#### Chaotic 1221

Chapter 1221: Urton

They arrived in front of the frozen Class 9 Magical Beasts next. All the magical beasts were extremely large, and from afar, they seemed like tall structures. Three of them were felines, ten meters tall and fifty or sixty meters long. The fourth one was a giant, two-headed python that sat there. It was three meters thick. The fifth magical beast as an unknown mutated beast of antiquity. Its two huge wings were extended, covering a distance of several hundred meters.

The final magical beast was a hundred-meter-tall Warbeast. It carried a white bone club on its shoulder. Although it had already been frozen into a statue, its wild presence could still be clearly sensed.

Jian Chen and Nubis looked at each other as shocked filled their gazes. Seeing several frozen human Saint Emperors was already stunning enough. They had never thought that they would see another six frozen Class 9 Magical Beasts.

Class 9 Magical Beasts stood at the same level as Saint Emperors. Even in ancient times, Class 9 Magical Beasts were apex existences along with Saint Emperors when ignoring the four great champions. They were supreme.

Yet, so many human Saint Emperors and Class 9 Magical Beasts had been frozen to death on the icy plains, which really affected their thoughts.

When did Saint Emperors become so fragile where they would end up freezing to death from the cold? If this news made it to the Tian Yuan Continent, it would be explosive, able to shake up all the experts on the continent.

However, this exact scene just happened to reflect the terrifying power of the Ice Goddess Hall.

"Saint Emperors reign supreme on the continent. No matter what identity they possessed before they died, they deserve a corresponding amount of respect. I'll take these Saint Emperors back and bury them on the Tian Yuan Continent," Jian Chen said in sorrow. He felt sorry for the horrible fate the Saint Emperors had suffered. They were mighty Saint Emperors, yet they met their end by freezing to death in this snowy land. There were not a lot of people throughout history who had suffered such a miserable end.

Jian Chen arrived before the Saint Emperors statues. He wanted to put them in his Space Ring to take them back. Unfortunately, the icy Saint Emperors had fused with the ground, so they were stuck there.

Jian Chen pulled out his Emperor Armament without hesitation and swung it at the ground. The ice was far tougher than he had imagined. After swinging the weapon a few times with full force, he only left behind a shallow mark.

After swinging over a hundred times, the frozen Saint Emperor was finally separated from the ground. However, at that moment, a crack rang out. A chink had suddenly appeared in the ice, which expanded at an unbelievable rate. It covered the entire person in just a few seconds.

Bang! With a gentle sound, the entire statue shattered. There was no blood at all. The Saint Emperor's flesh had already been frozen.

Jian Chen became stunned at this as he stared at the pile of ice that had once been a Saint Emperor. He could not help but sigh inside after witnessing a mighty Saint Emperor end up like this.

Jian Chen did not touch the other ice statues. He returned to where the Class 9 Magical Beast statues were. After hesitating slightly, he jumped up and swung the Emperor Armament at a feline magical beast.

After attacking several dozen times, Jian Chen finally beheaded the statue. As soon as the water tanksized head fell to the ground, it shattered with a bang, reduced to an icy mess.

## Crack! Crack! Crack!

The next moment, the cracks on the headless body quickly spread and turned it into an icy mess as well.

Jian Chen looked through the mess but he failed to find a complete Class 9 Monster Core. All he found were pieces of a frozen monster core. All of its energy had drained away, so it was useless.

Jian Chen was disappointed. He already understood that the frozen Class 9 Magical Beasts were worth nothing, and they could not be touched just like the human Saint Emperors, or they would be reduced to an icy mess. Even their Space Rings would be destroyed.

"These Saint Emperors and Class 9 Magical Beasts have died far too long ago. Their flesh has completely fused and turned into ice," Rui Jin sighed. He felt rather heavy-hearted.

"They've been dead for at least several hundreds of thousands of years," said Nubis.

"Let's continue," Jian Chen signaled everyone. They no longer paid attention to the ice statues and continued on.

As they rapidly traveled deeper into the icy plains, they came across quite a few ice statues. There were both humans and magical beasts, but they were all at the level of Saint Emperor. None of them were weaker than Saint Emperor.

"This place is just too terrifying. We've found over thirty Saint Emperors and Class 9 Magical Beasts that have been frozen into statues," Nubis said with a slight tremble to his voice. He had already begun to feel some dread for this place. This was basically a graveyard for Saint Emperors.

An hour later, they traveled another five hundred kilometers. The temperature there haf dropped even lower. Jian Chen and Nubis were already using everything they had to stay warm while Yu Fengyan had been sent into the artifact space by Jian Chen. Even Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu had donned their origin armor.

"There's another fallen expert here," Nubis said as he pointed ahead.

An extremely burly man sat on the ground. His eyes were tightly closed, having died long ago.

"There's words!" Jian Chen said with a hoarse voice. A line of words had been carved into the ice right in front of the man.

"I am Urton. I was invincible. After several hundred years of secluded cultivation, I failed to break through to the Origin realm. I learned of the mysterious Ice Goddess Hall from ancient records and came

to find them, but who would have thought that I would freeze to death before I could even catch a glimpse of them. I am unwilling. I am filled with unwillingness for falling here..."

"Urton, it's actually Urton. He's the ruler of the Beast God Continent five hundred thousand years ago. It's said that he was the strongest magical beast, having reached the peak of Class 9. No one was his opponent among the humans and the magical beasts. I never thought he ended up dying here," Nubis cried out.

## Chapter 1222: Changyang Mingyue

Jian Chen trembled inside when he heard that. After examining the frozen middle-aged man again, he felt exceptionally shocked inside. Even the ruler of the Beast God Continent, having reached the apex of Saint Emperor and only a single step away from the supreme Origin realm, had frozen to death here as well. The shock that it brought Jian Chen was far greater than seeing the thirty-odd Saint Emperors and Class 9 Magical Beasts earlier.

The power of peak Saint Emperors was incomparable to regular Saint Emperors. The difference was akin to the Ninth Heavenly Layer of Saint Ruler and the First Heavenly Layer of Saint Kings or Saint Kings at Great Perfection and those who had only recently became Saint Kings. Although they belonged to the same level of cultivation, the disparity was enormous.

Not only was Urton a peak Saint Emperor, he was a beast of antiquity as well. He was even more powerful than human peak Saint Emperors, and it would be true to call him the strongest beneath the Origin realm. Yet, even someone like Urton could not avoid being frozen into a statue. Not only this make Jian Chen and Nubis shiver inside, even Rui Jin, Hei Yu and Hong Lian felt the same.

"Five hundred thousand years ago, Urton was invincible. There was no one who could defeat him, but he actually met his end on these icy plains and did not fall in battle. This place is just too terrifying," Nubis said in shock. He was shivering inside. His fear for this place had become much heavier after seeing Urton's frozen corpse.

It was not just Nubis. Even Jian Chen felt a sliver of dread. The icy plains were far too terrifying; just the icy climate was enough to freeze Saint Emperors to death. No wonder the Saint Emperor ancestors of the protector clans were so fearful of the Ice Goddess Hall.

Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu looked at each other and became extremely solemn. Even before Saint Emperors, they had never shown such a serious expression before.

Nubis bowed deeply to Urton before continuing on with Jian Chen and the others. They did not touch Urton's corpse, not even the Space Ring on his finger. With what they had experienced earlier, they all knew that both Urton and his Space Ring had been reduced to ice after so many years. His entire body would turn into an icy mess after the layer of ice on the surface was destroyed.

Everyone felt very heavy inside after witnessing what had happened to Urton. They did not say anything and continued on in a straight path.

After traveling for another hundred kilometers, Nubis could no longer endure it any longer as the weakest. He was sucked into the artifact space by Jian Chen. If it were not for Jian Chen's Chaotic Body and the Chaotic Force, he probably would not have been able to last until now either. The coldness had

reached an extremely terrifying level where even the Saint Force of Saint Kings could be frozen. The only reason why Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu could continue on was because they used their own great powers along with the origin energy armor.

However, they knew very well that the coldness was far weaker than several hundreds of thousand years ago. Otherwise, they would not have been able to make it further than Urton with their strength as Saint Kings. They might have already been frozen into life-like statues before they had even seen the Saint Emperor statues.

They traveled another half a day, but they only traveled five hundred kilometers during that time. They were obstructed by a layer of boundless cold mist. The mist seemed to form a natural barrier, stopping them in their path.

"This mist is something else," Hong Lian said heavily as she stared at the mist after they all had stopped. It was illogical for mist to exist at such a terrifyingly cold temperature.

Mist was fine droplets of water, yet it was impossible for water to exist in this wasteland because all of it should have frozen into ice that was tougher than steel.

"You guys stay here first. I'll go in and have a look," said Hong Lian. The flames on her glowed much brighter and the Scorching Godfire Hairpin appeared in her hands. She carefully made her way into the region of mist.

As soon as she stepped into the mist, a hissing sound was immediately produced from the contact of mist and flames. However, the mist was far more terrifying than anyone had imagined. Hong Lian only lasted a few seconds before her roaring flames were suppressed by the mist. Within the next few seconds, the flames had been forced back into her body. The coldness rapidly drew closer to Hong Lian, where even her fire-red feathermail became coated by a thin layer of white frost.

Hong Lian paled in fright. She had realized long ago that the mist was nowhere near as simple as it seemed, but in no way did she ever expect it to be so terrifying. Without holding back, white flames surged from her hairpin, engulfing her in a single moment.

The power of the white flames was incomparable to the power of the red flames. As soon as they appeared, the ice crystals on her melted and even the mist around her was forced back by three inches.

Hong Lian was relieved. She continued on as she protected herself with her hairpin. However, the coldness in the mist increases as she went deeper inside. Taking just the first step, the mist grew half an inch closer to her, now two and a half inches away.

When she took a second step, the mist grew another half an inch closer, now two inches away. With the third step, it was one and a half inches away, and with the fourth, it was only an inch away from her.

Hong Lian gently sighed as she looked at the white haziness that showed no signs of ending. She carefully backed off. She knew if she took a fifth step, the coldness would end up pressing against her skin and she would be frozen into a statue. Even with her origin energy weapon, it might not be enough to keep her safe.

"You should all see as well. The mist is far more terrifying than we imagined. Even I can only take a few steps. You can't make it through it," Hong Lian said with some dejection. She reigned supreme with fire

and could conquer the cold. However, even the mist did not open a path for her even after she had brandished her origin energy weapon. She was unable to lighten up no matter what over this.

Jian Chen frowned as well. He could obviously see just how terrifying the mist was, but it seemed to form a barrier stopping them. It was boundless, so if they could not pass through it, they could only end their journey there, let alone find the Ice Goddess Hall.

At the same time, in a room completely constructed from ice, a lady, who seemed to be around twenty years of age, sat on a white piece of ice as she cultivated.

The lady was extremely pretty, such that her beauty could outshine the moon. She was completely snow-white; not only her hair, but her eyebrows and eyelashes as well.

The lady was Changyang Mingyue who had left the clan many years ago.

Suddenly, Changyang Mingyue opened her eyes. Her face lit up in surprise, and she excitedly said, "Brother, it's my brother. I can see my brother..." With that, she leaped off the ice and ran out of the room as a white blur.

There was a room completely constructed from snow and ice, and all the decor in there was created from ice crystals. They shone brightly and were extremely pretty. Although the room was wonderfully decorated, it was all snow-white. There was only white, and the temperature there had also reached an unbelievably low level.

Compared to the temperature in the room, an eternal cavern of ice was like a scorching volcano.

A person clad in white armor sat on a bed of ice in the room. Her eyes were closed and the armor completely covered her, only revealing her eyes. Even her face was concealed.

At this moment, the door to the room forcefully swung open. Changyang Mingyue ran in with bare feet in joy as she urgently said, "Protector Shui, I can see my brother. I can see my brother. My brother's come, and he's been obstructed by the profound ice Qi outside. Let him in quick." Her voice was filled with excitement. Perhaps due to being overjoyed, a faint red flush had appeared on her pale-white face.

Protector Shui slowly opened her eyes. She could not help but gently sigh when she saw how excited Changyang Mingyue was. She said, "Your majesty, can't you just forget about them?" The 'them' she had mentioned was not just Jian Chen, it included all the people in the Changyang clan and all the people Changyang Mingyue once knew.

Changyang Mingyue became angered, "Protector Shui, I can never forget my brother. He will always be my brother, so hurry up and let him in."

"Sigh," protector Shui exhaled. Helplessness filled her eyes.

Chapter 1223: Reuniting Mother and Daughter (One)

Jian Chen, Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu camped for quite some time outside the hazy mist. All of them frowned, but none of them could do anything to the terrifying mist, including Rui Jin.

Rui Jin and Hong Lian used countless secret techniques of their clans during that time, but they were all useless. Even Jian Chen's presence was unable to penetrate through the mist. As soon as his presence

entered it, the chilling coldness would attack his mind by following his presence, stunning him to the point where he no longer dared to make any future attempts.

"Looks like this is as far as we can go," Jian Chen said in a heavy voice. He was extremely disappointed. He had never thought that they would fail to even catch a single glimpse of the Ice Goddess Hall despite bringing such a powerful party.

At this moment, the mist ahead began to churn violently, slowly parting open. Very soon, a three-meter-wide path formed in front of the four of them, and at the end of the path was a snow-white and bright glacial world, not a hazy mist.

They all looked at each other after the passageway suddenly appeared. They had never thought that the mist that had stopped them from traveling further would create a path. They were in disbelief.

Suddenly, Jian Chen seemed to think of something. His eyes immediately lit up and he said, "I understand. This layer of mist must be controlled by someone, and the controller probably knows of our arrival, which is why they've formed a tunnel for us to get through." However, Jian Chen could not help but think about how his sister had become the holy maiden of the Ice Goddess Hall. He guessed that Changyang Mingyue possessed quite the status within the Ice Goddess Hall, but he was uncertain if the formation of the tunnel had anything to do with her.

With the tunnel, the four of them gave up on the thought of returning. They then carefully passed through it.

The tunnel in the mist was a thousand meters long. The four of them passed through it very soon and arrived in a region beyond the mist. The environment past the mist was like heaven compared to the climate outside. Although it was still a world of ice and snow, the landscape was pretty, picturesque like a lovely drawing. The surrounding glaciers were crystal-clear, like huge mountains of crystal.

If the region outside the mist was like the churning sea, this would be a flat and peaceful part of the ocean. There was no terrifying wind or any icy temperatures that could freeze Saint Kings to death. Outside, even regular Saint Kings would struggle to survive, yet even people as weak as Earth Saint Masters could move around freely here.

Although the two places were only separated by a thousand meters of mist, they felt like they were two completely different worlds.

"Is this the Ice Goddess Hall?" Suddenly, Hei Yu pointed ahead and asked.

They looked to where he was pointing, and twenty kilometers away, a crystal palace that seemed to have been carved from ice stood quietly on the icy plains. It gave off a respectful presence, as if it had stood through many years of wind and rain. Although it was grand and beautiful, the four of them could clearly feel that it was filled with the ancient presence of time.

The crystal palace seemed to have stood all by itself for countless years, while the ancient presence was far heavier than any item they had ever seen that had managed to survive through the ages.

"This must be the Ice Goddess Hall. We've finally arrived," Jian Chen mumbled as he stared at the divine hall up ahead. His voice was filled with some excitement, and he instinctively began to walk over in a hurry.

The four of them stopped in front of the Ice Goddess Hall very soon. Only by standing in front of the structure could they feel its grandeur. They felt like ants standing before an elephant.

The feeling did not seem to linger around the building, but from the vast presence of the structure.

Dazed, they suddenly felt a different impression, as if they were not facing against the pretty Ice Goddess Hall, but the infinite cosmos.

A person in silver-white armor stood silently at the top of the structure. Her armor covered every part of her, including her face. Only two icy-cold eyes were revealed, but it was still possible to tell that she was female from the shape of her body.

She stood there unmoving like an ice statue, nor did she give off any presence. She seemed to have completely fused with the surroundings, becoming a part of the world.

Protector Shui glanced over the four of them with her emotionless eyes, but to them, she seemed to be transparent. None of them discovered her existence.

Chapter 1224: Reuniting Mother and Daughter (Two)

Jian Chen, Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu all observed the huge divine hall in front of them unblinkingly. The ancient, vast presence struck their souls in waves, filling them with deep shock.

Rui Jin and Hong Lian were the first ones to calm down. They stared sternly at the divine hall and a similar thought crossed both their minds. The divine hall did not belong to this world at all.

With a rumble, the crystal door slowly opened. A completely snow-white beauty silently stood there with bare feet as a certain coldness immediately surged out.

"Brother!" The lady focused all her attention on Jian Chen, as if Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu were all transparent. Her face was filled with great joy and excitement while her voice slightly trembled.

Jian Chen's gaze also landed on her. Although they had not seen each other for over a decade, he was still able to recognize her at first glance. She was the person he was searching for, his sister Changyang Mingyue.

"Sister!" Jian Chen cried out as his heart began to churn as well. Other than Bi Yuntian, his sister had cared for him the most when he was young. At that time, his brother Changyang Ke bullied him several times, and every time Changyang Mingyue saw him, she would stand on his side without any hesitation. As a result, Jian Chen viewed his sibling kinship with her in an extremely important light, even surpassing his brotherhood with Changyang Hu.

It was just a pity after the matters that had occured with the Huayun sect back then, Jian Chen was forced to leave Lore City. He never saw his sister again and did not even hear any news involving her. Both he and Yu Fengyan ended up believing many times that Changyang Mingyue had suffered an accident, filling them both with sorrow.

Changyang Mingyue stepped over the great door sill and ran toward Jian Chen. Jian Chen also emotionally ran to her. As they grew closer and closer, Jian Chen could feel the temperature around him rapidly plummet. When they were only ten meters away, Jian Chen had become covered in a white layer of frost.

Jian Chen quickly calmed down. He could feel the sudden drop in temperature in his surroundings and could not help but feel secretly shocked. However, what surprised him even more was that all the coldness actually came from Changyang Mingyue.

Changyang Mingyue's face immediately changed when she saw the layer of frost on Jian Chen. She immediately halted and rapidly backed off, drawing far away from Jian Chen. At the same time, she urgently cried out, "Don't come over!"

Jian Chen stopped and looked at her from thirty meters away. He asked, "Sister, just what is happening? Why are you radiating such coldness?"

Changyang Mingyue radiated with an extremely cold presence. If it were not for the fact that they were in a world of ice and snow, probably a thick layer of ice would have formed in the radius of several thousand meters. Even bodies of water would end up freezing.

Changyang Mingyue was pained, "Brother, it's my Profound Ice Body. My Profound Ice Body has not fully matured yet, so I can't control the profound ice Qi that I radiate."

"How have you become like this, sister? What is all this about?" Jian Chen asked rather urgently. In his memory, his sister had never been like this before.

"It's a long story. I'll tell you about it in detail later, but I heard from protector Shui that you came across a few problems a few years ago. Are some large clans or sects bullying you? Don't worry. Once my Profound Ice Body fully matures, I'll go to the Tian Yuan Continent and teach all those people a lesson," Changyang Mingyue firmly promised. She cared for Jian Chen very much, as if he was an eternal child in her eyes.

Jian Chen suddenly felt extremely warm inside. Thinking back to his youth, wasn't this exactly how his sister watched over him? She did not want him to be bullied at all, and his brother Changyang Ke had been secretly punished by her several times.

What she did not know was whenever Changyang Ke tried to bully him, he would not only fail, but end up getting the short end of the stick himself. He had never succeeded in benefiting at Jian Chen's expense.

"Has mother been well? And how have father, first aunt, third aunt, and fourth aunt been? What about big brother and uncle Chang? I actually really want to go home. I miss mother so much, but I can't right now. Protected Shui won't let me," Changyang Mingyue said in a rather depressed manner. Her joy from seeing Jian Chen just now gradually faded away as worry filled her face. She wanted to go home far too much.

Jian Chen suddenly snapped back to his sense as soon as he heard about Yu Fengyan. He immediately retreated to Hong Lian's side and released Yu Fengyan from the Saint artifact. Originally, Jian Chen only planned on letting her out, but Nubis ended up coming out as well when he heard that they had arrived at the Ice Goddess Hall.

Although the coldness was much less than outside, it was still not something that Yu Fengyan could endure as a Great Saint Master. Fortunately Hong Lian's was there to help out, keeping the low temperature at bay with her flames.

"Mother!" Changyang Mingyue became so excited to the point that she could not express her emotions properly when she saw Yu Fengyan. She charged up without thinking, but she stopped after just two steps. Tears rolled down her face as she slowly backed off in pain. She knew just how powerful the profound ice Qi she radiated with was. It was not something Yu Fengyan could endure.

Yu Fengyan became stunned the moment she saw Changyang Mingyue. Tears poured uncontrollably from her eyes while an endless number of thoughts bounced around. She bit her lip tightly as she stared at Changyang Mingyue and could not help but tremble violently.

"Mingyue!" Yu Fengyan called out the next moment and quickly ran toward Changyang Mingyue. There was only one thing she wanted to do right now, and that was to tightly embrace her daughter who she had thought of daily.

How could Jian Chen let Yu Fengyan run over? As soon as she began to move she was blocked by Jian Chen

"Xiangtian, let me through. Don't block me. Xiangtian, I'm begging you. Let me through..." Yu Fengyan struggled in the space frozen by Jian Chen as she pleaded through her sobs.

Jian Chen's heart ached inside. If he didn't need to, he really would not have stopped Yu Fengyan, but he was considering her safety right now. No matter how reluctant he was, he needed to stop her.

"Aunt, sister's Profound Ice Body radiates a terrifying coldness. You can't go over, or you'll be frozen into an ice statue," Jian Chen bitterly explained.

"I don't care. Even if I freeze to death, I don't care. Xiangtian, I'm begging you, don't stop me. Just let me through. I just want to get a good look at Mingyue," Yu Fengyan sobbed.

### Chapter 1225: Protector Shui Moves

Jian Chen shook his head with a bitter face. He could not let anything happen to his second aunt. Even if she ended up nursing grievances against him, he would not let her through. With his current strength, he could only manage to get ten meters away from Changyang Mingyue. If it were Yu Fengyan, she probably would have been reduced to a frozen sculpture before she even reached twenty meters away.

"Mother, don't come over. You can't come over!" Changyang Mingyue loudly sobbed as tears ran down her face. She was extremely sorrowful as she backed off step by step, moving further and further away from Yu Fengyan.

After parting for almost ten years, the two of them had finally met again in this land of ice and snow, but they could only look at each other from a hundred meters away. This was extremely painful to both of them.

In the end, the two of them began asking about each other from a hundred meters away. All their thoughts throughout the years poured out like a flood.

Unknowingly, the two of them had already talked for most of the day, but the sky did not show any changes at all, as if night did not exist in this land.

"Your majesty, you should return now. Your Profound Ice Body has yet to fully mature, so you can't leave the divine hall for too long." At this moment, an emotionless voice suddenly rang out. Protector Shui finally spoke while she stood on the divine hall.

Jian Chen, Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu were all startled inside by the voice. They looked to the place where the voice originated from. Only at that moment did they realize that there was another person standing high up, fully clad in armor.

Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu narrowed their eyes the moment they saw her while their hearts wildly churned inside. This was because all three of them felt tricked at the same time. The protector had definitely been there before they had even arrived. She did not conceal herself and had instead casually stood there, yet they had failed to notice her.

The three of them also understood that if she did not speak, they would never have discovered her existence.

Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu looked at each other as their complexions became horrible. Not only were they unable to see through her strength, they could not even sense her presence, as if she was just thin air. They could only see her with their eyes.

"Surpassed Saint Emperor!" At this moment, the same thought appeared in all their heads. They had fought against Saint Emperors more than once, so they obviously had an extremely good understanding of experts at that level, yet protector Shui's existence was completely different. They had never witnessed her fight, nor did they know her strength, but they were extremely certain that she was definitely a supreme existence that had surpassed Saint Emperor.

The three of them were utterly astounded by the fact that there were still existences that had surpassed Saint Emperor in this age that lacked Saint Emperors.

Changyang Mingyue looked at Jian Chen and Yu Fengyan, reluctant to leave. She said, "Mother, brother, I will return. Don't worry mother, once my Profound Ice Body matures, I'll definitely visit home."

Yu Fengyan felt a stabbing pain inside now that she was about to part with her beloved daughter. She looked at Changyang Mingyue's face in reluctance as tears rolled down her face.

"Brother, if you ever come across anything you can't deal with in the future, come look for me. No matter what it is, I can solve it for you. I heard from protector Shui that you've already become very powerful and are now a Saint King, but don't look down on me. I'm also a Saint King and at the Ninth Heavenly Layer. You're not my opponent right now." Changyang Mingyue faintly smiled with that. It seemed a little like she was boasting.

"What! You're a Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint King now?" Jian Chen was shocked and disbelief was plastered across his face.

Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu became astounded as well.

"Remember to come visit me in a year's time. I have a gift for you. Also, these icy plains are the territory of protector Shui. She'll know every single thing that happens here. I've ordered her to bring you over as long as you are standing on the icy plains." With that, Changyang Mingyue disappeared inside the divine hall.

"Mingyue, I'll be waiting for you to return home. Cultivate well," Yu Fengyan called out when the door had closed.

"Aunt, sister is very well here. She'll return without much longer. Don't be so sorrowful," Jian Chen comforted.

Yu Fengyan clearly understood that it was a great fortune for Changyang Mingyue to stay in this icy land, so she calmed down very quickly. All the worry and anxiety in her heart was rapidly vanishing without her knowing after personally seeing that Changyang Mingyue was well. Some light returned to her eyes and her mood took a drastic turn for the better.

Jian Chen looked toward protector Shui and clasped his hands, "Senior, there is still one matter that confuses me. May I ask why my sister has become the holy maiden? Please enlighten me." Jian Chen was extremely curiously as to why Changyang Mingyue had become the holy maiden of the Ice Goddess Hall. However, he also knew that probably even Changyang Mingyue had no idea how to answer the question, which was why he asked protector Shui.

He had already learned from Changyang Mingyue that she was the most powerful person in the Ice Goddess Hall. Her strength was unfathomable. She stood supreme in the organization with everyone else working beneath her.

"You have no right to know about matters concerning her majesty. If it weren't for the fact that you were siblings with her majesty, you lot would have frozen to death on the icy plains long ago. How would you still have been able to make it here?" Protector Shui's voice was extremely cold, as if she was completely emotionless. Shortly afterward, she turned to Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu, She looked at them like ants and said, "Tell me, where did you obtain the saint artifacts that contain a sliver of origin energy?"

The three of them looked at each other and they felt an ill omen. They hesitated slightly but still ended up responding, "They were given to us by the ancient Winged Tiger God."

"The Winged Tiger God," mumbled protector Shui. She said, "So it really was that beast. I never thought he'd be far more complicated than I had imagined, actually able to deliver saint artifacts here without me noticing."

Protector Shui fell silent for some time. She pondered for a while before continuing, "The saint artifacts on the three of you shouldn't have appeared in this world. Seeing how you're related to her majesty, I won't make things difficult for you. Hand over the saint artifacts, and I'll destroy them."

The three of them changed in expression with that. The Sacred Dragon's Armor and the Sacred Dragon's Sword were clan treasures of the Dragon clan while the Ninerefined Godfire Feathermail and Scorching Godfire Hairpin were clan treasures of the Scorching Divine Phoenix clan. These items held significant value to them, so how could they just hand them over?

"Senior, you say you want to destroy the clan treasures of the Dragon clan and Phoenix clan as soon as you start talking. Aren't you going overboard?" Jian Chen was furious as well. He spoke with a dark expression.

"Correct. The treasures are even more important than our lives. It's impossible if you want us to hand them over so you can destroy them," Rui Jin angrily replied. Even though he knew that protector Shui was someone who had surpassed Saint Emperor, he still showed now fear.

"The only way for you to destroy the clan treasures of the Phoenix clan is by stepping over my dead body," Hong Lian spoke firmly as well. Her eyes burned with red light since she was furious as well.

"I would obviously do nothing if your clan treasures were still how they were originally, but now, they've stopped being the same. They're saint artifacts that don't belong to this world, so I will obviously destroy them. I'll let the three of you choose. Hand them over to me and I'll let you leave without a single scratch, or stay here with the saint artifacts," said protector Shui slowly.

"Hmph, you've said in such a firm manner that senior Rui Jin and Hong Lian's clan treasures were no longer the same as before. Have you personally seen the treasures before?" Jian Chen coldly said asked, but he was extremely nervous inside.

Rui Jin and Hong Lian became extremely ugly. They both had inherited memories, so they obviously understood the treasures very well. They understood that they were indeed very indifferent from how they were before. They had already discovered this the moment they had obtained them.

Hei Yu could not help but draw his origin energy machete and a layer of armor appeared on his at the same time. He furiously said, "I don't care who you are, but it's impossible if you want to destroy our origin energy treasures. So what if you've surpassed Saint Emperor? I'd like to see just how powerful these sovereign-like existences are." A vast presence erupted from Hei Yu as he poured surging energy into his machete, allowing it to glow bright. Powerful blade Qi filled the surroundings.

Hei Yu knew that protector Shui was extremely powerful, having surpassed Saint Emperor, so he used all his strength.

Protector Shui looked at Hei Yu coldly and in disdain. She did nothing, but the next moment, a layer of clear ice crystals quickly spread up from his feet. The crystals of ice moved extremely quickly, coating his entire body in the blink of an eye.

Equipped with both the origin energy armor and weapon, Hei Yu had been frozen into a statue of ice before he could even deal a single attack.

Chapter 1226: Trapped at the Ice Goddess Hall

Rui Jin and Hong Lian were immediately shocked when they saw Hei Yu freeze into a statue in the blink of an eye. Hei Yu was protected by the origin energy armor and possessed an origin energy weapon for offense. He could even stand against Saint Emperors without suffered defeat, yet he was so fragile before protector Shui, having frozen without being able to resist at all. They had finally witnessed the terror of someone who had surpassed Saint Emperor.

Jian Chen and Nubis stared at the frozen Hei Yu in shock as well while their hearts churned inside.

Yu Fengyan could also tell that the three of them had fallen out with protector Shui. She immediately became nervous. She knew that they had helped her quite a lot for her to stand here today, so she was obviously extremely unwilling for anything to happen to them. In her opinion, the reason why the three

of them had traveled so far to come to the Ice Goddess Hall was related to her. If the three of them were in trouble because of her, she would be filled with remorse.

"Senior, is it possible to let senior Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu go on Mingyue's behalf?" Yu Fengyan called out. She really did not wish to see the three of them remain trapped here because of her.

Protector Shui's eyes were cold and completely emotionless, like ice that would never melt. Although she had heard Yu Fengyan's request, she did not nothing. She did not even glance at her, completely ignoring her.

In reality, Yu Fengyan definitely would not have been able to stand there unharmed if it were not for the fact that she was the mother of the holy maiden.

"Are you going to have your saint artifacts destroyed, or will you be staying here forever?" Protector Shui coldly asked Rui Jin and Hong Lian.

"Hmph, even if I know we're not your opponent, we'll never hand over the clan treasures. The only way for you to destroy them is by doing it over my dead body," Rui Jin coldly replied before beginning to glow all over with golden light. The dazzling light of the Sacred Dragon's Armor and Sword covered his body as terrifying ripples of energy pulsed around him. A packed layer of golden dragon scales quickly appeared as well, enveloping his entire body. Even his hands turned into huge dragon claws.

At the same time, fire surged into the sky beside him. With a clear phoenix's cry, Hong Lian turned into a giant phoenix that was several dozen meters long and surrounded by roaring flames. The Ninerefined Godfire Feathermail covered her body as the Scorching Godfire Hairpin hovered above her head. The flames around her rapidly turned to a pure-white, radiating with terrifying heat.

"Nubis, aunt, you two enter the artifact space first." When Rui Jin and Hong Lian transformed, Jian Chen did not stand around either. He sent the two of them into the artifact space as soon as he could.

A deafening roar and a clear cry rang out at the same time. Rui Jin and Hong Lian moved at the same time, dealing a full-powered attack together. The Sacred Dragon's Sword glowed with dazzling light as it was swung toward protector Shui with a shocking might.

The Scorching Godfire Hairpin was surrounded by scorching white flames. It radiated with heat that was even more terrifying than the sun while it shot at protector Shui with unbelievable speed as a white streak of light. Wherever it passed, the air became filled with a burnt smell. It seemed to be incinerating air.

"Looks like you've already made your choices. Very well!" Protector Shui coldly said. A gleam of light flashed through her eyes and the sword and hairpin came to a halt. An invisible barrier seemed to have stopped them in their paths. They could not travel any further no matter how terrifying they were.

The next moment, a layer of ice crystals appeared on the two weapons. The sharp presence of the sword and the terrifying white flames of the hairpin were unable to stop the rapid expansion of the ice. Wherever the crystals formed, froze the sword Qi in place and the instantly extinguished the white flames. In the blink of an eye, the invincible weapons were frozen in the air by a thin layer of frost.

Shock was spelled across Rui Jin and Hong Lian's faces. The next moment, their faces suddenly hardened. The moment had become eternal as a thin layer of frost silently appeared on them as well. The ice crystals engulfed them before they could even react, turning them into ice statues.

Although the layer of ice was thin, it possessed unbelievable might. Not only did it freeze them, an extremely cold stream invaded their bodies as well, freezing their energy and their souls.

At that moment, Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu had all fallen unconscious. To them, time seemed to have stopped.

"Senior!" Jian Chen furiously shouted. He arrived beside Rui Jin and constantly threw punches at the ice. Each fist possessed all his strength as he attempted to free Rui Jin by smashing the frost.

However, the crystals were extraordinarily tough despite how thin they were. Jian Chen's fists, which could easily destroy entire mountains, only produced faint thuds as they struck the ice. He could not even leave a mark on the ice, let alone smash through it.

Jian Chen drew his Emperor Armament after seeing how his punches were useless. He stabbed out with everything he had.

Ding! As the sharp sword tip struck the ice crystals, the sword resonated at a clear frequency. His attack had basically reached the level of peak Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint Kings, yet they were still unable to leave a single mark on the ice.

Jian Chen did not give up. He roared at the sky as his hair and clothes fluttered from his aura. He swung the Emperor Armament at the ice that trapped Rui Jin, which rang out every single time he struck it. All his attacks contained everything he had, but the layer of frost remained unscathed despite wildly swinging the sword several hundred times. He still failed to leave behind a mark.

Protector Shui stood unmoving on top of the divine hall like an ice sculpture. She coldly stared at Jian Chen and said, "Go. You can't break through my Extreme Icelock. You can't even if you're a Saint Emperor."

Jian Chen knew that he could not break through the thin layer of frost, so he stopped his pointless actions. He turned toward protector Shui and said, "Senior, you've already frozen up the clan treasures. Can't you let the three seniors go?"

"I am already acting on behalf of the holy maiden for letting you leave unharmed, yet you want to bicker with me?" Her eyes became much sharper now as heavy killing intent lingered with her words. With a wave of her hand, Jian Chen suddenly disappeared from the icy plains.

Jian Chen only felt like he had been trapped by an invisible force. The force was extremely great, so great that he actually felt like he was facing something as vast as the universe. He felt as weak as an ant before the force, lacking any power to resist at all. The thought of resisting had not even crossed his mind.

"Oh no. Is the protector going to do something to me?" Jian Chen's heart sank. However, as soon as he thought that, he felt his body lighten. The invisible force had suddenly disappeared, which was then followed by a wave of heat sweeping over him. The world of ice had vanished. He now stood in a desolate region of land.

Jian Chen knew that he had returned to the Tian Yuan Continent, but he could not brighten up no matter what, because Rui Jin, Hong Lian and Hei Yu remained trapped on the icy plains of the north. They had not returned with him.

Suddenly, Jian Chen shot into the sky toward the clouds. He hovered in the air as he pulled out a map, quickly finding his bearings. He discovered that he was not very far away from the sea that separated the arctic from the continent.

With a thought, a golden streak of light immediately flew out of area between his eyebrows. It turned into a fist-sized golden tower that hovered in the air.

"Artifact spirit, find a place to hide with my aunt and Nubis. I'll be going to the Ice Goddess Hall again. If I don't return in seven days, get Nubis to take you to the Changyang clan in Lore City," Jian Chen said to the golden tower.

Receiving an order, the golden tower immediately transformed into a golden streak of light and disappeared into the ground. Jian Chen traveled toward the arctic once more all by himself.

A day later, Jian Chen crossed the vast seas and landed on the icy plains again. He used the Illusory Flash as he hurried to the depths of the icy plains as a blur.

When Jian Chen had traveled less than ten kilometers, a terrifying stream of coldness seemed to have descended on him. The temperature there seemed to have plummeted suddenly and a layer of frost quickly formed on Jian Chen.

Jian Chen knew that it might have been a warning from protector Shui, but he was not afraid at all. He continued on at the same speed, circulating his Chaotic Force as fast as he could to resist the terrifying temperature.

Jian Chen could not allow Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu to remain trapped on the icy plains because of him. He knew his only chance at saving them was through his sister, so his intentions were very simple. He wanted to approach the Ice Goddess Hall to alert his sister.

More and more crystals formed on Jian Chen as his movements slowed down as well. The bone-chilling coldness constantly attempted to invade his body and freeze all signs of life within him, but it was obstructed by the tenacious Chaotic Force.

"If you don't back out of the plains right now, you'll end up the same as the three of them," an icy-cold and hazy voice rang through Jian Chen's head.

"Senior, please let them go, or I will never stop!" Jian Chen replied. However, right when he said that, an extremely terrifying coldness engulfed him. Even his Chaotic Body was unable to stop it for a moment. He was instantly frozen into a life-like sculpture and was completely immobilized.

Jian Chen lost control over his body even as he devoted all his efforts to controlling the Chaotic Force to ward off the invading coldness, but the Chaotic Force was frozen as soon as it came in contact with the presence. He lost control over it.

Jian Chen was astounded, but he was unable to stop the advance of the coldness no matter how hard he tried. It quickly spread through his body, freezing up his blood, his flesh, and all signs of life within him. Even his chaotic neidan in his dantian was frozen.

At the same time, the coldness quickly spread toward his head in attempt to freeze his soul.

However, Jian Chen's sea of consciousness suddenly began to glow with an azure and violet light. It glowed with a brightness that was comparable to the morning sun as soon as the coldness neared his head. The dazzling light illuminated his entire sea of consciousness.

## Chapter 1227: The Sea Goddess' News

The azure and violet light engulfed Jian Chen's sea of consciousness, protecting it at the same time. As soon as the terrifying coldness came in contact with the lights, it came to a halt, no longer able to advance any further.

"What coldness. Master, where have you come? Why is there such great coldness where even your chaotic neidan has been frozen?" Zi Ying's voice rang out in Jian Chen's head in shock.

Not only did Jian Chen lose control over his body, he had also lost all of his senses. The moment the sword spirits began protecting his soul, his consciousness had entered his sea of consciousness without choice.

A five-colored crystal hovered within the sea of consciousness. It was the Multicolored Stone Jian Chen had come across by accident and purchased in Walaurent City back then. During these past years, the sword spirits had been absorbing the pure energy within it, and thus, the stone was smaller than before.

An azure and violet light rotated around the stone. The two lights seemed to be connected with one another but not, at the same time. It seemed as if a certain distance was always maintained.

They were the original forms of the sword spirits, but they were deeper in color than before. Jian Chen knew that they had become much more powerful after absorbing the stone and recovering.

Although the sword spirits were recovering in Jian Chen's sea of consciousness, they clearly did not pay attention to everything, so they didn't know that Jian Chen had come across the Ice Goddess Hall.

Jian Chen explained everything he had gone through at the Ice Goddess Hall in full detail, immediately causing the sword spirits to fall into a temporary silence. Only a while later did Zi Ying sternly say, "Qing Suo and I once felt someone secretly observing us through their presence, but we were far too weak back then so we could not find where that person was hiding. But now, it looks like that person is protector Shui. Master, this protector Shui is extremely powerful. She shouldn't be a person of this world, and you're completely helpless against her with your current strength. You mustn't go out of your way to provoke her."

"Are you saying that she's the same as me, from another world?" Jian Chen questioned in surprise.

"Correct, that's indeed the case. However, the only difference is that master came from the bottom while she came from the top. She's extremely powerful, but her strength suffers the restrictions of the world, so she can't act freely, much less break the balance here, or she'll be punished by the world. As long as you don't provoke her, you should be fine," said Zi Ying.

Jian Chen's heart sank. He had never thought that protector Shui would possess such great origins where she was an expert from a higher world. In other words, he was unable to save Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu any time soon. It would even be impossible for him to see his sister if the protector obstructed them intentionally.

Although the sword spirits had said that the protector could not act freely, it meant that she could not do things without reason. Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu's origin energy treasures had been described by her as saint artifacts that should not have appeared in this world. This was more than enough of a reason for her to act against the three of them.

"Master, Zi Ying and I have not fully recovered yet, so we're not protector Shui's opponent at the moment. However, we can nullify the coldness in your body. You can break free in a while as long as you cooperate, and you must immediately leave the icy plains as quickly as possible. Otherwise, the coldness will be increased by several levels the next time protector Shui moves, and we'll be helpless against it at that time," Zi Ying sternly explained.

"I understand. Zi Ying, Qing Suo, let's start," said Jian Chen.

The two balls of light in Jian Chen's sea of consciousness began to glow brighter and brighter. They shot out from his sea of consciousness like swords while the two balls of light revolved around each other. However, they avoided contact as they shot toward Jian Chen's dantian with lightning-like speed.

The two balls of light were like a miniature sun. All of the coldness that they came in contact with along the way melted away.

The lights arrived at Jian Chen's dantian and the frost around his chaotic neidan rapidly dispersed, allowing Jian Chen to regain control over his chaotic neidan.

Jian Chen immediately made his chaotic neidan to spit out strands of Chaotic Force without requiring a warning from the sword spirits. The Chaotic Force then worked with the power of the sword spirits as it swam through his body, rapidly cleansing the coldness.

A few seconds later, a great bang suddenly rang through the icy plains. Jian Chen broke free from the thin layer of frost on him, and without any hesitation, he immediately shot into the sky, flying away as a blur. He left the icy plains as quickly as he could.

"Master, we've used a lot of energy. We'll have to sleep for some time. We'll only awaken if master faces fatal danger or if heavenly resources that peak our interest appear." Zi Ying's voice was slightly weak, and he made no more sounds after that.

Jian Chen entered his sea of consciousness again, and indeed, he found the sword spirits to have darkened. Clearly, they had expended a lot of energy to purge the coldness.

Back at the Ice Goddess Hall, protector Shui was still standing where she had been before. She had not moved at all, so she stood there like an ice sculpture as she contemplated things.

Suddenly, a gleam of light flashed through her eyes. She glanced in the direction of Jian Chen before losing interest again. Her cold eyes swept past Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu's origin energy treasures as if she was deep in thought.

Suddenly, her cold eyes erupted with a dazzling light. Immediately, the surrounding temperature plummeted and became even colder than ancient ice caverns.

She slowly clenched her fist as destructive energy condensed around her hand. She coldly said, "I understand. I finally understand. No wonder I always felt like something was wrong with you as I surveyed you with my presence. So you had discovered me long ago, and you had purposefully acted like that to fool me. Impressive! Very impressive! What an impressive Mo Tianyun! What an impressive Winged Tiger God..." Her voice became colder and colder, chillier and chillier as her fury became stronger and stronger.

She suddenly looked in the direction of the Tian Yuan Continent. A huge, stone statue was reflected in her cold pupils. It was the sculpture that stood in the center of Mercenary City. The next moment, the sculpture disappeared from her eyes and was replaced by a huge divine hall that stood ninety-nine floors high. It was the supreme divine hall of the Beast God Continent, the Beast God Hall!

"Just who are you, Winged Tiger God and Mo Tianyun? To even trick this king..." Protector Shui gritted her teeth. She felt like she had been fooled by the Winged Tiger God and Mo Tianyun. This was utterly shameful to her, an embarrassment that could never be washed away.

Protector Shui suddenly swung out and three finger-like arrows of ice condensed out of nowhere. They immediately shot toward the three origin energy weapons that had been frozen, and with three crisp sounds, the Sacred Dragon's Sword, the Scorching Godfire Hairpin, and Hei Yu's machete were split in half, falling onto the frozen ground with a clatter.

Jian Chen found the saint artifact and returned to the Changyang clan in Lore City in a rather dispirited fashion. He locked himself in his room and did not take a single step out.

After returning from the Ice Goddess Hall, Yu Fengyan's mood took a great turn for the better. Her face was full of life within the next few days while the worry on her face had disappeared. Her haggard face improved with each coming day.

Jian Chen remained in his room for the next few days, and no one came to disturb him. He currently sat on his bed with a dull, high class monster core in his hand as he worked hard to absorb the energy inside.

The monster core originated from within the artifact space. It had already existed for several tens of thousands of years. After being eaten away by time, it could not even be called a monster core, but something that was between a rock and a monster core. Not only had most of the energy leak away, any residue left had basically solidified, making absorption extremely difficult.

After feeling just how helpless he was when Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu had been trapped, it stimulated his desire to become powerful. He locked himself up to cultivate as soon as he had returned to the clan.

Jian Chen did not touch the monster cores in his Space Ring. They all originated from the Heaven's Incense School. After giving Bi Lian and Xiao Bao a lot of them, he did not have much left, and even if he absorbed all of them, he would not be able to reach the fourth layer of his Chaotic Body.

He could only forcefully absorb the large pile of monster cores in the saint artifact since his cultivation method was special and he was in possession of the Chaotic Body. If it were someone else, even Saint Kings, they would not be able to absorb the energy that had almost solidified, which was why Jian Chen decided to refine these monster cores first.

He also understood that even if he refined all the monster cores in the artifact space as well as the ones in his Space Ring, it would still not be enough to elevate him to the fourth layer. However, it could strengthen his chaotic neidan at the very least.

With each layer of the Chaotic Body, the energy needed to progress to the next was at least several times more than the previous stage, even ten times more. The resources required to progress from the third layer to the fourth layer were unimaginable.

In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had already been in seclusion for several days. He had refined many monster cores in those days, but the effects were basically non-existent. His chaotic neidan was still the same size. It had not changed at all, Jian Chen could not even feel it grow.

"Jian Chen, the worldly ebb is about to happen. It will erupt in the next few days, so make your preparations and come to the sea realm as soon as possible." At this moment, the sea goddess' obscure voice rang through his head. It was extremely gentle and pleasant.

Jian Chen immediately stopped cultivating. He slowly opened his eyes. Just hard work was not enough to make his Chaotic Body reach another level. He required luck.

# Chapter 1228: Changyang Hu's Transformation

"It's about time I complete my promise to the sea goddess, but I never thought that the day of the worldly ebb would have approached so quickly," Jian Chen mumbled to himself. He was not surprised by the fact that the sea goddess could find him with great precision. Although she had already lost her fleshy body, her soul was even more powerful than in ancient times. She could easily engulf the entire Tian Yuan Continent or the Beast God Continent.

Jian Chen got off the bed. He had no idea how much time he would spend in the sea realm after leaving, so he needed to sort some things out beforehand. This included dealing with the Flame Mercenaries. They risked suffering the revenge of those from the Underworld sect who had managed to escape.

"A'Hu... A'Hu, don't go! Don't leave your mother! You're my only son! I can't be without you! A'Hu..."

Just when Jian Chen opened the door, his first aunt's sorrowful voice rang out from afar.

Jian Chen was stunned, but he seemed to think of something soon. His expression immediately changed a little as he ran over.

From afar, Jian Chen could see his eldest brother hovering ten meters in the air with his white robes. He did not give off any rippling of energy and was not hovering in the air like a Heaven Saint Master. At the same time, Jian Chen did not sense the Saints Rulers' abilities from him. Changyang Hu was levitating in the air through a method that Jian Chen did not know or understand.

There was an indescribably and unexplainable charm about Changyang Hu, making him seen otherworldly, as if he was a transcended immortal. It was a divine charm.

Below, Ling Long looked at him with her head raised. Tears constantly poured from her eyes since she was in utter sorrow. She sobbed as she pleaded with him.

A group of guards had already surged over, and even Yu Fengyan, Bai Yushuang, Bi Yuntian, and Changyang Ba had hurried over. All of them looked at Changyang Hu in unease.

Jian Chen's heart sank. He knew that the exact thing that he did not want to happen had finally happened. He took a step and instantly traversed over a hundred meters, arriving before Changyang Hu.

"Brother!" Looking at Changyang Hu's emotionless face, Jian Chen could not help but call out in worry, as if he was trying to awaken Changyang Hu.

Changyang Hu was very calm. His gaze was extremely bright at times, clear and transparent like two luminous pearls, which were filled with wisdom and willpower, yet at other times, it was dark, profound like the starry sky. It seemed to contain a whole different world inside, everything in fact. It was extremely profound and difficult to explain.

"Brother, I will be leaving," Changyang Hu said to Jian Chen as he calmly looked at him. He bore a smile. When he said 'brother,' it had become indifferent, having lost its sincerity long ago.

At that moment, Jian Chen felt like his brother had become a different person. He was so strange that Jian Chen could not find any familiarity at all.

All the times that he had spent with him in Kargath Academy flashed through Jian Chen's head like a movie, making his heart ache. He had realized that his brother had severed his kinship, which was why he had become so unfamiliar. The brother in his memories had ceased to exist.

From that day on, his close brother only lived in his memories.

"Brother, have you really severed your kinship? Are you really willing to see first aunt in so much pain?" Jian Chen's voice slightly trembled. He still wanted to see if he could turn Changyang Hu back.

Changyang Hu remained smiling throughout the exchange. His expression did not change at all with what Jian Chen said. He looked into the distant space with his profound eyes and said, "The world is emotionless. We were born from the world, and we follow the path provided by the world to comprehend it. The impurities of worldly affairs are like strands of a demonic presence, obscuring the wisdom of people and misleading their hearts. Only by transcending worldly affairs can one regain their original awareness, and thus, see through all the mysteries of the world.

"The life of a mortal is like a dream. When a person is born, the dream begins. When they die, the dream ends. Everything that happens in the dream seems real and fake, but it will all be reduced to a void in the end. The dream seems fake so it cannot be real, and it seems real but it is not real. These are the so-called emotions and desires. They are illusory, and only by abandoning the worldly affairs can you return to your original conscience. Only be understanding the truth and severing the false can you be at peace, stand true to fate, see through the mysteries of the world, and witness the supreme all..."

With that, Changyang Hu drifted away. He moved away extremely freely, without any reluctance.

Jian Chen fell silent. He hovered in the sky as he watched Changyang Hu gradually grow further away. His heart ached. He knew that Changyang Hu had completely severed everything. The current him

probably no longer maintained any connections of family. He was only an unchanging spirit to comprehend the world. He had embarked on a different path.

Jian Chen became rather depressed at that moment. He was in a horrible mood. He had just lost Rui Jin, Hong Lian, and Hei Yu, and now he had lost the brother he respected the most. Although he had the ability to make his brother forcefully stay, he did not do that. He knew that all of it would result in nothing. Changyang Hu's path had already been determined and could no longer be changed.

"A'Hu..." Ling Long's heart shattered like glass after Changyang Hu's straightforward departure. She cried out in sorrow before fainting.

"First madam, first madam..." Several female servants paled in fright as they hurried up to catch her.

"Take her back to her room to rest," Changyang Ba said in dejection as well. His mood was extremely heavy.

Jian Chen starred in the direction Changyang Hu had disappeared in for quite some time before deeply sighing. He returned to the ground in low spirits.

"Xiang'er, come here," Bi Yuntian arrived beside Jian Chen and grabbed his arm. After witnessing what had happened with Changyang Hu, Bi Yuntian became rather scared inside. She was afraid that she would lose her child just like Ling Long.

"Xiang'er, can you tell your father what happened to your brother?" Changyang Ba asked in pain. He could sense that his first son had probably become a thing of the past.

Jian Chen thought silently before he replied, "Brother's chosen a path that's suitable for him. He's embarked on a unique cultivation path. I have no idea what will happen in the future."

A white-robed person stood on a tree branch as he watched Changyang Hu walk away from Lore City. He mumbled, "Looks like Changyang Hu has gotten past the final stage. His Great Liberation is complete. He has finally reached this step."

...

Jian Chen delayed his journey to the sea realm by a day due to what had happened with Changyang Hu. On the next day, he visited the Flame Mercenaries to sort out some matters before properly comforting Bi Yuntian. He promised that he would return after dealing with his matters. He then set off for the sea realm with Nubis.

Emerging from a Space Gate, Jian Chen and Nubis hovered above the vast sea. They felt the calmness of the sea as well as the gentle sea breeze. A comfortable, easy feeling immediately bloomed within Jian Chen, pushing away all the unhappiness from his brother's departure the day before.

With the sea goddess' assistance, Jian Chen and Nubis passed through the barrier without any obstructions. At the same time, the sea goddess' voice rang in their heads, "The worldly ebb will be erupting soon. I will keep paying close attention to the situation, so spend a few days in the sea realm and wait for my news."

"Yes, your majesty," Jian Chen politely replied. Hesitating slightly, he then said to the empty space, "Your majesty, I have something that I would like to inquire about. May I ask if you know about

protector Shui of the Ice Goddess Hall?" Jian Chen knew that the sea goddess basically existed everywhere, so she definitely would have heard what he said.

An illusionary, hazy woman silently appeared before him right after he finished speaking. She sternly asked, "Why are you asking about the Ice Goddess Hall? Do you want to visit that place?"

Before Jian Chen could reply, she followed up with, "I've never heard of a protector Shui of the Ice Goddess Hall, but the Ice Goddess Hall is an extremely terrifying place. From the ancient times till now, countless Saint Emperors have entered those icy plains, but less than a tenth have returned alive. I once tried to investigate the depths of the icy plains using my soul, but as soon as my soul approached that place, it would be frozen by an extremely terrifying coldness. It would even use my soul as a guide and quickly travel toward the sea realm. If I had not pulled back my soul fast enough, the outcome would have been unthinkable." The sea goddess' voice was filled with a lingering fear. It was evident just how terrifying that area was for the sea goddess, who belonged to the Origin realm.

"Afterward, the Winged Tiger God gave me the Empyrean Demon Orb and also warned me to never investigate the place no matter what unless the icy plains disappear from the arctic. That was why I never looked into that area again." The sea goddess' voice was filled with some mixed emotions. Her soul was extremely powerful. Not only could it engulf the entire sea realm, she could extend it as she wished into the Tian Yuan Continent, the Beast God Continent, and even the Wasteland Continent.

Without any exaggeration, her soul could move freely throughout the entire world. There was nothing that could threaten her, including the most dangerous place on the Tian Yuan Continent, the Death Nest, except for the Ice Goddess Hall, a region forbidden for her to enter.

"Your majesty, then may I inquire when the Ice Goddess Hall appeared?" Jian Chen asked again. The sea goddess was a sovereign-like figure of the same era as Mo Tianyun. She knew many more secrets than Saint Emperors.

"The Ice Goddess Hall seemed to have always existed. No one knows when it first appeared, but the people of the organization rarely ever visit the Tian Yuan Continent. Every time they appear, they visit the continent in search of disciples, and they handle everything with an extremely low profile," said the sea goddess. She did not know the answer to Jian Chen's question either.

At this moment, Jian Chen thought about how the sword spirits had described protector Shui as someone who had come down from above. In that case, did it mean that the organization was founded by protector Shui?

Jian Chen asked again after thinking up to that point, "Your majesty, if you surpass Saint Emperor, is it possible to live for more than a million years?"

The sea goddess shook her head, "Beyond Saint Emperor is the Origin realm. It has three subdivisions, which are Receival, Returnance, and Reciprocity. With my understanding, those of the Origin realm can only live for a hundred thousand years, and even people who have reached Reciprocity cannot live longer than two hundred thousand years after ingesting various heavenly resources to extend their life. Perhaps only cultivation realms beyond that will allow you to live longer."

"Of course, if there is any heaven-defying treasures, you may be able to live for a million years or even longer. However, even if that's the case, they'll end up the same as me, only able to maintain a soul

while the body will be gone. At the same time, the soul will not be able to separate itself from the treasure that protects it."

Jian Chen became extremely depressed. He had already guessed that protector Shui probably had already surpassed the Origin realm, having reached an even greater level. He could not become happy over this no matter what, as the stronger protector Shui was, the more unlikely he would be able to save Rui Jin and the others.

Chapter 1229: Sudden Changes of the Turtle Clan

The only place Jian Chen could temporarily stay in the sea realm was the Turtle clan, so after his conversation with the sea goddess, he headed to the Turtle clan's territory with Nubis.

The space within the sea realm was much tougher than outside. Saint Kings could not rip open the space there to create Space Gates, so Jian Chen and Nubis could only fly to the Turtle clan.

"Haha, it's said that the barrier around the sea realm can prevent the entry of foreign Saint Kings, yet I've entered the sea realm as a foreign Saint King without any difficulty at all. Probably only the two of us can enjoy such a great treatment," Nubis could not help but laugh freely as they flew.

"Oh right, Jian Chen, that big fellow is still cultivating in the artifact space. He doesn't seem to have come to the sea realm before, so you might as well let him out to have a look," said Nubis again.

Jian Chen immediately thought of Tie Ta who had always been cultivating within the artifact space. Hesitating slightly, he still ended up calling him out.

With a flash of golden light, Tie Ta's burly body appeared by Jian Chen's side. His skin carried a faint, golden luster as a gentle, golden light shone from his body. It seemed like his skin was made from gold.

Since Tie Ta's identity was just far too sensitive on the Tian Yuan Continent, Jian Chen never dared to let him appear in front of others. After all, the war god of the Hundred Races had provoked the Beast God Continent and the Tian Yuan Continent in ancient times. As soon as the news that the war god had returned made its way out, he would not be able to keep Tie Ta safe with his current strength.

However, the sea realm was different. In ancient times, only the Sea race did not participate in the war, so they did not have any enmity with the war god. To the various experts of the sea realm, perhaps the appearance of the war god would have nothing to do with them, much less lead to any conflicts of interest.

Exactly because of that, Jian Chen allowed Tie Ta to appear in the sea realm in such a bold fashion without any worry.

This was the first time Tie Ta had come to the sea realm, so he constantly looked around as soon as he appeared outside the artifact space. He was extremely curious about everything, so he asked Jian Chen and Nubis about everything.

Jian Chen and Nubis explained everything to Tie Ta as they traveled. They shared everything they knew with him without hiding anything.

The three of them maintained a straight course as they flew to where the Turtle clan was. They flew over many large clans, which caused many experts to come up to stop them. However, since they let

their presences radiate out without holding back, the aggressive experts immediately became bright red. They would politely clasp their hands to the three of them before obediently backing off.

After flying for several hours, the three of them finally arrived at the Turtle clan. However, what they saw was not a prosperous clan, but a battleground dyed with blood. Blood had pooled into small streams with many corpses strewn across the ground. Not only were there members of the Turtle clan, there were other people as well, but all of the other people wore the same attire. It was possible to tell with a single glance that they belonged to the same organization. Meanwhile, the many, grand structures of the clan had been reduced to ruins by the battle as well. Bloody marks were present everywhere.

Two hundred-meter-wide pits had been dug far away. Between the ruins of the clan, several dozen people in the same attire worked arduously as they moved the corpses. They moved all the corpses into the two large pits to bury them. Hundreds, possibly even thousands, of dead people were already stacked inside.

Jian Chen and Nubis, who had just arrived, revealed a drastically different expression when they saw this. Only Tie Ta, who was clueless, remained composed as he observed the ruined territory of the Turtle clan.

Jian Chen hovered several hundred meters in the air as he stared blankly at the horrifying landscape. His face was filled with shock and disbelief. He had even begun to doubt his eyes at that moment.

Suddenly, fury surged in Jian Chen's heart. Great killing intent radiated from him without control, causing the surrounding temperature to plummet, as if it had turned into an ice cavern.

Jian Chen suddenly vanished from the air. By the time he had appeared, he had already traversed a thousand meters, arriving beside a middle-aged man who was moving corpses. He grabbed the man by the clothes on his chest and loudly demanded, "What's happened to the Turtle clan!? Speak!"

The middle-aged man was only an Earth Saint Master, so Jian Chen's vast presence and icy-cold killing intent pressed against his chest like a mountain, making breathing difficult for him. He had almost suffocated, and he instantly paled.

The middle-aged man understood just how terrifying Jian Chen was. He even felt like he was stared into a death god's eyes as he looked at Jian Chen's cold pupils. They seemed like they could suck away his soul at any moment.

"W- w- warrior, the Turtle clan's been wiped out by the Tao family. I am a member of the Tao family, so I hope you can spare my life on behalf of the clan," the middle-aged man replied to Jian Chen with a trembling voice. His heart was filled with fear. At the same time, he did not forget to bring up the Tao family in attempt to scare off Jian Chen to prevent him from doing anything.

"What! The Turtle clan's been wiped out..." Jian Chen mumbled in a daze as a clap of thunder seemed to have exploded in his head. He felt the world spin around him.

Although he did not have any deep ties with the Turtle clan, their grand elder had saved his life before. In order to save him, the grand elder had been killed, and his attachment to the clan formed a will after his death. This was more than enough to show just how important the clan was to the grand elder.

Jian Chen no longer had the opportunity to thank the grand elder for saving his life, so all he could do was help him fulfil his final wish, to develop the Turtle clan and make them regain their former glory, letting the grand elder die without regrets. Yet now, not only had the Turtle clan failed to return to their former glory under his leadership, they had suffered a disaster instead. How was it possible for Jian Chen to not become mad?

"The Tao family!" Jian Chen clenched his teeth and the killing intent around him had reached a maximum. He struck his hand against the head of the middle-aged man, shattering it into pieces and killing him on the spot.

The several dozen other people all stopped what they were doing and encircled him. They had come originally to see what was going on, but they immediately shivered inside when they saw Jian Chen smash the man's head into pieces. They began to back away slowly.

Jian Chen glanced over all the people with his gaze filled with killing intent. He coldly said, "Are you all people of the Tao family? If that's the case, you can all be buried with with the dead clansmen of the Turtle clan."

"Warrior, please wait..." At this moment, an old voice filled with fear boomed out. An old man quickly rushed over from afar. He wore the exact same uniform as all the other people.

The old man was a Saint Ruler, but only at the First Heavenly Layer. Clearly, he had only just broken through, yet he was already sweating bullets. He was horrified by the icy-cold killing intent radiating from Jian Chen.

"Warrior, an intense battle occurred three days ago between the Turtle clan and the Tao family, but the Turtle clan was not wiped out. All the remaining people have retreated over ten thousand kilometers to the south. We're only responsible for cleaning up the battlefield," the old man carefully explained with his head lowered his head. He did not choose to run because he knew that it would all be useless with his strength before Jian Chen.

Jian Chen immediately expanded his presence after what the old man had said. Indeed, he found quite a few people of the Turtle clan ten thousand kilometers to the south. Without any hesitation, he immediately shot into the sky and flew to where the Turtle clan had gathered.

"Big fellow, let's go!" Nubis yelled to Tie Ta before following Jian Chen.

The old man sighed a breath of relief after avoiding calamity. He wiped away his cold sweat and turned to the others, "Don't bother with these corpses anymore. Another great expert has arrived for the Turtle clan. Let's hurry back to the clan to report this."

...

The place used to be empty, but it had now become the territory of a large clan. The clan that took up this land was the Turtle clan.

The Turtle clan had only recently claimed this area for themselves. Many structures were newly built, and there were many houses that were still under construction.

Although people flowed in and out of the clan unceasingly, very few people spoke. Every single one of them was filled with sorrow as they silently built their new homes with clenched teeth. Every single one of them possessed a hatred that they could not let go, which caused a miserable atmosphere to loom over the entire clan.

Jian Chen, Nubis, and Tie Ta arrived at the new territory of the Turtle clan at the same time. As soon as they touched down, a person building his house noticed them. He immediately recognized Jian Chen and became stunned before rubbing his eyes. His face then became filled with delight and disbelief.

"It's the ruler. The ruler's returned. It's the ruler who has returned. Fantastic, our ruler has returned..."
The person who recognized Jian Chen exclaimed. His voice was filled with excitement.

"What! The ruler's returned? Is that true..."

"Where? Where has the ruler returned? Has the ruler really returned..."

"I see him. It really is the ruler. Fantastic, the ruler really has returned..."

More and more people discovered Jian Chen. They all enthusiastically added their voices to the cries as excitement flooded their faces.

To all the people of the Turtle clan, the ruler was their pillar of support. He was the hope of the Turtle clan. Even though they had been forced into such a horrible position by the Tao family, they were still filled with confidence because of the ruler. All of them believed that the Turtle clan would never fall apart as long as the ruler watched over them.

This was because every single one of them could remember just how weak the Turtle clan had been several years ago. The entire clan did not even have a 16th Star expert, yet after the ruler had come, the entire clan had undergone an overwhelming change. In just a few years, they expanded from having no 16th Star experts to having at least five 16th Star experts at all times. They had even taken back most of their former crystal mines.

Although the Turtle clan had suffered a severe blow this time, all of them believed that the reason why they had suffered this blow was because the ruler was not present. They would never have suffered defeat if the ruler had been present.

Chapter 1230: The Arrogant Tao Family

In the center of the clan, a grand hall over twenty meters tall stood silently. The entire hall was an earthen color. It had been created by a Saint Ruler using his abilities to control the earth, creating it from soil in a very short amount of time. Quite a powerful energy was hidden inside.

At this moment, several Saint Ruler elders of the Turtle clan gathered in an extremely spacious room of the hall in worry. Every single one of them had things weighing on their hearts, filling the room with a heavy atmosphere.

"What do you think the clan should do now? Do we give up all the crystal mines that used to belong to us, or do we continue to develop here and face against the constant threat of the Tao family moving against us," the fourth elder sternly inquired.

"No, we definitely can't relinquish the crystal mines that used to belong to us. All these mines are a huge resource for the clan. It's the only thing that can support our vigorous growth. If we give them up now, it'll be even more difficult to get them back in the future. Since a hall elder of the Sea Goddess Hall stepped forward to stop our battle with the Tao family, I believe the Tao family won't attack us so easily in the future," the sixth elder disagreed right after the fourth elder finished speaking.

"Hmph. Are you relying on the hall elders to always stand by our side, sixth elder? The ancestor of the Tao family, Tao Zhengtian, will reach the peak of the 16th Star soon. He will become a hall elder sooner or later. Once he takes that position, he can move against our clan without the slightest worry. That day will become the true end of our clan," the fifth elder coldly snorted. He disagreed with the sixth elder very much.

The fourth elder gently sighed because of what the fifth elder had said. He added, "It's a pity that the ruler's not present. If he was, then all would be fine. Only he can determine the rise or decline of our clan."

"The ancestor of the Tao family is just far too powerful, and he's even joined with the Moxi clan through marriage, which makes him even more influential in the sea realm. Coupled with the fact that he's formed an alliance with over ten large clans, the number of 15th and 16th Star experts they've gathered is not something our clan can deal with. We probably still won't have the power to contend with the Tao family even if the ruler returns..." The seventh elder added in a heavy voice.

The fourth elder's expression changed, and he sternly looked at the seventh elder. He berated, "Seventh elder, how can you talk about the ruler like that. As an elder of the Turtle clan, you can lose confidence in yourself, but you should never lose confidence in the ruler because he is the greatness of the Turtle clan, the person who holds all the hope of the Turtle clan. We are only truly powerful when we have him watching over us. We need to stand firm. Once the ruler returns, we'll be able to recover from this situation."

The seventh elder immediately fell silent. He lowered his head. The ruler of the Turtle clan never stayed in the clan for very long, but he had established a great impression among the elders.

"R- report..." At this moment, a guard called out from afar as he rushed over in a hurry.

Seeing how impatient the guard was, the elders immediately stopped their discussion. One of them stared at the guard and heavily asked, "What's happened? Has the experts of the Tao family come?"

"N- no... elders, the r- ruler has returned. The ruler has returned..." The guard huffed. He was extremely excited.

"What! The ruler's returned?" The elders present beamed with delight. One of them chuckled aloud and said with a clear voice, "Everyone, let's go welcome the ruler."

"No need, I'm already here," Jian Chen's deep voice rang through the hall right after the elder spoke. Before Jian Chen had finished speaking, he had already appeared before everyone with Nubis and Tie Ta along with a great group of clansmen. The clansmen stopped outside the hall while joy and excitement from the bottom of their hearts was plastered across their faces.

"We greet the ruler!" The elders of the Turtle clan immediately bowed to Jian Chen. They were all emotional where even their voices trembled slightly.

Jian Chen walked up to the throne and sat down while the elders stood in a row below in a courteous manner.

Nubis and Tie Ta were much more relaxed in comparison. They knew that Jian Chen had important matters to deal with, so they did not disturb him. Instead, they began to stroll around the place by themselves.

"Tell me exactly what has happened. Why has the Tao family attacked the Turtle clan without any reason?" Jian Chen coldly asked with a sunken expression.

The fourth elder immediately stepped forward. He politely explained the situation to Jian Chen, "Ruler, I believe you know that the Turtle clan has been working on taking back the crystals mines that had been taken from us after our strength had increased. Originally, we had taken back most of them with only a few better, larger mines still in the possession of a few large clans. They persisted in not returning them, so in order to resist the Turtle clan, they've even formed an alliance with the Tao family."

"The remaining mines are just far too important to us, and they belonged to us originally, so we never gave up on them. Hence, many conflicts occurred between the experts of the Turtle clan and the alliance, causing both sides to suffer casualties. However, since we had five 16th Star experts guarding us, we were in no way weaker than the alliance, so we were locked in a stalemate."

"But this balance in power was disrupted a month ago. The Tao family has joined with another peak-level organization of the Sea Goddess Hall, the Moxi clan, through marriage. They have two great experts, one at the 16th Star and another at the 15th Star. The 16th Star ancestor of the Moxi clan is almost as powerful as Tao Zhengtian. The alliance completely exceeds us in strength with the participation of the Moxi clan."

"Soon afterward, the Tao family sent an envoy to our clan and brazenly declared that we had seized many crystal mines without any fear and had broken the peace within the territory of the Sea Goddess Hall because we had the support of a few 16th Star experts. He also demanded us to hand over all our crystal mines as well as pay for the losses they had recently suffered, or the Tao family would unite all the clans and organizations we had abused to come teach us a lesson."

Reaching there, the fourth elder's voice had already become filled with an anger that he struggled to suppress. His eyes were about to burst into flames. Even the other elders in the hall were extremely furious as well, and their faces had paled.

Jian Chen's face sank even more as he sat on the throne. Heavy killing intent had already appeared in his eyes. He had been angered by the actions of the Tao family.

Ignoring the fact that the crystal mines all used to belong to the Turtle clan, just the demand from the Tao family that stated that the clan had to hand over all their crystal mines had already crossed the line for Jian Chen, not to mention that they had even demanded the Turtle clan to make up for the losses that they had suffered in recent years. The Tao family could no longer be described as arrogant and rampant. They had gone overboard, far overboard.

The fourth elder recovered and continued, "How could we agree to such an overboard demand right off the bat? As a result, the alliance began to launch a large-scale attack on our clan three days ago, but we could do nothing since the alliance's strength completely exceeded our own. Even with Qin Dou, Qing Yixuan, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas, all experts of the 16th Star, we were still unable to stop the attack from the Tao family. The battle lasted for just half a day, and all the five of our 16th Star experts became heavily injured by the people of the alliance. In the end, the battle only reached a conclusion because a hall elder had made it in time.

"Indeed. The Tao family wanted to use the power of the alliance to wipe us out three days ago. If the hall elder had not forcefully interfered and protected us, we probably would have been wiped out by the Tao family already. Ruler, we need to take revenge for this," said the fifth elder righteously.

"Ruler, our clan sustained extremely heavy injuries in the battle. Half of the clansmen have passed away, over thirty thousand, and we've lost four elders. We can't just do nothing over this debt of blood."

"Ruler, please lead us..."

"Ruler, you must let us pay back the debt of blood."

Every single elder within the hall resentfully spoke through clenched teeth. All of their eyes burned with the roaring flames of revenge.

"How many 15th and 16th Star experts are there among the alliance?" Jian Chen coldly asked. He would obviously take revenge for the Turtle clan, but he needed to have a proper understanding of the Tao family's strength first.

Jian Chen could already completely ignore Saint Rulers. He cared more about how many Saint Kings the Tao family had.

The elders all hesitated slightly. Then the fourth elder replied, "Ruler, the Tao family currently has four 15th Star experts and at least two 16th Star experts. They would be the two ancestors of the Tao family and the Moxi clan."

"No, there was another expert who matched up against Tai Dou in a stalemate other than the Tao family ancestor and the Moxi clan ancestor. There should be at least one other 16th Star expert."

"I don't think all of you saw it, but when the battle erupted, there was another person in the alliance who watched on. I could not discern their strength. He did not take part in the battle. I am guessing that he's a 16th Star expert as well," added another elder.

Jian Chen frowned. He discovered that it was indeed rather difficult for the Saint Ruler elders to discuss the level of Saint Kings.

"Stop rambling. Bring me Qing Yixuan, Tai Dou, Lan Jing, Xin Pian, and Mochas. I know they're healing, so summon them immediately," ordered Jian Chen.

"Yes, ruler..." An elder followed his orders and immediately rushed out of the hall as quickly as possible.