

Sword God 3371

Chapter 3371: Awakening the Artifact Spirit (1)

When they heard sacrifice, the expressions of the Wood Spirits experts all changed.

“Sacrifice? But once we make sacrifices, will we still be able to live?”

“We might not have to sacrifice everything. Maybe just part of it is enough.”

“That’s impossible. With our strength, let alone offering up a part, even offering up all our lives is probably just a smidge to the spirit of the ancestral artifact. It’ll be next to nothing.”

“Since the first ancestor said the spirit of the ancestral artifact would awaken with our generation, then we’ll definitely be able to do it. Let’s see if there’s any other way.”

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The experts of the Wood Spirits voiced their opinions fervently. They also came up with many guesses, but in the end, apart from making offerings, none of them could come up with a better idea.

At this moment, the Heaven Fighting Ruler suddenly turned towards Jian Chen. He cupped his fist and asked, “Fellow Jian Chen, do you have any good suggestions?”

Jian Chen immediately sank into his thoughts in response. After a moment of silence, he shook his head gently.

The Heaven Fighting Ruler was disappointed by that. Then he looked at the Jade Heaven Ruler who was still breaking through. He said to the others, “Why don’t we wait a little and decide once Jade Heaven finishes her breakthrough?”

The seven new rulers subconsciously looked towards the Jade Heaven Ruler and nodded in agreement.

Afterwards, they began to wait patiently, waiting for the Jade Heaven Ruler to complete her breakthrough and rouse from cultivation.

Meanwhile, Jian Chen constantly studied this world. He placed most of his attention on the small wooden hut on the hill. He even tried to get a little closer to the hill.

However, as soon as he tried moving past the first ancestor, he was stopped by an invisible power, unable to proceed another inch.

The power was tremendous and mighty. He could not resist it. It was power that came from the sovereign god artifact itself.

The furthest he could reach was the same place as the first ancestor. Any further towards the small wooden hut was impossible.

“I’ll look around here.” With that, Jian Chen suddenly vanished.

The eight rulers of the Wood Spirits remained where they were in deep thought. They contemplated the will of the first ancestor and tried to find a way to awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact.

They had no other choice either. After all, as long as the spirit of the ancestral artifact remained slumbering, they could not leave.

In the blink of an eye, several days passed. The Jade Heaven Ruler successfully completed her breakthrough, formally becoming a Third Heavenly Layer Chaotic Prime.

“Where is Jian Chen? Why isn’t he here?” As soon as she opened her eyes, she immediately asked for Jian Chen’s whereabouts. She was slightly displeased.

“Fellow Jian Chen has gone to investigate somewhere else. He should return very quickly.” The Heaven Fighting Ruler arrived before the Jade Heaven Ruler with a friendly smile, politely congratulating her on her breakthrough.

The seven other rulers gathered around as well, offering her their sincere congratulations.

However, the Jade Heaven Ruler was in absolutely no mood to accept their congratulations. Her face was sunken as if she was very unhappy.

“Jade Heaven Ruler, everyone has been waiting for you to come up with ideas. How do you think we should awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact?” an old man asked. He was formerly the head caretaker of the Divine Palace of Jade Centre, as well as a capable subordinate of the Jade Heaven Ruler. His name was Shui Hen.

Of course, after becoming a ruler, they had all become independent. They were no longer bound by their former identities.

“You’re asking me, so who am I supposed to ask? Everything I know about this place is no different from what you know,” the Jade Heaven Ruler said in exasperation.

“B-but you’re the strongest out of all of us.” Shui Hen felt wronged after being rebuked for no reason, murmuring away softly.

Seeing that, the other Wood Spirits experts found it rather difficult to speak up. They could all tell that the Jade Heaven Ruler had become slightly angry.

At this moment, Jian Chen appeared again with a flash. He studied the Jade Heaven Ruler and smiled gently. “Congratulations. Your strength has increased yet again.”

“Where did you go?” The Jade Heaven Ruler stood with her hands behind her back, looking at Jian Chen with a frown.

“I took a look nearby.”

“Did you find anything?”

Jian Chen shook his head. “I didn’t. This world isn’t as large as I imagined it to be. It’s extremely small and very normal. The only special part of it is near the small hill.”

“Then do you know how we should awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact?” The Jade Heaven Ruler stared at Jian Chen closely.

“I don’t know. You’ll have to figure that out yourself,” Jian Chen said casually.

Afterwards, the nine experts of the Wood Spirits began a discussion about how they should awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact.

However, after several days of discussion and numerous attempts, they achieved nothing at all.

With no other choice, the nine of them could only come up with one last method—sacrifice.

“We’ve tried many different methods, but they’re all useless. The only path that lays ahead of us now is through sacrifice. We need to sacrifice our lives just like the dozen or so generations of seniors ahead of us,” said the Mayhemless Heavenly King.

“That’s right. All we can do is sacrifice ourselves, but we don’t have to sacrifice everything. We can take it slowly and sacrifice bit by bit. Perhaps the spirit of the ancestral artifact will have awakened by the time we’ve sacrificed half of everything.”

“After all these generations of effort ahead of us, we’re probably only slightly off from awakening the spirit of the ancestral artifact, so let’s make up for this tiny bit remaining.”

“We have to believe in the first ancestor. Since the first ancestor said our generation would awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact, then we’ll definitely be able to.”

“Alright, then let’s start the offering, but we have to take it slowly.”

After an intense discussion, they still ended up deciding to try and offer up their lives.

They got right to it, immediately taking action. They lined up behind the previous generation of ancestors before kneeling towards the small wooden hut on the hill. Their expressions were filled with devotion as they used a secret technique, beginning to offer up themselves.

Immediately, their souls, cultivations, and vital energies were exhausted at a visible rate. All of the energy merged with the surroundings, absorbed by the world.

They became feeble as their lives gradually dimmed.

None of them were ready to completely sacrifice themselves, so they controlled the rate of offering and ensured it to be extremely slow. They remained hopefully inside, hoping that the spirit of the ancestral artifact only needed that tiny bit extra.

Time slipped by. The more time passed, the more of their life they offered up. In just a few hours, they had offered up twenty percent of their lives.

After over twenty hours, only half of their lives remained, but let alone showing any signs of awakening, the surroundings had not even responded to their actions.

Not even in the slightest!

Meanwhile, they grew even more feeble.

By now, the nine of them began to waver.

“Spirit of the ancestral artifact, please awaken quickly. If you still don’t awaken, w-we’re going to die.”
The Deadwood Heavenly King wailed out, hoping that a miracle would occur.

“Hold on, everyone. Perhaps we’re just a tiny bit off, just a tiny bit! We’ll succeed if we hold on for a little longer.”

“We have to believe in the first ancestor. The first ancestor is capable of tremendous feats. Everything she says must be true.”

The experts of the Wood Spirits encouraged one another.

Before long, they had already offered up seventy percent of their lives.

They had already harmed the foundations of their lives by coming so far. Their bodies became much more shrivelled compared to before.

The spirit of the ancestral artifact still showed no signs of awakening.

They had offered up seventy percent of their lives, but they had not even made a splash, which made more and more of them feel despair. The ancestor’s will might not come true. The spirit of the ancestral artifact was still asleep.

During this time, Jian Chen closely studied the changes in the surroundings. As he gazed at the nine Wood Spirits experts close to death, he sighed inside as he thought, *“Looks like the nine of them really are incapable of awakening the spirit of the ancestral artifact. Let alone sacrificing half of their lives, even if they sacrificed everything, it would be barely anything to the spirit of the ancestral artifact.”*

“Looks like all I can do now is to try this.”

Chapter 3372: Awakening the Artifact Spirit (2)

Watching as the nine of them rapidly grew more feeble, Jian Chen became helpless. In the next moment, he opened the space in his soul without any hesitation.

The space in his soul stored a large quantity of precious resources. Not only were there various God Tier heavenly resources, but there were even various resources from the Xuanhuang Microcosm that possessed pure Xuanhuang Qi.

Jian Chen directly skipped past these heavenly resources, making his way to the very depths.

There was a spine stored there.

It was a spine, but it seemed more like a piece of wood.

This was the spine of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits that he had obtained from the Darkstar race.

Not only did the spine contain the presence of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, but it also contained an extremely tremendous energy. This dense life essence seemed to be enough to nourish the entire cosmos and support all of life.

“The Source of Life is the sovereign of the Wood Spirits’ lifebound god artifact, while this spine belongs to the sovereign of the Wood Spirits. All I can do now is hope that it can be of some use.” Jian Chen prayed inside as he stared at the spine in the space in his soul silently.

This was the only item on him that was related to the sovereign of the Wood Spirits. If even it was useless, then there was really nothing else he could do.

Sucking in a deep breath uneasily, Jian Chen took out the spine of the sovereign of the Wood Spirits resolutely.

Immediately, an immense presence of life emanated out. It was tremendous and grand, filling the space and present everywhere.

Laying on the ground and still offering up their lives, the Jade Heaven Ruler and everyone else immediately became reinvigorated when they sensed this tremendous presence of life. Their ashen faces immediately lit up.

“There’s a response. There’s a response. Only the spirit of the ancestral artifact can give off such an immense presence of life.”

“Is this a sign of the spirit of the ancestral artifact’s awakening? Fantastic, this is just fantastic. The spirit of the ancestral artifact is finally awakening.”

“The first ancestor didn’t lie. We really awakened the spirit of the ancestral artifact. Hahahaha, once the spirit of the ancestral artifact awakens, our Wood Spirits will welcome a new age of glory.”

“Many of the ancestors in the past were legendary Grand Primes. From today onwards, we will also have the chance to reach that realm.”

“Quick, everyone put in a bit more effort. The spirit of the ancestral artifact has only responded. It hasn’t awakened completely. We need to strike while the iron is hot!”

The experts of the Wood Spirits called out excitedly. They were extremely emotional.

The sovereign’s spine in Jian Chen’s hand rapidly gave off a presence of life. This presence merged perfectly with the surroundings, so the Wood Spirits kneeling on the ground completely failed to realise that the presence of life originated from his hands.

According to their senses, this unimaginably pure presence of life came from the surroundings. It originated from every inch of space there, so they subconsciously connected it to the spirit of the ancestral artifact.

They all believed that this was a sign of the spirit of the ancestral artifact’s awakening.

At this moment, Jian Chen’s expression suddenly changed, and he stared dead straight at the Grand Exalt’s spine in his hand.

The Grand Exalt’s spine in his hand dissipated at a visible rate. All of the life energy within merged with the surrounding space.

Watching the shrinking spine in his hand, Jian Chen felt like his heart was bleeding inside.

He had obtained the sovereign of the Wood Spirits' spine from the Darkstar Emperor after great difficulty. However, before he could even use it, he had to give it up to the artifact spirit of the ancestral artifact for nothing.

That left him extremely conflicted. He wanted to keep the spine for himself, but as long as the artifact spirit remained in slumber, not only would he be unable to leave this place, but even the curse from the Dao Saint Union would remain. As a result, he could only give up on it painfully and use the sovereign's spine.

"Source of Life, I'm giving up a sovereign's spine for you. You better not disappoint me," Jian Chen thought.

He had basically thought everything through now. When the first ancestor said the spirit of the ancestral artifact would awaken with this generation, she was not actually referring to the Wood Spirits of this generation awakening it.

The person who would awaken the spirit of the ancestral artifact would not be experts of the Wood Spirits, but him, Jian Chen.

More accurately, it would be due to the sovereign's spine that he had brought in with him.

The nine rulers of the Wood Spirits only served as the door-openers at most.

The first ancestor was unable to see Jian Chen, but she could see the nine rulers, which was why she had said that the spirit of the ancestral artifact would awaken from its slumber during the age of these nine rulers.

"The first ancestor sure was capable, to actually see today from countless years ago." Jian Chen sighed in amazement over the first ancestor's strength.

Right now, he even began to suspect that the first ancestor was a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime.

Very soon, the sovereign's spine in Jian Chen's hand completely vanished. It completely turned into tremendous and surging life energy that filled the surroundings, absorbed by the world.

The nine experts of the Wood Spirits ravished with joy. They could already see the hope of the artifact spirit awakening, so they all began to offer up themselves at a faster rate.

Very soon, their presences plummeted from the remaining thirty percent to twenty percent.

The loss of their life left them extremely feeble.

At this moment, there was a great ripple from the hill. A giant swirl suddenly appeared around the small wooden hut at the top. All the energy that permeated the surroundings rushed towards the swirl furiously.

As the energy was rapidly absorbed, all of them could clearly sense a powerful consciousness gradually awakening from slumber within this swirl.

"This consciousness is the spirit of the ancestral artifact. It must be the spirit of the ancestral artifact!"

At this moment, all nine experts trembled from excitement. Their hearts were filled with jubilation.

Even Jian Chen's eyes shone brightly. He sat in the air and stared straight at the small wooden hut.

"I-it's master's presence... M-master hasn't passed away?"

At this moment, a faint voice echoed in the surroundings, immediately causing the entire world to shake violently.

At that moment, the ground heaved as the sky reversed. All of the plants that grew in this world seemed to gain a spiritual nature, morphing into heavenly resources and radiating with powerful presences.

Laws materialised clearly as nets, filling every inch of space, creating new laws.

"No, master has already passed away. Why would master's presence appear here?" The faint voice rang out again. It was a woman's voice, filled with a sense of indiscriminate love within the gentleness, but there was also some confusion and suspicion.

But in the next moment, she seemed to sense something. Icy-cold killing intent immediately filled the surroundings.

Whether it was Jian Chen or the nine experts of the Wood Spirits, they all felt like they had been plunged into icy-cold water the moment the killing intent appeared. They shivered all over.

"It's actually an outsider and the wretched presence of the Saints' World! How dare you!" This time, the faint voice rang out again, but all of the gentleness and love had vanished. It turned into biting coldness. Murderousness filled the air.

It was as if it had just been triggered, leading to a drastic change in mood.

At that moment, an illusionary mountain appeared over Jian Chen's head, crushing down with a mighty pressure.

Jian Chen's expression changed drastically. Before the pressure, he was actually unable to move at all. His entire body was pinned down.

He could only stay put and let the illusionary mountain fall on him.

He obviously would not just wait for that to happen. He let out a great bellow, and his presence poured out. He pushed the Laws of the Sword and the Laws of Space to the limits, and his Chaotic Force no longer suppressed the Dao Union Saint's curse either, mobilising it completely.

He gathered the greatest powers in him and launched a strike upwards. The surging energy rushed into the sky and forcefully slammed against the illusionary mountain.

However, this was a sovereign god artifact's power after all. Jian Chen stood no chance at all. As soon as the two collided, his full-powered attack collapsed.

Meanwhile, the illusionary mountain continued onwards, falling down on Jian Chen with a great boom and pinning him underneath firmly.

Chapter 3373: Suppression From the Artifact Spirit

Spurt!

Blood erupted from Jian Chen's mouth as he immediately turned a sickly pale.

The organs within his body had already ruptured. Pieces of it even spurted out from his mouth with his blood.

As for the bones throughout his body, approximately a third of them had already broken or downright shattered.

He currently resided inside the sovereign god artifact. This place was completely under its control. With such a tremendous difference in strength, he was still as puny as an ant despite returning to the sixteenth layer of the Chaotic Body.

His full strength right now was only a Chaotic Prime's.

Meanwhile, the sovereign god artifact could even suppress Grand Primes easily within it given its quality, so Jian Chen obviously stood no chance.

Of course, the wounds seemed very heavy, but it was actually nothing to the powerful physique of the Chaotic Body. It did not even affect his battle prowess at all.

The true source of danger was the curse he had always suppressed in his legs.

In order to fend off the artifact spirit's suppression, he had already used everything in his ability. He used all of his strength, so the curse of the Dao Union Saint that had remained in his legs had lost its suppression from the Chaotic Force, immediately rushing out of his legs and spreading through his body rapidly.

Once the curse spread again, suppressing it once more would be even more difficult than before.

Not to mention the fact that he was both suppressed and heavily injured right now.

Under these combined effects, Jian Chen was unable to divert any of his strength to keep the curse suppressed for a moment.

Meanwhile, the expression of the experts of the Wood Spirits all changed when they saw what happened to Jian Chen.

They could tell with a single glance that the spirit of the ancestral artifact was extremely hostile towards him, which left them feeling particularly conflicted.

On one side was the spirit of the ancestral artifact, while on the other side was their great benefactor that they owed a tantamount favour to. That left the seven new rulers troubled, uncertain about who to stand by.

"Ma'am ancestral spirit, the Peace Ruler has shown us great kindness. If it weren't for him, we would not have been able to enter here and awaken you. Please show mercy." In the end, it was the Mayhemless Heavenly King who spoke up first for Jian Chen.

The Jade Heaven Ruler only seemed to return to her senses at this moment. She arrived before the illusionary mountain atop Jian Chen with a flash. Her eyes became filled with worry and concern. Afterwards, she raised her sword and directly swung it at the mountain with a powerful pulse of energy.

The expressions of the other experts of the Wood Spirits all changed drastically when they saw this. The spirit of the ancestral artifact had created this mountain. None of them believed the Jade Heaven Ruler could stop the spirit of the ancestral artifact's power, but her actions were a form of great disrespect to the spirit of the ancestral artifact.

However, the Jade Heaven Ruler seemed to have cast aside everything already. All she wanted to do was save Jian Chen. She completely disregarded the fact that she would offend the spirit of the ancestral artifact through this.

Boom!

With a great rumble, the Jade Heaven Ruler's sword slammed against the mountain over Jian Chen, but it did not budge at all. Instead, she was knocked back by the great force of her attack. Her face immediately turned bright red as blood sprayed out from her mouth.

"You descendants and juniors are actually helping a person of the Saints' World? How foolish. Do you have any idea just how many of your ancestors that these wretched people of the Saints' World killed in the past?"

"And are you aware at all that these people of the Saints' World almost brought the Wood Spirits to extinction?"

"And do you know who is the exact reason that you've been trapped in this small world, never to leave?"

The spirit of the ancestral artifact seemed to be infuriated. It was completely aware of why the Wood Spirits left the larger group of Spiritsages and came down to this lower world with scarce resources to go into hiding.

After all, it had lived through that era.

It hated cultivators of the Saints' World to the core. It bore a grudge it could never forget.

As a result, seeing how these juniors were actually mingling with a person of the Saints' World as soon as it awakened from its slumber, the spirit of the sovereign god artifact was obviously furious.

Its fury disturbed the heavens. The sky was no longer an azure-blue, turning into a bloody-red instantly as if it was soaked in blood. A sense of bleakness filled the entire world.

The Wood Spirits all shivered inside. Their faces became extremely pale. From the bloody sky, they seemed to see the countless battles between their predecessors and the people of the Saints' World, the corpses of countless predecessors floating atop the sea of blood.

That sight deeply shook their souls.

"Do you see this? Do you see this? The people behind all of this are the people of the Saints' World. It's all because of the people of the Saints' World." The artifact spirit ground its teeth as its eyes burned with hatred. "Not only did countless predecessors of yours die at the hands of people from the Saints' World, but even I was heavily damaged by the people of the Saints' World."

“It was the Saint Monarchs of the archaean clans who heavily damaged me with god artifacts just as powerful as me.”

As soon as it mentioned matters of the past, the spirit of the ancestral artifact fumed with hatred. Despite being so distant in the past, it had slumbered for too long, so everything seemed like it had only occurred yesterday to it.

The experts of the Wood Spirits were all shocked. They stood there and trembled, unable to say anything.

“Artifact spirit, what you speak of is very ancient history. Right now, the people of the Spirits’ World have already become the Spiritsages. They’ve become a part of the Saints’ World, which is also as you’ve described, people of the Saints’ World,” Jian Chen spoke up at this moment from beneath the mountain. His voice was rather hoarse and black blood trickled out from the corner of his lips as he spoke.

The curse in his body spread faster and faster, but he was suppressed now. He was no longer capable of anything.

“Nonsense. Our Spirits’ World have already become mortal enemies with the Saints’ World, so how can we get along peacefully, much less become people of the Saints’ World?” The artifact spirit rebuked without any hesitation. After going through that dark age of despair without any hope, it refused to believe the Spirits’ World had any chance at victory.

“Fine then. Since you don’t believe anything I say about the Saints’ World, then let’s not talk about it. Let’s talk about you. You were awakened because of me. If it weren’t for me, you’d still be in slumber right now.”

“Yet as soon as you awaken, you suppress me without even thanking me. Are all artifact spirits of mighty sovereign god artifacts so ungrateful?” Jian Chen continued. He felt very helpless inside. The Source of Life had been awakened, but its strength had completely surpassed his expectations, and she hated the people of the Saints’ World very much too.

Under these circumstances, his chances at obtaining the sovereign god artifact were extremely slim. It was almost impossible.

Even the matter of survival became a great issue.

“What a joke. I awakened because of you?” The artifact spirit snorted in contempt.

“The Peace Ruler is right. If it weren’t for the Peace Ruler, we wouldn’t have been able to assemble nine Chaotic Primes. Without nine Chaotic Primes, we wouldn’t have been able to enter here,” said the Mayhemless Heavenly King.

“That’s the truth. Without Jian Chen, we wouldn’t have even been able to enter here, much less awaken you from your slumber. As a result, we hope you can show mercy and spare Jian Chen.” The Jade Heaven Ruler walked over from afar. There was still blood on the corner of her lips, but there was no fear in her eyes.

“Please spare the Peace Ruler in consideration of the fact that we’ve depleted ninety percent of our lives to awaken you,” the Heaven Fighting Ruler said, pleading as well. He would never forget how Jian Chen had saved him from the Blood Slaughter Ruler.

Back then, he had been reduced to a soul. He was extremely feeble when he ended up in Jian Chen’s hands. Jian Chen could have ended his life effortlessly, but not only did he decide against that, he even depleted many resources to help him rebuild his body.

The Heaven Fighting Ruler had never forgotten about this act.

After all, he was not an ingrate.

“What? Do you really think you awakened me through offering up your lives? Hilarious. That’s just hilarious. What a joke. You descendants really are utter fools. With your bit of strength, you think you can awaken me with that little bit of life force?” The artifact spirit laughed loudly. Her voice was filled with mockery.

“D-don’t tell me it wasn’t us?” The rulers all looked at one another.

“I was the one who awakened you. I happened across your master’s spine in the past. I used the spine to awaken you,” said Jian Chen. Afterwards, he opened his hands with difficulty against the suppression of the artifact spirit. There was still powder in his hands that resembled sawdust.

This powder came from the sovereign of the Wood Spirits’ spine.

When the sovereign of the Wood Spirits’ spine vanished completely, some residue remained in Jian Chen’s hands.

Chapter 3374: A Change in Attitude

The artifact spirit, who was particularly emotional earlier, immediately calmed down. Its gaze became fixed on Jian Chen’s hand, or more accurately, the powder that remained on his hands. Its eyes gradually reddened and misted over.

The illusionary mountain over Jian Chen had already vanished, but he was still immobilised. He was frozen in place by an invisible force.

The artifact spirit appeared before Jian Chen silently. It stared straight at his hands as tears rolled out uncontrollably.

“Master... master...” the artifact spirit murmured, choking on sobs. It was extremely heartbroken.

Meanwhile, the way the nine experts of the Wood Spirits looked at Jian Chen also changed. They were filled with shock and disbelief.

Earlier, they had always believed it was due to their sacrifice that the spirit of the ancestral artifact had awakened. They had never thought that the person who truly awakened the spirit of the ancestral artifact was not them but Jian Chen.

All of them found that difficult to accept.

“Don’t tell me the first ancestor was lying to us?” At this moment, someone put forth a question, growing rather doubtful over what the first ancestor had said.

“No, the first ancestor wasn’t lying to us. We were the ones who misinterpreted her. The spirit of the ancestral artifact has indeed awakened with our generation, except we were not the ones to awaken it,” the Mayhemless Heavenly King said with a mixed expression.

“What’s even more surprising to us is not only is the Peace Ruler from the Saints’ World, he just happens to possess the remains of the ancestor too. Fellows, don’t you think the Peace Ruler is a little too well-prepared?” At this moment, a voice rang out with some coldness.

It came from one of the new rulers. He was the strongest ancestor of the Guan family, one of the peak clans in the Wood Spirits World, Guan Wuchi.

In response to what Guan Wuchi said, many people fell quiet, including the Heaven Fighting Ruler.

The people of the Saints’ World were enemies to the Wood Spirits!

Everyone wanted the ancestral god artifact!

Jian Chen happened to be from the Saints’ World while he was so well-prepared, even bringing the remains of their ancestor in with him.

When they connected the dots between these pieces of information, it was very easy for them to come up with their own theories.

“Don’t tell me the Peace Ruler has actually come for the ancestral god artifact by mingling among us?” The ancestor of the Yongxi clan, Yong Yenan, spoke up. At this moment, his respect towards Jian Chen began to waver.

The rulers of the Wood Spirits looked at one another. Their expressions all changed.

Even the Heaven Fighting Ruler became uncertain. His eyes flickered with thoughts.

The Jade Heaven Ruler also became hesitant.

It was also at this moment that the artifact spirit’s gaze suddenly turned cold again, glaring at Jian Chen sharply and asking frigidly, “Why are master’s remains in your hands? Where did you obtain master’s remains?”

Jian Chen was completely calm as if he had been anticipating this the entire time. “Do you know about the Darkstar race?”

“The Darkstar race? What are you mentioning that wretched race for?” The artifact spirit began grinding its teeth again when the Darkstar race was mentioned.

“In the past, your master engaged the sovereign of the Darkstar race in a battle to the death. A part of her body ended up in the hands of the Darkstar race, while I just happened to have visited the Darkstar World. I also had some unpleasant incidents with the Darkstar race, and I even faced off against their emperor.”

“During that battle, the Darkstar race was unable to do anything to me, while I possessed enough strength to exterminate their entire race. In the end, the Darkstar Emperor compromised to protect his clansmen, giving me many precious items to avert the threat of extinction.”

“That was how I obtained your master’s spine from the Darkstar Emperor,” said Jian Chen.

“You’ve entered the Darkstar World? That’s impossible. My master and the Grand Exalt of the Darkstar race set down two layers of restrictions there. Only those under a thousand years old can enter that world, while no one under a thousand years old stands a chance against the entire Darkstar World.” The spirit of the ancestral artifact was clearly unconvinced.

“I’ve only just turned a thousand recently. I already possess the battle prowess of a Chaotic Prime before I turned a thousand.” Jian Chen smiled crookedly.

“What? You already possessed the battle prowess of a Chaotic Prime before you turned a thousand years old?” The artifact spirit was clearly quite shocked, leaving it dazed, but it was still rather suspicious. “Since you’re so powerful, why didn’t you kill the leader of the Darkstar race? If he died, wouldn’t all of his resources be yours to take?”

“Don’t tell me you’re from the Darkstar race?” The artifact spirit’s voice was filled with killing intent.

“I also wanted to kill him, but I only managed to destroy his body, not his soul. His soul was protected by a bronze lamp, so I couldn’t harm it at all,” said Jian Chen.

“A bronze lamp?” The artifact spirit’s eyes narrowed and stared straight at Jian Chen. “What does the lamp look like?”

“Remove your power. I’ll conjure the lamp’s appearance.” As soon as he said that, Jian Chen’s entire body loosened up, regaining his freedom.

Shortly afterwards, he used energy to conjure the appearance of the lamp that he saw.

When it saw the lamp, the artifact spirit’s eyes immediately lit up. It was overjoyed, laughing away loudly. “Divine Lamp of World Stability, it really is you. Hahaha, you were so mighty and unstoppable back then, but look at you now. You’ve actually ended up in such a sorry state. Hahahaha!”

The artifact spirit was put into an extremely good mood when it saw the bronze lamp, taking great delight from the lamp’s fate.

“The Divine Lamp of World Stability? Don’t tell me this lamp is from the same era as senior?” Jian Chen was surprised.

The artifact spirit nodded. “The Divine Lamp of World Stability was the strongest god artifact in the sovereign of the Darkstar race’s possession. Let alone me who isn’t skilled in battle, even master’s Sceptre of Life that specialised in fighting was not the Divine Lamp of World Stability’s opponent.”

“However, I was heavily damaged by the Divine Lamp of World Stability, so I did not know what happened to it afterwards. By the time I awakened again, the Spirits’ World had already shattered and I was in the Saints’ World already. As for the Darkstar race, they had already become a relic of history. All I knew was they had been sealed up in a small world by master.”

“Only now have I found out the Divine Lamp of World Stability has already shattered, as the Divine Lamp of World Stability that you saw was no longer complete. It’s missing a part.”

“However, since that great enemy from the Darkstar race is protected by the Divine Lamp of World Stability, you are indeed incapable of killing him given your strength.”

The artifact spirit’s eyes twinkled. It stared at Jian Chen and continued to ask, “Kid, keep going. Tell me what else you did in the Darkstar World.”

“I also destroyed twenty of their cities with countless lives of the Darkstar race lost at my hands,” Jian Chen said with a rather strange expression.

“Really? Use your soul to conjure that. I want to see.” The artifact spirit licked its lips. It was very intrigued.

Without any hesitation, Jian Chen conjured what had happened in the past.

Immediately, the scenes when he destroyed twenty major cities of the Darkstar race and slaughtered countless people of the Darkstar race replayed before them like a movie.

With his current cultivation and comprehension, he could achieve that with ease.

“Hahahahaha, good, good, good. How satisfying! How satisfying!”

The artifact spirit’s mood became great when it saw the people of the Darkstar race perish in swathes, dyeing the ground red. It was filled with satisfaction, laughing out loud uncontrollably.

“Kid, nicely done. The Darkstar race deserved that. They’re a damned existence.” In the blink of an eye, the artifact spirit’s attitude towards Jian Chen changed drastically. It no longer seemed to hate Jian Chen very much as someone from the Saints’ World due to what had happened to the Darkstar race.

The spirit of the ancestral artifact continued, “I hate the Darkstar race the most. The people of the Saints’ World come second. Kid, in consideration of the fact that you killed so many people of the Darkstar race in the past, I’ve decided that I’ll spare your life. I won’t kill you.”

“However, before the Wood Spirits truly grow in strength, you’ll have to stay here forever without leaving.”

Chapter 3375: Divulging the Secret

Jian Chen’s expression changed immediately when he heard what the artifact spirit said at the end.

Before the Wood Spirits truly grew in strength, he would have to stay here forever without leaving?

Jian Chen obviously understood how much the artifact spirit was referring to when it said “grow in strength”. That was producing late Grand Primes or even Ninth Heavenly Grand Primes. Only then could they be considered as truly powerful.

After all, the Wood Spirits possessed a sovereign god artifact. That was a supreme treasure that all the peak organisations in the Saints’ World desired. Without a late Grand Prime or even a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime present, they were completely incapable of keeping the sovereign god artifact in their possession.

But with the Wood Spirits' current strength, who knew how long it would take to produce even a First Heavenly Layer Grand Prime, let alone a late one.

How long would he have to remain in the Wood Spirits World?

"You really are planning to keep me trapped here?" Jian Chen said in a troubled manner.

"Of course!" The Source of Life's artifact spirit raised its head rather proudly. Its figure was very faint, condensed from energy. It seemed like a youthful woman in her twenties with an extraordinary aura.

It strode through the air and directly arrived before Jian Chen, staring at him closely with its jade-green eyes. "However, you still have to tell me exactly how you entered the place where the Wood Spirits rest and why you came here."

Before Jian Chen could answer it, the artifact spirit said, "You better not say you entered here through a coincidence. The Wood Spirits has a law set that will kill all outsiders, yet your body contains a hint of presence that belongs to the Wood Spirits. It's exactly because of this presence that prevents you from being erased by the laws."

"As a result, you entered the Wood Spirits World deliberately."

When they heard that, the expressions of the Heaven Fighting Ruler and the seven newly-broken-through experts changed once again.

In the past, many of them were left in the dark, but now that the artifact spirit had exposed Jian Chen's origins and secrets, they became even more certain that Jian Chen had an ulterior motive.

Jian Chen sighed gently and said, "I didn't expect senior to be so sharp. Looks like it'll be very difficult for senior to believe me if I don't explain everything."

"So be it. You would find out about this sooner or later. Since that's the case, I'll just tell you about it sooner."

The artifact spirit said nothing and simply started at Jian Chen.

The Heaven Fighting Ruler, the Jade Heaven Ruler, and the others all listened closely too. They gathered their attention on Jian Chen.

In particular, the Jade Heaven Ruler's gaze flickered with some eagerness, uneasiness, and some fear.

Jian Chen began his narration.

"In the Saints' World, due to some particular reasons, I was slain by a sovereign of the Saints' World. As a result, I was already dead by then, strictly speaking."

"But afterwards, I was revived by another sovereign of the Saints' World. No, he can't be called a sovereign of the Saints' World. He should be called a sovereign of the Spirits' World."

However, as soon as he reached there, the artifact spirit was surprised, interrupting Jian Chen with a cry, "What? A sovereign of the Spirits' World? The Spirits' World has a sovereign?"

It obviously understood what Jian Chen meant by sovereign. Despite the name varying across different aeons, they all referred to the same thing.

“That’s right. The Spirits’ World already has a sovereign, and I just happened to have some connections with this sovereign, which was why he revived me.”

“I managed to survive, but I sustained unimaginably heavy injuries. The sovereign was unable to help me with these wounds either. I could only rely on myself, so he sent me here.”

“My primary objective for coming to the Wood Spirits World is to heal.”

Jian Chen shortened everything he had experienced as well as his intentions and explained them to the artifact spirit honestly.

He had no other choice either. The artifact spirit of the Source of Life was extremely clever and extremely cautious. If he tried to hide anything any further, he might very possibly dig his own grave.

“The Spirits’ World finally has a sovereign?” The artifact spirit entered a daze. It seemed to recall the bloody battles between the assembly of races from the Spirits’ World and the experts of the Saints’ World, becoming momentarily overcome with mixed feelings.

“Peace Ruler, you said you were sent in here by a sovereign. Doesn’t that mean that sovereign has already found where our Wood Spirits World is located?” the Deadwood Heavenly King said extremely sternly.

“That’s right!” Jian Chen said.

“T-t-t-then if that sovereign happens to develop ulterior motives towards our ancestral god artifact, wouldn’t we be completely at his whim?” The Deadwood Heavenly King became rather pale.

“You don’t have to worry about that. Experts of that realm have their own sense of pride. Normally, they would not try and steal the treasures of juniors. Otherwise, wouldn’t all the sovereign god artifacts left behind by past sovereigns all end up in their hands? Not to mention the fact that he’s a sovereign of our Spirits’ World,” the artifact spirit was unconcerned, replying calmly.

Afterwards, it turned towards Jian Chen. “I can tell that you have a hint of a curse from a sovereign. You want to use my power to remove that curse in your body, don’t you?”

“That’s right!” Jian Che admitted without hesitation.

The artifact spirit smiled scornfully. “I’ve only just awakened. I’m nowhere close to my prime condition and my power has been greatly weakened, so I won’t be able to help you with that.”

“However, considering how many people of the Darkstar race you’ve killed, I can spare some power to help you suppress it momentarily.”

“If you want it completely removed, you better not rely on me. You better try and come up with another idea instead.”

As it said that, a tremendous amount of life energy was channeled in Jian Chen’s body, suppressing the curse back into his legs.

Afterwards, the artifact spirit shifted its attention from Jian Chen and turned towards the Chaotic Primes of the Wood Spirits.

“Come over here. Because your predecessors have all perished here, some central legacies of the Wood Spirits have already become lost. Since I’m awake now, I should pass some of them onto you.”

At the same time, an old man in a simple gown sat in the silent space outside the Wood Spirits World. His gaze remained fixed on the space before him.

That just happened to be where the Wood Spirits World stood.

However, since it was hidden extremely deeply, even passing Grand Primes would fail to notice its existence.

Not only had the old man discovered the Wood Spirits World, but he even seemed to be able to see everything that happened there.

“Neither Jian Chen nor the little juniors of the Wood Spirits have been chosen by the Source of Life. Looks like I can only give them a push,” the old man suddenly murmured. He extended his finger gently and a few strands of presence from the Source of Life appeared.

In the next moment, the presences shot through the air and immediately arrived in the Saints’ World before becoming wrapped in laws. The presence was completely sealed in by the laws, such that none of it leaked out.

Afterwards, the strands of presence from the Source of Life shot off in different directions, dissipating after crossing a tremendous distance and merging with a few laws.

On the Skyfire Plane, in the depths of the greatest peak organisation, the Fire Fiend sect, an old man in red clothes cultivated within the raging flames.

The old man was the ancestor of the Fire Fiend sect, as well as the greatest expert on the Skyfire Plane, the Poisonous Flame Ancestor.

Suddenly, the Poisonous Flame Ancestor sensed something and immediately roused from cultivation. His eyes that seemed to contain the raging flames began to shine as he tried to deduce what was going on. His expression gradually became excited.

“It’s a sign from the heavenly secrets! This presence! Hahaha! It’s a great opportunity! A great opportunity has appeared!” The Poisonous Flame Ancestor instantly vanished, having left the Skyfire Plane and disappeared into the depths of the starry sky already.

On the Star Brilliance Plane, in the Myriad Rivers sect that ranked third, the ancestor of the Myriad Rivers sect, the Ocean Convergence Elder, also roused from cultivation. He looked towards the vast cosmos and furrowed his brows. “That’s strange. I was just cultivating, so why did my heart skip a beat, making me rouse uncontrollably?”

“Don’t tell me something major to do with me is about to happen?” When he thought of that, the Ocean Convergence Elder immediately formed a seal with his hands. His soul merged with the universe as he began to peer into the heavenly secrets.

Suddenly, the Ocean Convergence Elder shuddered before immediately ravishing with joy. He cried out uncontrollably, "This presence- this presence is actually from the Wood Spirits' Source of Life!"

After a moment of silence, the Ocean Convergence Elder suddenly laughed aloud. "Hahahaha, the Spiritsages may have the Wind Sovereign, but the two Wood Spirits who branched away from them have not returned to the Spiritsages. They don't count as Spiritsages. And I've managed to find the Source of Life that does not have a master."

"A sovereign god artifact without a master will obviously go to the one who's destined to possess it."

The Ocean Convergence Elder stood up. He looked off in two other directions within the Myriad Rivers sect in hesitance.

Those were where the other two Grand Prime ancestors cultivated.

"So be it. I won't let the two of them know for now. Just me alone is enough. The Source of Life will definitely be mine."

Chapter 3376: The Divine Spear of World Destruction

The Ocean Convergence Elder vanished from the Myriad Rivers sect. He erased his presence and let no one know, leaving the Star Brilliance Plane elusively. He merged his soul with the world again to deduce the direction before hurrying off, crossing galaxies with each step. He moved extremely quickly.

Each strand of presence from the Source of Life drew over a peak expert.

And a total of four strands entered the Saints' World.

Apart from the Poisonous Flame Ancestor from the Fire Fiend sect of the Skyfire Plane and the Ocean Convergence Elder from the Myriad Rivers sect of the Star Brilliance Plane, there were two other strands of presence.

However, those two strands did not appear anywhere on the forty-nine great planes and eighty-one great planets of the Saints' World, but instead in remote places far out in space.

They were both enveloped in the power of ways, obscuring them from the heavenly secrets, so they could only be detected by the people that were chosen.

The third strand of presence vanished in a certain place. A miniature world was hidden there with a landscape no less beautiful than a paradise.

This was the world under the Way Wielding clan!

The Way Wielding clan did not possess much reputation in the Saints' World. There were not even many people who knew about this clan's existence.

But without any exception, any expert who knew about the clan possessed some reverence towards it. They refused to provoke them without good reason.

The Way Wielding clan was an archaic clan that had already lost their status. However, despite their decline, their power was still nothing to be trifled with.

At this moment, six violet and golden towers stood in the depths of the Way Wielding clan, shining with dazzling light.

A Grand Prime ancestor sat within each tower.

Six towers implied a total of six Grand Primes. That was the peak strength of the Way Wielding clan.

Suddenly, the figure seated within the brightest tower opened his eyes. After a moment of silence, an elderly voice rang out, "Second brother, third brother, come with me!"

In the next moment, three of the towers immediately dimmed. Their owners had already left silently.

In another remote part of space, there was also a miniature hidden world. Another archaic clan that had faced decline stood there, the Martial God clan.

"The presence of the Source of Life? That's the treasure that my past ancestors have always desired. Only with the Source of Life will our Martial God Body be truly invincible and unstoppable!"

A powerful voice rang out from the depths of the Martial God clan. With that, a middle-aged man equipped with armour appeared in the sky. He had a burly figure and extremely great vital energy. He seemed to be able to destroy worlds with just a swing of his hand.

He was the greatest expert of the Martial God clan, as well as the Martial God of this generation!

"The Source of Life has separated from the Spiritsages a long time ago. It has nothing to do with the Spiritsages, so it's worth a shot," the Martial God said icily. He gazed at the distant stars coldly, giving off a sense of absolute determination.

Afterwards, he extended his right finger and a mountain three thousand metres tall exploded, raining down with rubble.

Inside the mountain was a spear three thousand metres long!

The spear seemed to have been sealed away for far too long, such that it seemed ordinary without anything strange.

However, with the mountain's destruction, it seemed to be freed from some kind of seal, suddenly awakening from its slumber. It shone with blinding light and illuminated the world.

At that moment, the entire world shook. The spear was simply too powerful, like it had surpassed the limits of what the miniature world could contain.

At this moment, the Martial God reached out and the spear immediately shrank to just three metres long, arriving in his hand with blinding light.

When the Martial God gripped the spear, all of its power was immediately withdrawn. It only continued to shine blindingly.

The Martial God suddenly vanished with the spear.

"It's the great Martial God. Our great Martial God has emerged!"

“The Martial God has already left. What exactly has happened outside that the Martial God must set out personally?”

“The last time the Martial God showed himself was during the war with the Immortals’ World. That was already over three million years ago.”

“The ancestor has actually left with the Divine Spear of World Destruction. What’s he going to do?”

In the Martial God clan, countless experts rushed into the sky and gazed in the direction that the Martial God had vanished into. They were all uncertain.

The Martial God left alone with the Divine Spear of World Destruction. No one knew where he was going or what he was doing.

The Wood Spirits World, within the Source of Life, in the same elysian miniature world.

The Jade Heaven Ruler, the Heaven Fighting Ruler, and the seven new rulers all sat with their legs crossed as green light rushed into the air, giving off a tremendous sense of vitality.

The artifact spirit of the Source of Life was passing on some core legacies of the Wood Spirits to them.

Moreover, a pure life energy was drawn into their bodies, replenishing everything they had offered up before in an extremely short amount of time.

“Sigh, all of you are very weak, but who can help the fact that you’re the best of the best of this generation? Apart from you, there really is no better choice, so I can only give you these things prematurely even though they aren’t really appropriate right now.” The woman in green that the artifact spirit had turned into gazed at the nine Wood Spirits helplessly.

It was as if it looked down on them.

“Ma’am, since you know the Spiritsages already have a sovereign, then could you let me out from here first? After all, no one is bold enough to openly go after a sovereign god artifact of the Spiritsages anymore,” Jian Chen said. He knew that he could not rely on the artifact spirit to cleanse the curse. Right now, all he wanted to do was leave a little sooner. He did not want to remain trapped in here for all this time.

“No. What does the fact that the Spiritsages have a sovereign have to do with the Wood Spirits? As I’ve already said, unless the Wood Spirits become powerful enough, you won’t be leaving here.” The artifact spirit refused without any hesitation. It spoke without leaving any room for discussion, which destroyed all of Jian Chen’s hopes.

Boom!

At this moment, an explosion rang out like a clap of thunder, shaking up the entire miniature world.

The expression of the artifact spirit immediately changed drastically due to the sudden incident. Its eyes rapidly narrowed as its face became twisted with a sense of fuming hatred.

“It’s the Martial God clan’s Divine Spear of World Destruction. Dammit, dammit, dammit, it’s been so many years and the Martial God clan still hasn’t perished!”

“The Divine Spear of World Destruction already heavily damaged me once, yet you still decide to haunt me like a ghost, coming to find me again after all these years. If you think you’re so capable, you shitty spear, why don’t you go and find the Spectre of Life? Why do you always come after me? I’m not good at fighting, so there’s nothing impressive about coming after me!” The artifact spirit seemed to fly into a fury. Its eyes burned with hatred as it directly cursed aloud.

Chapter 3377: Breaching the Formation Together

Boom!

All that answered the artifact spirit was another great rumble, rocking the world and making the earth shake as if everything was about to collapse.

The attacks from outside were far too powerful, completely capable of destroying worlds. It shook up the Source of Life as well, such that even the miniature world inside the god artifact was severely affected.

At this moment, the nine experts all roused from cultivation as well. As they gazed at the shaking world, they all became stern.

The artifact spirit immediately turned towards Jian Chen in hatred. It yelled furiously, “It’s you! It’s you! It must be you! You led the experts over here! All of the trouble that the Wood Spirits face today is because of you!”

At that moment, the artifact spirit pushed all of the responsibility onto Jian Chen. As a result, the bit of goodwill that Jian Chen developed with the artifact spirit through massacring all those people of the Darkstar race immediately vanished due to being exposed to and attacked by the people of the Saints’ World.

Jian Chen frowned heavily when the artifact spirit wrongly scolded and blamed him. He immediately rebuked it, “I’ve already remained in the Wood Spirits World for centuries. If I really led them over here, they would have taken action a long time ago. Why would they have waited until now?”

“Why don’t you consider that it might be your awakening that led them over?”

“You’re still trying to deny everything! It’s you! It’s you! You’re the one who led them over!” The artifact spirit was exasperated. Its eyes had turned red from panic.

Boom!

At this moment, it suffered another heavy attack, which made the entire world spiral. Their vision blurred as space distorted. The miniature world seemed to be on the brink of collapse.

As the attacks from outside grew stronger and stronger, the artifact spirit no longer bothered with Jian Chen. It immediately vanished.

With that, only Jian Chen and the nine experts of the Wood Spirits remained in the miniature world.

The nine of them all looked towards Jian Chen.

“Jian Chen, w-what exactly is happening? Tell me the truth. Did you draw the experts outside over here?” the Jade Heaven Ruler asked. Her eyes shone with mixed emotions. She was both worried and afraid.

Jian Chen looked at the Jade Heaven Ruler calmly and asked, “You don’t trust me?”

“I-I-” The Jade Heaven Ruler was tongue-tied, becoming momentarily uncertain. She had lived for countless years and had been a ruler for a very long time, ruling over the world. What hadn’t she seen? She understood the vile nature of people a long time ago. Single-sided stories could not be taken as the truth, as the truth was often much more brutal than that.

Yet the reality before her as well as the spirit of the ancestral artifact’s blame on Jian Chen clearly made the Jade Heaven Ruler’s trust in him waver.

The Heaven Fighting Ruler and the seven new Chaotic Primes all looked at Jian Chen in suspicion. There was even a hint of coldness in the eyes of some of them.

Jian Chen sighed inside when he sensed this, but he was not particularly affected by it. He could not be bothered explaining for himself either, so he simply shut his eyes and sat down on the spot.

They were all trapped here. Without the artifact spirit’s permission, none of them could leave. They could only wait.

The space outside the Wood Spirits World had already turned to darkness. It had been completely destroyed.

It was not only the space there. Even the entire lower world that the Wood Spirits World occupied had been completely destroyed by the destructive power.

A burly, middle-aged man equipped with armour stood in the centre of the black storm. He wielded a spear and his gaze was extremely cold, giving off a terrifyingly powerful presence.

He was the Martial God!

The Martial God clan was a peak organisation that had once produced a sovereign. Even though the sovereign perished afterwards, the Martial God clan remained among the ranks of archaic clans for a very long time.

Despite having declined and losing the title of archaic clan a long time ago, they still could not be underestimated.

Those who earned the title of Martial God were all the strongest ancestors of the Martial God clan that had obtained the sovereign’s legacy.

Swish!

At this moment, the spear in the Martial God’s hand shot out into the space before it again with a devastating storm of energy, producing a startling rumble.

A formation appeared where his spear stopped. It possessed astonishing defences, blocking the Martial God’s attacks again and again.

However, the Martial God's attacks were far too powerful, and the Divine Spear of World Destruction in his hands was a sovereign god artifact too. Even though his strength was not enough to unleash its full power, he was still stronger than all experts of the same level.

As a result, whenever the formation blocked an attack, its energy depleted at an extremely terrifying rate. It could not last for very long at all.

At the same time, laws flickered above the Martial God's head, turning into scarlet bolts of lightning that rained down on his head like a cloud.

That was the punishment of the ways. It was an execution from the laws.

As the Martial God launched his attacks freely in the lower world, not only did he destroy the entire world, but he also killed all the living creatures in this world.

Such a heinous act would obviously lead to an execution from the laws of the lower space.

However, the Martial God completely ignored the punishment of the ways from the lower world. Dressed in armour, he was mighty and valiant, like an undefeatable god of war.

His vital energy rushed into the air, turning into a blood-red dragon that shot into the sea of lightning.

Boom!

With a startling rumble in the sea of lightning, the punishment of ways from the lower world directly dissipated under the Martial God's attacks.

He was simply too powerful. He was immune to all the laws of the lower world. The laws of the lower world were completely powerless against him.

At this moment, a few more powerful presences appeared in the space there.

Several figures appeared before the Martial God, each giving off a tremendous and mighty presence. Even though it was not as great as his, it was not far off either.

A total of five people arrived.

They were the Poisonous Flame Ancestor of the Fire Fiend sect, the greatest organisation on the Skyfire Plane.

The Ocean Convergence Elder of the Myriad Rivers sect, the third greatest organisation on the Star Brilliance Plane.

As well as the Way Wielding clan that used to be an archaean clan.

The Poisonous Flame Ancestor and the Ocean Convergence Elder were both Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Primes!

Three people arrived from the Way Wielding clan, one at the Seventh Heavenly Layer and the other two at the Sixth Heavenly Layer!

"Martial God!"

The expressions of the five experts from the three peak organisations changed slightly, gradually becoming stern.

In particular, when they saw the Divine Spear of World Destruction in the Martial God's hands, a deep sense of fear appeared in the depths of their eyes.

That was a sovereign god artifact after all!

The Martial God stopped his attacks and glanced past the five of them. He directly ignored the Poisonous Flame Ancestor and the Ocean Convergence Elder. Only when he saw the experts from the Way Wielding clan did he face them properly.

The Way Wielding clan was like the Martial God clan. They were both former archaean clans.

Both clans had not declined because of a lack of a sovereign god artifact, but because they were missing a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime!

"First brother, the Martial God is not an easy opponent."

"The Martial God might also be at the Seventh Heavenly Layer, but he has a Grand Exalt's legacy and a peak god artifact. He's so powerful that he's no weaker than an Eighth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime. Even some regular Eighth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes aren't his opponent. Even against Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes, he can still put up a fight."

The two Sixth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes of the Way Wielding clan communicated sternly.

They also did not take the Poisonous Flame Ancestor and the Ocean Convergence Elder seriously. As remnant organisations of Grand Exalts, they all possessed powerful legacies, standing above their peers.

"Is our Way Wielding clan supposed to fear the Martial God just because he's a difficult opponent?" the Seventh Heavenly Layer expert from the Way Wielding clan replied indifferently, without any fear.

"The Source of Life is mine! Move aside!" the Martial God said as he stared at them coldly.

"The Source of Life does not have a master. Anyone is free to take it for themselves. Our Way Wielding clan won't be giving up on it," the greatest expert of the Way Wielding clan said. As he said that, a stone plate immediately appeared in his hand. The word "Way" was engraved on there.

The Martial God immediately looked at the stone plate and became stern.

"The Source of Life will obviously go to the one who's destined to possess it. I don't think anyone would want to give up on a sovereign god artifact," said the Ocean Convergence Elder from the Star Brilliance Plane amicably while smiling faintly.

"You want to contend for the Source of Life, just by the likes of you?" The Martial God's eyes were cold. He pointed the Divine Spear of World Destruction towards the Ocean Convergence Elder and the terrifying pressure of a sovereign god artifact immediately enveloped him.

The Ocean Convergence Elder immediately became stern, like he was facing a great enemy, but he did not back down at all. He said coldly, "Martial God, since the Source of Life was discovered by us, we all can contend for it. If you even want to eliminate this slight chance, then I'll be forced to tell the Nine

Brilliance Star Lord about the Source of Life. I'm sure the Nine Brilliance Star Lord will definitely take interest in this."

"After all, the Source of Life is different from other peak god artifacts."

The Poisonous Flame Elder snickered. "Hehehehe, if the Nine Brilliance Star Lord really comes here, we'll probably all be forced to just stand by and watch on."

As soon as they mentioned the Nine Brilliance Star Lord, both the Way Wielding clan and the Martial God narrowed their eyes in great fear.

After all, that was a supreme expert that they could not defeat even if everyone here worked together!

As a renowned figure of the Star Brilliance Plane, the Ocean Convergence Elder was definitely capable of directly contacting the Nine Brilliance Star Lord.

"Alright. The Source of Life will go to the one who's more capable. As for who gets it in the end, it'll depend on your luck." In the end, the Martial God still ended up compromising. He did not dare to act too harshly against the others, just in case the Ocean Convergence Elder really contacted the Nine Brilliance Star Lord out of desperation.

The ancestor of the Way Wielding clan chuckled. He looked towards the Ocean Convergence Elder and the Poisonous Flame Ancestor. "You better not contact the Nine Brilliance Star Lord. There's only a single Source of Life, so only one person will be leaving with it today. If it ends up with us, our Way Wielding clan promises to give the three of you a great compensation. It won't be as great as the Source of Life, but I'm certain we won't leave you dissatisfied given the heritage of our Way Wielding clan."

The Martial God glanced coldly at the people from the Way Wielding clan and also said, "My Martial God clan will do the same. If I end up with the Source of Life, my Martial God clan will also compensate you."

He continued, "However, the Source of Life is surrounded by a powerful formation. It's extremely likely that the formation was cast down by a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime. The formation is no longer as powerful as it once was after all these years, but getting through it will still take quite the effort. Let's work together and breach the formation."

Chapter 3378: Past Grudges

"Hehehe, the Way Wielding clan and the Martial God clan seem to be absolutely certain that the Source of Life will end up with you. In terms of strength, you two are indeed the strongest, but a sovereign god artifact like the Source of Life cannot be obtained through strength alone. It depends on your personal fortune too." The Poisonous Flame Ancestor snickered. "But that's for later. Let's breach the formation first."

The Martial God sneered in response to what the Poisonous Flame Ancestor said, but he did not say anything more. Instead, he wielded the Divine Spear of World Destruction and erupted with the might of the sovereign god artifact, continuing with his attacks.

The Poisonous Flame Ancestor obviously noticed the Martial God's confidence. He thought, "*Martial God, I am indeed not your opponent right now, but once the Source of Life ends up with me, do I still have to fear you?*"

Both the Poisonous Flame Ancestor and the Ocean Returnance Elder were determined to obtain the Source of Life. They were willing to risk it.

That was a sovereign god artifact after all. It was far too tempting, enough to drive any late Grand Prime crazy.

Afterwards, the experts from the four organisations each took a side and attacked the protective formation around the Wood Spirits World at the same time.

A devastating storm of energy immediately erupted in this shattered space.

Under their combined attacks, the defensive formation around the Wood Spirits World grew fainter and fainter. There was not much energy left in the formation.

However, the experts from the four peak organisations completely failed to notice that an old man in a simple gown stood very far away, observing every action that they took.

The old man did not give off any presence. He seemed to have merged with the ways, becoming a part of the laws. Even the powerful senses of a Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Prime's soul failed to notice his existence.

At this moment, the old man's expression changed. He looked away from the experts of the Saints' World and turned towards the Wood Spirits World.

The space around the defensive formation of the Wood Spirits World immediately collapsed and a giant, green planet immediately emerged from there.

The defensive formation was connected with the green planet, borrowing the green planet's power to remain in operation.

"The Source of Life!"

The green planet's appearance immediately made the peak experts quiver. Their eyes began to burn with interest.

The green planet was the sovereign god artifact of the Wood Spirits, the Source of Life!

"Divine Spear of World Destruction, Way Wielding Stone, it's you two bastards again." The artifact spirit's illusionary face appeared on the Source of Life. It glared at the spear in the Martial God's hand and the stone tablet from the Way Wielding clan resentfully as it ground its teeth.

However, it noticed something and suddenly began to laugh aloud, taking great pleasure in their misfortune. "Divine Spear of World Destruction, Way Wielding Stone, your masters in the past were all Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes, lofty Saint Monarchs renowned through the Saints' World. Look at your wielders now. Look at how weak they've become. They're actually only mere Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Primes."

"Hahahaha, I don't know what ended up happening back then, but it looks like your two clans went into a complete decline since that battle too. Hahahahaha!"

The Martial God and the three experts from the Way Wielding clan were unfazed. They were not from that era, but their clans possessed a large number of ancient records, so they were all aware that it was since the battle with the Spiritsages that their clans entered a decline.

This decline had already lasted for who knew how many years, such that even now, they had yet to return to their peak condition.

They had always been missing a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime.

After all, experts of that cultivation were not that easy to produce.

“Hmm? Your cultivation methods actually seem slightly familiar...” At this moment, the artifact spirit turned towards the Poisonous Flame Ancestor and the Ocean Convergence Elder. After a moment of thought, it remembered something and immediately erupted with killing intent. “I remember now. You’re actually their successors. Your ancestors killed a large number of our experts in the past. You have an irreconcilable grudge with us.”

“Dammit. You’re actually all mortal enemies of our Wood Spirits.” The artifact spirit glanced past the six experts furiously and ground her teeth.

“Source of Life, who knows how many years it has been since that era. Your grievances with our predecessors have all vanished with our predecessors’ passing. It shouldn’t be passed onto us,” the ancestor of the Way Wielding clan said calmly.

“The founding ancestor of our Fire Fiend sect only obtained a supreme expert’s legacy and cultivation method accidentally. We actually have nothing to do with that supreme expert,” the Poisonous Flame Expert said firmly as well.

“Our Myriad Rivers sect’s founding ancestor also obtained a supreme expert’s cultivation method, which led him to founding the sect. Moreover, the founding ancestor passed away many years ago. He was the first generation of our Myriad Rivers sect, while I am the ninety-eighth generation,” said the Ocean Convergence Elder of the Myriad Rivers sect. He tried his best to distance himself from the creator of the cultivation method to avoid any disputes with the Source of Life.

“What’re we saying all this for? Breach the formation and only then will we have a chance at obtaining the Source of Life.” The Martial God did not try to explain anything. His presence surged as he unleashed a startling fighting will, directly thrusting out with the Divine Spear of World Destruction.

“Annihilation of the Myriad Ways!”

As he thrust out with the spear, the might of the world immediately descended. The Martial God directly used a God Tier Battle Skill through the sovereign god artifact.

The power behind a God Tier Battle Skill from a Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Prime was obviously extremely startling. Under the thrust, the ways collapsed as the laws were thrown into disorder. It was as if this strike truly possessed the divine might to slash through the ways.

Boom!

The spear struck the formation around the Wood Spirits World, immediately causing it to dim rapidly. It did not have much energy remaining in the first place from the combined attacks of the six experts earlier, which was immediately exhausted at this moment.

Without any energy left, the defensive formation of the Wood Spirits World collapsed on itself, directly obliterated by the Martial God's attack.

It was not just the formation. Even the Source of Life was affected.

It had only just awakened from its slumber, nowhere close to its peak condition, and it was without a master. The attack from the Divine Spear of World Destruction immediately exhausted a large amount of energy, causing the Source of Life to dim slightly as well.

"Once I reunite with the Sceptre of Life, I'll never spare you, Divine Spear of World Destruction!" The artifact spirit of the Source of Life threatened. Its greatest damage was not from the Martial God, but the Divine Spear of World Destruction in the Martial God's possession.

They were existences of the same level after all. Now that it was wielded by a Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Prime, not all of its powers could be unleashed, but it was still much more powerful than the Source of Life.

Chapter 3379: Forced to Take a Master

Faced with the Source of Life's threats, the Divine Spear of World Destruction rapidly responded. The inscriptions of the ways suddenly appeared on the spear, giving off a devastating presence, like a power that had been sealed away was awakening.

"Divine Spear of World Destruction, are you awakening?" The Martial God's arm shook slightly. He gazed at the Divine Spear of World Destruction with shining eyes as his face rapidly paled.

The energy in his body was being absorbed by the Divine Spear of World Destruction at an extremely terrifying rate. It was so fast that even he almost could not hold on despite his cultivation as a Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Prime.

After absorbing the Martial God's tremendous energy, the Divine Spear of World Destruction immediately erupted with dazzling light before turning into a streak of light and colliding against the Source of Life with devastating power.

Boom!

An unprecedented rumble erupted in the space there. The Source of Life that was as large as a planet immediately began to tremble violently, having been pushed back several tens of thousand kilometres by the Divine Spear of World Destruction. Its light shone even dimmer than before.

With only a single attack, it had exhausted a tremendous amount of the Source of Life's energy.

With the shift in location, the miniature world that the Source of Life originally covered was immediately exposed.

The eyes of the six experts present all lit up when they saw the miniature world.

“The miniature world should contain the group of Wood Spirits that separated from the others back then. Source of Life, I’ll leave you with one choice. Submit to me or I’ll destroy this miniature world,” the Martial God said coldly as his killing intent increased.

“I’ve already used the Way Wielding Stone to seal up this world. Source of Life, you can’t escape. Only one choice remains for you, which is to submit to us. If you submit to our Way Wielding clan, we will definitely treat your clansmen kindly,” the Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Prime from the Way Wielding clan said.

“Both the Way Wielding clan and the Martial God clan have grievances with the Wood Spirits in the past. On the other hand, our Myriad Rivers sect has no ill history with your Wood Spirits apart from the legacy that the founding ancestor happened upon by accident. Source of Life, our Myriad Rivers sect is the best choice for you,” the Ocean Convergence Elder said.

“Bullshit! Our Fire Fiend sect has always maintained contact with the experts of the Spiritsages and our relationship has always been very amicable. The Fire Fiend sect is your best choice. If you choose me as your master, even if I have to cast my life aside, I’ll still ensure the safety of your clansmen,” the Poisonous Flame Ancestor also offered up a verbal promise, unwilling to fall behind the others.

“Hmph, you’re dreaming if you think you can become my master. No, even if you’re dreaming, you wouldn’t have such crazy thoughts.” The Source of Life snorted proudly. The colossal planet shone with dazzling light and immediately enveloped the Wood Spirits World.

“How stubborn!” The Martial God’s gaze was cold. He ingested a few high grade God Tier pills to recover before continuing with his assault using the Divine Spear of World Destruction.

“Source of Life, if you refuse to submit, then I’ll be forced to cause offence.”

The Way Wielding clan, the Poisonous Flame Ancestor, and the Ocean Convergence Elder all struck out. Their powerful attacks hurtled towards the Source of Life at the same time.

Their objective was very simple. They wanted to waste away the Source of Life’s energy so that it could no longer put up any resistance before taking it by force.

It was an object after all. Even if it was a sovereign god artifact, it did not change the fact that it was an object.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Immediately, the experts struck out simultaneously and the destructive attacks all landed on the Source of Life.

The Source of Life rapidly withdrew all of its energy and shielded the Wood Spirits World below, completely relying on itself to endure their attacks.

After withdrawing all of its energy, the Source of Life no longer seemed like a shining planet, but a huge green orb instead.

The attacks landed on the Source of Life. They could shake the Source of Life, but they could not damage its intrinsic structure.

Let alone them, even Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes could not leave a scratch on sovereign god artifacts.

Of course, once a sovereign god artifact ran out of energy, that was equivalent to losing its autonomy. Despite its almost indestructible characteristic, it would become no different from a tough rock, free for experts to take away with force.

The artifact spirit's illusionary figure appeared before everyone in the Source of Life again, except it was stern.

"What's the situation outside?" Jian Chen asked sternly. The miniature world he remained in constantly shook, which even made him begin to worry.

The artifact spirit ignored Jian Chen and instead glanced at the nine experts of the Wood Spirits. It said reluctantly, "Listen up, juniors. I'm going to test you next and then choose the most outstanding one amongst you as my master."

"What? Become your master? Ancestral spirit, a-are you being serious?"

The nine experts were all startled by that. They were in disbelief.

Even Jian Chen was surprised.

The artifact spirit snorted coldly and said proudly, "Normally, given your capability, you'd never possess the right. But given the current situation, you're in luck today."

"Ancestral spirit, are the experts outside very difficult to deal with?" The Jade Heaven Ruler frowned.

"Hmph, they're only so-so." The artifact spirit was still as difficult to impress as before, taking no one seriously. "If it's just them, they obviously can't harm me, but they're using the shameless method of exhausting my energy. Even if my energy is exhausted, they can't do anything to me, but once I lose the ability to protect the Wood Spirits World, all the living creatures in the Wood Spirits World will perish, including you."

"Can't you bring everyone into the sovereign god artifact? Like the miniature world we're in right now?" Jian Chen asked.

"Kid, what the hell do you know?" The artifact spirit glanced at Jian Chen resentfully and said coldly, "I'm the Source of Life. I'm just an auxiliary god artifact, not an offensive one nor a spatial one. I'm completely incapable of bringing everyone in here. As for the miniature world you currently dwell in, it's just a space that I've forcefully opened up with my powers. It requires my constant flow of energy to support it."

"Once I run out of energy, this space will directly collapse and be completely destroyed."

"It's not just the miniature world. Even the Wood Spirits World outside will be no different."

Reaching there, the artifact spirit paused and gritted its teeth. "If there weren't the people outside making trouble, I'm completely capable of maintaining the existence of the Wood Spirits World forever. But right now, the six of them combined with the Divine Spear of World Destruction are depleting my energy far quicker than I can recover it."

"If I were at my peak condition, I could obviously hold on, but I can't last too long in my current state."

Towards the end, the proud artifact spirit also gave off a sense of powerlessness.

"Great ancestral spirit, if you choose a master among us, will we be able to fend off the powerful enemies outside?" the Mayhemless Heavenly King asked politely.

"You fool. You think you stand a chance against the people outside with just your ability? You're dreaming. Do you have any idea how powerful the people outside are? I'm not afraid of them, but when it comes to you, who knows how many times they can destroy you with a single huff." The artifact spirit unleashed a vicious verbal assault.

The Mayhemless Heavenly King lowered his head in a hurry. He did not dare to say anything more.

"If I wanted to flee, I only need to use all of my power to destroy the seal and get away from here alone, without bringing anyone with me. That is why I need to choose a master."

"Once I have a master, I'll be able to merge with them, so I'll be able to flee together with my master. My master will be able to use a spatial god artifact to bring everyone in the Wood Spirits World with them. That's the only way to protect the Wood Spirits World."

"Don't rely on the miniature world you're currently in. Once I use all of my power, the miniature world you see right now will cease to exist as well."

The artifact spirit spoke very frantically, like it was panicking. As soon as it said that, it waved its arm and a gate appeared mid-air.

"This test will examine your talent, potential, mentality, willpower, and so on. It'll carry out a test of all aspects on each of you before selecting the most outstanding one as my master. Time is tight, so hurry up." The artifact spirit explained in a hurry before forcefully sending the nine experts of the Wood Spirits inside.

Chapter 3380: Teetering Between Life and Death

In the blink of an eye, the nine Wood Spirits all vanished, having entered the land of tests set up by the artifact spirit.

Jian Chen was completely clueless about anything that happened inside there. He could only wait patiently.

During this time, the Source of Life was constantly under attack. As they were all full-powered attacks from Seventh Heavenly Layer Grand Primes, Jian Chen could very clearly sense the entire world rock as he remained within the Source of Life.

The Source of Life did not devote any energy to itself. It completely relied on its toughness to resist the devastating attacks while devoting a part of its power to protect the Wood Spirits World.

The protective formation cast down by the first ancestor had already been destroyed. If it were not for the Source of Life's protection, the Wood Spirits World could never weather a storm like this.

At this moment, the sky in the miniature world suddenly darkened. The space ripped open and the figure of a colossal spear entered from outside with a terrifying presence, invading this world.

Jian Chen's expression changed drastically. A chill ran down his spine. All he sensed was an aura of bleakness filling the world. The chilling force was present everywhere, invading every inch of space here.

At the same time, blood began to ooze out from the surface of his body. Just the force from the figure of the spear had pierced his Chaotic Body.

At this moment, he seemed like he was already covered with countless wounds.

"So powerful!" Jian Chen was shaken up inside as he stared straight at the figure of the spear in the sky.

He could tell with a single glance that the spear was not the weapon itself. Strictly speaking, it was something like a will.

The will directly pierced the Source of Life's external defences and reached its interior.

The will's target was obviously the artifact spirit of the Source of Life.

"How shameless! You useless, shitty spear, why don't you go and find the Sceptre of Life instead? All you know is how to harass me!" The artifact spirit cursed aloud. It seemed to be rather helpless against the Divine Spear of World Destruction's attack.

However, it soon pointed at Jian Chen and the power of the Source of Life surged out, forcefully moving him over from afar. It tossed him towards the Divine Spear of World Destruction in an extremely straightforward manner.

Immediately, the terrifying presence enveloped Jian Chen. Before they even made contact, his flesh erupted piece by piece, turning into bloody mist.

This was an attack from a sovereign god artifact after all. Even though it was only a will that the sovereign god artifact had sent in here, it was still much more than what Jian Chen could deal with.

Moreover, the illusionary figure of the Divine Spear of World Destruction rushed straight towards Jian Chen with surging killing intent.

"Source of Life, I'm still the one who awakened you. You're repaying generosity with animosity," Jian Chen's expression changed drastically as he roared out furiously.

"Why're you being afraid? Your body is tough enough, so you can hold it off for now. I'll heal you from behind. Don't worry, with me around, you won't die," the artifact spirit said with absolute confidence, without any sense of shame.

"You-" Jian Chen was absolutely furious. He had seen many artifact spirits in his life, but never had he seen an artifact spirit as shameless as the Source of Life, actually hiding behind him and getting others to deal with its troubles.

It was basically even craftier than people.

However, Jian Chen no longer had the time to say anything. The figure of the Divine Spear of World Destruction had already shot towards him as a bolt of light.

Immediately, his body crumbled away at an extremely terrifying rate. All of his blood and flesh was reduced to dust, vanishing into the surroundings.

The Divine Spear of World Destruction was far too powerful. It could destroy anything. With Jian Chen's strength, once he died to the Divine Spear of World Destruction, he would not even be left with any remains.

"Hmph, you shitty spear, have you asked for my permission to kill someone here?" The Source of Life snorted coldly as if it had only found a sense of being before the Divine Spear of World Destruction at this moment. It opened its mouth and a tremendous presence of life enveloped Jian Chen, which had Laws of Life at an extremely high level mixed in.

Immediately, Jian Chen's rapidly crumbling flesh began to recover. In the span of merely five seconds, his entire body reappeared.

However, the figure of the Divine Spear of World Destruction did not vanish. This was the will of a sovereign god artifact. It continued to destroy his body with its devastating attacks.

Behind him, the artifact spirit of the Source of Life faced off against the Divine Spear of World Destruction. The Divine Spear of World Destruction destroyed Jian Chen's body as it hid behind him, healing Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's body constantly shifted between the phases of destruction and recovery.

Even with the Source of Life healing him from behind, such pain over long periods of time was basically a hellish torture.

Jian Chen let out a deep howl as his forehead bulged with veins, enduring the intense pain of having his entire body ripped apart.

The pain was thousands and millions of times worse than when his Chaotic Body broke through.

"What're you howling for? It's just a bit of pain. It's not like it's going to kill you. Look at how disappointing you are from how you're responding," the artifact spirit pouted, but it secretly rejoiced inside. *"Fortunately, I have this kid with a tough body. If he weren't blocking it for me, the shitty spear really could cause me quite some pain."*

Shortly afterwards, it seemed to remember something. Its illusionary face became aggrieved as it grumbled inside, *"Sceptre of Life, where exactly have you gone? The Divine Spear of World Destruction should be your opponent, yet you're not around. I'm the Source of Life. My function is healing and recovery. It's not like I'm good at fighting. Fighting should be your job."*

"You shitty spear. You don't go and find the Sceptre of Life and instead come to harass me. Hmph, what's so impressive about harassing me?" The artifact spirit fumed.

Shortly afterwards, it looked at Jian Chen. As it watched Jian Chen block the Divine Spear of World Destruction with a face contorted from pain, it did not feel any sympathy at all. It opened its mouth and

let out another ball of life essence to heal Jian Chen before murmuring, "The people outside must have been drawn over by you. That's completely unforgivable. Even death is not enough to redeem you."

"However, you still can't die right now. If you die now, then the will that the shitty spear sent in here will hit me."

As it said that, the artifact spirit began to swing its arms. An even more tremendous presence of life surged out, completely engulfing Jian Chen and rapidly repairing his body.

The figure of the Divine Spear of World Destruction lasted for a half a minute before finally dissipating.

Jian Chen's destroyed body rapidly recovered under the Source of Life's healing. Even though he seemed like he was unscathed, he had become completely feeble. His face was pale-white, covered in huge beads of sweat as he sat on the ground while gasping for air.

In just half a minute, he had perished thousands of times amid the inhuman pain. Each time, he had been pulled back forcefully from the jaws of death by the Source of Life.

The tormenting experience was basically beyond anyone's imaginations.