other external uses other than being tough, while the divine hall before you was created personally by the city lord. Other than its supreme defense, it possesses an extremely great power in combat. It can deal with Saint Emperors." At this point, Tian Jian's face sank and he sighed gently. "Although the divine hall is extremely powerful, the requirements for controlling it is great as well. You need to be a Saint Emperor, while there are no longer any Saint Emperors in my Mercenary City. Otherwise, just it will be enough to repel the Beast God Continent's invasion. The divine hall has already sat here collecting dust for thousands of years. I have tried to control it during that time, but all my attempts have resulted in failure. I succeeded once, but it was only the fusion with my soul and it separated very quickly again."

Jian Chen also felt pity regarding this matter when he heard about it. It was basically torture for such a powerful divine hall to exist but with no one able to use it.

Tian Jian sighed deeply before dismissing his emotions. "Ming Dong and your friend Tie Ta is cultivating inside the divine hall. Jian Chen, please come with me."

Jian Chen followed Tian Jian into the divine hall. They passed through countless palaces, before arriving in a large hall.

Jian Chen spotted Ming Dong and Tie Ta as soon as he entered the hall. They sat on the ground cultivating. He struggled to remain calm, becoming rather emotional.

Both Ming Dong and Tie Ta's strength had increased greatly after so many years of not seeing them. Just by their presences alone, Jian Chen could tell with a single glance that Ming Dong had reached the peak of Heaven Saint Master, while Tie Ta was even more powerful. He was at the Third Heavenly Layer of Saint Ruler.

However, Jian Chen felt puzzled when he saw Tie Ta's huge, burly body, his golden skin, and the imprint of an axe on his forehead. Tie Ta's changes were just too great in these years. Jian Chen had almost failed to recognize him.

“Ming Dong’s talent is extremely good, and he has been working arduously on his cultivation in the past few years. That’s why he could reach the peak of Heaven Saint Master at such a young age. However, the chasm between Heaven Saint Master and Saint Ruler is not that easy to cross. He has already stagnated at his current level of cultivation for a few years now.” Tian Jian’s tone was positive even though he was nonchalant. Ming Dong had not become a Saint Ruler yet, but his current accomplishments could already be described with the word ‘earthshaking’.

Tian Jian then looked toward Tie Ta and his expression became mixed. He said, “Though Jian Chen, your friend’s identity is quite complicated. If I hadn’t brought him to Mercenary City in time back then, he probably would have been taken away by the protector clans.”

Jian Chen’s expression changed slightly when he heard that. He could not help but think back to the matter of Tie Ta’s golden blood. “Senior Tian Jian, just what is Tie Ta’s identity? And what connection does he have with the protector clans?”

Tian Jian stared deeply at Tie Ta and said steadily, “He’s the war god of the Hundred Races, an existence similar to that Aergyns who surpassed Saint Emperor in the ancient times.”

“What! Tie Ta- he’s- he’s- he’s actually...” Jian Chen mind rumbled as if he had been struck by a bolt from the blue, completely stunned in that moment. Deep shock and disbelief flooded his entire mind.

The young man from the countryside who studied at Kargath Academy in Lore City back then actually possessed such a terrifying identity. He was actually the war god of the Hundred Races. This was something that even Jian Chen struggled to believe.

Tian Jian sighed deeply and continued, “It does sound extremely absurd. It’s very hard to convince people but that is the truth. Tie Ta is indeed the war god of the Hundred Races.”

“In the ancient times, a great war had once erupted between the three of the four great races, with only the sea realm not taking part. The Hundred Races were chased out of the Beast God Continent and had once tried to invade our Tian Yuan Continent under the lead of Aergyns. We suffered defeat after defeat and many predecessors from the ten protector clans died in the hands of the war god. If it weren’t for the strongest human who appeared out of nowhere in the most crucial moment, defeating the Hundred Races all by himself, Tian Yuan Continent would probably no longer belong to us humans. As a result, the protector clans have an extremely deep hatred for the war god of the Hundred Races. If they knew that Tie Ta was the war god, Tie Ta would definitely fail to escape death. They would avenge their predecessors on one hand, and remove a supreme expert of the Hundred Races and thus a future threat on the other hand. Our current continent no longer has an expert like Mo Tianyun. If the war god matures successfully and decides to lead the Hundred Races to invade the Tian Yuan Continent again, what power do we have to stop the war god?”

“Back then, when I discovered Tie Ta’s identity, I definitely wouldn’t have saved him if it wasn’t for his relationship with you, because it would bring on an apocalypse for the Tian Yuan Continent if the matter wasn’t handled correctly.”

Chapter 989: The Three Soul-controlling Techniques

Jian Chen became silent after hearing Tian Jian’s words. He felt extremely uneasy after Tie Ta’s identity was confirmed.

At the same time, he understood very well that Tie Ta was still the war god of the Hundred Races even though he was innocent himself. The previous war god and the Hundred Races were enemies of the Tian Yuan Continent. After the effects from all those years ago, the ten protector clans would definitely not let him go.

Jian Chen felt a lingering fear after he learned the scale of matters Tie Ta's identity connected to. If Tian Jian had not made it in time and the protector clans arrived before he could take Tie Ta to Mercenary City, the outcome would have been unimaginable. Jian Chen might have ended up losing a friend forever.

Jian Chen did not care at all even though Tie Ta's true identity was not human. To him, it did not matter what Tie Ta's true identity was or what he became. He could always remain a good friend.

Suddenly, an idea flashed through Jian Chen's head. He thought back to the golden drop of blood he had come across on Dragon Island and thought, "That drop of blood was left behind by Aergyns and it contains a great energy. Tie Ta's also a war god, so can he absorb that blood? If he can, his strength will definitely skyrocket."

"Looks like I need to take Tie Ta to Dragon Island when I have the time," thought Jian Chen.

At this moment, Ming Dong and Tie Ta's presences rippled as they cultivated. They woke up at the same time and actually discovered Jian Chen as soon as they opened their eyes. They stared blankly at first, before returning to their senses. They became excited.

"Jian Chen, you're actually back," Ming Dong immediately cried out. He shot up to Jian Chen and hugged him. He felt extremely emotional.

"Fantastic. Jian Chen, you've finally returned." Tie Ta also stood up and looked at Jian Chen, who only reached up to his chest. Emotions filled his face as well.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong separated and arrived before Tie Ta. Jian Chen heavily punched Tie Ta's huge, three-meter-tall body as he stared at him. "Tie Ta, you've grown even bigger after not seeing you for so many years."

Tie Ta smiled straightforwardly and scratched his head. He said with his deep, soft voice, "I don't know why either. I'm just growing bigger and bigger."

Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta talked for some more. Suddenly, Ming Dong seemed to think of something. His face sank and he looked at Jian Chen apologetically and said, "Jian Chen, I'm sorry. We were useless. We failed to protect Flame City. The Extinguishing Alliance took it under the lead of Bi Jian."

Tie Ta's face also sank when he heard Ming Dong mention that. His gaze toward Jian Chen also became filled with regret and shame. Tie Ta always blamed himself for the matter of Flame City, even though he was not at fault at all.

Jian Chen broke into laughter when he heard them mention this. He replied, "I know about it already but don't worry. No one can take things that belong to me. I have already retaken the Flame City that was once occupied by the Extinguishing Alliance."

Ming Dong and Tie Ta's faces immediately lit up with joy. However, Ming Dong seemed to think of something again. His brows furrowed in worry and he said, "But Jian Chen, the ten protector clans of the continent will not let us take Flame City. If the protector clans interfere again, we won't have the power to keep Flame City at all, even if uncle Tian makes an appearance."

"The ten protector clans," Jian Chen murmured softly. He could not help but smile coldly as he continued, "If the ten protector clans want to interfere, I'll definitely let them leave with more than they bargained for."

Although the ten protector clans had Emperor Armaments that could break through his divine hall, the power of the weapons were just too great. They could only be used in crucial moments. Unless the protector clans were forced into a situation like the Yiyuan sect before, Jian Chen refused to believe that the protector clans would use the Emperor Armaments so easily.

However, even if they wanted to use it against him, Jian Chen was supported by the protector Changyang clan, so he at least had the power to resist. Additionally, Tian Jian and Mercenary City could also stop them. It would not be easy for them to successfully use the Emperor Armaments.

Lastly, Jian Chen had Rui Jin and Hei Yu beside him, two experts that could fight on-par with Saint Emperors. He did not need to feel fear even if the protector clans ran the risk of offending Mercenary City and used the Emperor Armaments against him in the end.

Although the protector clans' Emperor Armaments possessed the might of Saint Emperors, Rui Jin and Hei Yu possessed origin energy armor, and even Saint Emperors would personally struggle to injure them. As a result, the Emperor Armaments could not harm the two of them at all.

Tie Ta and Ming Dong became surprised immediately after they heard Jian Chen's words. They both stared at him with wide eyes.

"My god, you don't even fear the protector clans now, Jian Chen. Just what level of cultivation have you reached now? Can you contend against the protector clans now?" Ming Dong cried out.

"If I use my Emperor Armament, I can fight hand in hand with Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint Kings," said Jian Chen with a smile. He hid very few things from Ming Dong and Tie Ta.

However, Tie Ta and Ming Dong's hearts began to churn after they heard these words. They were filled with disbelief.

"S- S- Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint Kings. My god, Jian Chen, y- y- you've become that powerful," stuttered Ming Dong as he looked at Jian Chen dumbfoundedly. Currently, the shock within him had peaked.

Tie Ta also stared blankly for quite a while before gradually returning to his senses. He sighed emotionally and said, "Jian Chen, and I had thought that I had improved quickly in the past years and had exceeded you already. Never did I think you'd still be stronger than me after not seeing each other for a few years. Moreover, the difference between the two of us is getting wider and wider. Looks like I can never surpass you for the rest of my life."

Jian Chen smiled at what Tie Ta had said and replied, "Tie Ta, you need to be confident in yourself. You need to be confident that you can surpass me in the future and become someone who surpasses Saint Emperor on the Tian Yuan Continent."

"Can I really surpass Saint Emperor?" Tie Ta's eyes immediately lit up when Jian Chen mentioned surpassing Saint Emperor.

...

Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta talked some more, before looking toward Tian Jian. Jian Chen's expression changed very quickly, becoming filled with some pain.

"Senior Tian Jian, I want to see the bodies of mother and father," Jian Chen said with a deep voice. The happiness he had experienced from reuniting with Ming Dong and Tie Ta immediately vanished after he thought about his parents.

Tian Jian nodded silently. He said, "Come with me." With that, he turned around and walked toward the exterior of the divine hall.

Jian Chen immediately followed Tian Jian to the location where his parents' bodies were stored. Ming Dong and Tie Ta also controlled their feelings, following behind Jian Chen heavy-heartedly. The two of them also felt extremely sorrowful and pained over what had happened to Jian Chen's parents.

Jian Chen arrived in a room of the divine hall after Tian Jian. The entire room was filled with icy-cold air, causing a faint layer of frost to form on the walls. The air inside was white and a cold mist floated there as well.

As soon as Jian Chen entered the room, his eyes locked onto the huge ice casket in the center. He could clearly see his parents through the transparent ice. They laid there silently.

"To preserve the bodies of your parents even better, I specially visited the arctic and returned with some arctic ice. It can ensure that your parents' bodies will not rot even after a thousand years. Jian Chen, you've parted with your parents for so many years. You should really spend some time together with them again," Tian Jian said with mixed emotions, before backing out with Ming Dong and Tie Ta. Only Jian Chen remained in the icy-cold room.

Jian Chen slowly walked up to the ice caskets and looked at the silent faces of his parents. Unknowingly, tears began to roll down his face.

The person who said men bleed but did not cry clearly was never emotionally hurt!

Outside, Jian Chen was a merciless, indomitable person. No matter how much blood he bled or how intense the pain and torture he endured, he had never cried. He seemed like a person with a heart of stone. However, he still internally retained a soft side.

That was the side of his relatives and family.

Jian Chen stared at his parents blankly. Dazed, he began to think of the past again, thinking about the concern, meticulous care, and love from his mother. He also recalled her beautiful and benevolent face.

“Mother, father, your child has returned. Your child has returned to see you. Your child is now a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master and will be able to awaken you from your slumber very quickly,” murmured Jian Chen. With a thought, a golden streak of light immediately shot from the center of his eyebrows, turning into a golden tower before him. Jian Chen then entered it.

Inside the artifact space, Jian Chen sat with his legs crossed in a rather dark room within the huge hall. The artifact spirit stood politely to one side in the form of a white-clothed, middle-aged man.

“Artifact spirit, pass the three soul-controlling techniques onto me immediately,” growled Jian Chen. Only by learning the three techniques could he revive the dead.

“Yes master,” The artifact spirit replied courteously. Afterward, he passed on the cultivation method of the three techniques by mouth to Jian Chen.

Chapter 990: Reviving the Dead

The three soul-controlling techniques were wondrous techniques made for Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters. It could revive the dead; all that was needed was a sliver of Radiant Saint Force origin energy, given that the person’s soul had not been wiped out and that their body was stored under perfect conditions. It would not leave any after effects, allowing the revived person to retain all their memories.

The three techniques were broken up into condensing the soul, nourishing the soul, and fusing the soul. Condensing the soul was gathering the soul scattered throughout the world, while the second technique was to nourish these scattered pieces, and make them join together into a whole soul.

The third technique was to fuse the soul perfectly with the body of the person being revived, bringing them back from the dead.

The three techniques were made especially for reviving the dead, and had no other uses. Only Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters and beyond could learn it.

Although the artifact spirit knew the three techniques and could be considered as a great Radiant Saint Master, he was not human, so he could not practice the techniques. As a result, the artifact spirit did not possess the power to revive the dead.

After learning all three techniques from the artifact spirit, Jian Chen stayed in the artifact space as he practiced them.

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had already stayed in Mercenary City for three months. During this entire time, he practiced the three techniques within the artifact space, without taking a single step out.

Tian Jian, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta did not disturb Jian Chen. However, Tian Jian left long ago, so only Ming Dong and Tie Ta remained outside the icy-cold room as they waited silently.

After three months, Jian Chen finally began to move in the huge hall of the artifact space. He slowly opened his eyes. Immediately, his eyes flashed with a visible light. His gaze seemed even brighter than before.

Jian Chen finally learned the three techniques after three months of comprehension. Although the techniques could not make him stronger, his soul had grown by a quantitative amount after learning it. As a result, his presence could cover an increased area.

“Artifact spirit, send me out of the artifact space,” Jian Chen said rather patiently. He wanted to revive his parents as soon as possible after learning the three techniques.

With a flash of white light, Jian Chen disappeared from the artifact space. By the time he had reappeared, he had returned to the icy-cold room.

Jian Chen stared emotionally at his parents in the ice casket. He felt rather excited and a little uneasy; he was excited that his parents were about to be revived and would be able to walk the earth again, but he felt uneasy over the possibility of accidents during the process. An accident could potentially destroy any hopes of bringing back his parents. After all, he was inexperienced in this aspect.

“Mother, father, you’ve already slept for so long. It’s about time you woke up. Don’t worry, your child will wake you up immediately.” Jian Chen murmured as he touched the casket gently. Afterward, he directly lifted up the ice casket with his thought, and carried it out of the room.

“Jian Chen, what are you doing?”

Ming Dong and Tie Ta noticed Jian Chen as soon as he exited the room. They immediately cried out when they saw Jian Chen carrying the ice casket.

“I want to revive my parents and let them see the light of day again,” Jian Chen said positively.

Ming Dong and Tie Ta both stared blankly, stunned by these words.

At this moment, Tian Jian walked in from outside. His eyes shone with interest as he looked at Jian Chen. Tian Jian asked, “Have you already become a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master, Jian Chen?”

Jian Chen nodded and said, “Senior Tian Jian, the revival of my parents must be performed outside. Only outside can I gather my mother and father’s souls.”

Tian Jian nodded solemnly and said, “Come with me.”

Afterward, Jian Chen followed Tian Jian out of the independent space with the ice casket on his shoulders. Ming Dong and Tie Ta followed behind him as well.

Rui Jin and Hei Yu immediately flew over from afar when Jian Chen reappeared in Mercenary City. However, they both became stunned when they noticed the ice casket on Jian Chen’s shoulder. They became doubtful and just when they wanted to ask him about it, they noticed Jian Chen’s sternness, so they choked back their questions.

Mercenary City possessed a protective barrier, and Jian Chen was worried that the revival would be affected by it. As a result, he walked toward outside the city with the ice casket on his shoulder. Meanwhile Rui Jin, Hei Yu, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta followed closely behind him. Tian Jian followed along as well.

Jian Chen immediately drew everyone’s attention as he walked through the streets of Mercenary City with the ice casket. All of them pointed at him as they discussed; no one had ever dared to stride

through Mercenary City with such a huge coffin in all these years. After all, Mercenary City was a consecrated holy land to all the mercenaries.

Many mercenaries struggled to bear with Jian Chen's actions. A few mercenaries with decent strength immediately wanted to stand forward and lecture him. The grand elder of Mercenary City traveled with Jian Chen, but an ordinary person could not discern his status. Meanwhile, Rui Jin and Hei Yu seemed just like ordinary people to these mercenaries, so they possessed no deterrence.

However, just when they wanted to stand forward, a supreme battle intent suddenly attacked them. It was as if a warhammer had been swung mercilessly at their heads.

The battle intent did not arouse their own desire to battle. Instead, it functioned as an extremely great pressure and deterrence, directly crushing any will to fight within them. Instead, it aroused fear from the bottom of their hearts. It completely frightened them, removing all of their courage to stop Jian Chen.

The one who stopped them was naturally Tie Ta. Tie Ta now had a high degree of proficiency and control over his own battle intent; not only could he affect their spirits and throw them into a mindless state as they fought, but he could also completely crush their desires to fight as well. This allowed him to subdue enemies without even fighting. However, that was only if the opponent was not too strong.

"Big brother, you can't go too far. If those bad people come bullying you, Xiao Ling will help you chase them away." Xiao Ling's voice rang in Jian Chen's head as soon as he crossed the barrier. She seemed to know what Jian Chen wanted to do next.

Finally, Jian Chen stopped in an empty region ten kilometers away from the city before opening the ice casket. He slowly closed his eyes, as he prepared to cast the three techniques.

Rui Jin, Hei Yu, Tian Jian, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta all stood beside him quietly. They wanted to witness a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master reviving the dead, as well as protect Jian Chen from any interference from others.

Tian Jian looked at Jian Chen's back with mixed emotions and thought, "The sea goddess is still alive, the war god of the Hundred Races has reappeared and even the Winged Tiger God of the Beast God Continent has appeared as well. In the current world, three of the four great races have their supreme experts. Only my Tian Yuan Continent is without one."

"Jian Chen's talent is unprecedented, having reached such a level of cultivation with his age. He also has a mysterious relationship with the barrier spirit of Mercenary City. Looks like he will be the future hope of the continent."

Similar thoughts like that had bloomed in his heart ever since Jian Chen reached Saint Ruler. However, he was even more certain now.

The other people present had no idea what Tian Jian was thinking. They all stared at Jian Chen unblinkingly.

A milky-white energy slowly began to float out from the top of Jian Chen's head. This was a sliver of Radiant Saint Force origin energy.

Under Jian Chen's control, the origin energy split into two and a sliver fused with Bi Yuntian's body. The other strand remained in the air.

Immediately, Bi Yuntian's body became covered by a dense layer of milky-white light. Then, Jian Chen gently extended a finger and forcefully cut open Bi Yutian's wrist. He removed a droplet of blood.

Under Jian Chen's mental control, the droplet of blood fused with the other strand of origin energy, dyeing it red. Afterward, Jian Chen chanted, "With the blood as a medium, I search the world for the soul. First technique of the three soul-controlling techniques—gather!"

The origin energy of Radiant Saint Force that had fused with Bi Yuntian's blood dispersed in the surroundings. It used Bi Yuntian's blood as a medium to search for the soul fragments scattered across the world.

Jian Chen's eyes remained closed, as he stood there without moving. In that moment, his soul seemed to have fused with the origin energy of Radiant Saint Force, taking his body with it as he searched for the familiar soul fragments.

A while later, the space before Jian Chen began to twist slightly. The origin energy that had dispersed reappeared before him, this time shining with an even brighter and more dazzling milky-white light. There were a few spots of dark red and a few pieces of a soul in the light.

This was Bi Yuntian's soul. Jian Chen had gathered all the soul fragments using the condensing technique.

Tian Jian, Rui Jin, Hei Yu, and Tie Ta's eyes all froze. They could feel the existence of Bi Yuntian's soul as they were all Saint Rulers or above, which made them extremely amazed.

Although they were powerful, some even at the peak of Saint King, gathering the souls like this technique before them far exceeded their capabilities.

"Second technique of the three soul-controlling techniques—condense!" Jian Chen forcefully suppressed his internal excitement and called out once again.

As he said the word 'condense', Bi Yuntian's soul fragments began to condense quickly, forming a faint figure in the end.

"Last technique of the three soul-controlling techniques—fuse!" Jian Chen said quickly as his lip trembled. Under the control of his mind, the nourishment of the Radiant Saint Force origin energy, and a droplet of blood, Bi Yuntian's soul slowly fused into the body within the ice casket. It was the final part to reviving the dead.

Bi Yuntian's entire body became enveloped in a bright white light, causing her figure to become blurry.

Jian Chen sighed deeply after completing the process. He looked at Bi Yuntian with excitement and mixed emotions. He was filled with anticipation.

This was the final step to bringing back the deceased—fusing the soul with the body into one once again. Whether the person could return or not would completely depend on this step.