

## **Sword God 3351**

### Chapter 3351: Another Usage of the Imprints

At this moment, the three illusionary figures composed of lingering wills arrived before Jian Chen again. Terrifying power condensed in their fists, which sailed through the air and shook up space, targeting Jian Chen's head, heart, and dantian.

With a thought, Jian Chen immediately interfered with the attacks with the Laws of Space in an attempt to increase the distance between them.

But it failed this time. The power behind the three illusionary fists was far too great. They were like independent domains isolated from Jian Chen's Laws of Space, allowing them to remain unaffected by his Laws of Space to a certain degree.

But shortly afterwards, three colossal spatial blades suddenly appeared with blinding light.

They were completely condensed from the power of laws, so they possessed startling power. They could easily slice through meteors.

The three spatial blades moved swiftly, immediately landing on the heads of the three illusionary figures.

Having endured the attack, the three illusionary figures immediately distorted.

Jian Chen's attack had failed to directly destroy them, but it had clearly caused some damage. Their figures immediately became slightly fainter.

But despite that, it was still not enough to stop their punches. Jian Chen could only use the Laws of Space to evade two of their attacks by a hair's breadth. In the end, he wielded his arm as a sword and launched a startling strand of sword Qi, slamming against the third punch.

Their clash was like the collision between two colossal meteorites. A tremendous explosion erupted and powerful energy surged out. Jian Chen was launched afar once again.

This time, the skin on his entire right arm became covered with cracks.

At this moment, the might of the world descended. The Jade Heaven Ruler on the other side used a God Tier Battle Skill. An illusionary sword landed on one of the figures.

Boom!

With a great rumble, the Jade Heaven Ruler's God Tier Battle Skill blasted away one of the illusionary figures by several dozen metres. It became even fainter.

However, after using the God Tier Battle Skill, the Jade Heaven Ruler could no longer spare the strength to fend off the second illusionary figure, allowing it to land a punch on her shoulder.

Crack! The Jade Heaven Ruler's left shoulder bone was immediately shattered. Despite being equipped with medium quality god artifact armour, she was still unable to avoid becoming injured.

The figure that endured the Jade Heaven Ruler's God Tier Battle Skill stabilised itself very quickly. Its hollow eyes filled with killing intent were fixed on the Jade Heaven Ruler. Right when it was about to launch another attack, Jian Chen appeared silently behind it. He unleashed the Laws of Space and the Laws of the Sword at the same time, which turned into sword that slashed against its body.

Having endured the Jade Heaven Ruler's God Tier Battle Skill and now Jian Chen's full-powered attack, the illusionary figure was immediately heavily injured. Its body became extremely feeble, while its figure had been reduced to a cloud of mist, making it seem like it could dissipate at any moment.

However, just when Jian Chen wanted to continue with his attacks and completely kill the figure, the illusionary figure shot back with lightning speed and immediately returned to the ancestral imprint. It inhaled and absorbed wisps of essence from the ancestral imprint immediately.

With this replenishment of energy, its illusionary figure rapidly began to recover. In a few seconds, it had made a complete recovery.

Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler who witnessed this together both had their hearts sink inside.

The Jade Heaven Ruler had weakened it after so much difficulty at the cost of sustaining injuries herself, yet it had recovered in the blink of an eye. How were they supposed to fight like this?

"We'll retreat for now!" Jian Chen called out. With a flash, he arrived before the Jade Heaven Ruler and grabbed her by the shoulder, vanishing immediately and leaving this place.

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The five illusionary figures did not go after them. They returned to the ancestral imprint and sat down before it. Then they shut their eyes and seemingly returned to cultivation as if nothing had happened at all.

A hundred kilometres away, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler erased their presences and stood there silently. Their eyes were locked on the five illusionary figures with their eyebrows firmly locked together.

"They're not Wood Spirits." Suddenly, the Jade Heaven Ruler communicated to Jian Chen.

"They indeed are not," Jian Chen replied.

The Jade Heaven Ruler suddenly turned towards Jian Chen. Her eyes flickered. "If I've guessed correctly, you come from the same place as them, right?"

Before Jian Chen could answer, the Jade Heaven Ruler continued, "Jian Chen, stop trying to fool us. For such a powerful ruler capable of such mysterious things to suddenly appear in our Wood Spirits World, that in itself is anything but normal."

"Our Wood Spirits World is only so large. It's impossible for a ruler to appear out of nowhere."

"Moreover, you were heavily injured as soon as you appeared, which was even more illogical, as no one in the Wood Spirits World can threaten you given your strength, nor is there anyone capable of making you so heavily injured."

“Don’t use cultivation as an excuse either. As one of the three rulers of the Wood Spirits World, I’m not as foolish as you think I am.”

“You’re from the same place as these people. Am I right?” The Jade Heaven Ruler stared at Jian Chen with great interest.

Jian Chen turned towards the Jade Heaven Ruler and said seriously, “You’re right. I am indeed not a Wood Spirit. I come from the Saints’ World, while the experts that are responsible for these lingering wills are also from the Saints’ World.”

“The Saints’ World? What kind of place is that?” The Jade Heaven Ruler narrowed her eyes.

“Right now is not the time to discuss this. If you want to know, I’ll tell you once we leave here. In short, you only need to understand that I have no ill intentions,” said Jian Chen.

The Jade Heaven Ruler glanced at Jian Chen deeply. After a moment of thought, she did not ask him any more. Instead, she turned towards the five figures before her.

“They’re very powerful. I wonder how powerful they were when they were still alive.” The Jade Heaven Ruler sighed in amazement.

“They’ve already been dead for countless years. Just their lingering wills following their deaths is so powerful, so it’s extremely likely for these people to be Grand Primes when they were still alive,” Jian Chen answered sternly. He stared ahead and said, “We’re not their opponent in direct confrontations. Through the ancestral imprint, they’re basically indestructible as well, so we can only obtain the ancestral imprint through a plan.”

“Back up a little. I’ll try and see if I can retrieve the ancestral imprint through the Laws of Space.”

The Jade Heaven Ruler immediately backed up, vanishing from his view very quickly. With her departure, Jian Chen immediately reached towards the ancestral imprint a hundred kilometres away.

The space around the ancestral imprint immediately twisted slightly.

But at this moment, the five figures around the ancestral imprint all opened their eyes. A tremendous pressure radiated from them, directly disrupting Jian Chen’s Laws of Space, such that the space around the ancestral imprint fell back into peace.

Afterwards, the five of them shut their eyes again.

In the distance, Jian Chen was intrigued as he thought, “They seem to be incapable of sight. They can only detect the disturbances within a certain range through their senses?”

After a moment of thought, Jian Chen took action once again. He suddenly vanished, directly appearing above the ancestral imprint through teleportation. He reached out and directly reached towards the ancestral imprint.

Boom!

However, with a great rumble, the five figures struck at the same time. Before Jian Chen’s hand even touched the ancestral imprint, their attacks all landed on him.

With a grunt, blood immediately sprayed out from Jian Chen's mouth. He was launched away like a cannonball.

The five figures took advantage of this situation and directly pursued him.

However, when they reached thirty thousand metres away from the ancestral imprint, they all stopped without setting another foot forwards. Then all of them returned to the ancestral imprint at the same time.

A hundred kilometres away, Jian Chen sat in the air with a rather pale complexion. There were still traces of blood on the corner of his lips. Having taken on the attacks of the five figures, he was quite injured even with the Chaotic Body.

"Thirty thousand metres. They won't travel more than thirty thousand metres away from the ancestral imprint?" Jian Chen stared at the five figures a hundred kilometres away and furrowed his brows.

Thirty thousand metres to an expert like them was far too short. They could cover that distance instantly.

Just earlier, he was thinking about leading the five figures away if he truly ran out of options, to lure them far away and then loop back to retrieve the ancestral imprint.

But now, that clearly would not work.

"So be it. We'll just give up on this ancestral imprint. We'll take another path." Jian Chen shook his head powerlessly and reunited with the Jade Heaven Ruler very quickly.

The Jade Heaven Ruler was rather hesitant about that. "Jian Chen, if you want Lifesoul Flowers to grow as quickly as possible, it's best if you collect some ancestral imprints."

Jian Chen was surprised. "Don't tell me ancestral imprints have effects on the growth of Lifesoul Flowers?"

The Jade Heaven Ruler nodded. "Ancestral imprints contain the powerful energy of life. They can nourish everything. As something to accelerate growth, there is obviously no better alternative than ancestral imprints."

"There are no materials that can rival ancestral imprints when it comes to accelerating growth. However, no one ever chooses to be so wasteful."

With a flip of his hand, an ancestral imprint immediately appeared in his hand. He looked towards the Jade Heaven Ruler. "So how do you use it?"

Looking at the ancestral imprint, the Jade Heaven Ruler shook her head. "This is the Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King's ancestral imprint. It has the presence of his soul. To ancestral imprints, gaining a master can also be described as a form of defilement. Once they're defiled, they can't be used to accelerate growth."

"Furthermore, once an ancestral imprint has a master, it can't ever be changed, so the Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King's ancestral imprint does not serve any practical uses in your hands."

“What you require are ancestral imprints without masters, ones in their purest forms without having been defiled. Only those ancestral imprints can be used to accelerate growth.”

The Jade Heaven Ruler explained to Jian Chen patiently.

“So according to what you said, I still have to find a way to get my hands on the ancestral imprint guarded by the five lingering wills.” Jian Chen felt pained. He had witnessed the strength of the five figures. They were basically indestructible, so they were very difficult to deal with.

Chapter 3352: Ancestral God Artifact

The Jade Heaven Ruler thought about it a little and said, “These five lingering wills are very powerful. With my strength, I can only keep one of them busy, just barely, and I’m incapable of killing it. However, the Blood Slaughter Ruler must have entered here before. The three ancestral imprints that he suddenly gained must have been from here too.”

“Since the Blood Slaughter Ruler was capable of obtaining three ancestral imprints from here, we must be able to too. I just wonder how the Blood Slaughter Ruler dealt with the lingering wills of experts that guard the ancestral imprints.”

“Or perhaps not every ancestral imprint is guarded by lingering wills? If that’s the case, it’s possible for us to search for those ancestral imprints that aren’t protected.”

Jian Chen shook his head. He disagreed with what the Jade Heaven Ruler said. He countered, “I’m afraid it’s not as simple as you think. If I’ve guessed correctly, these lingering wills of experts can only maintain their existence by remaining by the ancestral imprint. Once they lose the ancestral imprint, they probably won’t last for long. They’ll dissipate in the wind and vanish from the world forever.”

“As a result, I suspect that even if there are many ancestral imprints in the maze, there will definitely be something like the lingering wills guarding them.”

“What makes you so confident about that?” The Jade Heaven Ruler furrowed her brows. Just a single ancestral imprint possessed five lingering wills that were no weaker than her.

There were definitely far more than one ancestral imprint in the maze. If what Jian Chen said was true, such that every single ancestral imprint was guarded by similar lingering wills, then it would be far too terrifying.

After all, each lingering will was so powerful that they were all on par with rulers in the Wood Spirits World. So many experts equivalent to rulers suddenly appearing was simply unbelievable.

Most importantly, they were all products of their wills after these experts had perished, so just how terrifying were they supposed to be when they were still alive?

As someone completely ignorant of the Saints’ World, the Jade Heaven Ruler struggled to imagine what kind of place it was to be able to produce so many terrifying figures.

“I understand them better than you. They’re far too ancient. They’re not figures from this aeon. They’ve existed here for far too long. After so much time, there are no lingering wills that can last until now, yet they have somehow managed that.” Jian Chen was solemn.

“Are ancestral imprints really that powerful? Such that the lingering wills of five experts can last until now?” The Jade Heaven Ruler was surprised.

“Perhaps you can’t attribute it completely to the ancestral imprint. It might have something to do with this place too.” Jian Chen looked around and focused on the walls of the maze. “If I’ve guessed correctly, we might be inside the ancestral god artifact right now. Even if we’re not inside the ancestral god artifact, this must have something to do with the ancestral god artifact.”

“What did you say? We’re inside the ancestral god artifact?” The Jade Heaven Ruler was stunned. She immediately recalled the green sun that hung in the sky the entire time.

“This is only my guess. It might not be true,” said Jian Chen as his eyes shone with a strange light.

The power of the Dao Union Saint’s curse existed in his body. He had forced this power into his legs and trapped it there, but as long as the curse remained, he could not return to his peak condition.

The power of the curse was something that even the Wind Venerable was powerless about despite already becoming a sovereign of the world.

The only way to remove the curse was through the sovereign god artifact of the Wood Spirits, the Source of Life!

“It’s a pity that the sword spirits are currently slumbering. Otherwise, with their ability, they’ll be able to recognise whether we’re in the sovereign god artifact or not with a single glance,” Jian Chen thought. He could only tell from the toughness of the surrounding walls that it was a high quality god artifact at the very least. He had an idea over whether it was actually the sovereign god artifact, but he was not certain about it.

“Let me try one last idea. Let’s see whether it’s enough to deal with these lingering wills,” said Jian Chen. Afterwards, he flew towards the ancestral imprint again.

The Jade Heaven Ruler followed closely behind.

Very soon, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler returned there, but they did not get too close this time. They remained at least thirty thousand metres away from the five figures.

The Jade Heaven Ruler’s eyes rippled as she stared straight at Jian Chen, wanting to see what else he was capable of.

But at this moment, a powerful sword intent suddenly appeared. As soon as it emerged, the Jade Heaven Ruler shuddered inside and backed away instinctively.

A strand of Profound Sword Qi appeared over Jian Chen’s head. It was only the size of a finger, shining with blinding light, enough to make the surroundings pale in comparison.

Swish!

In the next moment, the Profound Sword Qi shot out, directly bypassing the distance between them and arriving beside one of the figures instantly.

The five figures opened their eyes simultaneously, about to launch an attack subconsciously.

However, the Profound Sword Qi was faster than everything. They did not even have the time to strike before it landed on one of the figures.

There were no startling rumbles, nor any surging storms of energy. The Profound Sword Qi shot into the lingering will silently. The two energies seemed to collide violently, causing the illusory figure to immediately twist dramatically.

Three seconds later, the Profound Sword Qi vanished, but the lingering will that was struck collapsed as well, dispersing as a wisp.

These lingering wills were actually a form of soul energy, while the Profound Sword Qi specially targeted the soul, so it happened to be the bane of these lingering wills.

The disappearance of the figure immediately made Jian Chen's eyes shine brightly. He smiled in relief.

The Jade Heaven Ruler's expression was extremely mixed. She stared at Jian Chen closely and said, "You actually have more of this trump card. Just how many more times can you use it?"

Jian Chen smiled. "Jade Heaven Ruler, do you think my trump card is some kind of powerful secret treasure?"

"Isn't it?" The Jade Heaven Ruler's eyes narrowed.

"It isn't. It's a secret technique that I practise. It can be replenished once used, so technically, I can use it as many times as I want." Jian Chen smiled calmly.

The Jade Heaven Ruler shuddered when she heard that. The way she looked at Jian Chen changed drastically.

In the next moment, Jian Chen launched another strand of Profound Sword Qi, dissipating another expert's lingering will.

In the blink of an eye, only three of the original five figures remained around the ancestral imprint.

"Let's find a safe place to rest. I need to recuperate." After using two strands of Profound Sword Qi, Jian Chen did not strike again. Instead, he left with the Jade Heaven Ruler, sitting down a hundred kilometres away.

He only had three strands of Profound Sword Qi condensed right now, but whenever he used one, it would take a tremendous amount of the power of his soul. Once he exhausted all three strands, he would be weakened too, without the spare strength to use the power of laws. As a result, it would put him in danger.

As a result, he could only use two strands of Profound Sword Qi at most.

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A hundred kilometres away, Jian Chen sat in the air with his eyes firmly shut, taking out heavenly resources or pills from time to time to ingest them.

These were all items for recovering the power of the soul. He had obtained them after becoming the lord of the Peace region. They were not particularly high in quality, but it was still better than nothing.

The Jade Heaven Ruler sat in front of Jian Chen and stared at him in a strange manner, like she was studying something novel, filled with intrigue.

There was also a hint of seriousness within her gaze.

Jian Chen was a foreigner, not a Wood Spirit. As this was her first time coming into contact with a foreigner, the Jade Heaven Ruler was clearly filled with suspicion. However, when she thought of his strength, she also became filled with caution and fear.

### **Chapter 3353: Land of Treasure**

This time, he took two months to recover. Jian Chen finally opened his eyes again after that. Three strands of Profound Sword Qi hovered in his soul quietly.

“I need around a month to condense a strand of Profound Sword Qi. Of course, if I have some higher quality heavenly resources or God Tier pills, I can shorten this time,” Jian Chen thought. Now that he had found a way to deal with the lingering wills of the experts, this place was no longer a place of danger but a place of treasure.

A place of treasure where he could obtain a large quantity of ancestral imprints.

As a result, he was in an extremely good mood.

Afterwards, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler arrived near the ancestral imprint once again. Standing over thirty thousand metres away, he used two strands of Profound Sword Qi to kill two more figures.

With that, only one figure remained next to the ancestral imprint.

Gazing at the last illusionary figure, Jian Chen became hesitant. He still had one final strand of Profound Sword Qi, so it was completely possible for him to kill off the last lingering will.

Without these lingering wills present, the ancestral imprint was basically his.

As a result, he truly felt the urge to obtain the ancestral imprint immediately before using it to accelerate the growth of Lifesoul Flowers and heal his soul.

He stood exactly where he was and hesitated as his eyes flickered. After a period of careful consideration, he ended up holding back that urge. He did not use the third strand of Profound Sword Qi.

“I need to guard against the Jade Heaven Ruler. Once I use up all of the power of my soul and she considers stealing the ancestral imprint, it’ll be very difficult for me to keep it.”

“An ancestral imprint can increase her battle prowess substantially. That’s an extremely great temptation. My Profound Sword Qi no longer serves as a deterrent to them, so no one can guarantee whether she’ll risk it or not.” Jian Chen sighed inside and silently backed away to a hundred kilometres away.

Even though the Jade Heaven Ruler and he seemed to be in the same boat, he also understood that many relationships and feelings would crumble when tested by tremendous benefits.



Afterwards, Jian Chen continued to recover the power of his soul. As he recovered, the Jade Heaven Ruler remained right by his side, sitting ten metres away from him as she watched over him.

Not only were there the lingering wills of experts in the maze, but there was also the Blood Slaughter Ruler moving around secretly. With her current strength, she would struggle very much no matter which one she encountered.

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In particular, the Blood Slaughter Ruler was even more terrifying than the lingering wills of these experts from a certain perspective.

As a result, she needed to stick with Jian Chen. Only then would she be capable of fending off all these dangers.

The recovery this time took another two months.

Two months later, Jian Chen's Profound Sword Qi returned to three. Immediately, he arrived before the ancestral imprint with the Jade Heaven Ruler. He repeated the same trick and used a strand of Profound Sword Qi to successfully kill the last figure, finally obtaining the ancestral imprint.

"Do not send the power of your soul into the ancestral imprint, as that's equivalent to becoming its master. An ancestral imprint with a master is no longer pure. It can no longer be used to accelerate the growth of Lifesoul Flowers," said the Jade Heaven Ruler. She stared at the imprint in Jian Chen's hands as undisguised desire burned away in the depths of her eyes.

She was indeed tempted by the ancestral imprint. An ancestral imprint without a master possessed irresistible allure to any cultivator in the Wood Spirits World. Even they, as rulers, were no exceptions.

Jian Chen noticed the Jade Heaven Ruler's desire. He waved the ancestral imprint around in front of her and smiled. "Do you want it?"

The Jade Heaven Ruler sucked in a deep breath and pacified her fervency. She said calmly, "No one will complain about having an additional ancestral imprint. However, when we obtained this ancestral imprint, I didn't put in any work at all, so I won't take it."

"How do you use it to accelerate the growth of Lifesoul Flowers?" Jian Chen asked.

"Treat it as a plot of spiritual soil and directly plant the roots of Lifesoul Flowers onto it, or plant the ancestral imprint into a spiritual field so it nourishes all of the heavenly resources planted in the field," said the Jade Heaven Ruler.

With a flip of his hand, the divine hall that the Heaven Fighting Ruler used to plant Lifesoul Flowers appeared out of nowhere. He directly entered the divine hall and arrived near a spiritual field.

Six fields had been established in the divine hall. Many Lifesoul Flowers were planted in each one.

However, the five other fields were all relatively ordinary. The quality of the Lifesoul Flowers there were the lowest. The final spiritual field had clearly received the Heaven Fighting Ruler's complete support. There were a total of one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers that had reached low grade Saint Tier, and they were quite close to mid grade Saint Tier now.

“Fellow Jian Chen, I’ve always been watching over the growth of these Lifesoul Flowers personally. Please do not worry, fellow Jian Chen.” With a flash, the Heaven Fighting Ruler appeared before Jian Chen. He had already rebuilt his body, except his strength was nowhere close to recovering. He behaved extremely cautiously in front of Jian Chen.

“Heaven Fighting Ruler, please tell your people to leave the fields momentarily.” Jian Chen stared at the Wood Spirits busying about in the fields. With a flip of his hand, an ancestral imprint appeared.

“This is... an ancestral imprint without a master!” The Heaven Fighting Ruler’s expression changed as he stared at the ancestral imprint. His eyes immediately lit up with fervency, but he did not dare to develop too many thoughts about it. He immediately dismissed all of his subordinates from the spiritual fields.

With a wave of his hand, the ancestral imprint immediately drifted into the spiritual field and merged with the entire place.

At that moment, the spiritual field of the highest quality erupted with light. A terrifying presence of life permeated the place as all the Lifesoul Flowers planted there began to change at a visible rate.

They were growing at an unbelievable pace.

It was so fast that even the acceleration from using God Tier heavenly resources as fertiliser came nowhere close.

“He’s actually using an ancestral imprint to accelerate the growth of these Lifesoul Flower. T-t-that’s an utter waste! It’s an utter waste!” The Heaven Fighting Ruler gazed at the Lifesoul Flowers enveloped in green light as his face contorted painfully.

Jian Chen sat on the side of the field and stared at the Lifesoul Flowers excitedly.

Sure enough, the ancestral imprint had not disappointed him. After using an ancestral imprint, the Lifesoul Flowers indeed grew at a startling rate, much faster than anything he was expecting.

“Ancestral imprints are condensed from the presence of the sovereign god artifact. Even its presence can accelerate growth so much, then does the sovereign god artifact, the Source of Life, have a similar function?” Jian Chen thought. He felt like he had discovered yet another function of the Source of Life.

However, it made sense after some further thought. The sovereign god artifact had been condensed by the sovereign of the Wood Spirits’ Laws of Life, coupled with the source of her own life, so it was not strange for it to possess such a function.

Jian Chen did not leave. He simply sat beside the spiritual field and waited. That wait lasted for three days.

By then, all one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers planted in the spiritual field had evolved to mid grade Saint Tier. Their growth time had been greatly shortened.

However, the energy from the ancestral imprint had yet to run out. After evolving, these Lifesoul Flowers continued to grow at a visible rate, making progress towards high grade Saint Tier.

This lasted for another four days. Only then did the energy in the ancestral imprint finally run out. After reaching mid grade Saint Tier, the Lifesoul Flowers made some further progress.

However, a single ancestral imprint was still not enough for these Lifesoul Flowers to all reach high grade Saint Tier.

After all, that was only something condensed from the presence of the sovereign god artifact. It was not actually the sovereign god artifact.

“The higher the quality, the more difficult it is to grow. At this rate, the one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers will need at least another three ancestral imprints before they reach high grade Saint Tier...” Staring at the field of vigorous Lifesoul Flowers, Jian Chen’s eyes shone brightly with anticipation.

“I need even more ancestral imprints.” Jian Chen left the divine hall. He wanted to make these Lifesoul Flowers evolve a little more. They had to reach high grade Saint Tier at the very least, or even supreme grade Saint Tier.

As for God Tier, he also understood that it would be far too difficult. After all, a tremendous difference existed between God Tier and Saint Tier, so he did not bother thinking about such a thing.

### **Chapter 3354: Soul Recovery (One)**

Afterwards, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler continued through the maze.

Jian Chen had stopped thinking about the exit and other secrets regarding the maze. He had also forgotten about the Blood Slaughter Ruler. All that existed in his mind right now was to gather a little more ancestral imprints so that he could recover sooner.

The maze was extremely large, almost limitless without a boundary, and there were countless branches and passageways too. Unable to use the senses of their souls, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler had completely lost their sense of direction.

However, they were not concerned about that. They continued through the maze vigilantly, following the twists and turns for half a month before finally encountering the second ancestral imprint.

The ancestral imprint hovered in the air silently with four lingering wills gathered around it, relying on the ancestral imprint to remain alive.

With the experience from before, Jian Chen no longer tried to confront these lingering wills. Instead, he stood thirty thousand metres away and killed them with his Profound Sword Qi.

In the end, Jian Chen stayed here for two months and finally obtained his second ancestral imprint after entering the maze.

The Jade Heaven Ruler had become green with envy as she watched from the side. She was very jealous of him.

Two ancestral imprints were enough to drive even rulers like her into a frenzy, as it provided them with far too much additional strength.

“If I obtained two ancestral imprints, I still wouldn’t be the Blood Slaughter Ruler’s opponent, but he won’t be able to kill me.” The Jade Heaven Ruler sighed inside.

Jian Chen immediately used the second ancestral imprint on the spiritual fields, accelerating the growth of Lifesoul Flowrs.

Afterwards, he spent another two months to recover the power of his soul.

In total, he spent four months to obtain the second ancestral imprint.

In short, each strand of his Profound Sword Qi took around a month to recover. The more Profound Sword Qi he used, the longer time he required.

Before he knew it, Jian Chen had already remained in the maze for five years.

In a certain corridor in the maze, a medium quality god artifact divine hall stood quietly on the ground.

Jian Chen, the Jade Heaven Ruler, and the Heaven Fighting Ruler stood beside one another in the divine hall. Before them was a colossal spiritual field. Right now, the entire spiritual field was enveloped in a powerful life force. The one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers planted there had all reached the peak of mid grade Saint Tier, advancing towards high grade Saint Tier.

Suddenly, there was a dazzling smear of light in the spiritual field enveloped by life force, multi-coloured and quite blinding.

When he saw this smear of colour in the spiritual field, Jian Chen could not help but smile. The first high grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flower had finally appeared here.

The evolution of the first Lifesoul Flower was like a fuse that had been set off. Shortly afterwards, the second, third, and fourth Lifesoul Flowers began to evolve, all reaching high grade Saint Tier.

In the beginning, they still evolved one by one, but they evolved together as swathes towards the end.

After four hours, the one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers in this spiritual field all reached high grade Saint Tier.

For this, Jian Chen had used up a total of five ancestral imprints.

“They grow at a startling pace, but the cost is far too great.” The Heaven Fighting Ruler’s expression was mixed. The ancestral imprints were not his, but it still pained him greatly to see how they were used.

The Jade Heaven Ruler felt anything but calm as well. Five ancestral imprints in the Wood Spirits World could produce five heavenly kings, yet they had just been wasted like that.

Even if they were not used to produce heavenly kings and used on herself instead, they could make her strength increase dramatically.

“Is the cost really that great? Why do I feel like all of this is worth it?” Jian Chen smiled. He was in a good mood. “Heaven Fighting Ruler, please take care of these Lifesoul Flowers for me. I still have to gather a few more ancestral imprints outside. I’ll harvest these Lifesoul Flowers after they reach supreme grade Saint Tier.”

“You must be careful, fellow Jian Chen.” The Heaven Fighting Ruler cupped his fist. He was also aware of just how dangerous it was outside. His strength had yet to recover, so he could only remain in the divine hall.

With a flash, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler appeared outside the divine hall.

The Jade Heaven Ruler said nothing. She seemed like she was in a bad mood. She had remained by Jian Chen's side for the entirety of the five years. After witnessing Jian Chen obtain five ancestral imprints, she would be lying if she said she was not jealous. Her jealousy had even turned into envy.

She had spent countless years as a ruler. Only then had she managed to obtain the five ancestral imprints slowly, yet Jian Chen had managed to collect the same amount in a mere few years. That was quite impactful to her.

Unfortunately, there was more than one lingering will around each ancestral imprint. She was incapable of collecting them alone given her strength.

"I'm almost running out of heavenly resources that can replenish the power of the soul. Once I exhaust them, the power of my soul will recover much more slowly." Jian Chen checked through his Space Ring and sighed gently. Then he turned towards the Jade Heaven Ruler and asked, "Jade Heaven Ruler, you have quite a few heavenly resources and pills of that kind on you, don't you?"

"I do have some," the Jade Heaven Ruler said indifferently.

Jian Chen's eyes lit up slightly. "That's good. Jade Heaven Ruler, why don't we make a deal? You can provide me with heavenly resources that replenishes the power of the soul, and I can give you new ancestral imprints."

"Really?" The Jade Heaven Ruler was invigorated. She stared straight at Jian Chen, struggling to hide her surprise and joy.

"Of course. How about this? Whenever I obtain five ancestral imprints, I'll give you one of them. If I obtain ten, I'll give you two, and if I obtain fifteen, I'll give you three." Jian Chen smiled at the Jade Heaven Ruler.

The Jade Heaven Ruler's chest heaved as she stared at Jian Chen vigilantly. "You're the one proposing this. This is a deal where you're losing out. What's the catch?"

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"There is no catch. I just want to help you out a little," Jian Chen said easily.

"Alright, deal!" The Jade Heaven Ruler accepted the deal happily. Ancestral imprints were far too tempting. She was unable to decline.

Jian Chen smiled mysteriously. "Though, you have to keep this a secret. I'm only making a deal like this with you. Don't let the Heaven Fighting Ruler know."

The Jade Heaven Ruler held her breath. Her large, beautiful green eyes shone brightly as she stared at Jian Chen deeply. She said nothing.

### **Chapter 3355: Soul Recovery (Two)**

Afterwards, Jian Chen began to find ancestral imprints in the maze at the rate of one a year.

Of course, one ancestral imprint a year was only an average. The actual time he obtained the ancestral imprints was not constant. Sometimes, he would come across two or even three of them, and sometimes, he would not even find a single one in a year.

The number of lingering wills around each ancestral imprint varied as well. Out of the ancestral imprints that Jian Chen had obtained, the fewest was only guarded by two lingering wills.

However, the most had a total of eight lingering wills.

He had already begun cooperating with the Jade Heaven Ruler now. The Jade Heaven Ruler provided him with heavenly resources that could help him recover the power of his soul, while Jian Chen was responsible for using Profound Sword Qi against these lingering wills.

Just like that, another five years passed, and Jian Chen obtained another five ancestral imprints. The Jade Heaven Ruler also obtained an ancestral imprint from Jian Chen as previously agreed upon.

The Jade Heaven Ruler immediately made the ancestral imprint hers happily. As the sliver of the power of her soul merged with the ancestral imprint, it formally became hers.

Immediately, the Jade Heaven Ruler's presence began to climb. After obtaining six ancestral imprints, her strength had visibly increased.

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Jian Chen spent the four other ancestral imprints on the spiritual field to accelerate the growth of the Lifesoul Flowers.

However, after reaching high grade Saint Tier, the energy required was obviously even more tremendous if they wanted to evolve to supreme grade Saint Tier. As a result, after spending four ancestral imprints on them, the one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers were still quite far off from reaching supreme grade Saint Tier.

However, this was all within Jian Chen's expectations.

Jian Chen was completely submerged in the joy of searching for ancestral imprints, like he had become possessed. He could not feel exhaustion at all. As his Profound Sword Qi was rapidly exhausted and replenished, more and more lingering wills perished at his hand, which gave him more and more ancestral imprints.

The Jade Heaven Ruler was the happiest without a doubt. Recently, she spent every single day submerged in joy, like someone who was penniless stumbling across a great treasure. She was unable to dismiss her excitement.

The ancestral imprints in her possession were constantly increasing too. It went from the initial six to seven and then eight before long.

Just like this, the ancestral imprints in her possession surpassed the Blood Slaughter Ruler's in no time, reaching nine in total.

Before they knew it, half a century had already passed.

During these fifty years, Jian Chen collected thirty-five ancestral imprints in total. He had slain over a hundred of the lingering wills.

According to his agreement with the Jade Heaven Ruler, he gave away a total of seven of the thirty-five ancestral imprints.

Now, the Jade Heaven Ruler's ancestral imprints had reached twelve in total.

That had completely surpassed the Blood Slaughter Ruler's.

As for the remaining twenty-eight ancestral imprints, they all went towards accelerating the growth of Lifesoul Flowers.

After using up so many ancestral imprints, the one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers finally lived up to his expectations and all reached supreme grade Saint Tier.

"They've finally matured. I've spent several decades waiting for this day." Jian Chen casually picked one of the Lifesoul Flowers from the spiritual field and studied it. He smiled gently.

"You've used up over twenty ancestral imprints for this field of Lifesoul Flowers. That's over twenty of them." The Heaven Fighting Ruler sighed beside Jian Chen.

He had grown numb to Jian Chen's wastefulness a long time ago.

Before long, all one thousand and two hundred supreme grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flowers ended up in Jian Chen's hand.

After obtaining the Lifesoul Flowers, Jian Chen did not hurry off to find new ancestral imprints. Instead, he refined the Lifesoul Flowers immediately and extracted their essence through a special method, condensing droplets of medicinal fluid.

Afterwards, he used the medicinal fluid to nourish his soul as he continued through the maze, searching for ancestral imprints.

If he wanted to heal his soul completely, just one thousand and two hundred Lifesoul Flowers was nowhere near enough.

The recovery would become more difficult towards the end, so the Lifesoul Flowers required would obviously increase as well. He had to grow even more supreme grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flowers.

Eight years later, Jian Chen collected another five ancestral imprints and shared one of them with the Jade Heaven Ruler.

But this time, the Jade Heaven Ruler failed to make the ancestral imprint hers. Her face was filled with pity as she said, "Looks like I've already reached my limit. If I want to obtain a thirteenth ancestral imprint, I'll have to reach the Third Heavenly Layer of Chaotic Prime at the very least."

"The limit for the Second Heavenly Layer should be twelve ancestral imprints." The Jade Heaven Ruler handed the ancestral imprint back to Jian Chen reluctantly and said, "You should take this ancestral imprint. I've already gained enough ancestral imprints from you. I became satisfied a long time ago. Moreover, I'm out of heavenly resources that can be used to recover the power of the soul."

“You’re already out of heavenly resources?” Jian Chen was taken aback. He murmured, “Without these heavenly resources, the power of my soul will recover much more slowly. Looks like we’ll have to move more slowly when we obtain ancestral imprints next.”

“Is one thousand and two hundred supreme grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flowers still not enough to heal the wounds of your soul?” The Jade Heaven Ruler gazed at Jian Chen with mixed feelings. After spending several decades together, she understood Jian Chen better and better. Just the fact that he gave her seven ancestral imprints had completely changed the way she viewed him.

It was completely possible for Jian Chen to not give her so many ancestral imprints. Even if he only offered one ancestral imprint for all of the heavenly resources on her, she would have agreed without any hesitation.

However, he had instead chosen to give her so many ancestral imprints.

“Nowhere near enough!” Jian Chen shook his head.

The Jade Heaven Ruler hesitated. In the end, she finally made up her mind and said rather unnaturally, “Actually, I have a way to quickly replenish the power of your soul even without heavenly resources.”

“What is it?” Jian Chen’s eyes lit up as he stared straight at the Jade Heaven Ruler.

The Jade Heaven Ruler turned rather red. Only after a moment of hesitation did she whisper bashfully, “I know a secret technique that can turn my power of the soul into yours so that you recover your power of the soul.”

Jian Chen frowned slightly. “But wouldn’t that deplete the power of your soul? And you’re also aware that whenever I use my trump card, it uses up a large amount of the power of my soul.”

“I have twelve ancestral imprints now. Not only do these ancestral imprints strengthen me, but they also increase my regeneration speed. The power of my soul recovers faster than yours.” The Jade Heaven Ruler turned bright red. She was even more shy than before. Her eyes darted about, rather afraid to meet Jian Chen’s gaze. She whispered, “If I support you, your soul will recover much faster than ingesting those heavenly resources.”

“Really? Now that’s something I’d like to see.” Jian Chen’s eyes lit up, but he soon noticed how there was something slightly off with the Jade Heaven Ruler’s expression, leaving him surprised. He asked, “Is there something about the method you speak of that troubles you?”

The Jade Heaven Ruler said nothing. Instead, she shut her eyes and sucked in a few deep breaths. When she opened her eyes again, she recovered her calm demeanour. All of the bashfulness and awkwardness had vanished.

“It’s nothing. Shut your eyes and don’t resist my soul.” The Jade Heaven Ruler spoke calmly.

Jian Chen subconsciously shut his eyes.

In the next moment, the Jade Heaven Ruler’s soul left her body and directly entered Jian Chen’s head.

### **Chapter 3356: Soul Recovery (Three)**



As soon as the Jade Heaven Ruler's soul entered him, Jian Chen quivered violently in his head. He blanked out entirely.

In a daze, he experienced a wondrous feeling internally. At this moment, the Jade Heaven Ruler seemed to appear before him stark naked, without a single piece of clothing on or anything blocking her figure.

In truth, it was no wonder that Jian Chen would experience something like this, as the Jade Heaven Ruler had entered Jian Chen's body with her soul. The two of them made contact as souls. They had basically merged together mentally, so of course, there would be nothing obstructing them.

The Jade Heaven Ruler's soul turned into a miniature figure, identical to her physical form, shining with resplendent green light and wrapped in the Laws of Life.

However, her eyes were gently shut while she was slightly shy. She directly arrived behind Jian Chen and placed her hands against Jian Chen's back gently.

When their souls made contact, both Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler shuddered. A wondrous sensation filled them at the same time. It felt like their souls had already merged together, such that there was no longer any difference between them.

At this moment, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler had not made any physical contact, but their souls could not be any closer.

However, before Jian Chen had even recovered from this state, a tremendous power of the soul surged forth, which he absorbed.

The Jade Heaven Ruler offered up her power of the soul without holding back at all so that Jian Chen's soul could recover.

His soul immediately began to recover at a terrifying rate after receiving the selfless support of a Second Heavenly Layer Chaotic Prime.

The rate of recovery even surpassed the kind of benefit he gained from ingesting heavenly resources.

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Very soon, seventy percent of the Jade Heaven Ruler's power of the soul was exhausted. She began to dim.

In the next moment, she immediately left Jian Chen and returned to her body. The twelve ancestral imprints appeared from her body and enveloped her in a curtain of green light, assisting her in recovering the power of her soul.

Before her, Jian Chen opened his eyes and stared at her with mixed feelings.

Shortly afterwards, Jian Chen dismissed his thoughts and continued with recovering the power of his soul so that he could condense new strands of Profound Sword Qi.

His soul was much more powerful than the Jade Heaven Ruler's, so seventy percent of the Jade Heaven Ruler's power of the soul was only enough to replenish part of Jian Chen's. Despite that, it still saved a lot of time.

But to Jian Chen's surprise, the Jade Heaven Ruler had replenished all of her power of the soul in just seven days. Afterwards, her soul merged with Jian Chen's once again, passing her power of the soul over to him.

In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen's power of the soul had completely recovered.

"How does the power of your soul recover so quickly?" This time, Jian Chen truly was shocked.

He discovered in surprise that whenever the Jade Heaven Ruler's soul merged with his, not only did he replenish a large quantity of the power of his soul, but even the cracks in his soul seemed to be nourished.

It was as if the souls of Wood Spirits were different from other experts.

Or perhaps the Jade Heaven Ruler's soul was rather special, possessing some healing properties.

"I wasn't capable of this in the past. The only reason why my soul recovers so quickly is because I have twelve ancestral imprints," the Jade Heaven Ruler communicated to Jian Chen with her eyes firmly shut.

Afterwards, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler worked together, continuing to roam through the maze in search of ancestral imprints.

Jian Chen used his Profound Sword Qi to kill the enemies. Whenever he ran out of the power of his soul, the Jade Heaven Ruler would use the same method to provide him hers.

As a result, even though they had already run out of heavenly resources, not only did the recovery of Jian Chen's power of the soul not slow down at all, but they even moved faster than before with the Jade Heaven Ruler's assistance.

With the rate at which his soul recovered increased, the time he required to condense Profound Sword Qi obviously shortened too.

Jian Chen obtained more and more ancestral imprints. With the Jade Heaven Ruler's assistance, he only used twenty years before he produced a second batch of supreme grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flowers.

More and more cracks in his soul were repaired.

Before they knew it, it had already been a century since Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler entered the maze.

At this moment, a tremendous force suddenly surged forth in the maze. Even Jian Chen could not develop the thought of resisting before this power.

In the next moment, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler both vanished. They left the maze.

At the same time, an ancestral imprint hovered in the air elsewhere in the maze. The lingering will of an expert sat there, guarding the ancestral imprint.

Over thirty thousand metres away, powerful pulses of energy spread out. The Blood Slaughter Ruler engaged a lingering will in an intense battle. Eight censers hovered in the air. Each censer was a medium quality god artifact. They seemed to establish some kind of formation, filling the surroundings with a

strange fragrance, such that it actually trapped the lingering will in there firmly. It seemed to have lost its sense of direction, unable to return to the ancestral imprint.

The Blood Slaughter Ruler dragged the lingering will further and further away. It was already several hundred thousand metres away from the ancestral imprint.

Eight ancestral imprints hovered around the Blood Slaughter Ruler as he completely unleashed his strength as a Third Heavenly Layer Chaotic Prime. He dealt with the lingering will with his full strength.

In the end, after a tremendous amount of effort and sustaining many heavy injuries himself, he finally killed the lingering will for good.

“Hahahaha, I’ve finally destroyed you. I’m about to gain another ancestral imprint!” The Blood Slaughter Ruler laughed loudly. His complexion was pale. He swallowed several God Tier pills like candy before sending the eight censers towards the final lingering will by the ancestral imprint.

But at this moment, a great power suddenly appeared, enveloping the Blood Slaughter Ruler.

The Blood Slaughter Ruler’s expression changed drastically. He cried out, “Time is up! Dammit, I was so close! I was so close! No-” In the end, the Blood Slaughter Ruler vanished from the maze within his furious, reluctant roars.

Jian Chen suddenly appeared in a mountain range in the Peace region.

“Have we returned to the Wood Spirits World already?” Jian Chen looked around, but he failed to find the Jade Heaven Ruler, so his heart tightened immediately. He let out the senses of his soul and enveloped most of the Peace region.

Very soon, a familiar presence entered Jian Chen’s senses several hundred million kilometres away. It was the Jade Heaven Ruler.

With a flash, Jian Chen crossed several hundred million kilometres instantly with the Laws of Space and appeared beside her.

### **Chapter 3357: Soul Recovery (Four)**

After a hundred years, now that they finally returned to the Wood Spirits World, Jian Chen and the Jade Heaven Ruler were no longer as unfamiliar with one another as before.

Even their gazes towards one another lacked the kind of coldness from a century ago. There was some additional gentleness.

There were also some mixed feelings.

They did not make any physical contact, but their souls had already presented themselves to one another sincerely. It was equivalent to a collision of the mind and not of the body.

After experiencing such close contact, both of them were rather uncertain about what kind of relationship existed between them.

Jian Chen stared at the Jade Heaven Ruler for a good moment. After a while of silence, he seemed to finally find his words. "We've been forcefully transported out by the power of the maze. Looks like we can only stay in there a century at a time."

The Jade Heaven Ruler evaded his gaze and said rather absent-mindedly, "Since we're out, the Blood Slaughter Ruler must have been sent out too. What do you plan on doing next? Are you going to kill the Blood Slaughter Ruler with me?"

Jian Chen shook his head. "I'm no longer bothered by the Blood Slaughter Ruler. I want to enter the maze again and heal my soul first. Speaking of which, we can defeat Blood Slaughter easily now, but killing him is still rather difficult. I don't want to waste too much time on him. He's not worth all that effort."

Reaching there, Jian Chen said to the Jade Heaven Ruler seriously, "You already possess twelve ancestral imprints. Even though your cultivation is below his, your overall strength is already equivalent. He can no longer threaten you."

"From today onwards, I'll have to bother you with taking care of the Peace region." As he said that, Jian Chen took out the divine hall where the Lifesoul Flowers were planted and called out the Heaven Fighting Ruler.

"If the two of you work together, stopping the Blood Slaughter Ruler will be a piece of cake."

Jian Chen left behind the Heaven Fighting Ruler. After a century, the Heaven Fighting Ruler's cultivation had already mostly recovered under the assistance of a large number of heavenly resources.

"Actually, I can enter with you and assist you. With my help, the power of your soul will recover even faster." The Jade Heaven Ruler mustered the courage to say.

Jian Chen shook his head. "I'll be even more careful this time and stop the Blood Slaughter Ruler from entering, just in case he has any strokes of fortune in there."

"So there needs to be someone in the Wood Spirits World to hold him at bay, or who knows what will happen by the time I return in a hundred years' time."

"I will be going in alone this time," Jian Chen said firmly.

The Jade Heaven Ruler sighed gently inside and said rather sadly, "Then wait for me for three days. I'll go to the Jade Centre Domain and gather some heavenly resources and pills that can help you recover the power of your soul. Heaven Fighting Ruler, you should also mobilise your Grand Heaven Domain and gather as many similar resources as possible."

"Since Jian Chen is in need of them, I'll obviously collect everything that I have." The Heaven Fighting Ruler almost patted his chest to guarantee him.

Three days later, the Jade Heaven Ruler and the Heaven Fighting Ruler found a large number of heavenly resources and pills for Jian Chen as expected. They could all recover the power of the soul.

Afterwards, Jian Chen began to search the entire Peace region for the spatial teleportation passageway to the maze. As for the Blood Slaughter Ruler, he had completely forgotten about him.

Under Jian Chen's day and night search, he spent only three years before finding the extremely well-hidden spatial teleportation passageway.

Jian Chen immediately rejoiced before carefully checking the space there, just in case the Blood Slaughter Ruler was lurking nearby with the Divine Armour of Heavenflight.

After confirming that the Blood Slaughter Ruler was not nearby, he hid a crystal in the space there and immediately vanished into the spatial teleportation passageway.

Soon after he had entered the passageway, the crystal exploded, destroying the spatial teleportation passageway with a powerful pulse of energy immediately. The spatial teleportation passageway was extremely weak. Any small disturbance could easily destroy it.

Without any surprises, Jian Chen arrived in the maze again.

This time, he had come prepared. Not only was he carrying all the Lifesoul Flowers from the Peace region, but he had even brought eighty percent of the Lifesoul Flowers grown by the Heaven Fighting Ruler and the Jade Heaven Ruler.

Right now, the Lifesoul Flowers on him amounted to over ten thousand. The only issue was their quality was not particularly high. They still required a large number of ancestral imprints to accelerate their growth.

Afterwards, Jian Chen began to search through the maze.

"Jian Chen's presence has vanished?"

Somewhere underground in the Peace region, the Blood Slaughter Ruler hid there carefully with his presence erased. Suddenly, his expression changed, and he rushed into the air. Without any regard for the amount of energy exhausted, he immediately used the Divine Armour of Heavenflight's abilities and arrived at where Jian Chen had vanished.

However, when he sensed the lingering energy from the crystal, he immediately understood something, and his face darkened instantly.

"Sure enough, he's entered there again. Dammit, how is he able to find the entrance so easily? In the past, I spent several thousand years, even over ten thousand years, to find the entrance just once, yet he only used three years." The Blood Slaughter Ruler clenched his fists and ground his teeth.

He spent the entirety of the three years observing Jian Chen, wanting to enter the maze again through him, but all of his efforts ended up falling through, which left him utterly furious.

The Blood Slaughter Ruler stood exactly where he was for a moment. In the end, he turned towards the Jade Centre Domain with a furious glare. His killing intent erupted. In the next moment, he vanished.

Before long, outside the Jade Heaven Ruler's divine palace in the Jade Centre Domain.

A powerful presence suddenly flooded the surroundings. The Blood Slaughter Ruler personally visited the Divine Palace of Jade Centre, radiating with killing intent.

“Hahaha, without Jian Chen to help you, I’d like to see how you stand a chance against me. Jade Heaven, Heaven Fighting, get your asses out here to die!” The Blood Slaughter Ruler laughed loudly. His voice was thunderous, erupting in the surroundings and reaching most of the Jade Centre Domain.

“It’s the Blood Slaughter Ruler who’s come to make trouble!”

“The Peace Ruler has already left? We’re in trouble now. Without the Peace Ruler, are the Jade Heaven Ruler and Heaven Fighting Ruler really able to stop the Blood Slaughter Ruler?”

Immediately, the Jade Centre Domain was shaken up. Everyone had realised that the battle between the rulers which had fallen silent for a century was about to begin again, which cast a gloomy shadow over many people’s hearts.

The Jade Heaven Ruler and the Heaven Fighting Ruler appeared, staring coldly at the Blood Slaughter Ruler.

“Heaven Fighting, you managed to escape by luck last time, but I’d like to see who will save you this time.” The Blood Slaughter Ruler looked at the Heaven Fighting Ruler. Among the two of them, the Heaven Fighting Ruler was without a doubt the weakest, as well as the easiest to kill.

In the next moment, he appeared before the Heaven Fighting Ruler. With a medium quality god artifact sword in hand, he slashed towards the Heaven Fighting Ruler with a great pulse of energy.

However, the Jade Heaven Ruler suddenly stood in front of the Heaven Fighting Ruler, also wielding a sword. It split through space with dazzling light, immediately clashing with the Blood Slaughter Ruler.

Boom!

A rumble erupted in the sky and terrifying energy waves swept out. The Blood Slaughter Ruler was actually repelled by the Jade Heaven Ruler’s attack, sent ten metres away.

The Blood Slaughter Ruler blanked out. He stared at the Jade Heaven Ruler in disbelief, crying out uncontrollably, “H-how is this possible? I’m a Third Heavenly Layer Chaotic Prime in possession of eight ancestral imprints. How did you repel me with a single attack? This is impossible!”

“Hmph, Blood Slaughter Ruler, you better open your eyes and look carefully. The Wood Spirits World isn’t a place where you can rampage freely.” The Jade Heaven Ruler sneered. In the next moment, a layer of resplendent green light enveloped her.

Twelve ancestral imprints appeared over her head, which seemed to resonate with the ancestral god artifact in the sky.

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When he saw the twelve ancestral imprints over the Jade Heaven Ruler’s head, the Blood Slaughter Ruler immediately became dumbfounded. His eyes became so wide that they seemed like they were about to fall out.

**Chapter 3358: Soul Recovery (5)**

The Jade Heaven Ruler stared coldly at the Blood Slaughter Ruler with the twelve ancestral imprints over her head.

Before her, the Blood Slaughter Ruler was dumbfounded. He stared at her blankly. He was in a daze.

Suddenly, the surroundings fell silent as if the air had frozen and time had stopped. Everything paused at that moment.

Only after several seconds did the Blood Slaughter Ruler finally return to his senses. He stared at her in a still-shaken manner and stuttered, "W-w-where are your ancestral imprints from?"

The Jade Heaven Ruler sneered. "Aren't you all too familiar with where my ancestral imprints are from? Why bother asking at all?"

"No, that's impossible. That's absolutely impossible." The Blood Slaughter Ruler babbled in a daze. His face was filled with disbelief. He understood better than anyone else just how difficult the ancestral imprints were to obtain, as he had entered the maze more than once in the past.

Each ancestral imprint was guarded by lingering wills of experts, which were very difficult to deal with. Without any special methods, they could not even be killed.

When he entered this time, he spent an entire century and a large quantity of recovery God Tier pills. He paid a tremendous price, and even then, he had not obtained any ancestral imprints.

Meanwhile, the Jade Heaven Ruler had actually gained seven ancestral imprints from a single visit. How could he accept that?

The Blood Slaughter Ruler let out a furious roar as if something had deeply upset him mentally. He became deranged, launching full-powered attacks at the Jade Heaven Ruler and the Heaven Fighting Ruler.

This time, the Jade Heaven Ruler and the Heaven Fighting Ruler faced him together. In particular, the Jade Heaven Ruler had gained far too much strength from the twelve ancestral imprints. Even if she faced the Blood Slaughter Ruler alone, she could still gain the upper hand.

Now that she had the Heaven Fighting Ruler by her side as well, they directly overwhelmed the unstoppable Blood Slaughter Ruler with their cooperation.

The three rulers fought for three days and nights, which ultimately ended with the Blood Slaughter Ruler's defeat.

The Wood Spirits World returned to peace with that.

In the blink of an eye, it had already been five decades since Jian Chen entered the maze a second time. During these fifty years, he rapidly exhausted the heavenly resources he brought in from the outside, which brought him ancestral imprint after ancestral imprint.

On this day, Jian Chen was not searching through the maze for ancestral imprints like usual. Instead, he had entered a divine hall and sat down beside a spiritual field. Gazing at the Lifesoul Flowers that had only just reached the supreme grade of Saint Tier, he could not help but smile gently.

“This is the third batch of Lifesoul Flowers. If nothing goes wrong, this batch should be enough for me to recover my fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi.” As he said that, Jian Chen waved his hand and collected all of the Lifesoul Flowers before quickly refining them into droplets of fluid.

Afterwards, Jian Chen left the divine hall and explored the maze alone.

By now, he had completely stopped thinking about where the maze led or what kind of secret it was hiding, nor did he consider where its exit was located. He completely and utterly treated this place as a land of treasure for collecting ancestral imprints.

When Jian Chen made another turn, his field of vision suddenly opened up. There was an extremely spacious chamber right before his eyes instead of the usual monotone corridor.

The feeling it gave him was like he had finally made it out of the maze and reached the centre.

However, when Jian Chen scanned past the spacious opening, he immediately stiffened. His face turned blank. Only his eyes were filled with shock, staring straight ahead.

A large number of ancestral imprints hovered in the spacious opening before him.

No, they could not be called ancestral imprints anymore if he wanted to be accurate, as ancestral imprints were condensed from presence, separated strand by strand.

Right before him was an entire swathe of it!

It was an entire swathe of the sovereign god artifact’s presence, floating in the air like a thick cloud, both thick and dense, like it was about to solidify.

If an ancestral imprint was a droplet of water, then the amount right before his eyes was a small lake.

The exact number of water droplets in the lake had already become immeasurable.

The giant swathe of presence of the sovereign god artifact left Jian Chen utterly shocked. He had never felt so excited in his life.

There was not just a tremendous amount of the sovereign god artifact’s presence here. Most importantly, there were actually no lingering wills guarding them!

*“There are no lingering wills here. Doesn’t that mean that I can just collect all the ancestral imprints here freely?”* Tremendous joy filled Jian Chen.

However, he did not become blinded by his emotions. He forcefully held back his excitement and checked the surroundings quickly.

After confirming there were no dangers, he directly entered the cloud of presence and took out the divine hall with the Lifesoul Flowers, letting the doors swing wide open and sucking in the presence in the surroundings.

Immediately, a colossal swirl formed in the centre of the spacious opening. The presence of the sovereign god artifact there was all swallowed by the divine hall.

This time, it was not strand by strand, but cloud by cloud, endlessly without stop.



All of the presence of the sovereign god artifact absorbed entered the spiritual fields.

The spiritual fields that were nourished were not just individual plots either. Instead, all of the spiritual fields were nourished at the same time.

The dense presence enveloped every single Lifesoul Flower, such that they immediately grew at an unprecedented rate.

Jian Chen's smile only grew wider as he stood beside the spiritual fields. At that moment, his excitement could no longer be put into words.

Irrigated by the presence of the sovereign god artifact, it only took three years before all of Jian Chen's Lifesoul Flowers evolved to the supreme grade of Saint Tier, and there was still some presence left over.

Jian Chen did not stop. He continued to pour the presence into them, wanting to produce a few God Tier Lifesoul Flowers.

However, he noticed very soon that after they had evolved to supreme grade Saint Tier, they were unable to grow to God Tier no matter how much presence he poured into them.

*"Saint Tier to God Tier is a change in intrinsic properties. The limit of the presence is that it can only accelerate the growth of Saint Tier heavenly resources. If I want them to reach God Tier, I'll probably need a higher level of energy."* Jian Chen immediately understood the underlying principles and gave up on the thought of raising some God Tier Lifesoul Flowers. He stowed all of the heavenly resources away.

By now, only a tiny amount of the sovereign god artifact's presence remained in the spacious opening.

Perhaps because there was far too little, they struggled to remain as a cloud. The tiny amount of presence began to separate automatically, forming ancestral imprints very soon.

There were over a hundred and fifty of them in total!

Over a hundred ancestral imprints. That was something no one could think of in the Wood Spirits World.

After all, all the ancestral imprints in the Wood Spirits World right now only reached up to the thirties.

Jian Chen picked up an ancestral imprint and sent a wisp of his soul inside to make it his before closely comprehending the changes brought on by the ancestral imprint.

*"The ancestral imprint contains the power of laws, which seem to be the Laws of Wood and the Laws of Life. Anyone who has comprehended these two laws can increase their battle prowess by a slight degree with ancestral imprints, but I haven't comprehended these two laws, so the ancestral imprints have no effect on me in this regard."*

*"As for its regenerative properties, that has to do with its connection with the sovereign god artifact of the Wood Spirits, drawing in a wisp of its power without anyone knowing. It also relies on absorbing the energy that the sovereign god artifact gives up to replenish itself."*

*"Once it leaves the sovereign god artifact or enters a world different from the sovereign god artifact, the so-called ancestral imprints will dissipate very quickly."*

After studying it, Jian Chen discovered very soon that ancestral imprints were basically useless to him. Their greatest value was for accelerating the growth of heavenly resources.

“Its presence can accelerate the growth of heavenly resources. Can the sovereign god artifact itself accelerate the growth of heavenly resources as well? Its presence can accelerate Saint Tier heavenly resources, so can the sovereign god artifact itself accelerate God Tier heavenly resources?” Jian Chen began to look forward to obtaining the sovereign god artifact, the Source of Life, more and more.

*“Whatever. I’ll heal my soul for now!”* Jian Chen immediately stowed the ancestral imprints away and began refining the Lifesoul Flowers.

This time, there were over ten thousand Lifesoul Flowers that had reached supreme grade Saint Tier. They were also all of the Lifesoul Flowers on him.

### **Chapter 3359: Stone Door**

In the maze, Jian Chen sat in the spacious opening and focused on refining the Lifesoul Flowers.

It took him several months before completely refining over ten thousand supreme grade Saint Tier Lifesoul Flowers, extracting their essence and storing them away in bottles.

He had never possessed so much medicinal fluid at one time as right now. It was extremely abundant, so he did not conserve them like before. He began to gulp it down.

As he drank the medicinal fluid, Jian Chen immediately felt a refreshing sensation spread through his soul. At this moment, he could even feel his entire soul glowing. The cracks in his soul slowly healed.

However, even with sufficient Lifesoul Flowers, Jian Chen’s soul could not heal in a short amount of time. Treating his soul with Lifesoul Flowers was more like nourishing it, letting it repair over time.

Finally, after nourishing it for a month, Jian Chen successfully condensed his fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi.

The appearance of the fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi meant that eighty percent of his soul was already repaired.

*“All that remains is the last twenty percent, but the last twenty percent also happens to be the slowest and most difficult period. Fortunately, I have enough Lifesoul Flowers on me. All I lack is time.”* Jian Chen rejoiced inside. He took a few more swift sips of Lifesoul Flower essence before standing up and studying the surroundings.

He had already spent over a century in total moving around in the maze if he included the last time. During this time, he moved about freely, trekking through countless corridors, but this was his first time coming across such an enormous space.

On top of that, the space possessed a startling number of ancestral imprints, so Jian Chen realised this place was anything but ordinary.

As a matter of fact, it was extremely likely that he was located in the centre of this maze.

Jian Chen found his bearings before continuing onwards. Along the way, he carefully observed the surroundings, raising his guard secretly.

In the end, he arrived before a stone door.

The stone door was extremely large, three thousand metres tall and three thousand metres wide. It stood there like a smooth cliff face. It was extremely imposing.

It was difficult to tell it was a door unless he was standing far away.

It was far too large, merging together with the maze, such that it was very difficult to notice.

On top of that, Jian Chen discovered in surprise that the stone door was even tougher than the corridors of the maze.

The material of the maze's corridors had already reached the level of high quality god artifacts, yet the material of the stone door here was even tougher. That strengthened Jian Chen's suspicions about being inside the sovereign god artifact.

"It's completely impossible to force this stone door open. If I want to enter it, I need to find the correct way to open it," Jian Chen murmured and began looking around. Very soon, he found several formations pointed towards the centre of the stone door.

There were nine formations in total, arranged in a special pattern and deeply engraved in the extremely-tough ground, such that even time could not erase them.

Jian Chen studied the nine formations. He was unable to completely understand them, but he picked up a few clues with his knowledge and insight.

"This is a bloodline formation. You need Chaotic Primes at the very least to activate this formation, and they need to be Wood Spirits too." Jian Chen frowned.

"If this is the way to open the stone door, then entering it sure is difficult." Jian Chen sighed gently. So far, the Wood Spirits World only had a total of three Chaotic Primes, which were the Heaven Fighting Ruler, the Jade Heaven Ruler, and the Blood Slaughter Ruler.

He was nowhere close to the conditions of opening the stone door. He was off by a total of six Chaotic Primes.

"Looks like I have to raise a few Chaotic Primes for the Wood Spirits. The stone door is definitely hiding a great secret. It might even contain the chance to obtain the sovereign god artifact," Jian Chen said in thought. Eighty percent of his soul had already recovered. He was far stronger than when he had first arrived in this world. He could already open the space in his soul freely.

Raising a few Chaotic Primes was nothing difficult to him. It was simply a matter of time.

"It's almost a century. I definitely won't end up here next time, so I have to familiarise myself with the layout of the maze in preparation."

Afterwards, Jian Chen left and began making a record of the path through the maze. Along the way, he tried all sorts of methods to leave behind a mark, which could help him reach the stone door as quickly as possible the next time he entered this space.

This was the first time he seriously tried to create markers. In the past, he only thought of collecting ancestral imprints in the maze. The only thought in his head was to heal.

Now that it was only a matter of time before his soul completely recovered, his objective here had obviously changed as well.

In the blink of an eye, several decades passed. An exact century had passed since Jian Chen entered the maze a second time.

As soon as the century had elapsed, the mysterious power appeared again and forcefully delivered Jian Chen out of the maze.

“Sigh, the maze is far too large. Coupled with the fact that I’ve looped back on myself many times, I’ve probably only covered less than a tenth of the entire place.” Jian Chen vanished from the maze with that sigh.

In the Peace region, Jian Chen returned to the Divine Palace of Peace. Everything in the Peace region had been peaceful during the second century he was gone. Nothing too major occurred. The nine imperial cities paid their annual taxes in a timely fashion too.

As for the Blood Slaughter Ruler, perhaps due to the Jade Heaven Ruler and the Heaven Fighting Ruler, he did not try to make the Peace region his anymore.

Jian Chen ignored everything else. As soon as he returned to the Peace region, he focused on healing, wanting to completely recover in the shortest amount of time possible.

However, on the second day after his return, the Jade Heaven Ruler personally visited Jian Chen.

As soon as the two of them met, the Jade Heaven Ruler studied Jian Chen with concern. Only when she saw that he was safe and sound did she seem to let out a sigh of relief. “Seeing how you’ve returned safely, I can stop worrying now. I’ve gathered some more heavenly resources that can recover the power of the soul for you during the century you were gone. You should take them.”

The Jade Heaven Ruler passed a Space Ring over to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen smiled gently. “Thank you for this, Jade Heaven Ruler, but I don’t need these heavenly resources anymore.”

“You don’t need them anymore?” The Jade Heaven Ruler whispered as if she was slightly disappointed. Only after a moment of silence did she ask, “Have you gathered enough ancestral imprints already?”

“I have.” Jian Chen nodded.

All of the Jade Heaven Ruler’s disappointment vanished. She smiled brightly and said, “That’s good then. Looks like most of your soul has recovered already.”

“Oh right, can you tell me about what the outside world is like?”

## Chapter 3360: The Plan to Nurture Rulers

As soon as she mentioned the outside world, the Jade Heaven Ruler's eyes became filled with curiosity and eagerness.

"The outside world? Since you want to know, it's fine for me to tell you. After all, all of you will leave this place sooner or later." Jian Chen nodded in agreement before selectively telling the Jade Heaven Ruler about certain situations in the Saints' World, allowing her to gain a clear understanding of the outside world.

There were many details. Jian Chen spoke for a total of three days and three nights without rest. The Jade Heaven Ruler was completely engrossed, feeling as if she had just discovered a whole new continent. She was filled with curiosity.

"The Spiritsages? Are you saying that our ancestor branched away from the Spiritsages in the past?" the Jade Heaven Ruler asked in surprise.

"Yes and no, because when your Wood Spirits World left them, the Spiritsages had yet to form. Back then, the various races of the Spirits' World still existed as various alliances. Only in the end, under the pressure of survival, did all of you band together, casting aside the notion of racial differences to form the Spiritsages."

"But by then, your Wood Spirits were no longer a part of them. Instead, you formed two branches and left separately. Your Wood Spirits World should be one of the branches. As for the other branch." Reaching there, Jian Chen sighed gently. "The other branch has likely been destroyed by the Myriad Bone Guild already, as the sovereign god artifact they took with them has already ended up in the hands of the Myriad Bone Guild."

The Jade Heaven Ruler was gloomy. She had already learnt from Jian Chen just how powerful the Myriad Bone Guild was. She could not help but grieve for her doomed clansmen.

"In the Wood Spirits World, you are Wood Spirits, but once you leave this world, you are a part of the Spiritsages."

"I have quite a close connection to the Spiritsages of the Saints' World, so I'm not an enemy to you Wood Spirits."

Jian Chen stared at the Jade Heaven Ruler with shining eyes and said seriously, "This world is still too small after all. If you remain here, your future accomplishments will be extremely limited. As a result, as long as you're willing, I'll take you with me when I leave here and personally bring you to the Spiritsages."

"The Spiritsages of the past were a powerful clan in the Saints' World, but their strength was hollow. Back then, perhaps the Spiritsages were not completely safe, but it's different now."

"The Spiritsages have already produced a sovereign now. Any organisation with a sovereign is a supreme existence in the Saints' World that no one dares to provoke. Under such great circumstances, it'll only benefit you if you return to your clansmen."

"The Saints' World is the true stage. The Wood Spirits World is just a small place in the end."

“I-I’m not in a hurry. I-I have to think about this properly.” The Jade Heaven Ruler’s expression changed as her emotions fluctuated wildly. She had learnt far too much information from Jian Chen, such that she had not digested it all.

The information she had learnt from Jian Chen had already completely upheaved her understanding of this world.

Jian Chen nodded and did not say anything more, giving the Jade Heaven Ruler ample time to digest everything.

A good while later, the Jade Heaven Ruler raised her head and stared at Jian Chen with mixed feelings. “Once you completely recover, will you be leaving here?”

“Yes,” Jian Chen answered without hesitation.

The Jade Heaven Ruler fell quiet.

“There’s a stone door in the maze that can only be opened with nine Chaotic Primes. I want to enter it, so I plan on nurturing a few Chaotic Primes soon,” said Jian Chen.

“Nurturing rulers isn’t that easy. It’s almost impossible even if you have ancestral imprints. Otherwise, the nine heavenly kings of the Wood Spirits World would not be stuck at their bottlenecks for all these years.” The Jade Heaven Ruler shook her head gently.

“I obviously have my ways, but I don’t have a suitable choice of people. You’re more than familiar with all the experts of the Wood Spirits World, so I hope you can select some people who are trustworthy for me,” said Jian Chen. The Jade Heaven Ruler had already become the most trustworthy person to him before he knew it after everything they had gone through in the maze.

“How many more do you need?” the Jade Heaven Ruler asked.

“I still need seven, and they need to be Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes at the very least,” said Jian Chen.

“Seven, is it?” The Jade Heaven Ruler glanced at Jian Chen deeply before taking her leave soon. “I’ll find seven people for you as quickly as possible.”

“I’ll have to trouble you with this then.” Jian Chen cupped his fist politely. Finding a few Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes in the Wood Spirits World was an extremely easy task.

However, finding people who were suitable for all aspects was far more complicated than it seemed on the surface.

Since he was nurturing Chaotic Primes, he could not just consider their talents and had to take into account the kind of person they were as well.

Otherwise, if he spent so many resources and successfully raised them to Chaotic Prime, only for them to be a rebel with ambitions beyond his control, it would simply be a horrible investment.

Jian Chen had not considered controlling anyone, but he still had to take the precautions necessary because it had to do with the sovereign god artifact.

The Jade Heaven Ruler began selecting people throughout the entire Wood Spirits World as soon as she returned, while Jian Chen remained in the Peace region to heal his soul.

There were no absolute secrets in the world. The news that the Peace Ruler wanted to nurture rulers ended up breaking out and spreading through the upper echelons of the Wood Spirits World.

“Sir, I heard you were thinking of nurturing new rulers?” On this day, the Ceremonial Bell appeared before Jian Chen and asked politely with his head lowered.

Jian Chen opened his eyes. He glanced past the Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King coldly and indifferently. “That’s right!”

The Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King’s eyes immediately burned with fervency. He lowered his head even further, almost to the point where he was grovelling. “Sir, I’m willing to devote myself to you till my dying breath, such that I will obey your every instruction, only in hopes that you could give me this opportunity.”

“You’re not an appropriate choice. Go and handle what you need to deal with,” Jian Chen said indifferently.

The Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King panicked inside. He refused to accept this and said in a hurry, “Sir, I’ve been serving you and the Peace region diligently and sincerely for all these years. Forgive my ignorance, but I am unable to understand which part of me doesn’t satisfy the ruler. Please enlighten me, sir.”

“You’ve done very well over the years. You haven’t disappointed me, but I won’t nurture you,” said Jian Chen.

“Sir, may I ask why?” The Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King felt resentful. The realm of rulers was one that all Infinite Primes dreamt of.

Now that an opportunity to become a ruler finally appeared, only for him to lose out on it, he found it extremely difficult to accept.

“How dare you!” Jian Chen’s face sank. A tremendous presence suddenly erupted, immediately weighing down on the Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King like a mountain.

The Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King felt his body sink. He dropped down to his knees uncontrollably as his knee caps shattered.

Moreover, a force formed from the Laws of Space restrained him firmly, such that he could not even move a finger.

*“H-how is this possible? In just two short centuries, the Peace Ruler has already grown so powerful!”* The Ceremonial Bell Heavenly King was shocked inside.