#### Chaotic 3211

## **Chapter 3211: Crafty**

As soon as the organisations gathered there heard the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan's words, they all fell silent. They exchanged glances. They were serious and troubled at the same time.

All of the people seated here had organisations behind them that possessed their own territories and dominated over a region of the Saints' World. Not only were they extremely powerful, but their heritage ran extremely deep as well. Over all these years, some of these organisations had built up a supply of heavenly resources from Xuanhuang Microcosms.

However, these heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi had all been stored away by them like treasures. Whenever they used any of them, it would require careful and thorough consideration. They could not be distributed so easily.

On top of that, the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan did not just want them to produce regular heavenly resources, but God Tier heavenly resources contaminated with Xuanhuang Qi.

Many of the organisations present did not even have such heavenly resources. Even if they did, it was in the hands of their ancestors. They would not be allocated by great elders like them.

Moreover, heavenly resources contaminated with Xuanhuang Qi had always been priceless treasures in the Saints' World in terms of value. They completely exceeded what regular heavenly resources could even come close to. They had to consider the consequences of giving such precious items away to nurture someone of another clan carefully.

Although the Darkstar World possessed many heavenly resources that their organisations required, heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi were not common items either.

Most importantly, it was completely unknown whether this investment would pay off in the future. It was filled with unknown variables.

If it were other resources, they would have agreed to it without any hesitation, giving their all to support Jin Hong. After all, God Tier heavenly resources could not be taken into the Darkstar World due to the restriction.

Heavenly resources below God Tier were worth nothing in the eyes of these great organisations, so they did not care at all. Even if the plan ended in failure, their losses would be insignificant.

However, when it came to God Tier heavenly resources and those that had been contaminated by Xuanhuang Qi, they had to reconsider everything.

At this moment, a clansman of the Dire Wolf clan entered the hall and passed Jin Hong's letter to the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan politely.

However, when the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan read the letter, his face immediately sank. He sat there and remained silent for a very long time.

"Senior, has there been any bad news from the Darkstar World?" a Chaotic Prime great elder seated there asked in concern.

The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan's face was very ugly. He sighed gently and pinched the letter gently without anyone noticing. A part of its contents was immediately erased. "What we've been worrying about has still ended up happening. The Darkstar race completely refuses to discuss with us. They've completely lost trust in us."

"This is from the mouth of the Darkstar Emperor as well. With his status and authority in the Darkstar race, there's probably no turning back since he's said this. The letter is right here. Take a look for yourselves.' The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan directly passed the letter to everyone.

After reading the letter, everyone's faces became extremely ugly.

"The Darkstar race really has no idea what they're doing. Do they really think we're completely powerless against them?"

"Hmph, since the Darkstar race vehemently refuses to cooperate, we'll just have to conquer the Darkstar World."

Furious voices rang out in the majestic hall.

The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan cleared his throat and said sternly, "Right now, there are only two choices that lay before us. The first is to let Jin Hong return from the Darkstar race immediately. After all, remaining in the Darkstar World for long periods of time will severely affect his growth."

"The second is to make Jin Hong remain in the Darkstar World and cultivate to Chaotic Prime before overwhelming the Darkstar race. By then, all the resources in the Darkstar World will be ours for the taking. The Darkstar race will be irrelevant."

Reaching there, the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan paused before he said, "However, it will definitely take an extremely lengthy time for Jin Hong to reach Chaotic Prime in an environment like the Darkstar World. He carries the great burden of bringing glory to our clan on his shoulders, so our clan will never let him remain in the Darkstar World for long periods of time."

"That is unless you all bring some heavenly resources from Xuanhuang Microcosms into the Darkstar World and provide them to our talented descendant. This will shorten the time he'll take to reach Chaotic Prime as well as compensate him for his efforts."

Everyone present fell silent when they heard the resources from the Xuanhuang Microcosm being mentioned again.

The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan's face immediately became rather ugly when he saw how everyone responded. "Everyone shares a common interest in the Darkstar World. A talented descendant of my clan is risking his life to remain in there. If anything happens to him, I'm certain you're aware just how great of a loss it'll be to our Dire Wolf clan."

"We're gambling our future on this. The sacrifice we're making is so great that those resources don't even come close. If our talented descendant perishes in there, we won't be able to create a second Jin Hong no matter how many heavenly resources you offer up."

"Senior, this matter is extremely significant. It is not something we can decide. Please give us a moment. We'll report this to our ancestors."

Afterwards, everyone conveyed the Darkstar Emperor's attitude as well as the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan's request back to their organisations through secret techniques.

Several days later, orders from the very top arrived.

"Senior, our ancestors have agreed to your request. They're willing to provide Jin Hong with the God Tier heavenly resources we've collected many years ago. However, that's only if we change the share we receive once we achieve domination in the Darkstar World."

The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan smiled amicably. His tone was no longer as sharp as before either, becoming a little gentler. "Of course. Everything we've decided on in the past no longer counts. Whoever offers up more heavenly resources will obviously receive a greater share."

"Also, it's best if we establish a contract and carry out what we have promised seriously. Once Jin Hong has accepted your God Tier heavenly resources, then he'll have to cultivate to Chaotic Prime in the Darkstar World. Unless he has conquered the Darkstar World, he is forbidden from leaving on his own whim."

"If Jin Hong leaves the Darkstar World on his own whim, then our Dire Wolf clan will compensate you for all your resources at the same value."

Everyone agreed with what the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan said very soon. They all accepted it happily. Even the representatives of organisations that had agreed to hand over God Tier heavenly resources smiled in joy. They felt much more at ease.

"Hahaha, good then. We should form a contract like this."

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Chapter 3212: Time Limit of Five Centuries

Very soon, the contract was complete. Witnessed by everyone, they came to a new agreement.

The first batch of God Tier heavenly resources contaminated with Xuanhuang Qi from Xuanhuang Microcosms had been delivered to the Spirits' World under the personal watch of Chaotic Primes.

The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan checked through these heavenly resources personally and made a note of them, using it as a measure to decide how they would divide their profits from the Darkstar World.

"It's actually all low grade God Tier. There's not a single mid grade God Tier heavenly resource. These items are relatively common as well. Sigh, you people sure are stingy." The ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan sighed gently as if he was slightly disappointed. Only after confirming there were no mistakes did he stow all of them into a Space Ring before making a clansman of the Dire Wolf clan deliver it into the Darkstar World.

The Darkstar Emperor remained exactly where he was in the Darkstar World with his face sunken, staring straight at Jin Hong.

Jian Chen did not leave either. He also stood at the edge of the barrier, standing with the Darkstar Emperor with the barrier separating them. He was behaving like he just could not leave Jin Hong here alone.

They were separated by a barrier. As long as Jin Hong remained inside it, the Darkstar race was unable to harm him unless they cast the ultimate curse. However, Jian Chen was still worried about anything unexpected happening.

The Darkstar Emperor wanted to see Jin Hong leave with his own eyes, while Jin Hong was waiting for a reply from the outside world. For a moment, the three of them just stood there silently. The atmosphere became rather awkward.

Suddenly, Jin Hong's expression changed. He said, "There's news from outside." As soon as he said that, he left. Very soon, he returned to the Darkstar Emperor with the reply from the outside world. His expression was rather strange.

"Darkstar Emperor, this jade slip is the ancestor's personal reply. I have to hand it to you. The resources in these three Space Rings are also what your Darkstar World is in urgent need of. The ancestor has especially instructed me to give all the resources in these three Space Rings to the Darkstar race for free." As he said that, Jin Hong flicked his finger. A jade slip and three Space Rings passed through the barrier, hovering before the Darkstar Emperor.

The Darkstar Emperor accepted the jade slip calmly. As for the three Space Rings, he directly ignored them.

The information in the jade slip had been personally left by a Grand Prime ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan. In a short moment, the Darkstar Emperor had viewed all of the details inside.

His expression immediately changed. He hesitated.

The change in the Darkstar Emperor's expression made Jian Chen curious. He had no idea what Jin Hong's seniors had said to the Darkstar Emperor to actually make him waver slightly despite how firm his stance had been.

The Darkstar Emperor seemed to enter some kind of conflict. He spent an entire hour considering it before finally making some kind of decision. His tense expression suddenly loosened up, and he let out a great sigh. He said to Jin Hong, "The Grand Prime ancestor of your clan is swearing in the name of his predecessors that you won't do anything that harms our race during the time you remain in the Darkstar World. Your ancestor has also provided us with a large quantity of resources that we lack in exchange for you staying here for a temporary period of time."

"And this period of time is five centuries at most. Within these five centuries, if Jian Chen leaves this world, then you must leave with him. If Jian Chen still hasn't left the world after five centuries, you'll still have to leave. Otherwise, we will cast the ultimate curse to have you wiped from existence."

The Darkstar Emperor's eyes shone with a strange light. "I don't know why your ancestor is trying so hard so that you can stay here, but I must admit that our Darkstar race is extremely tempted by the conditions your ancestor has put forward."

"Due to the laws set down by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, my clansmen struggle with breakthroughs regardless of their cultivation. Whether they're at Godhood or below Godhood, every single minor breakthrough requires the assistance of some special pills or heavenly resources because they drastically increase the chances of success."

"And our race is incapable of producing these heavenly resources. Even some of the crucial materials that go into refining these pills must be imported from the outside world. Your Dire Wolf clan has provided us with these exact materials."

The Darkstar Emperor's gaze landed on the three Space Rings hovering before him. He became rather dazed. "If I agree, the resources in these three Space Rings will only be the first batch your clan provides for free. For the next ten thousand years, your clan will provide us with the same amount of resources every five centuries."

"Our race is suffering from a severe vacuum in strength. We've sustained severe losses. I must admit that I am extremely tempted by the resources your Dire Wolf clan is offering. These resources are basically exactly what we need. Especially after severing contact with the outside world, these resources have only become even more precious."

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"You have five centuries at most. Five centuries. Even with your exceptional talent, that's not enough time for you to grow to a point where you're beyond my control. On top of that, a Grand Prime ancestor of your Dire Wolf clan has sworn in the name of your predecessors too."

The Darkstar Emperor sighed gently. "So be it. I'll accept these resources, and I'll allow you to stay here for five centuries. However, that's given you only remain within the Two World Mountains. You are forbidden from setting foot in our territory." Towards the end, the Darkstar Emperor's gaze suddenly sharpened.

"That's not a problem. Unless I have permission from your Darkstar race, I will not set a single foot in your territory," Jin Hong said in guarantee. He had already received the most recent news from the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan. His mission this time had changed. His goal was not to establish ties of trade with the Darkstar race anymore.

Instead, it was to remain within the barrier and focus on cultivating!

The Darkstar Emperor looked at Jian Chen and gave off a natural sense of authority. He said firmly, "Jian Chen, I require a promise from you as well. Once this person does anything that harms my race, you will assist us in capturing him and enduring any future threats that may arise."

Jian Chen nodded. He said calmly, "I am basically allied with the Darkstar race now, so you don't have to worry. As long as I am still in the Darkstar World, I will face all the threats from the outside with you. As for brother Jin Hong, if he really does anything that harms the Darkstar race, I won't be able to harm him due to our personal friendship, but I will throw him out of here by force."

"Alright, I believe you!" The Darkstar Emperor left here with the three Space Rings, leaving Jin Hong with five centuries at most.

With the Darkstar Emperor's departure, Jin Hong let out a sigh of relief before falling backwards in dejection.

"Jian Chen, there's one more thing that you need to help me with, or our Dire Wolf clan will probably be in a lot of trouble." Jin Hong looked towards Jian Chen wryly.

## **Chapter 3213: Opening the Altar (One)**

Jian Chen looked at Jin Hong doubtfully. "What is it?"

Jin Hong sighed again and again. He was filled with a sense of helplessness. He said in a troubled manner, "Our ancestor has already come to an agreement with the various organisations of the Saints' World. The condition is that I cannot leave the Darkstar World by myself, or our Dire Wolf clan will be burdened with a significant loss. As a result, my ancestor has specially instructed me to have you remove me from the Darkstar World by force."

Jian Chen immediately furrowed his brows in response. His eyes shone as if he had realised something. He became slightly displeased. "So the ancestor of your Dire Wolf clan is using me?"

"If I've guessed correctly, if I actually remove you from the Darkstar World by force, that'll be equivalent to shifting all the hostility that the Dire Wolf clan should have faced onto me. I'll potentially become an enemy to everyone."

Jin Hong felt very guilty, like he was unable to bring himself to face Jian Chen. He took out a jade slip from his Space Ring before passing it over.

"Jian Chen, the message in here was left by the ancestor for you."

Jian Chen accepted the jade slip and immediately sent the senses of his soul inside. A message from the ancestor of the Dire Wolf clan directly rang out in his head.

"Jian Chen, by the time you are hearing this, you must have learnt a little about the situation from Jin Hong already. That's correct, our Dire Wolf clan has indeed formed a series of agreements with the organisations of the Saints' World. Once Jin Hong leaves the Darkstar World by himself, then we'll be breaking our end of the deal. We'll have to pay an extremely heavy price for that."

"As a result, Jin Hong must not leave the Darkstar World by himself. However, if you forcefully remove him, that's not leaving by himself, so it won't count as breaking the agreement."

"I hope you can restrain Jin Hong and forcefully bring him out when Jin Hong must leave the Darkstar World. In return, our Dire Wolf clan will give you an imprint of the Way of the Sword left behind by an expert who comprehended the Way of the Sword as thanks."

"The imprint of ways was left behind by a Sixth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime. Our Dire Wolf clan discovered it unintentionally when we searched through a dwelling. The expert has already been dead for many years, so much of the aura of ways in the imprint has leaked away with the passage of time, but it should still be of great help to you right now."

"When you emerge from the Darkstar World, I will give this imprint of the Way of the Sword to you."

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"An imprint of the Way of the Sword left behind by a Sixth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime, is it?" Jian Chen clutched the jade slip as his eyes shone, clearly weighing the costs and benefits.

Gradually, a smile appeared on his face. "Every single step forward that I take with my Way of the Sword from here on out will only be more difficult. The imprint of the Way of the Sword from a Sixth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime should be guite helpful."

"I just wonder how much aura of ways remains in the imprint."

The feeling of discontent that had appeared moments prior had already vanished completely. He was quite tempted by the Dire Wolf clan's remuneration.

Afterwards, Jin Hong remained near the tunnel between the two worlds to continue cultivating. His range of activity had been severely restricted. He could enter and leave the Two World Mountains freely, but he could not set foot in the territory of the Darkstar World.

Meanwhile, the peak organisations outside would send in some resources every now and then, even though the amount of God Tier heavenly resources each organisation could produce was extremely limited.

However, it still formed a sizeable amount. Each organisation only needed to offer up one or two heavenly resources, and the amount would become startling once several dozen peak organisations poured everything together.

Jian Chen returned to the territory of the Darkstar race. He remained on the same mountain to refine high grade Godking pills. This would let him nurture even more Godkings for the Darkstar race in preparation for opening the altar.

Submerged in alchemy, Jian Chen completely lost track of time. Before he knew it, another century and a half had passed.

"I've already refined over fifty five thousand high grade Godking pills for the Darkstar race now. This should be enough," Jian Chen murmured softly after stowing away the high grade Godking pills he had just refined. He glanced at the five thousand or so high grade Godking pills in his Space Ring, and after a slight moment of hesitation, he did not continue. Instead, he stowed away his cauldron and left there.

With just a casual step, Jian Chen crossed a great distance and directly appeared in the Darkstar Divine Hall.

The Darkstar Emperor was currently seated on the throne in a state of cultivation. Jian Chen did not hide his presence, so the Darkstar Emperor sensed him as soon as he arrived. The Darkstar Emperor opened his eyes slowly.

Jian Chen passed all five thousand high grade Godking pills to the Darkstar Emperor and said, "That's over fifty thousand high grade Godking pills in total. That should be sufficient."

The Darkstar Emperor accepted the jade bottle and checked the Godking pills inside. After a short moment of thought, he said slowly, "It should be enough. Once these high grade Godking pills have all produced Godkings, we should be able to prepare for opening the altar."

"Do you need to hunt any Life-devouring Beasts to open the altar this time? And the Virtuous Sage of Heaven, will he... also appear?" Jian Chen asked. As soon as he mentioned the Virtuous Sage of Heaven, his gaze changed slightly.

"We're only opening the altar this time, not holding the great ceremony, so it's much simpler. We only need the thirty-six major cities to recover their strength. We don't need to prepare any Life-devouring Beasts."

"As for the Virtuous Sage of Heaven-" the Darkstar Emperor paused. His gaze became rather sunken, and he said slowly, "The Virtuous Sage of Heaven has always been elusive. Under ordinary circumstances, he only appears when something major happens to us."

"As a result, he won't be appearing when I open the altar and retrieve the essence blood of our ancestors."

With that, the Darkstar Emperor immediately called in an attendant. He passed the jade bottle with the five thousand high grade Godking pills to him and said, "Distribute these Godking pills according to the ordering on the list."

The attendant accepted the order politely and backed away with the jade bottle carefully.

Afterwards, the Darkstar Emperor looked at Jian Chen and said, "Once this final group becomes Godkings, the empty cities will hold an elimination match to choose the thirty-six lords and the one hundred and eight kings."

"If we want to open the altar, we need all thirty-six lords and hundred and eight kings in all thirty-six major cities without a single one missing. We can begin once all the major cities have confirmed their thirty-six lords and hundred and eight kings."

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Jian Chen became eager when he heard that. There was also some excitement that he struggled to hide.

He had comprehended the Way of Alchemy in the Heavenly Crane clan with ancestor Lan and gone to the Xuanhuang Microcosm to retrieve Xuanhuang spiritual fluid after so much effort. Then he had remained in the Darkstar race for several centuries, refining high grade Godking pills night and day. All of it was for the sake of this day.

Now, the day that he had been looking forward to the entire time was finally about to arrive.

#### **Chapter 3214: Opening the Altar (Two)**

After distributing the final batch of Godking pills, the Darkstar Emperor waited another three years before finally passing the orders, making the twenty or so major cities that had just recovered their strength to formally choose the thirty-six lords and hundred and eight kings.

Immediately, great platforms were erected in those cities. Under the watch of thousands, the competition formally began. Many Godkings clashed intensely on the platform, beginning a fierce struggle for the positions of the thirty-six lords and hundred and eight kings.

Without any exception, all the competitors were members of the Darkstar race raised by Godking pills. It had been several hundred years since the first batch of people consumed Godking pills compared to the last batch.

However, to the Darkstar race whose strength grew extremely slowly, even a few extra centuries made no major difference.

They fought over the empty positions fervently.

Meanwhile, Jian Chen and the Darkstar Emperor sat within the Darkstar Divine Hall, sipping tea as they waited for the positions to be filled.

"This tea seems to be the legendary Comprehension Tea. This tea even possesses a unique presence and power. That should be the legendary Xuanhuang Qi." Gazing at the steaming cup of tea before him, the Darkstar Emperor's eyes narrowed slightly. He was surprised.

"I didn't expect you to know about Comprehension Tea and Xuanhuang Qi despite all this time in the Darkstar World." Jian Chen glanced at the Darkstar Emperor in quite some surprise before drinking his cup. He shut his eyes slowly and said, "Drink it while it's hot, or the presence of ways will constantly disperse, reducing its efficiency."

"We may have been trapped here for countless years already, but we do have many records passed down through the times after all. We obviously have plenty of records about Comprehension Tea and Xuanhuang Qi that regular cultivators do not come into contact with."

"However, these items are only legends to us. No one has seen it for themselves. You may be from the Saints' World, so you can find these items as long as opportunity permits, but the organisations from the Saints' World will never wish to see our strength grow. As such, they will never allow any heavenly resource with Xuanhuang Qi to end up in the Darkstar World."

"As a result, even for me, this is the first time I've seen Comprehension Tea and Xuanhuang Qi." As he said that, the Darkstar Emperor drank the tea in his cup. Extremely dense laws immediately filled his face.

The Darkstar Emperor immediately found the laws of the world that originally seemed to be misted over clear up.

Under this state, comprehending the laws of the world would become several times easier.

The Darkstar Emperor shut his eyes and experienced the sensation closely. He had an expression of intoxication as he murmured, "Comprehension Tea truly is a rare item that assists people in comprehending the ways. Comprehension through Comprehension Tea truly is much easier."

"However, it's useless for me." When he reached there, the Darkstar Emperor sighed gently and said, "I've already remained at the Ninth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime for an extremely long time now. Just in terms of my age, most Grand Primes from the Saints' World can only be considered as my juniors."

"If it were not for the laws set down by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, why would I have been stuck at my realm of cultivation for so long? Under the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, I won't be able to reach Chaotic Prime even with the assistance of Comprehension Tea."

The Darkstar Emperor's voice was filled with a deep sensation of powerlessness.

"Apart from the great ceremony, is there really no other way that can assist you in breaking through?" Jian Chen asked.

The Darkstar Emperor shook his head and said, "Unless a sovereign of the Saints' World personally takes action and destroys the prison around us, we can only rely on the great ceremony."

"However, not only does this prison possess the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, but it also possesses the power of the Grand Exalt of our race. Once sovereigns of the Saints' World take action, that's equivalent to facing the combined attack of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits and the Grand Exalt of the Darkstar race."

"Under the power of two Grand Exalts, even sovereigns of the Saints' World may end up heavily injured, so very few sovereigns of the outside world bother with our matter. With their lofty status, why would they endure such a heavy cost just to free us?"

"Of course, the most important reason is that the fate of our Darkstar race has nothing to do with the sovereigns of your Saints' World. There's nothing that we possess that can interest sovereigns either," the Darkstar Emperor said.

Jian Chen nodded in agreement. He knew the Darkstar Emperor was absolutely correct about this. With the heights that Grand Exalts had reached, very few items in the world still interested them. If there were no benefits, sovereigns of the Saints' World obviously would not risk becoming heavily injured or pay a tremendous price to do something that was completely meaningless to them.

He also understood that while the Grand Exalts of the Saints' World seemed aloof, that was not actually true. Once their interests became significant enough, even sovereigns of the world that had become embodiments of the heavenly ways would throw their lives at one another like regular people.

The Neptunean Divine Palace of the past was an example. In order to prevent the Grand Exalt of Ancient Paths of the Saints' World from forging a weapon of startling power, the Samsaric Immortal Exalt of the Immortals' World stooped low enough to lay his hands on the Daoist Sect of Neptunea.

In the end, the Daoist Sect of Neptunea that enjoyed its age of prosperity and possessed a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime simply met its end, unable to put up any resistance.

The resources in the Darkstar race could attract various peak organisations like the ones that formed the Hundred Saint City, but it could not interest organisations with Grand Exalts.

Afterwards, Jian Chen took out some first or second grade God Tier Comprehension Tea to receive the Darkstar Emperor. With his current cultivation, first or second grade God Tier Comprehension Tea no longer had much of an effect on him. He could only treat it as a luxury.

Just like that, the two of them enjoyed the tea as they waited for the birth of the thirty-six lords and the one hundred and eight kings.

That wait lasted half a month. Half a month later, the twenty-odd cities that had recently recovered their strength had chosen their thirty-six lords and hundred and eight kings.

With the matter settled, the Darkstar Emperor immediately passed an order, mobilising the power of the thirty-six major cities again to open the altar.

No one dared to defy the Darkstar Emperor. In the Darkstar race, the Darkstar Emperor was a paramount monarch. Every single word he uttered could decide the fate of the entire race.

With the Darkstar Emperor's order, the capital city immediately became busy. In the air, the ten divine halls had already switched positions, forming a tremendous formation.

Beneath the ten divine halls were the thirty-six lords and one hundred and eight kings from each of the thirty-six major cities. Under the lead of the various city lords, they established many formations.

Jian Chen sat in the air nearby. The Laws of Space pulsed around him, such that he seemed like he resided in a different space. No one could notice him.

He sat there alone and waited silently.

They were only opening the altar this time and not holding the great ceremony like before, so the preparatory work and steps involved were much simpler.

Very soon, the Darkstar Emperor's dignified voice rang out from the Darkstar Divine Hall, "Open the altar!"

With that, the thirty-six city lords all became solemn. They formed various seals and used secret techniques. At the same time, a series of resounding voices echoed through the surroundings.

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Windless City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Darkhell City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Duoye City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Darknight City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Blacklight City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Dark Phoenix City..."

"Opening the sacrificial altar—drawing the power of the Soul Severing City..."

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As the voices of the thirty-six city lords rang out, powerful columns of energy immediately rose up from the major cities scattered in the distance. They emitted dazzling light as they crossed through the air before directly descending onto the capital city.

In the next moment, all of the city lords, thirty-six lords, and hundred and eight kings formed seals. Pouring their strength together, they condensed a formation that could control the power of the various cities before directing the thirty-six columns of light directly into the air.

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The thirty-six columns of light were like thirty-six keys that opened a sealed door. When the columns of light reached ten thousand metres into the air, a colossal crack immediately opened up in the empty space there. An altar was gradually exposed from the crack.

Chapter 3215: Ten Droplets of Essence Blood

The altar was three thousand metres wide and pure-white and flawless. It seemed like it had been carved from white jade.

The altar was littered with stone tablets. Each stone tablet was engraved with a series of names in the ancient language of the Darkstar race.

The owners of these stone tablets were all predecessors who had made tremendous contributions in the Darkstar race's history.

A faceless statue stood in front of all these stone tablets.

Despite it possessing no facial features at all, the statue gave off a paramount aura like it could stun the heavens.

The statue was the paramount sovereign that had appeared in the Darkstar race's history!

In the distance, Jian Chen sat in the air without budging. The space that twisted around him seemed to block out all light and form an independent world. Even though he was in the territory of the Darkstar race, no one could detect his existence. When he hid away, even the supreme emperor of the Darkstar race was unable to find any traces of him.

At this moment, his eyes shone brightly as he stared straight at the faceless statue on the altar. He was stern and thinking about something.

At this moment, a pulse of energy even stronger than the ones from the thirty-six major cities suddenly swept through the air above the capital city. The ten divine halls also began to move.

All of the hall masters and vice hall masters sat in their respective divine halls, unleashing secret techniques and awakening the power of the divine halls, establishing a profound formation with the ten divine halls as a foundation. They strengthened the Darkstar Divine Hall above as they constantly delivered energy into the divine hall through the formation.

Immediately, the Darkstar Divine Hall erupted brightly with light. Then it also emitted a column of resplendent light, directly enveloping the altar of white jade.

Immediately, the altar of white jade blurred. Vaguely, a secret door hidden on the altar seemed to be opened.

In the next moment, the Darkstar Emperor rose and directly made his way onto the altar. He bowed politely towards the faceless statue before immediately vanishing.

In just ten seconds, the Darkstar Emperor's figure appeared on the altar again. He bowed towards the faceless statue again with great respect before making his way down.

Afterwards, the power from the ten divine halls slowly receded, the secret door on the altar vanished, and the power from the thirty-six major cities rapidly depleted.

Without the support of the power from the thirty-six major cities, the altar that hovered ten thousand metres in the air rapidly faded away, vanishing into the space there again.

However, no one noticed that Jian Chen's figure had silently appeared several hundred metres away from the altar at the same altitude of ten thousand metres. He used the powers of space to hide his traces, such that no one in the Darkstar race could detect him, whether it was through their soul sense or their naked eye.

His eyes shone brightly. He was glued to the altar of white jade as thoughts flashed through his head.

"There's actually an independent space within the altar!" Jian Chen thought. He had been paying attention to the process of opening the altar the entire time. When the Darkstar Emperor entered the interior, he had obviously noticed it as well.

Several seconds later, the altar of white jade was completely hidden away. It vanished entirely.

"With my Fourth Heavenly Layer Chaotic Prime comprehension of the Laws of Space, I actually can't tell where the altar is hidden. What impressive methods." Jian Chen signed inside. He searched the space carefully again in an attempt to find where the altar was hidden, but he still found nothing.

In the next moment, he vanished silently. When he reappeared, he had already arrived inside the Darkstar Divine Hall. Then he sat down in a chair to wait for the Darkstar Emperor.

With the process of opening the altar complete, all of the Godkings from the thirty-six major cities returned to their respective territories under the Darkstar Emperor's orders. The ten divine halls returned to their original positions too.

Very soon, the disturbance caused by opening the altar had completely settled down. The Darkstar race's capital city returned to its usual order.

Jian Chen waited in the Darkstar Divine Hall for a while, and the Darkstar Emperor walked in majestically. He passed a jade bottle to Jian Chen rather painfully and said, "Jian Chen, here are the ten droplets of a Grand Exalt's blood that you need. Our Darkstar race has done everything we can to fulfil your demands. I hope you will never forget about the promise you've made to my race."

Before he could even respond, Jian Chen snatched over the jade bottle and opened it eagerly to check its contents.

All he saw were ten droplets of fluid floating in the jade bottle, giving off a powerful presence as well as extremely pure vital energy.

It was a Grand Exalt's essence blood!

On top of that, the essence blood had been preserved extremely well. Despite the passage of time, not a lot of the energy in the ten droplets had dispersed. Every single droplet was more complete than the essence blood of the ancient Skywolf.

Jian Chen immediately beamed with joy. The delight in his heart poured outwards, making him grin. At this moment, he even began to tremble gently.

Just how many years had it been? Who knew how many years he had waited for this. Now, at this very moment, he had finally received the ten droplets of a Grand Exalt's essence blood as he wished.

With these ten droplets of essence blood, he could return to the World of Moon and Star again and use the essence blood to break the Dao Union Saint, thus freeing the Primeval Divine Hall.

And according to his agreement with the artifact spirit of the Primeval Divine Hall, it would accept him as its master once he helped it break free.

The Primeval Divine Hall was a sovereign god artifact that had been preserved in perfect condition!

"With the ten droplets of a Grand Exalt's essence blood, I can obtain a sovereign god artifact in perfect condition." Jian Chen ravished with joy inside. As he held the essence blood, he felt extremely excited.

Very soon, Jian Chen pacified his turbulent emotions. He sucked in a deep breath and carefully placed the bottle stopper back on, stowing the ten droplets of essence blood away carefully like it was treasure. He immediately guaranteed to the Darkstar Emperor, "Don't worry, I definitely won't go back on what I've agreed with your Darkstar race. If I really do possess the power to free your Darkstar race some day, I will do everything that I can to help you break free from this prison."

Reaching there, Jian Chen paused before asking curiously, "Your altar seems to be hiding a different space?"

The Darkstar Emperor seemed to realise what Jian Chen was thinking about. He responded normally, "That's just a place to store the ancestor's essence blood. There's nothing else inside."

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"And with the ten droplets you've taken, we're almost left with no more essence blood. There's only a few droplets stored in the altar now."

"They are vital to the great ceremonies that we hold. Once our ancestor's essence blood is depleted, we won't be able to hold any great ceremonies anymore. As a result, giving you ten droplets of our ancestor's essence blood today is equivalent to staking our entire future on you."

After a slight moment of hesitation, the Darkstar Emperor said slowly, "If it's possible, I hope to provide you with even more help so that you grow faster. After all, the stronger you are, the more hope we have. However, given your current strength, the only resources that we possess and can truly assist you are all in the bronze lamp."

"And this bronze lamp cannot be opened unless I'm a Chaotic Prime."

**Chapter 3216: Slain Instantly** 

As soon as he mentioned the bronze lamp, the Darkstar Emperor seemed powerless.

Jian Chen fell silent. He had already obtained the Grand Exalt's essence blood as he had wished and achieved his goal in entering the Darkstar World, but this was still the last time he could enter this world after all. He would not have any opportunity to come here again.

The items in the bronze lamp truly tempted him very much. He was uncertain about everything inside, but just the items he had caught a glimpse of made him drool with envy.

To him, this was without a doubt a great fortune.

If such a great fortune simply slipped through the cracks of his fingers, it would be far too great of a pity.

It was not because there were no bounds to his greed, but because the Darkstar Emperor was also willing to give him all of the God Tier items within the bronze lamp that could assist Jian Chen in increasing his strength.

As a result, as long as it was possible, Jian Chen obviously wanted to make an effort to get his hands on them.

"I have some God Tier heavenly resources on me. These heavenly resources possess Xuanhuang Qi, so they are immune to the will of Grand Exalts. See if you can reach Chaotic Prime with these God Tier heavenly resources," Jian Chen said in thought.

The Darkstar Emperor shook his head and said, "The reason why your God Tier heavenly resources are immune to the will of Grand Exalts is because they grew in a Xuanhuang Microcosm. All heavenly resources that grow in such a world have completely departed from their original species, undergoing a certain transformation and basically merging with Xuanhuang Qi. That is why they are immune to the will of Grand Exalts."

"And there's the first batch of high grade Godking pills you brought in from the outside world too. Xuanhuang Qi managed to merge with these pills perfectly because you added Xuanhuang spiritual fluid during the refinement process, such that they completely changed. That is why they're also immune to the restrictions of the will of Grand Exalts."

"However, that won't work on me."

"The will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits is everywhere. It constantly suppresses my race, so even if I ingest the heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi, they cannot change my bloodline. They cannot turn me into a completely different lifeform like these heavenly resources and the high grade Godking pills you refined." The Darkstar Emperor explained patiently. His knowledge in this area clearly exceeded Jian Chen's.

"Looks like we can only forget about it then," Jian Chen said gently. He found it to be a great pity.

Suddenly, the Darkstar Emperor's eyes narrowed slightly. He said in thought, "Perhaps we can try a different method. It's not exactly impossible..."

Jian Chen's eyes lit up when he heard that. "You have a way?"

The Darkstar Emperor pondered it for a while and said slowly, "The space within the bronze lamp can only truly be opened when I'm a Chaotic Prime. I can't reach Chaotic Prime properly, but as long as I remain at that realm for a moment, it should be enough. I should be able to remove some items from the bronze lamp."

The Darkstar Emperor looked at Jian Chen with shining interest. "However, I'll need your help. I need you to take out a large quantity of heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi to temporarily block the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits with the thick Xuanhuang Qi. It will buy me enough time to reach Chaotic Prime."

"Apart from that, I'll also require your God Tier heavenly resources to break through. I can reach Chaotic Prime at any moment given my current cultivation if it were not for the suppression from the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, but God Tier heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi will allow me to break through even faster."

"After you break through, how do you plan on dealing with the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits?" Jian Chen asked. He knew the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits had suppressed the Darkstar race even more harshly than when outsiders entered here.

If outsiders crossed the age of a thousand after entering the Darkstar World, they would not face any punishment.

However, if a member of the Darkstar race reached Chaotic Prime under the laws set down by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits, that would be equivalent to breaking the laws of the world. They would be mercilessly erased by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits.

Not only did the laws set down by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits seal off the Darkstar race's path to Chaotic Prime, but it also possessed the ability to kill all Chaotic Primes of the Darkstar race.

As a result, the Darkstar race could only use the great ceremony to weaken the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits if they wanted to produce any Chaotic Primes.

"I will sever my cultivation immediately and fall back down to Infinite Prime," the Darkstar Emperor said sternly.

Jian Chen was hesitant. He asked in concern, "What if any accidents happen?"

"Don't worry. Even if accidents occur, I have the bronze lamp. It can preserve my soul!" the Darkstar Emperor said.

"Alright then. If that's the case, then let's try it."

Afterwards, Jian Chen took out a large quantity of Xuanhuang spiritual fluid, followed by many heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi. At a time like this, he could no longer care about whether it was a waste or not. He crushed all of the heavenly resources into powder before merging it with the Xuanhuang spiritual fluid to form a sticky paste.

He smeared the paste onto the Darkstar Emperor, using the dense Xuanhuang Qi to cloak the Darkstar Emperor's presence and temporarily block out the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits.

The Darkstar Emperor seemed like he was made of mud. The clayey medicinal paste covered his entire body.

This was only the first line of defence. Further away, Jian Chen turned many more heavenly resources into paste before enveloping the Darkstar Emperor in an even larger shell.

At that instant, the restriction from the laws of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits vanished.

The Darkstar Emperor immediately ingested the heavenly resources that Jian Chen had prepared for him, making a push for Chaotic Prime.

Reaching Chaotic Prime truly posed no difficulty to the Darkstar Emperor at all. In just a few seconds, the Darkstar Emperor's presence changed in terms of quality. He had already reached Chaotic Prime effortlessly.

The entire process was extremely natural and extremely smooth, without any sense of difficulty. Even Jian Chen had never witnessed someone reaching Chaotic Prime as easily as the Darkstar Emperor.

Afterwards, the Darkstar Emperor's cultivation erupted like a volcano after reaching Chaotic Prime, beginning to climb at an unbelievable rate. It was as swift as it could be.

He had remained at the Ninth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime for far, far too long. With so much accumulated power, he seemed unstoppable as soon as he broke through.

However, the Darkstar Emperor's mind was not on his cultivation anymore. As soon as he reached Chaotic Prime, he gathered all of his power and began opening the space in the bronze lamp.

But at this moment, the world rumbled, and the ways shook. A terrifying will descended.

Jian Chen's expression changed drastically. Before this terrifying will, a chill immediately ran down his spine. He could not even muster the willpower to put up any resistance.

"The will of a Grand Exalt!" He shivered inside. Before this will, he felt like a rowboat in the vast ocean, where the slightest wave could completely swallow him.

Before the paramount will, Jian Chen was unable to do anything at all!

The will directly pierced the barrier of Xuanhuang Qi that Jian Chen had created, descending upon the Darkstar Emperor instantly.

The Darkstar Emperor turned to a pile of dust silently, without leaving behind any proper remains. Only a bronze lamp that shone dimly hovered in the air silently.

# Chapter 3217

Gazing at the bronze lamp hovering before him, Jian Chen paled. Both he and the Darkstar Emperor had underestimated the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits. Even with a barrier formed from Xuanhuang Qi, it did not seem to be particularly effective before a Grand Exalt's will. In the end, the Darkstar Emperor had been directly slain mercilessly the moment he reached Chaotic Prime.

Originally, the Darkstar Emperor was still thinking of severing his cultivation as soon as he removed the items from the bronze lamp. With that, his cultivation would fall back down to Infinite Prime, and he would avoid the will of the Grand Exalt.

Yet in the end, he did not even have the time to sever his cultivation. He had been reduced to dust instantly.

"Sigh, we still underestimated the laws set down by the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits after all." The Darkstar Emperor's soul appeared from the bronze lamp. He was still badly shaken from the experience.

The will of the Grand Exalt had only destroyed his body. His soul was unscathed under the bronze lamp's protection.

Jian Chen gazed at the Darkstar Emperor's transparent soul blankly and became filled with mixed emotions. It was because of him that the Darkstar Emperor had lost his body.

If it were not for the bronze lamp that protected the Darkstar Emperor's soul, he probably would have passed away already.

With everything that had happened so far, Jian Chen no longer had any hopes of obtaining the treasures inside the bronze lamp. He had already witnessed the power of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits with his own eyes. Under such a threat, it was impossible for the Darkstar Emperor to remove anything from within the bronze lamp.

As a matter of fact, he had already paid a heavy price for this.

"I've harmed you. I shouldn't have made you try this." Jian Chen gazed at the Darkstar Emperor's soul with mixed emotions, and a hint of guilt appeared in his heart.

"This is nothing. I just lost my body. It's no big deal. I only need to spend some time and heavenly resources, and I can rebuild my body. The last thing that the Darkstar race lacks is time," the Darkstar Emperor said in an unconcerned manner. While he had lost his body, his expression in soul form was rather excited. He said, "And this attempt wasn't completely fruitless."

Jian Chen's eyes lit up slightly as he suddenly looked at the Darkstar Emperor.

Soon afterwards, a jade-green spine and a palm-sized plate of black jade appeared before the Darkstar Emperor.

The black jade plate seemed ordinary. It did not give off any pulses of energy.

However, the jade-green spine gave off a gentle green glow. It contained an extremely lively power of life.

"This is the sovereign of the Wood Spirits' spine?" Jian Chen subconsciously ignored the plate of black jade and stared straight at the spine. His heart surged violently.

"That's right. This is the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits' spine. It should be of help to you, so take it," the Darkstar Emperor said. The spine that hovered before him moved towards Jian Chen slowly.

Sensing the dense power of life within the spine, Jian Chen's eyes shone brightly. He was filled with excitement. He studied the spine repeatedly with a burning gaze before taking in a few deep breaths and grabbing it slowly.

Immediately, an extremely pure force of life spread out from the spine. Under the aura of life, Jian Chen immediately felt like his entire body and soul had been purified, sublimating from inside out. Pleasure filled his entire body.

"This power of life is so great!" Jian Chen could not help but sigh in amazement. This was the spine of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits after all. The power it contained had far surpassed Jian Chen's imaginations. That was a supreme power well beyond his current reach.

This was power from a Grand Exalt, and the pure power of life too. Even a single wisp or sliver of this power could essentially rebuild a person's body.

On top of that, Jian Chen discovered that this power of life was extremely gentle. Even though it had reached the level of Grand Exalts, it did not possess any killing intent at all, let alone any destructive power. It only seemed meek and harmless.

It was like the great power that belonged to the mother of the earth. It would only be used to nourish everything in the world and nurture all the living creatures. It was filled with a feeling of kindness and gentleness.

From the power of life alone, Jian Chen could vaguely tell that the sovereign of the Wood Spirits should have been a person who held unconditional love for all.

"Such a loving person can actually go as far as to target the entire Darkstar race, even setting down laws to obstruct the race's developments. Sigh, I wonder just what the Darkstar race did in the past to make the sovereign of the Wood Spirits hate them so much," Jian Chen thought. However, regardless of what the Darkstar race had done in the past, none of it was his business.

He had witnessed far too many struggles between organisations, as well as the rise and fall of countless of them. It was very difficult to completely understand and describe everything that went on between them.

All he knew was he had already become an ally of the Darkstar race now.

"The spine of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits seems to be a piece of wood?" Jian Chen subconsciously felt the spine, and a wooden sensation immediately filled his hand.

It was a spine, but it did not seem like a spine that belonged to a body of flesh and blood at all. Instead, it seemed more like it was made from plants.

"The spine has a total of four uses to me. The first is to comprehend laws through this spine. However, I've already comprehended enough laws so far. I can't bite off more than I can chew. Comprehending an additional law won't increase my battle prowess by much."

"Secondly, I can absorb the energy within the spine and treat it like Gusta's fleshly core to strengthen my Chaotic Force. This spine was left behind by a Grand Exalt, but it's just a spine after all. It can't store tremendous amounts of energy like the fleshly core, so this spine comes nowhere close to it."

"Thirdly, I can unleash the special characteristic of its power of life and treat it as an item for recovery. The power of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits nourishes all. It should have extremely evident effects when it comes to healing."

"Lastly, I can treat this spine as a material." Jian Chen immediately thought of the various uses for the spine, and he became quite eager.

If he really treated this spine as a material, it would without a doubt be a supreme grade God Tier material. It would be the best of the best whether it came to forging artifacts or refining pills.

Even across the entire Saints' World, supreme grade God Tier heavenly resources were extremely rare.

Just as Jian Chen was submerged in his joy of obtaining the Grand Exalt's spine, the Darkstar Emperor checked the second item he had removed from the bronze lamp, which was the plate of black jade.

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When he understood the purpose of the plate, a strange light immediately flashed through the Darkstar Emperor's eyes. He said slowly, "A secret technique is recorded in the jade plate. If you practise this secret technique, you can carve open a small space in your soul."

"However, only Chaotic Primes can practise this secret technique." When he said that, the Darkstar Emperor pushed the jade plate over to Jian Chen. "This secret technique should be useful to you. It is a secret technique that belongs to our Darkstar race, but there are no other restrictions to practising it."

### Chapter 3218

Jian Chen accepted the black jade plate and immediately sent the senses of his soul inside. A secret technique appeared in his head.

He studied it closely, and very soon, his eyes lit up. He immediately discovered the benefits and the various uses of this secret technique.

The secret technique was just as the Darkstar Emperor had said. It could open a small space within his soul, something akin to a miniature world, which bore the properties of a Space Ring.

The size of the miniature world was connected to the strength of the soul. The stronger the soul was, the larger the miniature world was.

The space could hold various resources and items. Its function was extremely similar to Space Rings, but it possessed another function that Space Rings did not.

It would be very difficult to take away any of the items stored within the soul space by force. Even if his body were destroyed, the items in the soul space would remain as long as his soul was intact.

Aside from that, the items stored in the soul space would be even more well-hidden than in a Space Ring. Even if he encountered experts stronger than him, they would still be unable to see the soul space as long as they were not capable of seeing through his soul in a single glance.

If it were a Space Ring instead, then it would be very easy for experts to see all the belongings stored in there if they were capable of penetrating the concealing formations cast on Space Rings.

On top of that, it was extremely easy for Space Rings to be stolen. Whether it was losing the body, losing an arm, or just losing a finger, that all came with the risk of losing a Space Ring.

If he had a soul space and stored all of his valuables in there, then that would not be a concern at all.

"This is something good. It is indeed of great use to me." Jian Chen's eyes shone brighter and brighter. He immediately understood the value of this secret technique. Without any exaggeration, once he grasped this secret technique, it was equivalent to gaining an indestructible warehouse. He would not have to worry about anyone stealing his treasures anymore. No matter what he had been reduced to, his treasures would always accompany him.

That was unless his soul dispersed, but that was true death!

"The ten droplets of essence blood and the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits' spine are all items the peak organisations of the Saints' World covet. If you just store them in your Space Ring like normal, you can't be too sure if anyone will discover it. I might not be as powerful as you, but I've still lived for all these years after all. Both my insights and knowledge far surpass yours. I know some special races in the world or some people with unique abilities that can directly search through Space Rings without any obstruction."

"As a result, it's not safe for you to store these items in your Space Ring. Once you catch the attention of a Grand Prime, can you still hang onto them?" the Darkstar Emperor said sternly.

The Darkstar Emperor's words made Jian Chen sink into his thoughts. There were very few organisations that still possessed the courage to provoke him given the Tian Yuan clan's current reputation, but there were always exceptions. There would always be fearless and lawless people no matter where or when.

With his current strength, he was completely capable of protecting them from Chaotic Primes.

However, what if he encountered Grand Primes?

Ten droplets of a Grand Exalt's essence blood and the spine of a sovereign was so tempting that it was enough for many Grand Primes to risk their lives recklessly.

After all, not all the Grand Primes of the Saints' World had clans and organisations behind them. Some independent cultivators that were not tied down by anything would not have so many qualms.

In particular, when it came to some of the more powerful Grand Primes, they had far too many methods to rob a Space Ring without drawing any attention even if they did not show themselves.

"Looks like I really can't keep the essence blood and the sovereign's spine in my Space Ring. It's not just those items either. I need to store the God Tier heavenly resources I obtained from the Xuanhuang Microcosm in a different way too." Jian Chen had some worries. The Darkstar Emperor's advice had set off alarm bells for him, making him raise his guard against those Grand Primes.

If they were regular God Tier heavenly resources, they naturally would not attract Grand Primes, as they were not enough for them to take action.

However, once it crossed a certain threshold, it would be completely different.

"I only managed to retrieve these two items when I opened the bronze lamp this time. Despite that, my body was still destroyed. Jian Chen, we've done all that we can to fulfil your needs. I only hope that you don't let down the expectations we've placed on you." The Darkstar Emperor stared at Jian Chen sternly.

Jian Chen stowed the plate of black jade away and stood up. He bowed deeply towards the Darkstar Emperor. "I will never forget the kindness your race has shown me. I will definitely pay you back in folds in the future if it's within my ability."

Taking the plate of black jade with him, Jian Chen left the Darkstar Divine Hall. In the blink of an eye, he returned to the mountain where he had spent several centuries refining pills. He began practising the secret technique recorded in the plate of black jade.

"Once I open the soul space, that will be when I leave the Darkstar World," Jian Chen thought. According to his original plan, he would leave the Darkstar World as soon as he got his hands on the ten droplets of essence blood.

However, the Darkstar Emperor's warnings and the jade plate's appearance delayed his departure once again.

Wisps of clouds and mist curled at the top of the mountain. Jian Chen's figure shimmered as a result, which made him seem like an otherworldly sage.

He had already entered a state of cultivation.

In the Darkstar Divine Hall, the Darkstar Emperor's illusionary figure sat on the throne. Meanwhile, the ten hall masters who had just completed the tasks that came after opening the altar stood side by side outside.

As soon as they entered the Darkstar Divine Hall, they noticed how the Darkstar Emperor was in soul form, which immediately left them shocked.

"Your majesty, your body..."

"W-what happened, your majesty? Why have you lost your body?"

"Don't tell me it's Jian Chen. Dammit, just what did he do?"

The ten hall masters all cried out. Their expressions changed drastically as they rushed into the hall.

"It has nothing to do with Jian Chen. My body was destroyed by the will of the Grand Exalt of the Wood Spirits," said the Darkstar Emperor. Only after an explanation did the ten hall masters finally learn about what had happened.

"We've already given him the ten droplets of our ancestor's essence blood. We've completed what we promised, yet you still ended up with your body destroyed just to retrieve the items in the bronze lamp for him. Your majesty, is this really worth it?" The first hall master was pained by this sight. He did not believe it was worth it at all as he gazed at the Darkstar Emperor in soul form.

# **Chapter 3219: The Ancestors Return**

"Your majesty, you've actually taken such a great risk for such distant hope, triggering the will of the sovereign of the Wood Spirits. I-isn't the price just a little too great?"

"We don't have a lot of our ancestor's essence blood, and we've given ten droplets to Jian Chen this time. The remaining amount of essence blood will only be able to last a few great ceremonies. Once we exhaust all of the essence blood, we'll never be able to break free."

"Let alone the ancestor's essence blood, his majesty has even retrieved the items in the bronze lamp, triggering the Grand Exalt's will in the end and having his body destroyed in the process. Your majesty, this isn't worth it at all."

The hall masters all grumbled. All of them felt that the price that the Darkstar race had paid this time was well beyond what they were expecting.

The Darkstar Emperor raised his hand and silenced the hall masters' unhappy discussion. He said, "Enough. You don't have to mention this again. I've obviously made my own considerations before I did this. You should just tell me the current situation of the thirty-six cities instead."

The ten hall masters exchanged glances and all sighed inside. After a few moments of silence, it was the recently promoted seventh hall master who spoke up, "Your majesty, we've opened the altar twice over just a few centuries, so it's come at a tremendous cost. Basically all the energy accumulated by the thirty-six cities over the years have been depleted. Without any resources from the outside world, it'll take a million years at the very least as a conservative estimate before it completely recovers."

Afterwards, the hall masters reported to the Darkstar Emperor the Darkstar race's current situation, and they put forward suggestions.

"Looks like we still have to re-establish our commerce relationship with the outside world. Some of the resources from the outside world are also of great importance to our race," the Darkstar Emperor murmured softly. He waved his hand at the ten hall masters. "You can go for now."

After the ten hall masters had taken their leave, the Darkstar Emperor sighed in the empty divine hall. He sat back weakly in his throne as an illusionary figure, filled with a sense of helplessness.

After a while of silence, he murmured, "The great ceremony? You're still counting on the great ceremony? Can we really still go down the path of the great ceremony?"

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"Opening up a space in my soul is actually so difficult. It'll basically take tens of thousands of years."

On a remote mountain in the Darkstar World, Jian Chen opened his eyes slowly after making an initial attempt at creating a space in his soul. His brows were firmly furrowed.

The difficulty of opening a space in his soul was so great that it surpassed his imaginations. On top of that, he saw the annotations left behind on the plate of black jade by the senior who created this secret technique.

Those who possessed exceptional talent would require ten thousand years at the very least.

Those who possessed normal talent would require a million years at the very least.

The secret technique recorded in the plate of black jade even needed a cultivation at Chaotic Prime at the very least to practice it. However, all experts who could reach Chaotic Prime were prodigies of outstanding talent, yet in the eyes of the person who created this secret technique, they actually only possessed normal talent.

"The senior who created this secret technique had extremely high standards. It's extremely likely for him to be the sovereign of the Darkstar race, as only in the eyes of sovereigns are Chaotic Primes so insignificant."

"This secret technique is of extremely great help to me. It's best if I open a space in my soul before I leave here. However, according to the annotations on the jade plate, I'll need ten thousand years at the very least."

"Ten thousand years are far too long for me."

Making up his mind, Jian Chen immediately took out a tea set from his Space Ring and began making Comprehension Tea!

Afterwards, Jian Chen began to comprehend the secret technique as quickly as he could under the help of Comprehension Tea.

During the time he spent comprehending the secret technique, Jin Hong remained within the barrier in the depths of the Two World Mountains, using the heavenly resources transported in from the outside world to increase his strength.

The peak organisations from the outside world brought in heavenly resources with Xuanhuang Qi in different batches. Every organisation provided very little with each batch, basically just one or two each time, but when all the heavenly resources were poured together from several dozen organisations, it was an extremely shocking amount.

As a result, Jin Hong experienced both pain and joy as he cultivated in the Darkstar World over the years. His strength increased rapidly, but all the heavenly resources he had eaten basically made him want to vomit.

He had reached the Fifth Heavenly Layer of Infinite Prime now.

Without the assistance of the Grand Exalt's essence blood, Jin Hong's strength increased slowly. Even with all these God Tier heavenly resources contaminated with Xuanhuang Qi, he had only broken through a minor realm of cultivation after all these years.

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In the southern region of the Cloud Plane, outside the capital city of the Pingtian Empire, a spatial storm suddenly brewed over a remote grassland. As space twisted, eleven blurry figures gradually appeared before being thrown out of space in an extremely miserable manner, scattering on the ground. They rolled for quite a distance before coming to a stop.

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The eleven figures all lay on the ground without budging. Their chests heaved as they gasped for air. However, their eyes all became extremely bright, swivelling around in excitement.

"This is the Saints' World. It can't be wrong. This is the Saints' World. This familiar feeling, this nostalgic presence, hahahaha. After being gone for so long, we've finally returned!"

"I didn't think we'd still be able to return to the Saints' World some day after all those years. It really is a surreal feeling."

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They laid on the ground, gasping for air as they voiced their excitement. Smiles stretched across their faces.

They were Yang Lie, Guihai Yidao, Feng Xiaotian, and the others from the Tian Yuan Continent.

Apart from them, there were seven other unfamiliar faces. The ten of them were the ancestors who had founded the ten protector clans on the Tian Yuan Continent!

Now, the ten ancestors had reunited and arrived in the Saints' World together.

As for the eleventh person, that was Jian Chen's elder brother, Changyang Hu!

"Yang Lie, I heard your descendant from who knows how many generations apart founded a clan in the Saints' World?" At this moment, an old man in grey robe spoke up. He was the founding ancestor of the Heaven's Incense School.

Yang Lie climbed up slowly and dusted himself off. He said rather proudly, "That's correct. That great-grandson of mine was exceptionally talented, already possessing the battle prowess of a Godhood cultivator back then on the Tian Yuan Continent. Now that he's cultivated for several years in the Saints' World, his strength should be even greater now."

As soon as he mentioned Jian Chen, Yang Lie beamed with joy, clearly extremely satisfied with this great-grandson of his. Then he scanned past the seven others slowly and smiled with ulterior motives. "The reason why the seven of you could recover so quickly was all thanks to the resources that my great-grandson left behind. Now, isn't it time for you to pay him back?"

"That goes without saying. Since we're so indebted to your great-grandson's kindness, we have to repay him no matter what. Once we find your great-grandson's Tian Yuan Clan, we'll obviously be joining," the ancestor of the Potian sect said. He was a middle-aged man, around forty years of age. He wore white robes and currently stood with his arms behind his back, like a grandmaster.

"But with how large the Saints' World is, how are we supposed to find the Tian Yuan clan founded by your great-grandson? With the Tian Yuan clan's strength, even if we ask around, it is possible that no one knows which corner it's hidden in. The costs to use teleportation formations in the Saints' World is frighteningly expensive too. With what we're capable of, if the journey is too far, we won't even be able to reach there," another ancestor of a protector clan said in a troubled manner.

Many of them fell silent with that. They all found this to be rather troublesome.

### **Chapter 3220: Encountering a Godking**

At this moment, with a flip of his hand, a tablet that belonged to the Tian Yuan clan immediately appeared in Yang Lie's hand. He played around with the jade tablet and studied it. "Before my great-grandson left, he told me to show this tablet whenever we arrived in some larger cities after we made it to the Saints' World."

"Larger cities? Which city in particular? With how large the Saints' World is, there are more cities than you can count. Yang Lie, surely the tablet in your possession isn't effective in every city," someone immediately asked as soon as Yang Lie said that.

Yang Lie shook his head and also furrowed his brows. He said with regret, "Back then in the lower world, I didn't think this far, nor did I think we would return to the Saints' World so soon, so I didn't ask too much about this. Now that you're asking me which city, even I don't know."

Everyone glanced at each other in response. There was nothing they could say.

At this moment, the ancestor of the Tyrant's Blade School, Guihai Yidao, noticed something. His eyes immediately lit up, and he said, "Hmm? There seems to be a city up ahead."

Guihai Yidao looked around and suggested, "Why don't we enter the city and ask around first?"

Everyone gazed over. Sure enough, they could make out the outline of a city on the horizon. However, as it was simply too far away, it was not particularly clear.

"C'mon, let's ask around in the city first!" They reached an agreement immediately and flew off.

Very soon, they stopped outside the city. However, as they gazed at the looming, closely-guarded walls, they all began to have second thoughts.

"T-this doesn't seem like a place we should be visiting..." The ancestor of the Yangji sect was rather tongue-tied. As they gazed at the city, just the imposing walls were extraordinary. In the past, they had all kept their distance away from such an imposing city out of respect.

The larger and more flourishing a city was, the more experts it contained. A city like this was not a place that insignificant figures lacking both strength and background like them could set foot in.

"Are you seeing this? Every single person who enters the city will go through a strict search. They all possess a tablet to let them through, and we don't have that. All of these guards are stronger than us too. Even the weakest is a Deity."

"This city is far too powerful. Even the guards are Godhood experts. C'mon, it's best if we keep our distance from a large city like this."

Standing outside the capital city of the Pingtian Empire, Yang Lie and the others hesitated and began developing second thoughts. They did not even have the courage to approach the place.

At the same time, an extremely fancy carriage proceeded slowly along the road to the capital city. The carriage was surrounded by over a dozen guards in black. Every single one of them gave off the presence of a Godhood cultivator, protecting the carriage from all sides.

All the travellers and merchants in the surroundings moved out of the way when the carriage pased by.

A middle-aged man and a young man sat quietly in the carriage. The young man seemed arrogant, clearly from a large clan.

At this moment, the middle-aged man's nose wrinkled. His eyes immediately shone brightly, and he became excited. "Young master, guess what I've found. I've actually caught the scent of heavenly resources, and this scent gives me an extraordinary feeling too."

"Really?" The young man opened his eyes. He also became interested. "Uncle Huo, let's go and take a look."

The carriage suddenly changed directions, leaving the road and directly approaching where Yang Lie and the others were.

At this moment, Yang Lie and the others were still gathered together, discussing where they should go next.

"What are you lurking around here for?" Suddenly, a cold snort rang out from behind. Only now did Yang Lie and the others notice that an extremely fancy carriage had already appeared beside them silently.

Just the dozen or so guards in black around the carriage gave off a presence that made them shiver.

"All Godhood experts as guards?" Yang Lie and the others shivered inside when they saw the guards in black.

Even the strongest among them were only at peak Reciprocity. Now, they were facing over a dozen Godhood experts all of a sudden, which made them nervous and uneasy.

"Seniors, this is our first time here, and we've lost our direction. If we are in your way, please forgive us." The eleven of them clasped their fists respectfully and fearfully.

Even Changyang Hu demonstrated fear right now. He was unsettled. Even with his state of Great Liberation, where very few things in the world still mattered to him, he could not help but respond with emotion right now.

He had a strong feeling that the people before him were definitely up to nothing good.

A middle-aged man emerged from the carriage. He wrinkled his nose before looking straight at Yang Lie. His lips curled into an eerie smile. "With how disorderly your presences are, you should have just come up from a lower world. This is the Saints' World. You can't go anywhere without divine crystals. Take this. This is a hundred mid grade divine crystals."

As he said that, the middle-aged man directly tossed a hundred mid grade divine crystals to Yang Lie.

Gazing at the divine crystals in his hand, Yang Lie was a little dazed. For a moment, he was puzzled by what the middle-aged man was up to.

However, the middle-aged man's next words made Yang Lie's expression change drastically.

"Though... these hundred divine crystals aren't for free. It's in exchange for the Space Rings in your possession." As he said that, the middle-aged man extended a finger, and Yang Lie's Space Ring immediately left his finger, ending up in his hands. Yang Lie did not even have any opportunity to resist.

Let alone resist, he did not even have the ability to respond. The Space Ring had left him instantly.

The abrupt change in the situation immediately made Yang Lie panic. His heart completely sank as he said reluctantly with a trembling voice, "Senior, this Space Ring isn't for sale."

"How dare you! You've already accepted the hundred mid grade divine crystals. My uncle Huo is a mighty Godking, so how can he allow you to just go back on your word?" The young man also emerged from the carriage, gazing at the eleven of them in pure disdain. However, he then looked at the Space Ring in the middle-aged man's hand curiously and eagerly.

With his identity, regular heavenly resources could no longer interest him. However, he also knew that anything that could interest uncle Huo would be extraordinary.

When Yang Lie and the others heard the word "Godking", they immediately shuddered. It left everyone present shocked. A chill welled up from their hearts, leaving them cold all over.

"Godking... Godking... He's actually a Godking..."

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For a moment, the word "Godking" echoed through their heads. They would never forget about what happened when they searched through the miniature world in the Saints' World back then. It led to a conflict among Godkings, which shattered the miniature world. It was also because of that incident that they had accidentally ended up on the Tian Yuan Continent.

As a result, the strength of Godkings had already left a deep mark on them, embedded deeply in their souls like a scorching-hot brand.