

## Es. Benefits 1231

Chapter 1231: This Sum Emperor is Nothing to Fear

Upon hearing what these people in front of him had said, Liu Tingzhang was momentarily stunned.

They had come looking for them specifically?

He did not recognize any of these people, so what did they want with them?

And these people shouldn't know about their Canghai Sect, right?

Liu Tingzhang asked with a face full of doubt, "Do you happen to know which sect this seat comes from?"

Upon hearing this question, the people on the Immortal Boat looked at each other, but none of them answered.

Seeing that these people didn't answer, Liu Tingzhang's face blackened in an instant. These people had claimed they came for them specifically, yet they didn't even know which sect they were from.

The next moment, Liu Tingzhang was about to take action and deal with these people, but just then, someone hurriedly said, "Senior, although we are not aware of which power you hail from, we know that your sect has cultivators in the Saint Realm."

“The Sum Emperor is ferocious and brutal. We have long wished to escape from the Chaotic Star Sea, but the Sum Emperor has always threatened us with the lives of the sect’s cultivators, making us too fearful to leave the Chaotic Star Sea.”

“Not long ago, the Sum Emperor learned that you were entering the Chaotic Star Sea and consequently summoned all the forces from the Chaotic Star Sea in an attempt to stop you. Seizing this chance, we decided to turn away from the dark and defect, thus we took the opportunity to leave the Chaotic Star Sea and come to seek refuge with Senior.”

Hearing this explanation, Liu Tingzhang pondered for a moment. The words of this cultivator didn’t seem to be false.

Although it was likely that these people were sent by the Sum Emperor to gather intelligence, if they truly came to seek refuge with them, then they could use these people to probe the situation in the Chaotic Star Sea.

Furthermore, even if these people were sent by the Sum Emperor, they wouldn’t pose much threat to the Canghai Sect, as their Supreme Elder had already joined the fray. How could they possibly fear a cultivator who wasn’t even a Saint?

Just as Liu Tingzhang was about to ask more questions, Jiang Tianrui flashed to his side, and Liu Tingzhang immediately said respectfully, “Elder, how do you think we should deal with them?”

Seeing the respect Liu Tingzhang showed toward the elder by his side, everyone present instantly guessed that he must be the Saint. They all started kowtowing and begging, “Senior, please save us! We are willing to serve you as oxen and horses!”

Jiang Tianrui directly asked, “What power does the Sum Emperor wield?”

One of them replied, “Senior, according to the intelligence we received, the Sum Emperor’s current cultivation state should be at the Eighth Layer of the Returning Ruin Realm.”

Jiang Tianrui thought for a moment. Just the Returning Ruin Realm Eighth Layer? Then why did Zou Feiang say that this Sum Emperor might have strength approaching that of a Saint?

At that time, Zou Feiang also promptly flew over to Jiang Tianrui’s side. With a stern look at these people, Zou Feiang said, “Returning Ruin Realm Eighth Layer? Aren’t you spies sent by the Sum Emperor to distribute false news?”

A cultivator hurriedly said, “Senior, we swear we are not lying. The Sum Emperor himself spoke at the cultivators’ assembly and admitted his power is indeed only at the Returning Ruin Realm Eighth Layer.”

“But...”

Hearing this turning point, Zou Feiang spoke fiercely, “But what? Speak out everything you know right now, or you all are walking a path to death!”

The cultivator quickly said, “But, it seems that the Sum Emperor possesses a very powerful Spirit Armor. Anyone who wears that Spirit Armor can tremendously enhance their cultivation state.”

“A cultivator in the Yin-Yang Realm wearing that Spirit Armor can have their strength elevated to the Returning Ruin Realm in a short period, and those in the Returning Ruin Realm who wear it can possess strength approaching that of a Saint.”

Upon hearing this, Zou Feiang slightly startled, seemingly understanding something, “No wonder the elder always felt the Saintly aura on him was unstable; it turns out he indeed is not a Saint.”

Jiang Tianrui thought it over. If the other party had only temporarily elevated his strength close to that of a Saint through other means, then this Sum Emperor was not to be feared.

Then Jiang Tianrui said to the people before him, “I can offer you protection. Retell everything about the Chaotic Star Sea in detail.”

Upon hearing Jiang Tianrui’s words, they all became quite excited, and soon told Jiang Tianrui and the others about Lu Chen’s growth trajectory, as well as everything that happened in the Chaotic Star Sea over the years.

After listening to Lu Chen’s growth trajectory, a smile uncontrollably spread across Jiang Tianrui’s face. Then, Liu Tingzhang beside him said, “Master Uncle, the Sum Emperor must have grown so rapidly because there are treasures in the Tianchen World.”

Previously, they had only been suspicious, but after hearing everyone’s account, they were now completely certain that there must be a Great Emperor’s Tomb in the Tianchen World or some powerful being’s legacy.

Otherwise, how could a prince from such a mundane Empire rise so quickly, and that sort of Spirit Armor that could elevate one’s power by several stages was not simple either.

Even a premier power like Canghai Sect did not possess such Spirit Armor that could directly elevate one by several Realms. How could a cultivator from the Barbaric Star Domain like the Sum Emperor possess it? Obviously, the Emperor had found it somewhere in the Tianchen World.

What Jiang Tianrui was most concerned about was the towering giant tree mentioned by these people. Since the birth of that tree, the Spiritual Energy in the Tianchen World had become extremely rich. This made Jiang Tianrui suspect whether that tree was some sort of World Tree. If they could move that tree to the Canghai Sect, their power would grow even stronger.

Jiang Tianrui was now somewhat impatient and said to those people, "Alright, you lead the way. If it's truly as you say, the Canghai Sect won't treat you unfairly."

The traitors from the Great Sum upon hearing this, quickly kowtowed their thanks, "Many thanks, senior! Many thanks, senior! We will lead the way to the Thousand Ren World right now!!!"

Soon, the Canghai Sect's Immortal Boat continued flying towards the Thousand Ren World.

After returning to their own Immortal Boat, Liu Tingzhang asked uncertainly, "Master Uncle, do you really plan to take these people in?"

Jiang Tianrui responded indifferently, "They are still of some use right now. After dealing with that Sum Emperor, exterminate all the forces in the Chaotic Star Sea."

If there truly was a Great Emperor's Tomb, they definitely would not let such news leak. These traitors that betrayed the Daxia Dynasty might one day betray the Canghai Sect as well.

Moreover, for the Canghai Sect, these traitors from the Great Sum are nothing but garbage from the Barbaric Star Domain, without any cultivation talents. Except for leading the way, they serve no other purpose.

Upon hearing Jiang Tianrui's words, Liu Tingzhang's lips slightly lifted, "I understand now."

Led by the traitors of the Daxia Dynasty, it didn't take long for the Canghai Sect's Immortal Boat to reach the Thousand Ren World.

As soon as they sighted the Thousand Ren World, they noticed many Immortal Boats stationed around it.

Seeing those Immortal Boats, Jiang Tianrui said, "I am truly curious, how did the Sum Emperor, who has always been in the Chaotic Star Sea, come to know in advance that we from the Canghai Sect were coming?"

To mislead others, the Canghai Sect even put up a facade of a grand sect celebration, deceiving all forces of the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region, yet letting the Sum Emperor, who was god knows how many lightyears away, know.

As Jiang Tianrui's voice fell, Liu Tingzhang immediately turned to a Daxia traitor beside him, "Speak, how did the Sum Emperor find out?"

The Daxia traitor stammered in reply, “Se...Senior, I don’t know either. The Sum Emperor suddenly convened a cultivator’s conference, saying that a force possessing a Saint-level expert was about to enter the Chaotic Star Sea.”

Chapter 1232: Sum Emperor, Come Out and Beg for Mercy Immediately!

Upon hearing the words of the Great Sum traitors, everyone fell into deep thought for a moment. They always found it somewhat peculiar that the Sum Emperor had sensed their approach in advance.

After pondering for a while, Jiang Tianrui said, “Enough, as long as we capture the Sum Emperor, all the answers to these problems will naturally be revealed.”

In Jiang Tianrui’s eyes, Lu Chen was already like a turtle in a jar with no escape. Now they just needed to find him, and they would soon clear up the secrets of the Tianchen World. There was no need to make wild guesses here.

Liu Tingzhang echoed, “Sect Uncle speaks the truth.”

As his voice fell, Liu Tingzhang got up and flew into the void, then shouted towards the Immortal Boats outside the Thousand Ren World, “Sum Emperor, come out and beg for mercy immediately to avoid death!”

Upon hearing these words on the Feihong Immortal Boat, Mu Qinglan couldn’t help but want to take action; she wouldn’t allow anyone to disrespect Lu Chen.

However, Lu Chen directly grabbed her wrist.

Mu Qinglan turned her head to look at Lu Chen, her eyes full of confusion, “Your Majesty, they are being disrespectful to you. Let me kill them for you.”

Lu Chen said indifferently, “No need to rush.”

As his voice fell, Lu Chen transmitted his voice into the void, “Friends from the Canghai Sect, welcome to the Chaotic Star Sea!”

During his speech, Lu Chen directly released his aura.

In the next instant, the people on the Canghai Sect Immortal Boat were so pressured by the aura Lu Chen released that they found it hard even to breathe, but Liu Tingzhang and Jiang Tianrui in the void had no problems at all.

Feeling the aura released from Lu Chen, Liu Tingzhang revealed a disdainful look; indeed, as their gathered intelligence suggested, the aura of the Sum Emperor’s Saint Realm was unstable, not that of a true Saint.

Even the oppressive might of this aura, which seemed particularly terrifying, was not as strong as his, a Semi-Saint; he could easily deal with this pressure even as a Semi-Saint.

Liu Tingzhang then said, “Sum Emperor, if this is the extent of your strength, I advise you to surrender early. If you surrender now, you might still have a chance to live.”



Lu Chen ignored Liu Tingzhang's words but asked instead, "I'm quite curious, the Chaotic Star Sea is just a Barbaric Star Domain; what exactly attracts you to keep coming to such a remote place?"

Liu Tingzhang said indifferently, "Sum Emperor, stop pretending to be confused. I'll say it one last time, hand over the location of the Great Emperor's Tomb, or die!"

Hearing Liu Tingzhang's words, Lu Chen was somewhat speechless. Just as expected, the Canghai Sect believed that there were treasures in the Tianchen World and even thought it to be the Great Emperor's Tomb.

If this news spread, it probably wouldn't take long before more forces would enter the Chaotic Star Sea, and their days ahead would not be easy.

Dealing with one force like the Canghai Sect was not a problem, but dealing with the entire Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region was almost impossible to overcome.

Once he made a move against these people from the Canghai Sect, if they found the bone too tough to chew and sent out attacks, their main bodies would inevitably spread the news about the Chaotic Star Sea. By then, the attracted powerhouses would grow more and more numerous.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "There is no such thing as the Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea."

Liu Tingzhang chuckled, "A Prince of a mere mortal dynasty was able to break through to the Returning Ruin Realm in just a few decades and turn the Tianchen World into a world rich in Spiritual Energy. You say there is no Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea; do you think anyone will believe that?"

“It seems you prefer punishment over a toast!”

Now that it had come to this, there was nothing more to say.

Lu Chen immediately took out the Godslayer Sword and flew into the void. He then transmitted his voice to Mu Qinglan, “Lan’er, before that Saint comes out, you also stay put for now.”

Mu Qinglan slightly startled, then responded, “I understand.”

Seeing Lu Chen soaring into the void, the soldiers of the War Dragon Army on the Immortal Boat behind him all grew tense. The opponent could easily withstand the might of the Heavenly Emperor, which proved that the man before them was definitely on par with the Heavenly Emperor, if not stronger.

Could the Daxia Dynasty really overcome this crisis?

Those Sect Disciples were already thinking about how to surrender later in order to save their own lives.

Upon seeing Lu Chen fly into the void, Liu Tingzhang sized up Lu Chen and then said, “So you are the Sum Emperor?”

Lu Chen glanced through Liu Tingzhang's profile and then retorted, "As the Sect Master of the Canghai Sect, you're quite the fussy. Your performance as a Sect Master is rather unimpressive."

Hearing this remark, Liu Tingzhang's eyebrows furrowed. He then mobilized all his Spiritual Power, and the next moment, a massive phantom of a golden deer appeared behind him.

Although Lu Chen's strength had been boosted to near the Saint Realm by external means, Liu Tingzhang did not let his guard down. He immediately made use of his Law Manifestation at the outset.

He only wanted to quickly defeat Lu Chen and then learn the location of the Great Emperor's Tomb from him.

Seeing Liu Tingzhang unleash his Law Manifestation, Lu Chen gathered Sword Qi and launched a strike with his sword.

A massive Sword Qi streaked across the void, causing spatial ripples to undulate.

Ice-Eight Level Sword!!!

With the Sword Qi flying out, countless ice crystals also appeared in the void, and the temperature of the entire void seemed to drop significantly.

Liu Tingzhang instantly sensed trouble; his facial expression suddenly turned much more solemn.

Liu Tingzhang hastily controlled his Law Manifestation. The golden deer behind him opened its mouth to spout a beam of colorful light that flew towards the terrifying Sword Qi.

As the colorful light collided with the Sword Qi from the Ice-Eight Level Sword, a fierce explosion occurred in the void, and visible ripples blasted through space. The Immortal Boats from both parties were pushed aside by the energy from the explosion for hundreds of kilometers.

When the aftermath of the explosion dispersed, Lu Chen and Liu Tingzhang still hovered in the void.

Lu Chen gripped the sword in his hand and frowned as he looked at Liu Tingzhang in the distance. Liu Tingzhang seemed to be unscathed, his Law Manifestation intact.

Lu Chen had thought that after donning the Shenghui Armor, he already possessed strength close to that of a Saint, and with the use of a Heavenly-level Cultivation Technique, dealing with a Semi-Saint shouldn't pose too much of a problem.

But it turned out that not even the opponent's clothing was damaged by his sword strike. Is this the true strength of a Semi-Saint?

It seemed he was right not to let Mu Qinglan take action immediately; had she done so, he wouldn't be able to test his true combat capability.

Just like Lu Chen, Liu Tingzhang's expression was also very serious. He could feel the warm blood in his throat but he forcefully swallowed it down, pretending as if nothing had happened.

Liu Tingzhang now knew he was no match for Lu Chen. Although it looked like he caught Lu Chen's sword strike, he had almost exhausted all his Spiritual Power. If Lu Chen continued to attack, he would only be able to dodge.

Jiang Tianrui, as a Saint, could see the situation at hand very clearly. His expression was somber as he watched the distant Lu Chen.

He had assumed that with Liu Tingzhang, the Semi-Saint, they could deal with the Sum Emperor, especially since the Sum Emperor's strength was boosted by a magic treasure, which was somewhat inflated. However, it turned out that just one sword strike had seriously injured Liu Tingzhang.

Chapter 1233: Fellow Daoist, your appetite is a bit too big!

Jiang Tianrui also stopped standing idly by and shouted loudly, "Enough!"

With that shout, an invisible force instantly assaulted Lu Chen, who suddenly felt as if his entire body was locked onto by something, triggering a very strong sense of crisis.

This was the first time he felt such a strong sense of imminent death.

Lu Chen hurriedly mobilized all the spiritual power in his body, ready to resist Jiang Tianrui's attack, only to find that his spiritual power seemed to be sealed.

This was Lu Chen's first encounter with the real pressure of a Saint. Although Mu Qinglan was also a Saint, she had never released such a powerful Saint-level pressure in front of Lu Chen, leaving him unaccustomed for a moment.

By the time Lu Chen reacted, the invisible attack had already reached him. But just then, Mu Qinglan suddenly appeared in front of Lu Chen.

She gently raised her hand and then a stream of spiritual power flew out from her fingertips, colliding instantly with the power of the Saint.

When the two spiritual forces collided, a violent explosion occurred immediately, and ripples once again appeared in the void, along with cracks.

Seeing this, everyone from the Canghai Sect was stunned, and Jiang Tianrui's face turned dark.

He was no fool. When that woman casually caught his attack, he had judged that she was a Saint.

He had originally thought that in the Chaotic Star Sea, only the Sum Emperor was slightly stronger; he had not expected that there was another concealed Saint in the Chaotic Star Sea.

But without having officially fought, he still did not know the cultivation state of that Saint.

Jiang Tianrui directly asked, "Who are you?"

“I haven’t heard of another Saint existing in the Chaotic Star Sea!”

Upon hearing this, all the forces within the Chaotic Star Sea were shocked.

A Saint?

There was actually a Saint by the Sum Emperor’s side!!!

Then why didn’t the Sum Emperor tell them from the beginning?

Now, people finally understood why the Sum Emperor always seemed so calm and detached; with a Saint protecting him, what was there to fear?

Very soon, those traitors of Great Sum who had willingly defected to the Canghai Sect regretted their actions. They now understood why the Sum Emperor had intentionally concealed the news of having a Saint by his side.

It wasn’t the first or second time the Sum Emperor had used fishing law enforcement. Thinking about the outcome when they would be settled with, each of those traitors turned pale with fear.

Now their only hope rested on the Saint from the Canghai Sect defeating that woman in front of Lu Chen; otherwise, all these traitors from Great Sum were doomed.

Mu Qinglan said indifferently, “Just because you haven’t heard doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist!”

As she spoke, clusters of white flames appeared in front of Mu Qinglan.

Although these were flames, the surrounding area didn’t heat up from the fire, but instead, the temperature in the void dropped significantly, and countless ice crystals appeared again in the void.

Feeling the pressure emanating from Mu Qinglan, Jiang Tianrui’s expression darkened even more.

He couldn’t help but wonder why the flame always seemed vaguely familiar to him, as if he had seen it somewhere before.

The things that should feel familiar to him are those he has seen or heard of, yet he couldn’t recall it at the moment.

However, now was not the time to ponder these thoughts. This woman felt extremely dangerous to him, and he would have to give it his all; otherwise, his avatar might perish right here.

As it neared, Jiang Tianrui fully unleashed his Saint Realm pressure. Almost everyone present felt their bodies grow immensely heavy under the pressure, as if a great mountain was crushing them.



Even Lu Chen, clad in Shenghui Armor and with strength nearly touching that of a Saint, found it difficult to breathe under this terrifying pressure.

Lu Chen let out a cold shout. What of the pressure of a Saint? He was someone who possessed the Power of the Origin of the Universe; how could he be afraid of a mere Saint?

Immediately thereafter, Lu Chen started to channel the Origin Power. As the Origin Power flowed throughout his body, the oppressive force that shrouded him vanished instantly, and he felt a great relief.

Jiang Tianrui, having witnessed this scene, became even more vigilant upon seeing Lu Chen looking as if nothing had happened.

Logically speaking, the other party had only elevated his strength to near the Saint Realm through external means, not truly a Saint himself. How could he so easily withstand his own Saintly pressure?

Had this Sum Emperor concealed his real strength?

Or did the Sum Emperor have some especially powerful Protective Dharma Treasure on him?

A Protective Dharma Treasure that could withstand the pressure of a Saint? What level of Magic Treasure would that have to be?

A flash of greed crossed Jiang Tianrui's eyes, but he quickly collected himself. To obtain that Protective Dharma Treasure from Lu Chen and find the Great Emperor's Tomb, he needed to defeat this woman first.

Even as a fellow Saint, killing her would not be an easy matSubscribe

At this moment, Jiang Tianrui spoke up, "Fellow cultivator, those who see the Great Emperor's Tomb have a share. Surely you don't mean to monopolize the Great Emperor's Tomb for yourself?"

"Even if you wish to monopolize the Great Emperor's Tomb, it is filled with numerous restrictions, likely ones you cannot break through. I believe you have only obtained a small part of the treasures within. Otherwise, you would not still be in the Chaotic Star Sea."

"An extra person means extra strength. Once we break through the restrictions of the Great Emperor's Tomb together, we can then divide the treasures and heritage equally. How does that sound?"

Jiang Tianrui couldn't gauge Mu Qinglan's strength, and he realized that it wouldn't be easy to defeat her. In the end, he was likely to suffer severe injuries himself.

From his perspective, the existence of treasures in the Chaotic Star Sea was certain. If the items inside the Great Emperor's Tomb had already been taken by this woman, she most likely wouldn't remain in a barbaric place like the Chaotic Star Sea.

If this Female Saint continued to stay in the Chaotic Star Sea, there was only one possibility – she hadn't obtained all the treasures from within and was trying to break through the tomb's restrictions, or perhaps waiting for reinforcements from her faction.

Since she hadn't acquired everything inside the Great Emperor's Tomb, there was still room for negotiation.

Jiang Tianrui was convinced that she too was eager to enter the Great Emperor's Tomb. After all, there were untold treasures, inheritances, and opportunities to be found within.

Continuing the stalemate would be pointless. Instead, as time passed, more and more people might discover the existence of the Great Emperor's Tomb.

If more people were attracted to come here, then the woman would stand to lose everything.

Hearing these words from Jiang Tianrui, Mu Qinglan knew he had mistaken her for someone like themselves, searching for treasure. She responded icily, "There is no Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea, nor are there any treasures. Please leave!"

Jiang Tianrui's brows furrowed, "So you mean to say, fellow cultivator, that you intend to hoard it all for yourself?"

"Your appetite seems rather too large, fellow cultivator!"

Chapter 1234: Mu Qinglan Makes a Move

In Jiang Tianrui's eyes, various signs all indicated that there was a Great Emperor's Tomb within the Chaotic Star Sea, or perhaps the cave dwelling of some powerful being.

But now someone is telling him that there is no Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea, nor any treasures, how could Jiang Tianrui possibly believe that?

Clearly, this woman in front of him wants to monopolize all the treasures of the Great Emperor's Tomb.

Jiang Tianrui continued, "Friend, don't bite off more than you can chew, lest you choke!"

"Moreover, are you not afraid that I will spread the news that the Great Emperor's Tomb exists within the Chaotic Star Sea?"

"Although you are a Saint, the Great Emperor's Tomb is not only attractive to Saints but even more so to Quasi-Emperors. If the Quasi-Emperors of the neighboring Star Domains learn that the Chaotic Star Sea holds the Great Emperor's Tomb, do you think you alone have the power to prevent them from entering the Chaotic Star Sea?"

Mu Qinglan paid no attention to Jiang Tianrui's words but continued, "I will say it one last time, there is no Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea, nor any treasures!"

Having said that, Mu Qinglan produced a sword in her hand and with a slash towards the void, a Sword Qi tens of kilometers long created a space rupture.

"Anyone who dares cross this line, dies!"

Mu Qinglan's toughness completely infuriated Jiang Tianrui. Spiritual Pressure released from his body, and with a grim expression, he said, "Since you are so obstinate, let me see just how strong you are, and if you can really protect the Great Emperor's Tomb!"

As his words fell, Jiang Tianrui struck out with a palm.

Sumi Nine Suns Palm!!!

The next moment, behind Jiang Tianrui, nine massive suns appeared, their scorching heat twisting the very fabric of space.

The disciples of the Canghai Sect hastily withdrew, knowing that a confrontation between Saints was beyond their intervention.

Mu Qinglan slightly turned her head towards Lu Chen and said, “Your Majesty, please retreat to the side for now.”

Mu Qinglan was also worried that her attack might affect Lu Chen. Although Lu Chen had strength close to that of a Saint, he was not yet a Saint, and a battle between Saints could potentially harm him.

Lu Chen said “Okay,” then used Shadow Shifting to move hundreds of kilometers away.

Lu Chen now understood his own limitations. If his opponent had been a Demon Cultivator, he might have been able to fight using the Chaos Demon Slaying Technique.

But this Jiang Tianrui was clearly not a Demon Cultivator, and without that advantage, his Spiritual Power would not have much restraining effect. He was unable to intervene in such a high-stakes battle.

If that was the case, he would leave the matter to Mu Qinglan. He believed that with Mu Qinglan's Saint Fifth Realm strength, dealing with a cultivator who had just broken through to the Saint Second Layer should pose no problem.

Seeing Lu Chen leave, Mu Qinglan faced the nine suns in the distance and the approaching giant handprint, a glint of sharpness flashed in her eyes.

Then, Mu Qinglan mobilized the white alien fire within her, infusing all of it into the Spirit Sword in her hand. Skyfire Clan individuals possess alien fire from birth; it is their innate Spiritual Fire.

When Skyfire Clan individuals use their innate Spiritual Fire, their combat strength rapidly increases, potentially multiplying several times.

This was precisely the reason why the Skyfire Clan was exterminated in the past. Mu Qinglan did not hold back at all by using Spiritual Fire right from the start.

Full force is needed even when a lion hunts a rabbit, and before making her move, Mu Qinglan had already used the power of a Saint to seal off the space they were in. This way, even if Jiang Tianrui's clone was slain, at most his true self would only know that his clone was killed but would not be aware of the details.

Seeing the Spiritual Fire emanating from Mu Qinglan, Jiang Tianrui finally recalled where he had seen such flames before.

Panic flashed across his face, “You are from the Skyfire...”

Jiang Tianrui had not finished his words when Mu Qinglan’s sword came slashing down.

Ice-Fire Divine Dragon Sword!!!

In the blink of an eye, two five-clawed giant dragons burst forth from Mu Qinglan’s sword, one dragon white, emanating frigid ice, while the other dragon red, engulfed in roaring flames.

The two Golden Dragons advanced intertwiningly, and as they were about to come in contact with Jiang Tianrui’s golden handprint, the two giants merged into one, turning into a single dragon burning with white flames.

The moment the dragon touched the golden handprint, there was no fierce explosion; rather, it seemed as if the entire void had come to a standstill.

After an indeterminate length of time, a space rift thunderously appeared in the void. The space storm cut everything nearby into countless particles.

Jiang Tianrui’s pupils contracted, watching the scene before him in disbelief, he had already guessed Mu Qinglan’s identity.

Judging from the strange fire used by Mu Qinglan, she was most likely a member of the Skyfire Clan, and the Skyfire Clan had only two Saints.

One of the Saints is the Fire Emperor, and the other is the ancient ancestor of the Skyfire Imperial Family; the Fire Emperor is male, while this individual before him is a woman, so clearly, she is the ancient ancestor of the Skyfire Clan.

Although Jiang Tianrui realized he was no match for Mu Qinglan the moment she struck, since the members of the Skyfire Clan could greatly enhance their strength using their primordial strange fire, even if Mu Qinglan was only at Saint One Layer, he couldn't possibly be her opponent. However, he didn't expect her sword to be so terrifying.

In the midst of Jiang Tianrui's astonishment, his body was shredded into particles by the spatial storm, even his Divine Soul was destroyed.

The disciples of the Canghai Sect, who were some distance away, turned pale when they saw this scene, sweat beads sliding down their foreheads incessantly. They couldn't believe their Supreme Elder had been defeated so easily.

She only used one sword strike!!!

Both being Saints, why is there such a huge gap!

After coming back to his senses, Liu Tingzhang did not hesitate for a moment, he turned around and steered the Immortal Boat towards the edge of the Chaotic Star Sea, this woman clearly was beyond what their Canghai Sect could deal with.

Seeing Liu Tingzhang and the others trying to escape, Mu Qinglan again raised her sword and unleashed another strike.



Ice-Fire Divine Dragon Sword!!!

Sensing the sound of dragon's roar behind him, Liu Tingzhang instinctively looked back; seeing the two giant dragons, he was so frightened that his soul nearly left his body.

Before he could react, the two dragons merged into one that burned with white flames; soon after, the entire universe fell into a brief stillness again.

Moments later, another space storm erupted. The entire Immortal Boat of the Canghai Sect, along with all the cultivators of the sect, were utterly devoured by the storm, not even intact bones, let alone Divine Souls, were left behind.

Lu Chen was shocked by the scene before him; this was a true Saint taking action, a single sword capable of shattering the void and even causing a spatial storm.

Terrifying.

Once I break through to the Saint Realm, I wonder if I will possess such a degree of destructive power.

Meanwhile.

Inside a secret room of the Canghai Sect, two elders meditating suddenly opened their eyes, and a mouthful of blood spurted out.

An expression of shock flashed across Jiang Tianrui's eyes.

What is going on...

Why did my avatar get slain without even transmitting back its memories before being cut down!

To think there exists a Saint Realm powerhouse in the Chaotic Star Sea!

Chapter 1235: The Provoked Lu Chen

Jiang Tianrui felt his Cultivation State drop to Semi-Saint in an instant, making him extremely irritated.

He had thought it would be easy to take down the Sum Emperor in the Chaotic Star Sea and quickly find the Great Emperor's Tomb or some powerful figure's cave abode. However, he had not expected that a Saint was hidden in the barbaric Chaotic Star Sea.

Moreover, the strength of that Saint was incredibly formidable.

Since his clone had died without transmitting its memories back, this meant one thing: the Saint in the Chaotic Star Sea possessed strength that was even greater than his.

After the Saint locked down the space, his Divine Sense was unable to penetrate the spatial lock, or perhaps his Divine Soul was completely crushed in an instant.

The one capable of doing both must at least possess strength above the Seventh Realm of a Saint.

Jiang Tianrui's face grimaced terribly; there was actually a high-level expert at the Seventh Realm of a Saint in the Chaotic Star Sea?

With this thought, it seemed likely that the Great Emperor's Tomb in the Chaotic Star Sea had already been discovered by other forces.

However, thinking it over, so far, there were very few strong beings in the Imperial Mountain Star Region at the Seventh Realm of a Saint. A Cultivator that had reached the Seventh Realm of a Saint would undoubtedly be a direct subordinate force of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.

Although there were many subordinate forces of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, these forces were divided into direct lines and collateral lines. The Canghai Sect was also a subordinate force of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, but it was just a collateral force, not a significant force in the entire Imperial Mountain Star Region.

Jiang Tianrui couldn't help but speculate, could it be that the strong person in the Imperial Mountain Star Region was sent by the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, or after the direct line forces of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor discovered the Great Emperor's Tomb, in order to prevent other forces from peeping, they specifically arranged for a strong person to guard it in the Chaotic Star Sea.

A hundred years ago, didn't the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor say he had obtained an opportunity to break through the Great Emperor? An opportunity to break through the Great Emperor was not easy to come by. Likely, the opportunity of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor came from the Great Emperor's Tomb.

Thinking this, Jiang Tianrui's main body broke into a cold sweat. If the strong Saint in the Chaotic Star Sea indeed was sent by the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, and the Canghai Sect had trespassed the Chaotic Star Sea and even discovered the existence of the Great Emperor's Tomb, it was very likely that the direct-line subordinate forces of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor would wipe out the Canghai Sect directly to prevent the news of the Great Emperor's Tomb from leaking.

At this time, Mu Qinglan did not know that her lockdown of the space caused Jiang Tianrui's Divine Sense to be unable to transmit out of the Chaotic Star Sea, resulting in the Supreme Elder of the Canghai Sect imagining so much.

Outside the Thousand Ren World.

Seeing that the Cultivators of the Canghai Sect were all killed by Mu Qinglan, Lu Chen directly flew to Mu Qinglan's side, smiled and said, "With such a powerful Protector like Lan'er, I am reassured."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Mu Qinglan quickly reined in her aura of killing intent and also withdrew the Saintly pressure.

Her cheeks were slightly flushed, and she turned her head to Lu Chen and said, "Thank you, Your Majesty, for your trust."

At this moment, Lu Chen's gaze fell on those traitors of Da Xia, and when Lu Chen's gaze swept over them, the traitors promptly knelt on the deck of the Immortal Boat begging for mercy.

“Your Majesty, spare our lives, we were forced by our Sect!”

“Your Majesty, we know we were wrong, please give us another chance!!!”

...

At this time, those traitors were completely terrified. They had originally thought that by allying with external forces, they could easily overthrow Lu Chen’s rule, but they hadn’t expected that Lu Chen had hidden his strength so deeply, having a Saint by his side.

That woman could kill a Saint with a single sword; even if they tried to escape now, it was too late. Now their lives were entirely at the mercy of the Heavenly Emperor.

Lu Chen indifferently said, “The moment you betrayed the Daxia Dynasty, you should have anticipated what the outcome of failure would be.”

He then spoke to Mu Qinglan, “Kill them all.”

As Lu Chen’s words fell, Mu Qinglan swung her sword and in the next moment, those traitors, along with the Immortal Boat beneath their feet, turned into tiny particles and dissipated into the void.

Seeing this, the disciples of the Sect in the Battle Dragon Army were thoroughly intimidated; they stood on the deck of the Immortal Boat, their bodies uncontrollably trembling.

Before being integrated into the Da Xia Battle Dragon Army, their respective sects had briefed them on several matters and assigned them some tasks.

Initially, they thought that with the invasion of enemy forces from the Saint Realm, the Daxia Dynasty was about to be doomed, and they would soon regain their freedom and do whatever they desired.

However, not only was the Heavenly Emperor unharmed, but the invading Saint Realm strongman was also dealt with by a Saint next to the Heavenly Emperor with a single sword strike.

With such a powerful Saint by the Heavenly Emperor's side, who else could possibly kill the Heavenly Emperor?

If they dared to rebel or harbored other ulterior motives, they feared that their end would be the same as those Daxia traitors who had made contact with the Canghai Sect.

Clearly, the Heavenly Emperor was making a display of killing the chicken to scare the monkeys.

For a time, the loyalty of those Sect disciples in the Battle Dragon Army soared rapidly; they could no longer care about the tasks assigned to them by their sects.

After dealing with the traitors present, Lu Chen turned to the soldiers of the Battle Dragon Army and said, "Since the external crisis has been temporarily resolved, we should head back."

Before Lu Chen had finished speaking, many Sect disciples within the Battle Dragon Army immediately knelt down, “Your Majesty, spare our lives, we were coerced by our sect, we never thought of betraying Your Majesty!!!”

“Your Majesty, I have never leaked any information about the Battle Dragon Army to my sect!!!”

“I am willing to leave my sect and swear to serve Your Majesty with my life!!!”

...

Thinking that Lu Chen was about to deal with them next, the Sect disciples decisively and straightforwardly knelt down and spilt all the tasks given to them by their sects.

Seeing the decisiveness of the Sect disciples in kneeling, Lu Chen smiled faintly; it seemed that this tactic was indeed effective. He never intended to trouble these small fries; his target was the sect forces behind these small fries.

Lu Chen then said, “You all are subjects of the Daxia Dynasty, I will grant you one more chance. Whatever you did before, I will no longer pursue, but if anyone conspires with the Outer Domain forces in the future and introduces them into the Chaotic Star Sea, you know very well what the consequences will be.”

As his words fell, Lu Chen’s figure disappeared on the spot.

After snapping back to reality, the soldiers of the Battle Dragon Army quickly and uniformly said, “Farewell to Heavenly Emperor!!!”

After returning to the Thousand Ren World, Lu Chen arrived at the teleportation gate, with Mu Qinglan appearing behind him shortly, “Your Majesty, are you planning to return to the Tianchen World?”

Lu Chen said, “Yes, the Canghai Sect probably won’t send anyone so soon; I need to go back to the Tianchen World to attempt a breakthrough.”

Today’s encounter had stimulated Lu Chen, making him realize the limitations of his Shenghui Armor; he was still far from a true Saint.

Struggling against a cultivator of the Saint Realm Second Layer, if a stronger Saint appeared next time, he would have no means of resistance at all; hence, he wanted to hurry and break through to the Saint Realm to have the ability to protect himself.

Chapter 1236: Today I have some good news to tell everyone

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, Mu Qinglan was particularly pleased, as she could tell that Lu Chen had been stimulated, hence his eagerness to grow stronger.

Although she no longer opposed Lu Chen engaging in Dual Cultivation with his wives and concubines, she still felt in her heart that the speed of Dual Cultivation couldn’t compare with Lu Chen devoting all his attention to solitary cultivation.

After all, Dual Cultivation is a matter for two people and requires a certain degree of coordination, making it difficult to remain highly focused during the practice.



Whereas solitary cultivation in seclusion minimizes external disturbances, making it easier to settle down for cultivation and breakthroughs.

Mu Qinglan thought that once Tianchen gained a clear understanding of the disparity in strength between himself and the Saints, perhaps he would no longer dwell on Dual Cultivation but would concentrate on becoming stronger.

Maybe in not so many years, Tianchen would be able to restore his strength and regain his memories.

While Mu Qinglan was lost in thought, Lu Chen walked towards the teleportation portal, saying, "All right, let's go."

Mu Qinglan quickly came back to her senses and hurried after him.

Soon, the two returned to the Tianchen World.

Back in Tianchen World, Lu Chen did not immediately start cultivating but instead convened another Cultivators' Assembly.

At this time, the majority of people in the Daxia Dynasty were unaware of the recent events near the Thousand Ren World, leaving all the major Sect powers puzzled as to why Tianchen had so hastily called for another Cultivators' Assembly.

Could it be that Tianchen felt he was no match for that Outer Domain power and was planning to flee?

As this possibility dawned on the various Sect powers, they became more active. If Tianchen were really to run away, they would also have to consider their future moves.

A few days later, the high-ranking members of the various Sect powers were once again gathered in the Black Dragon City council hall.

Inside the hall, it was extremely quiet, as people sat in their chairs silently, looking at Lu Chen on the Dragon Throne.

After a short while, Lu Chen finally spoke, “Today, I have good news to tell everyone. The external crisis has been temporarily resolved. The Saint incarnation sent from that Outer Domain power has been slain by my Protector.”

Hearing this, the hall instantly became even more silent. The cultivators who had thoughts of defection stared dumbfounded, their eyes filled with disbelief.

Protector?

When did a Protector emerge at Tianchen’s side...

Many cultivators did not know of Mu Qinglan’s existence, and even if they did, they simply considered Mu Qinglan to be one of Tianchen’s wives and concubines, mostly unaware that Mu Qinglan was also a Saint.

However, people had now basically guessed that there were Saints beside Lu Chen – who else but a Saint could slay an incarnation of a Saint? What other Realm could it be?

Surely not a Quasi-Emperor or a Great Emperor?

Considering Lu Chen had always maintained a calm demeanor, everyone suddenly came to a realization – no wonder Tianchen had never shown fear; it turned out that there was a Protector of the Saint Realm by his side.

At this thought, the expressions of some of the Sect leaders turned very ugly. They had already sensed something was amiss: with Tianchen's Protector having resolved this crisis, didn't that mean their own schemes were likely already exposed?

Soon, people in the hall were on pins and needles, feeling the weight of dread on their backs, breaking out in cold sweats.

Lu Chen then continued, "This crisis has revealed many things. Before the enemy could enter the Chaotic Star Sea, numerous Sect powers had already sent people to make contact with that Outer Domain power and took the initiative to lead them in invading the Daxia Dynasty, even going so far as to inform them about the Daxia Dynasty's intelligence."

Upon hearing this, some of the uneasy high-ranking members of the sects became restless, especially Xu Nianshuo from the Wind-controlling Sect.

To curry favor with the power from the Outer Domain as quickly as possible, he had dispatched quite a few disciples to the Thousand Ren World, and had even arranged for them an Immortal Boat.

Now that the force from the Outer Domain had been defeated, the Heavenly Emperor must have discovered the cultivators he had sent to make contact with the forces of the Outer Domain.

He could not afford to sit and wait for death; he must leave immediately.

Fortunately, he had created a clone of himself not long ago, and the one attending the Cultivators' Conference now was just a clone. While the Heavenly Emperor was preoccupied with the Cultivators' Conference, he could have his true self make a quick escape.

Thinking this, Xu Nianshuo immediately used his Divine Sense to transmit a message, trying to instruct his true self to escape the Chaotic Star Sea as soon as possible.

However, he quickly realized that his Divine Sense seemed unable to communicate with his true self.

Xu Nianshuo was instantly stunned. What's going on?

Why can't he sense his true self?

Before Xu Nianshuo could recover from his shock, he saw a cultivator suddenly leap up behind him. The cultivator transformed into a streak of light and fled from the conference hall. It was quite apparent that others had also discovered their Divine Sense could no longer communicate with their true selves.

They didn't suspect anything was wrong with their true selves; if their true selves were severely injured, the strength of their clones would have dropped significantly.

Since their true selves were fine and their clones could not sense their true selves, it proved that the space nearby had been sealed.

And considering that the Heavenly Emperor's Protector was a Saint, it essentially confirmed their guess. The only way now was to break through the spatial seal imposed by the Heavenly Emperor's Protector and spread the news of what was happening here; otherwise, their true selves would probably be left with no way out but death.

With one cultivator breaking out, there followed a second, and then a third. They disregarded everything else, for their current bodies were nothing but clones.

As long as their true selves were alive, they could gather clones again in the future. Hence, even if it meant death, they were determined to break through the spatial seal to get the message to their true selves.

Seeing more and more cultivators dashing out of the conference hall, Xu Nianshuo also came to his senses. He figured it was because the space had been sealed.

With so many cultivators breaking out together, there might be a chance to break the spatial seal of the Saint and get the message out.

At this thought, Xu Nianshuo no longer hesitated and immediately transmitted a message to Zhang Yidong, "Junior brother, let's go!"

After transmitting the message, Xu Nianshuo also turned into a streak of light, flying towards the outside.

Moments later, cultivators from Black Dragon City saw dozens of streaks of light flying towards the horizon, continuously striking at something in the distance.

The escape of these cultivators also brought chaos to the entire conference hall, which became very noisy for a time.

After a moment, Lu Chen glanced at the conference hall, noticing that everyone who was going to run had already fled, then stood up and, with a Shadow Shifting, appeared at the entrance of the conference hall.

Seeing Lu Chen appear at the entrance of the conference hall, the cultivators inside instantly fell quiet. Then, Lu Chen said indifferently, "Let's go, the show is about to start."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the cultivators present felt extremely tense. They had guessed what Lu Chen was about to do: it was nothing less than a killing to warn the monkeys.

Although none of the remaining people had actually betrayed the Daxia Dynasty with their actions, many had harbored thoughts of betrayal. They had even sent disciples into the War Dragon Army, attempting to steal Rune Weapons.

Panic spread for a moment, but the cultivators in the conference hall still followed Lu Chen out of the hall.

Chapter 1237: Kill the Chicken to Warn the Monkey

After leaving the assembly hall, Lu Chen led the monks from the hall to the city walls of Black Dragon City, silently watching the fleeing cultivators relentlessly attacking the space blockade in the distance.

The cultivators behind Lu Chen didn't dare to breathe too loudly, afraid they would become the "chicken" in the saying "kill the chicken to warn the monkey."

Not knowing how long had passed, Xu Nianshuo and others still failed to break the space blockade. Just then, upon looking back, Xu Nianshuo noticed Lu Chen standing on the city wall with a group of people watching them, growing even more desperate.

However, at that moment, Xu Nianshuo suddenly realized that Zhang Yidong was among the group standing behind Lu Chen. Xu Nianshuo was taken aback for a moment, then quickly understood what was happening.

Xu Nianshuo resentfully sent a telepathic message to Zhang Yidong saying, "Junior Brother Zhang, do you really think that by siding with someone surnamed Lu, he'll spare you?"

"How ridiculous! Truly ridiculous! Just wait to be settled with!"

Xu Nianshuo stopped paying attention to Zhang Yidong, turned his head back, and continued to swing his sword towards the distance.

But even though they utilized all their abilities, they couldn't break the spatial blockade that seemed to envelop them like a huge transparent dome over Black Dragon County.

For a moment, Xu Nianshuo and the others became even more frenzied. They had to break this space blockade no matter what. Once they broke through, their true bodies would receive the message and escape.

If this delay continued, their main bodies might be disposed of before they managed to break the space blockade.

At that time, a cultivator began frantically absorbing spiritual energy, and the next moment, his face turned red, and his body started to swell.

Clearly, that cultivator was planning to detonate himself to impact the space blockade. Witnessing this, the faces of those behind Lu Chen changed drastically.

If Xu Nianshuo and the others all detonated themselves, it was likely the whole Black Dragon City, even the entire Black Dragon County, would disappear.

Although these were only their avatars, their strength was almost equivalent to their main bodies, especially Xu Nianshuo, a Returning Ruin Realm powerhouse. The destruction he could cause from self-detonation was imaginable.

Even though Tianchen World had now become an advanced cultivation world with complete laws, facing the self-explosion of a Returning Ruin Realm powerhouse, it would certainly be affected.

However, facing the attempt of self-detonation by Xu Nianshuo and others, Lu Chen's face remained expressionless. If a Returning Ruin Realm powerhouse managed to detonate themselves successfully, it would indeed affect this world.



The entire Black Dragon City might flatten into ruins, but the precondition was their successful detonation.

Lu Chen was now the master of Tianchen World, able to directly command the power of the laws of Tianchen World and change some of its rules at any time.

Inside Tianchen World, unless a cultivator's realm surpasses that of Lu Chen, they must abide by the rules of Tianchen World.

Lu Chen then communicated with Heaven's Consciousness of Tianchen World and added a new world rule – cultivators in the Divinity Transformation Realm and Returning Ruin Realm could not self-detonate.

Once this rule was enacted, the power of the laws of Tianchen World directly pacified the restless spiritual power within Xu Nianshuo and the others.

Feeling that the spiritual power in their bodies couldn't gather at the Dantian to detonate themselves, Xu Nianshuo and the others were dumbfounded.

How could this be?

Why couldn't they self-detonate their Dantian?

Seeing Xu Nianshuo and the others returning back to normal, the cultivators behind Lu Chen also breathed a sigh of relief. Although they did not know what had prevented Xu

Nianshuo and others from detonating their Dantian, as long as they did not explode, it was enough.

If a Returning Ruin Realm powerhouse detonated their Dantian at such close proximity, they would definitely be severely injured, or even directly killed by the blast.

At that time, Xu Nianshuo and the others tried several more times, only to find that the spiritual power in their bodies seemed to be restrained by some force and couldn't converge at the Dantian.

Xu Nianshuo's gaze accidentally swept across Lu Chen's calm and composed face, instantly realizing that all this must be the Heavenly Emperor's doing.

At this moment, Xu Nianshuo could no longer contain himself and burst out cursing, "Tyrant, what have you done to us! If you have the guts, just kill us directly!"

Now, they couldn't run away, nor could they self-destruct their Dantians, and were left with nothing but impotent fury.

Hearing Xu Nianshuo's words, the Cultivators behind Lu Chen all stepped forward.

"How dare you! Xu Nianshuo, how dare you speak to the Heavenly Emperor like that!"

"Xu Nianshuo, you're seeking death!"

“Xu Nianshuo, do you dare to betray the Heavenly Emperor and not fear the annihilation of your Sect!”

...

At this time, the upper echelons of the Sects behind Lu Chen all saw an opportunity to show themselves, and so they accused Xu Nianshuo one after another, all to show their loyalty in front of Lu Chen.

After all, no one knew how many “chickens” Lu Chen intended to slaughter in making an example, or to what extent. If they did not perform well, they feared they might also become one of those “chickens.”

Xu Nianshuo sneered and said to Lu Chen, “Victors be kings, losers be bandits, I have nothing more to say. Tyrant, sooner or later, you will meet the same fate as me.”

Even though there were Saints protecting Lu Chen, Xu Nianshuo believed that forces with Saints had already discovered the Chaotic Star Sea, and thus, more Super Forces would eventually come to the Chaotic Star Sea.

The Saint guarding Lu Chen might protect him once, but might not be able to do so a second time.

No matter how powerful Lu Chen’s guardian Saint was, he was still just one Saint, and there was only one of them. So, Xu Nianshuo believed that one day, Lu Chen would provoke a Super Force that the Daxia Dynasty could not contend with.

Empires are different from kingdoms. Once a newly established Empire becomes known to other Empires, those veteran Empires will inevitably find ways to destroy the new Empire.

Xu Nianshuo knew he was not going to live, so all he could do was indulge in a final verbal tirade and comfort himself with the thought that Lu Chen would eventually end up like him.

Lu Chen didn't want to waste any more time and immediately transmitted a message to Mu Qinglan, "Kill them all."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Mu Qinglan did not hesitate at all, drew her sword, and in the next moment, a sword light flew out, directly slaying Xu Nianshuo and the others.

Although the Tianchen World suppressed Mu Qinglan's strength, the moment she struck, it caused the Tianchen World to tremble, and Mu Qinglan's sword eradicated the Divine Souls of Xu Nianshuo and the others.

Seeing this scene, the Cultivators present were drenched in cold sweat down their backs.

Is this the power of a Saint? Simply terrifying. Just one sword swing and the Souls of Cultivators at the Returning Ruin Realm were extinguished.

At this time, Lu Chen turned around and glanced at the people present, noticing their Loyalty rising rapidly, and Lu Chen said indifferently, "I was originally planning to give them another chance, but it seems they do not appreciate the opportunity I offered."

"Let's leave it at that for today."

As his voice faded, Lu Chen's figure disappeared on the spot. Seeing Lu Chen disappear, the Cultivators who had come to attend the Cultivation Conference finally let out a long sigh of relief, instantly feeling a sense of having survived a great disaster.

People thought that the Heavenly Emperor did not intend to engage in a massacre, or else he would not have spared people like Zhang Yidong from the Wind-controlling Sect.

After this incident, no one in the entire Daxia Dynasty dared to harbor any other ulterior motives.

With the presence of a Saint, even if enemies from the Outer Domain were to invade and the Daxia Dynasty was no match for the hostile forces, that Saint could also slay them before they could betray the Daxia Dynasty.

Chapter 1238: Indeed, it's Time to Relax Properly

After the Cultivators' Conference ended, Lu Chen immediately ordered the eradication of those forces that had betrayed the Daxia Dynasty, and he himself began his secluded cultivation.

Mu Qinglan only managed to kill a clone of Jiang Tianrui. Even though Mu Qinglan had used Saint Power to blockade the space before making a move, preventing the incident in the Chaotic Star Sea from being transmitted back to the Canghai Sect through their clone's Divine Sense, the death of the clone definitely alerted Jiang Tianrui to the presence of Saint Realm powerhouses in the Chaotic Star Sea.

It was very likely that the Canghai Sect, having failed this time, would spread the news about the Chaotic Star Sea, which in turn would attract more Saint Realm cultivators.

Therefore, before these Saint Realm enemies arrived, Lu Chen had to become even stronger; otherwise, relying solely on Mu Qinglan would likely be insufficient to resist those adversaries.

For the following half-year, Lu Chen sat in meditation to cultivate, but for some unknown reason—perhaps his excessive urgency—his Cultivation State not only failed to improve, but Lu Chen even felt like it had somewhat regressed.

What was going on?

Inside the Underground Palace, Lu Chen slowly opened his eyes and, somewhat in disbelief, sensed the condition of his body. This was the first time he encountered a situation where his Cultivation State not only failed to improve but seemed to have even declined.

Logically, even if he didn't practice cultivation, his Cultivation State should have improved due to the nurturing effects of the Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix Technique; after all, as long as the Cultivation States of his wives and concubines improved, it would feed back to him.

Lu Chen couldn't help but wonder, could there be any side effects to the Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix Technique, where if the Cultivation State of his wives and concubines declined, his would as well?

With this thought, Lu Chen frowned. He had never heard of such side effects from the system, and he immediately inquired mentally.

“System, there aren't any side effects to the Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix Technique, right?”

As Lu Chen's accompanying system, it naturally knew what Lu Chen was thinking. The system replied, "The Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix Technique does not have any side effects. Host need not worry."

Lu Chen continued to ask, "Then why not only has my Cultivation State failed to improve, but it also seems to have slightly declined?"

The system answered, "Previously, the host's Cultivation State improved too rapidly and was somewhat superficial. Now that the host has consolidated his Cultivation State, it has become more solid, which might appear as a decline. However, the host's actual strength has indeed been enhanced."

Hearing the system's explanation, Lu Chen was startled. So that was it—he had thought his Cultivation State had actually declined.

But then again, even if his Cultivation State hadn't declined, the rate of improvement was too slow. Half a year had passed and he hadn't advanced at all. At this rate, when would he be able to break through to become a Saint?

Lu Chen knew he was being too impatient, but given the current situation in the Chaotic Star Sea, urgency was warranted.

If the Canghai Sect truly spread the news about the Chaotic Star Sea and attracted more Saint Realm powerhouses, it was quite possible that Mu Qinglan alone would be unable to hold them off.

However, cultivation in seclusion could not be rushed. Even for Cultivators with particularly high talent, breaking through to the Returning Ruin Realm would generally take tens of thousands of years.

It was rare in the entire universe to find few anomalies like Lu Chen who was in his forties and challenging the Saint Realm. Not even the other sons of Emperor Shenwu could match the speed at which Lu Chen's Cultivation State improved.

Lu Chen sighed lightly and decided not to rush. After not leaving for half a year, his wives and concubines must be thinking of him. It was time to come out from seclusion.

With that thought, Lu Chen slowly got up and, using the Shadow Shifting skill, instantaneously appeared in Mu Qinglan's room.

At that moment, Mu Qinglan was also in secluded cultivation. Sensing Lu Chen's presence, she immediately opened her eyes. Looking at Lu Chen with confusion, she asked, "Your Majesty, have... have you come out from seclusion?"

It was only half a year since Lu Chen sequestered himself for cultivation. Generally speaking, the higher one's cultivation, the longer the seclusion. For a cultivator of the Returning Ruin Realm like Lu Chen, they would not emerge without decades, if not tens of years of seclusion.

Having secluded himself for half a year, Lu Chen likely hadn't made any significant progress in his Realm. Mulling over this, Mu Qinglan attuned her perception to detect changes in Lu Chen's Realm and found, as expected, that Lu Chen's Cultivation State had not improved. It remained much as before, if not slightly receded.



Lu Chen let out a faint sigh and said, “I’ve encountered a bottleneck in my cultivation; half a year of practice has yielded no advancement. Continuing to cultivate would be a waste of time, so I decided to come out and get some air.”

This...

Mu Qinglan didn’t quite know how to respond to Lu Chen. Had it been anyone else, she would have confronted them directly, scoffing at their dream of increasing their cultivation state after merely half a year of seclusion—as if cultivation were such an easy feat.

But the man in front of her was, after all, the Heavenly Emperor, whose talents were incomparable to those of ordinary cultivators.

Despite that, no matter how talented, expecting to enhance one’s Cultivation State in just half a year was a bit too anxious.

Mu Qinglan understood why Lu Chen was in such a rush. It had been half a year since the incident with the Canghai Sect, and by now it was very likely that they had spread the news about the Chaotic Star Sea. Perhaps it wouldn’t be long before enemies of the Saint Realm entered the Chaotic Star Sea.

At this point, Mu Qinglan suggested, “Perhaps it is the immense pressure that has stalled Your Majesty’s progress. It might be good to take some time to relax in the upcoming period.”

Cultivation is a practice of the heart, and the higher the Realm, the more cultivation demands of one’s mental fortitude. If the mental pressure is too great and one’s mind is not steadfast enough, not only might cultivation fail to advance, but there is even the risk of going astray and succumbing to madness.

Therefore, it's important to balance cultivation with rest. Many cultivators engage in relaxing activities when they hit a bottleneck, such as gaining worldly experiences.

Of course, Lu Chen doesn't need to seek worldly experiences to relax, as it comes very easily to him.

At this moment, a faint blush appeared on Mu Qinglan's cheeks. She knew well what Lu Chen found most relaxing.

She was somewhat worried inside—by being so straightforward, would she give the Heavenly Emperor the impression she was implying something?

Hearing Mu Qinglan's words, Lu Chen pondered for a moment, then his gaze began to sweep over Mu Qinglan.

Today, Mu Qinglan was clad in a blue-green gossamer gown which wrapped her graceful figure, a splendid sash cinched at her slender waist, accentuating her curvaceous silhouette to perfection.

Coupled with the Saint Dao Yun emanating from her, Mu Qinglan looked incredibly alluring, exuding an irresistible charm.

Seeing Lu Chen fixate his gaze on her, Mu Qinglan's heart suddenly began to race. After a moment passed, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Indeed, it would be good to properly relax."

As his words fell, Lu Chen slowly approached Mu Qinglan. With each step he took closer, Mu Qinglan's heartbeat quickened.

Having not seen Lu Chen for over half a year, nor engaged in Dual Cultivation with him, there was, in truth, some longing in Mu Qinglan's heart. However, being a Saint, she could usually keep such desires at bay.

But now that Lu Chen stood before her, she struggled to suppress the surging tide of impulse.

When Lu Chen reached Mu Qinglan, he didn't hesitate for a moment. He leaned down, grabbed her delicate chin, and captured Mu Qinglan's red lips with his own.

Then, following the process, they proceeded step by step.

Just after completing the first round, a burst of Spiritual Power exploded from within Lu Chen's body. Immediately, he felt the small universe within him expanding incessantly, and his body began to frenziedly absorb the surrounding Spiritual Energy.

This...

Chapter 1239: I Plan to Break Through to the Saint Realm During This Opportunity

Lu Chen, who was about to engage in a second round with Mu Qinglan, felt somewhat bewildered. How come after half a year of arduous cultivation, there was no slight improvement in his Cultivation State, yet a moment of indulgence without thought caused a breakthrough?

Could it be that only this method of cultivation suits him?

Even though his Cultivation State had broken through, he had not yet reached the Saint Realm. Currently, he was merely at the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer, still one Realm away from the Saint Realm.

Breaking through to the Saint Realm was the most difficult step. Countless cultivators across the universe were stuck at the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer, and Cultivation States below the Saint could generally be enhanced by external items.

However, at the last tier of the Guixu Realm, even if one consumed numerous heavenly and spiritual treasures, they served only as an aid; Saints must perceive their own Dao to advance.

Mu Qinglan, beneath Lu Chen, saw that he had broken through to the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer and momentarily didn't know what to say. After cultivating for half a year, the Heavenly Emperor's Cultivation State showed no improvement and seemed to have even regressed.

Yet just after they had been intimate, the Heavenly Emperor's Cultivation State actually broke through. Could it be that in this lifetime, the Heavenly Emperor truly couldn't adopt the method of secluded cultivation?

At this moment, Mu Qinglan began to operate the Mysterious Female Technique, locking Lu Chen's body. She could feel that as her body absorbed the Spiritual Power transferred from Lu Chen, his rate of absorbing Spiritual Energy was rapidly increasing.

Although Lu Chen kept transmitting Spiritual Power from his body to her, the speed at which his body transformed Spiritual Energy was very fast. Only a small portion of the transformed Spiritual Power was transferred to her, while most remained within his body.

Mu Qinglan had just locked Lu Chen's body, and her absorption speed of Spiritual Power was getting faster, and the speed at which Lu Chen absorbed Spiritual Energy was also increasing.

Lu Chen too sensed this situation and closed his eyes, beginning to feel the Spiritual Energy surging into his body.

Lu Chen was curious. Having just broken through to the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer, he had caused such a commotion. One would think that he had broken through to the Saint Realm.

At this time, all the cultivators in the Black Dragon City Imperial Palace felt the Spiritual Energy in the Black Dragon County rapidly flowing towards the Imperial Palace. The cultivators all gazed towards the direction of the palace, wondering curiously what had happened inside that was drawing all the Spiritual Energy there.

Yun Xianxian and others also sensed this situation. They gathered outside the chambers of Mu Qinglan, sensing that Lu Chen was on top of Mu Qinglan, frantically absorbing Spiritual Energy. The expression on their faces showed disbelief; Lu Chen, that fellow, even needed to be on top of a woman to breakthrough.

After learning that it was Lu Chen who was breaking through, the ladies didn't think further and dispersed.

At this moment, Lu Chen was still immersed in his breakthrough. He discovered that after Mu Qinglan used the Mysterious Female Technique to lock his body, his Spiritual Power

was crazily pouring into Mu Qinglan's body. As the Spiritual Power flowed out, the speed at which his body absorbed Spiritual Energy and transformed Spiritual Power became faster, and the small world inside him expanded more rapidly.

Lu Chen was surprised. He originally thought that the breakthrough of one Realm was the end, but did not expect that after Mu Qinglan locked him, his Cultivation State was still slowly rising.

Could it really be like this?

But on second thought, although he could feel that his Cultivation State was indeed rising, the magnitude of the rise was small. However, at the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer, the slow improvement of Cultivation State was already very good.

About two hours later, Mu Qinglan really couldn't withstand it anymore, and stopped operating the Mysterious Female Technique, releasing Lu Chen.

Through the Mysterious Female Technique, she had absorbed a large amount of Lu Chen's Spiritual Power, and she felt very full. If she continued to absorb, it would cause some damage to her body.

Furthermore, it seemed that Lu Chen's Cultivation State was no longer advancing, so there was no need to continue absorbing the Spiritual Power from his body.

After ceasing the operation of the Mysterious Female Technique, Mu Qinglan took a deep breath and gazed into Lu Chen's eyes, shyly saying, "Your Majesty, could you please rise for a bit."

Having absorbed too much Spiritual Power, she was unable to absorb most of it and planned to expel this excess Spiritual Power directly out of her body, thus requiring Lu Chen to disengage for a moment.

Lu Chen smiled faintly, "Okay."

With that, Lu Chen slowly pulled away, and once Lu Chen fully got up, Mu Qinglan immediately utilized her technique to expel all impurities and the Spiritual Power she could not transform in time from her body.

After finishing all this, Mu Qinglan's gaze returned to Lu Chen, who was now lying on his side on the soft couch, propping his head with one hand, quietly watching her.

Feeling Lu Chen staring so intently at her, Mu Qinglan felt agitation surge throughout her body once again. Seeing the fairy's shy expression, Lu Chen immediately had an idea.

Mu Qinglan asked softly, "Your Majesty, shall we continue?"

Lu Chen didn't answer but instead took out a pill from the System Space and swallowed it directly.

Seeing this, Mu Qinglan was slightly startled, wondering, why would the Heavenly Emperor take a pill at this moment?

With the strength of the Heavenly Emperor, if he wanted to continue, he surely wouldn't need to take a pill. Could it be that the Heavenly Emperor wanted to become more fierce?

As Mu Qinglan puzzled over this, Lu Chen raised his hand, stroking Mu Qinglan's cheek, smiling and saying, "Lan'er, I plan to seize this opportunity to break through to the Saint Realm. Can you continue to help me?"

Mu Qinglan was startled again, continue to break through?

The Heavenly Emperor had just broken through from the Guixu Realm Eighth Layer to the Ninth Layer and now wanted to directly break through from the Guixu Realm Ninth Layer to the Saint Realm; this seemed too hurried.

Reaching the Guixu Realm, each small advancement in Realm becomes exponentially more difficult. The Heavenly Emperor had just made a breakthrough and was now aiming to step into sainthood; Mu Qinglan found it hard to comprehend what the Heavenly Emperor was thinking.

Mu Qinglan asked, "May I know what you need me to do?"

Lu Chen smiled faintly, "You continue practicing the Mysterious Female Technique later."

Mu Qinglan replied, "I understand."

Without any hesitation, Lu Chen rolled over and pressed Mu Qinglan beneath him.



Once Lu Chen settled down, he didn't hesitate and started operating the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill.

He had just consumed a Mixed Element Pill, which could increase the chances of breaking through to the Saint Realm. Lu Chen thought it was the best time now, and he could seize this opportunity to directly ascend to the Saint Realm.

If he missed this opportunity, he didn't know when he would be in such a good state again, although he was not sure about his success this time, it was worth the try.

The moment Lu Chen operated the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill, Mu Qinglan felt all the meridians in her body connecting with Lu Chen's, with streams of Spiritual Power flowing from his body into hers, forming a cycle between them.

This feeling instantly made Mu Qinglan's entire body go limp. Seeing that Mu Qinglan was not operating the Mysterious Female Technique, Lu Chen lowered his head to gaze into her beautiful eyes, "Lan'er, what's wrong?"

Mu Qinglan struggled to control her emotions, "Nothing... no problem, I... will start the Mysterious Female Technique now."

Once she spoke, Mu Qinglan began practicing the Mysterious Female Technique, and as she sped up her absorption of Spiritual Power, Lu Chen's ability to absorb Spiritual Energy also greatly increased.

At this moment, the Dao Charm gradually spread out from Mu Qinglan, filling the entire room.

Unsure if it was the influence of these Dao Charms, Lu Chen's Cultivation State speed increased yet again.

Lu Chen was delighted, realizing that practicing this way was indeed much faster than sequestered cultivation by himself.

#### Chapter 1240: What Path Is This Guy Taking

With the continuous improvement of his Cultivation State, Lu Chen felt somewhat puzzled inwardly. Six months ago, he had spent most of his time in Dual Cultivation with his wives and concubines, and during that period, his Cultivation State had hardly improved.

Indeed, because the improvement from Dual Cultivation became negligible, that was why he had thought to isolate himself for solitary cultivation. Yet, after closing himself off for half a year, his Cultivation State had not improved at all. On the contrary, it was after the first Dual Cultivation session upon emerging that his Cultivation State had once again improved.

What was going on?

If Dual Cultivation could always enhance his Cultivation State, then shouldn't he have encountered no bottleneck six months ago?

As Lu Chen was lost in confusion, the system prompt sounded, "Over these years, the Host's Cultivation State has improved too quickly, which has caused it to become somewhat unstable and superficial. It's the reason why the Host's Cultivation State finds it difficult to make further progress. During this past half year, the Host has consolidated his foundation, which is why the speed of the Host's Cultivation State improvement has once again been restored."

Lu Chen suddenly saw the light; so that was the reason.

In that case, he could still consider Dual Cultivation as his main cultivation method in the future, but he needed to understand the importance of balancing work with rest and take breaks periodically.

Upon this realization, a slight excitement rose in Lu Chen's heart, and he immediately began to exert effort.

Mu Qinglan clearly felt Lu Chen becoming more excited at this time; luckily, as a Saint, she could still withstand Lu Chen's onslaught.

Time flew by, and a month had passed. Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan were still cultivating, and throughout this month, Lu Chen's Cultivation State had been steadily improving, albeit at a slow pace.

In order to break through to the Saint Realm as quickly as possible, Lu Chen had made up his mind: if he couldn't break through to the Saint Realm, he would just keep going like this.

Mu Qinglan looked fondly at this man who was taking advantage of her, not feeling any negative emotions at the moment. On the contrary, being able to help Lu Chen made Mu Qinglan very happy.

She finally had a day when she could help the Heavenly Emperor. When Lu Chen was the Heavenly Emperor, she had always wanted to stand by his side, to become someone useful to him.

Unfortunately, Lu Chen left too early, and before she could grow strong, he had already departed from the Imperial Mountain Star Region.

Now, at last, she could help the Heavenly Emperor. No matter what he did, she could endure it.

At this time, Mu Qinglan brushed away the messy strands of hair on her cheek, and with a smile, she praised, “Lan’er, you are truly beautiful.”

Exhausted, Mu Qinglan huffed, “Huff... Thank... Thank Your Majesty.”

Mu Qinglan then asked, “Your Majesty, how... how are you feeling now?”

Mu Qinglan still harbored some doubts about Lu Chen’s desire to ascend to Saint in one step. She felt that Lu Chen wasn’t trying to achieve instant Saintly ascension, but rather, he was using this breakthrough opportunity to continue to solidify his Cultivation State.

After a month of Dual Cultivation with Lu Chen, there didn’t seem to be any significant change in his physique, while even she, a Saint, was almost at her limit.

Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill combined with Mysterious Female Technique, and on top of that, Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix Technique—all three Dual Cultivation Techniques were too much even for a Saint to handle.

These three Dual Cultivation Techniques complemented each other, with one technique guiding another, fully unleashing the effects of Dual Cultivation.

Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill allowed Mu Qinglan to immerse herself in the experience, enabling Lu Chen to take initiative and improve Mu Qinglan's strength.

The Mysterious Female Technique not only increased Mu Qinglan's strength but also made Lu Chen unable to extricate himself.

Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix allowed Mu Qinglan's Cultivation State to nourish Lu Chen's body and also allowed them to connect on a profound level. In such a state, they would continually cultivate non-stop.

The three grand Dual Cultivation Techniques turned their cultivation into a cycle, and within this cycle, their eyes held only each other.

Upon hearing Mu Qinglan's question, Lu Chen sensed the small world within his body and found that its growth had ceased, seeming to indicate another bottleneck in his cultivation had been reached.

Lu Chen couldn't help but wonder if he needed to rest for a while again, to balance work with rest?

Just as he was thinking this, he suddenly discovered some Origin Power emerging within his body. Lu Chen quickly sensed the source of this Origin Power and soon realized it came from Chu Yuqin's child world.

This must be the growth of Chu Yuqin's child world once more. Lu Chen didn't take it to heart; now that he had a trace of Origin Power, he could use it to continue his assault on the Saint Realm.

With this thought, Lu Chen hesitated no more. He bent down, laying atop Mu Qinglan, and began to stir the Origin Power within him for cultivation while resuming the pleasurable activity they had been engaged in.

As the Origin Power continuously purified Lu Chen's body, his internal world began to quiver. In a flash, under the pull of the Dao Charm from Mu Qinglan, Lu Chen's world within expanded violently, followed by a rapid expansion of his Sea of Consciousness.

Then countless Dao Charms spread out from Lu Chen's body, and in an instant, the entire Tianchen World was filled with a green Dao Charm.

When the cultivators of Tianchen World saw this Dao Charm, their bottlenecks loosened at this moment, and in a brief period, the overall strength of Tianchen's cultivators surged once again.

At this time, Mu Qinglan came back to her senses, looking at Lu Chen, who was still in motion, with surprise. She found it hard to believe that the Heavenly Emperor had actually made a breakthrough to the Saint Realm.

The Heavenly Emperor is truly worthy of his title, certainly not to be seen as an ordinary cultivator, but...

As Lu Chen's breakthrough manifested, their strengths now seemed infinitely close. Mu Qinglan found that even using the Mysterious Female Technique, she could no longer contain Lu Chen.

Mu Qinglan was unconvinced. She rallied her Spiritual Power all throughout her body, focusing it in her lower abdomen, and activated the Mysterious Female Technique once again. She refused to believe she couldn't control the Heavenly Emperor.

However, she quickly realized, no matter how she deployed the Mysterious Female Technique, the Heavenly Emperor still moved freely, beyond her capacity to constrain.

This...

Of course, Lu Chen noticed Mu Qinglan's subtlety and never anticipated that deep inside, she was a woman who wouldn't easily concede, daring to challenge him even after his breakthrough.

Then, Lu Chen slowly raised his chest, looking down from above at the affection-filled Mu Qinglan, "Lan'er, you're being naughty!"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Mu Qinglan's cheeks turned incredibly hot. Being in such an intimate position with Lu Chen, she had definitely exposed her full effort in utilizing the Mysterious Female Technique.

Mu Qinglan quickly responded, "I... I realize my mistake..."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Even if you realize your mistake, punishment is still necessary."

As he finished speaking, Lu Chen gathered all the Dao Charm he had been emitting back into himself, and then he began to confront Mu Qinglan with the might of a Saint.

At the same time.

Inside a chamber in Black Dragon City.

Empress Tianhong suddenly opened her eyes.

Empress Tianhong mused to herself, “He actually broke through just by relying on a woman, what path is this guy on?”

Although she too wouldn’t take long to break through to become a Saint, she has a clear path, and unlike Lu Chen, she doesn’t degrade herself, spending all her time reclining upon women.

She had always doubted whether Lu Chen, continuing on this path of degradation, could ever break through to the Saint Realm. And yet, it had not been long before he did.

What’s key is that he actually made the breakthrough while in the midst of Dual Cultivation with Mu Qinglan, leaving Empress Tianhong somewhat perplexed. How could relying on a woman lead to transcending into a Saint?