

Three Realms 421

Chapter 421: Armageddon for the Wu Clan

“Arrange for them to be in the outer ring and send a contingent of royal experts to protect them!” Wu Tan could only compromise with this solution in the end.

It wouldn’t quite be giving up on them with this expression of intent.

However, he was well aware that this choice actually meant that he was giving up on them.

Indeed, when news of this spread, discontent had spread among those who were outside. This was just fobbing them off!

“This won’t do! This is something that the father and son duo instigated, why are we becoming the scapegoat?”

“Indeed! That newcomer has said that all will be fine as long as we hand over Wu Hong! Wu Hong has always been a troublemaker and now he’s brought about great trouble for the Wu family. Why is it that we do not have the heart to hand over such a trouble maker?”

“Give up Wu Hong!”

“Yes, we request to see His Majesty and we demand that Wu Hong is to be handed over!”

Many people had been unsatisfied when Wu Hong had been made crown prince. The princes who had the right to compete with him were even more filled with noble indignation.

Although their backgrounds weren’t as lofty as Wu Hong’s, but they were all royal sons and born of royal concubines as well. They were all toeing the same battle lines at the moment, and speaking out to condemn Wu Hong.

They felt that Wu Hong had been the one who brought disaster to the Wu clan!

No one would have to die as long as they handed Wu Hong over.

The protests outside became louder and traveled into the bedchambers.

Wu Tan’s face was livid. They were already in such disarray before the enemy at the gates had fought their way in. At this rate, the Wu clan would collapse altogether even before the enemy hacked their way in.

Wu Hong cursed loudly, “These traitorous parasites! Royal father, please allow me to lead the men and kill some of their leaders. Let’s see if they will still dare to kick up a fuss then!”

“Wu Hong, you blasted coward, get the hell out here now!”

“Troublemaker! You’ve pushed the royal family into a fire pit and now you don’t dare own up to what you’ve done?”

“Come out yourself if you’re a man! Offer yourself up for redemption!”

The curses outside grew ever louder.

“We’re all royal children and relatives, why is it that he can hide inside after causing trouble, but we innocent folk have to take the blame for him outside?”

“Your Majesty, you can’t be this biased!”

“Hmph, majesty? Perhaps this matter has something to do with His Majesty! Maybe he’s feeling guilty now himself!”

“I already said long ago that there’d be trouble sooner or later with this father and son in power!”

The situation was spiraling out of control, and the criticism had shifted from Wu Hong to the king now.

Wu Tan flicked an eyebrow and hardened his heart, giving an order to a royal expert captain. “Go, take a group of men and kill the loudest protesters. If they still protest after the first round, then execute the entire bunch of those pilfering traitors!”

The hearts of rulers were rocky or as hard as iron.

Those protesting outside were his sons, his brothers, his relatives, and his women.

But once they’d crossed his bottom line, there was only one ending for them—death.

The sounds outside changed to rounds of howls and screams after the execution order was given.

“Wu Tan, you actually dared to lay hands on your own son! You have crazed and cracked brains, the heavens will surely smite you!”

“Fatuous ruler, I’ll come get you and your son even as a ghost!”

“What’s happening in front of you is karma for the crimes that you and your son have committed!”

Wu Tan grew frenetic as he gave another order, “Kill. Kill them all!”

An insane light also dawned in Wu Hong’s eyes. He waved his fists around, “What are you all standing there for? My royal father has given you an order, so kill them all!”

When the royal experts made their moves, those helpless royal offspring and relatives naturally had no way to resist.

After a while, the sounds of protest gave way to complete and utter silence..

The royal experts walked back in, with their blades still dripping blood. They reported back in with heavy hearts.

A derisive laugh traveled in from the air at this time. “Wu Tan, you actually took it upon yourself to take action and didn’t need me at all. You’ve exterminated your own clan with your own hands. How very well done!”

“Hearken to me, all the followers who are inside. This matter has nothing to do with you. I only want Wu Tan and his son. Leave them immediately if you want to live. I will only give you 15 minutes to make your decision. Those who stubbornly resist after 15 minutes will all be killed!”

This ultimatum were like words from the underworld that hastened death. They hung heavily over the heads of those assembled, making all of their faces ashen and the color of dirt.

They had lost all morale now that things had progressed to this extent now. They had only stayed here out of trained instinct.

Even the four great champions had been decimated in one move. As strong as the royal experts they may be, how could they possibly match up to the four champions?

Wu Tan and his son had discarded even their own kin at critical moments, so what made them, the mere guards they are, indispensable to them?

Wu Tan hastened to say when he saw the situation, "Don't listen to his evil doctrine. It will be a great accomplishment as long as we can wait until the Purple Sun Sect reinforcements have arrived. This kid surely lacks the ability to just charge in. Otherwise, why would he have wasted so much time in blathering on outside?"

"Right, we must stay united in a time like this. This kid will be like a fish in a barrel once the sect experts arrive. When that happens, only death awaits him!" Wu Hong also spoke up in encouragement.

However, no matter how the father and son duo acted, they couldn't raise the morale back from the dead at all.

It was obvious that the situation had become awkwardly frozen after the Wu clan had been slaughtered.

Fifteen minutes passed by quickly.

Soon, successive screams of agony came in from outside.

"Your Majesty, Vice Commander Zhang of the palace guards has died in an ambush!"

"Your Majesty, Captain He has gone missing!"

What had happened before now repeated itself. Tragic wails rose and fell as a radius of several thousand meters became a living hell.

News of deaths and experts going missing in action continuously traveled in from those guarding the outside perimeter.

"I've already given you an opportunity, and I will give you one last chance. Hand over Wu Tan and his son and you will live. Otherwise, my next wave of attack will leave you all dead without a resting place. Remember, this is the final ultimatum!"

Jiang Chen's detached voice once again echoed throughout the entire palace, bringing with it an unquestionable dignity.

His words were now an infallible law, no one dared suspect it.

In that moment, Wu Tan and Wu Hong only felt all the eyes around them sparkle immensely with a wicked light.

Wu Tan's face darkened. "What? A few threats are enough to scare you to such an extent? Do you want to commit the crime of treason?"

"Hmph! My royal father is an elder of the Purple Sun Sect. Even if you do manage to survive this precarious situation by handing us over, will the Purple Sun Sect condone your actions?"

The royal experts were all hesitating. Their desire to live truly triumphed over their notions of loyalty at the moment.

They had also formed strong doubts about Wu Tan's character when he had ordered them to kill his royal kin.

Suddenly, one of the cultivators called out, "We're all dead if we don't hand over this father and son pair. If we hand them over, we can make use of this time to escape the Shangyang Kingdom. I've had enough of being their lapdog!"

"Right! This father and son is devoid of loyalty and morals that they could kill even their family! Won't they take revenge on us afterwards? Everyone, get them!"

"That's right, we shall all work together to get them and flee after the deed's done! Even though the Purple Sun Sect's strength is undeniable, the world is thus vast, where will they go to capture us?"

What one feared most in situations like these was that no one would step forth to sound the call.

Once someone took the lead, it would instantly ignite similar thoughts and enthusiasm from others.

"Come on! Kill both father and son! It'll be better than being killed by Jiang Chen anyhow!"

"Kill them, kill them, kill them!!! Kill that dog of a father and son!"

The royal experts had all been forced up a wall. Add to that the father and son's usual overly violent methods in managing their underlings, and their inhumane treatments of them in critical moments, emotions were running high and fully erupted at this time.

Wu Tan was strong, but there were limits to his strength. His scalp grew numb when he was faced with the swarming of hundreds of royal experts.

He grabbed Wu Hong, "Let's go!"

They shot through the air and made for the outer perimeter.

"The shit king's getting away! After him!"

"Don't let them get away!"

It was obviously too much for Wu Tan to abruptly face spirit realm cultivators, but he had confidence in escaping from a place like this.

He broke free from the large numbers of experts attempting to encircle him with a few leaps and bounds, arriving in a small garden. He lifted up a section of the floorboards and revealed a long passageway.

"Hong'er, you go first, I'll bring up the rear!"

Wu Hong was willing to flee into any path in his panic, and he immediately jumped down into the passageway.

He suddenly screamed in horror and scrambled out, wearing an expression like he'd seen a ghost.

"Rats, rats, so many rats!" Wu Hong's face was ashen as he stammered.

There were countless numbers of golden colored rats in the passageway, piling out as endlessly as a geyser.

"How goes it, Wu Tan, Wu Hong? How does it feel to be deserted by your followers?"

Jiang Chen's silhouette came diving down from the sky at this moment. He stood on an eave of the roof with crossed arms, looking down at the bedraggled father and son from his vantage point, his eyes full of mockery.

A violent light pierced out of Wu Tan's eyes as he rasped out, "Jiang Chen, must you go this far? Have you thought that your actions today are utterly putting you against the Purple Sun Sect? You might exult in your slaughter today, but won't you worry about the Purple Sun Sect knocking on your doorstep tomorrow?"

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "When you and your son slaughtered the Jiang clan and the Hall of Healing, did you ever think that someone would punish you for each of these crimes you committed?"

"Jiang Chen, we were only following orders. The amount of Wu clan members you've killed have long since exceeded the numbers of Jiang clan members who've died at my hands. Why don't you go and seek revenge on the Purple Sun Sect if you've the guts to!" Wu Hong roared furiously.

"Purple Sun Sect?" Jiang Chen snorted coldly. "I'll naturally be visiting them eventually, or they might even show up here quite soon. However, the two of you are the chief offenders. Did you think that you would be able to avoid death just by flapping your tongue and lips? Not on your life!"

He pounced with a flash of golden light after he finished speaking.

Bam, bam!

Wu Tan thrust out his two palms and connected solidly with Jiang Chen. An enormous surge of power invaded his spirit ocean, making Wu Tan open his mouth and causing a great mouthful of blood to spew forward.

Jiang Chen had slapped him down with two indifferent blows.

"I have you now. I'm going to personally behead these two in the skies above the Shangyang Kingdom so as to awe and frighten all those who live within this kingdom!"

When he ordinarily took no action, he was calm and kept a low profile, but he would shock all those present and take the limelight as soon as he did take action. He would make it so that all those in the Shangyang Kingdom would have nightmares whenever they thought of him, Jiang Chen.

Only then would people think about the consequences before taking actions against him in the future.

High up in the skies above the capital, Wu Tan and Wu Hong were being dragged about by two Goldwing Swordbirds as if they were dead dogs. They're were being hung high up in the sky and paraded in all directions.

Countless citizens fixed their attention on the lofty ruler and crown prince of a nation suspended in mid air.

The royal clan of the Shangyang Kingdom had suddenly collapsed, like a skyscraper had come crashing down, and the prestige that they had built in the general populace also instantly tumbled.

"Wu Tan and his son have killed my kin and annihilated my clan. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth! Today, I will slaughter only the Wu clan. Those of this kingdom should take heed from their demise!"

Jiang Chen's voice rang out from all corners in the capital.

A shout roared from thin air at this moment. "Crooked Jiang Chen, how dare you act thus atrociously? Hand over your life!"

"Jiang Chen, you're a sect disciple, yet have embroiled yourself in the conflicts of the secular world. You must die!"

"Jiang Chen, I will settle with you today the accounts of killing my disciples! Die!"

The voices were each more resonant and domineering than the last. The senior executives of the Purple Sun Sect had descended on the Shangyang Kingdom, accompanied with a vast amount of experts!

Chapter 422: The Might of the Evil Golden Eye

A patch of red clouds swiftly churned over from the northern skies.

The section of red heralded the arrivals from the Purple Sun Sect. Master Shuiyue was leading the group at the front. There was an elder with one eye on her left, and another with silver hair on her right. It looked that both their statuses were lower than Master Shuiyue. They were here as her helpers.

There were a thousand fully armored sect law enforcement disciples behind them. Judging from their postures, they were all earth spirit realm cultivators.

There were ten more golden robed captains in this thousand strong group. All of them were seventh level spirit realm. Overall, this was quite a strong gather.

Astonishing light shot out from Jiang Chen's God's Eye as he peered into the distance, seeing who had arrived.

He made a hand motion and the million strong Swordbird army immediately shifted to action. They shot down from the clouds and blotted out the sky, as if a rain of meteor showers.

"Set up the formation!"

Jiang Chen's consciousness spread out as the army set up the Eight Trigrams Assimilation Formation in the skies of the Shangyang Kingdom, under the leadership of the Goldwing Swordbirds.

Jiang Chen charged out in front, placing himself at the tip of the formation.

The two Goldwing Swordbirds that the Wu father and son were dangling off of circled in front of Jiang Chen, in an obviously display of force.

Gouyu was slightly surprised when she saw the Purple Sun Sect's intimidating aura. But when her eyes traveled to Jiang Chen's face, she noticed that he was calm and at ease. She was greatly reassured for reasons unknown.

A thought of absolute security grew in her mind at that moment—even the strongest opponent wasn't frightening as long as Jiang Chen was here.

It was rather Huang'er who'd always remained noncommittal. Not the slightest bit of emotional ripple could be seen from her. It was as if the large display and fuss that the Purple Sun Sect was kicking up didn't exist at all.

This privately surprised Gouyu. Although Miss Huang'er looked delicate and fragile, who would've thought that she'd be so steady and reserved at this critical moment?

Gouyu rather berated herself a bit for this and quietly encouraged herself.

Xue Tong and the five personal guards were also all riding on Goldwing Swordbirds, fanning out in a line behind Jiang Chen. This was the first time they were witnessing a scene like this, and although they found it a bit hard to breathe thanks to nerves, they were also extremely excited.

They all shared similar thoughts. The young master himself isn't afraid, then what do we guards have to fear?

When they thought about being able follow the young master to Purple Sun Sect territory and stand up to them as equals, just this experience alone was enough for them to recount over and over again for the rest of their lives.

"Master Shuiyue, save me and my son!"

Wu Tan was utterly helpless dangling in midair and completely overjoyed to see Purple Sun Sect reinforcements arrive. He kept crying out for help.

Wu Hong also shouted, "Three elders, I, Wu Hong, am completely loyal to the Purple Sun Sect..."

"Shut up!" Violent fury flashed through Master Shuiyue's beautiful eyes.

The passage of time had not left noticeable traces on her attractive face, but fury was currently very apparent on it.

She didn't care at all about the Wu father and son's lives.

She only had Jiang Chen in her sights, and only one notion of killing Jiang Chen!

"Gentlemen, that the wicked Jiang Chen has emerged from the Eternal Spirit Mountain likely means that his cultivation level has improved again. We must work together and kill him in front of the formation. It will be much more difficult to kill him the next time we meet if he escapes!"

The one eyed elder snorted derisively, killing intent exploding out on his face. “This brat has set himself up as the enemy of our sect time and time again. Where will the face of the elders of the sect be if we don’t execute him today?”

The silver robed elder also nodded sternly, “We must kill him!”

These three were all ninth level spirit realm elders of the Purple Sun Sect. Master Shuiyue’s cultivation level was the highest, as she was only one step away from the title of spirit king.

The other two had roughly equal strength.

Their combined might this time was second only to forefather Sunchaser!

If it wasn’t for Sunchaser having yet to emerge from closed door cultivation, he surely would’ve been here himself with his hatred of Jiang Chen.

However, three great elders and a thousand elite law enforcement disciples was already a strong enough force.

Master Shuiyue arched her delicate eyebrows as killing intent danced on her charming features again. “Jiang Chen, the heavenly troops of my Purple Sun Sect are here. Today will be the day you die!”

“Heavenly troops?” Jiang Chen laughed heartily as his tone turned frosty. “How dare a mere Purple Sun Sect, not knowing the depths of the heavens and earth, call themselves heavenly troops? Fine! Shuiyue, you suppressed me multiples times in the Eternal Spirit Mountain, it’s our day of reckoning today!”

The one eyed elder gave a long whistle as he raised a large axe. The axe sparkled faintly with the glint of blood, appearing quite eerily grotesque.

“Jiang Chen, you publicly invaded a secular kingdom today as a sect disciple. Don’t think of leaving here alive even with ten sets of mouths!”

“Invade?” Jiang Chen laughed in his anger. “When your Purple Sun Sect invaded the Eastern Kingdom, slaughtered the Hall of Healing, and annihilated my Jiang clan, did you think it was invasion then? Do you think you’re the only one allowed to your actions and that I am forbidden to reciprocate? Stop wasting time in flapping your lips. It’s best that you’ve come here to meet your deaths. You’re saving me a trip to the Purple Sun Sect!”

“Crazed arrogance!”

The one eyed elder was called Elder Long Luo, and his axe was called the Dragonslayer Battle Axe—a nine times refined spirit weapon.

“Master Shuiyue, I request to take the field.”

Master Shuiyue’s beautiful eyes flickered as she nodded. “Elder Long Luo, be careful of this brat’s wily ways!”

The one eyed elder waved his axe and locked onto Jiang Chen, “Jiang Chen you petty villain, dare you meet me in battle?”

The immense strength of the ninth level spirit realm surged out in a dominating and impressive fashion, as if waters from a collapsing dam, leaving none behind!

“Ninth level spirit realm!”

A hint of a smile played about Jiang Chen’s lips. If he’d possessed the level of strength he’d had when he’d killed Long Juxue, then it would be a bit difficult for him to face off against ninth level spirit realm.

However, he had been training diligently in the Eternal Spirit Mountain, and his strength had increased immensely. His current strength was only one step away from ninth level spirit realm.

Although he’d yet to take that final step, the trump cards and divine arts he possessed upon him weren’t anything that an ordinary ninth level cultivator could compare to.

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that Jiang Chen would be able to contend with even a spirit king cultivator.

“Young master, this person’s strength is enormous and we cannot meet him with force. What if we send forth the Swordbird army and take advantage of the ensuing chaos to claim victory?” Gouyu suggested.

She too was third level spirit realm now and could feel the enormous pressure of ninth level spirit realm from afar. It was absolutely in excess of what she could think of.

Jiang Chen’s eyes narrowed into a slit as he gazed ahead. His lips suddenly move as he displayed a hint of a jeering smile. “Fight with you? And who the hell are you to have the right to battle me?”

Jiang Chen’s God’s Eye suddenly widened as soon as he’d finished speaking. A golden beam of splendor suddenly shot forth in magnificence, like the blazing sun gracing the sky, and flew straight forward.

Elder Long Luo sneered. “You little animal are so cocky huh? Is it that you want to compete in terms of aura with a ninth level spirit realm?”

The one eyed elder cackled. How would he possibly bow in defeat? He stared fixedly at Jiang Chen with his single eye, circulating his spirit ocean with all his might and transmuting them to pressure in the form of spirit power, sending them towards Jiang Chen.

Their gazes met.

Elder Long’s trembled once all over as if it felt that he suddenly fallen into an icy cavern. The palpitation from the depths of his soul that came next numbed his entire body.

“This is bad!” Elder Long’s heart sank as he detected something was amiss. However, his single eye had been locked down by Jiang Chen’s evil golden eye, and he couldn’t turn away no matter what.

As the two of them exchanged blows in the air, the strong force behind the evil golden eye had already pierced through the center of his brow after traveling through the air.

Elder Long’s body suddenly stiffened as his expression spontaneously petrified. He opened his mouth, widened his eyes, and his lashes even flickered a few times, but he didn’t have the strength to even close his eyes.

Next, his limbs, torso, and entire body seemed to become as heavy as lead, as if they'd been frozen in place by some power. They grew numb and then stiffened.

This change was finished in the span of a few breaths.

It was only when his body formed a faint, golden color that Master Shuiyue and the other silver robed elder finally realized that something was wrong, their expressions changing greatly.

"Long Luo, what's wrong?" The silver robed elder was astonished and bounded forward to investigate.

He was utterly flabbergasted by what he saw.

When he touched Elder Long's body, it was as hard as metal, as if the latter had been filmed over with a sheet of metal.

"What... what's going on?" The silver robed elder had seen much in his life, but it was the first time he'd seen this bizarre circumstance.

He was so frightened that he hastily retracted his hand, as if afraid that this condition was contagious. He slunk back to Master Shuiyue and said lowly, "Master, Long Luo seems to have been hit with an evil art and his body is as hard as iron."

"Impossible!"

Master Shuiyue had never heard of this bizarre matter either and came forward for a look.

She was also aghast with horror when she saw.

Elder Long had been frozen in that moment, his two hands still holding his Dragonslayer Battle Axe, but his expression was paused in an incredibly eerie fashion. His single eye seemed to have seen the most terrifying thing in the world, and the fear in his eyes was completely written all over his face.

His breathing was so faint that it was almost nonexistent.

Master Shuiyue was indeed stronger than Elder Long, but not by much. Seeing that the latter had somehow unconsciously fallen victim to an evil art, her scalp tingled with numbness for a moment.

"Jiang Chen!"

Hatred blazed out of Master Shuiyue's eyes. She guessed that this matter had likely something to do with that dumb swine!

She gnashed her teeth and gave a long howl.

This howl shocked the heavens and moved the earth, unceasing and endless as the great changes roiled over the sky.

Those in the Swordbird army closest to her all spontaneously exploded and fell down from the howl.

Jiang Chen snorted softly. "Old woman, stop your useless caterwauling. The Shangyang Kingdom will be your resting place!"

Master Shuiyue hated the words "old woman" most of all.

Her originally charming and elegant face had become a bit twisted in her anger.

“Jiang Chen, I swear that I am not human if I don’t kill you today!”

Master Shuiyue’s rage had reached to a point where even all the waters in heaven wouldn’t quench it.

Various scenes of humiliation flashed through her mind. It was because of Jiang Chen’s appearance that she had fallen down from the peak of her life to where he was now.

All of this had been because of that damnable secular brat!

Master Shuiyue exploded in this moment.

Chapter 423: One VS Two is Still a Trampling

“Silverroc, this dumb swine is crafty and full of guile. We can only seek to render a meritorious deed for the sect and kill this criminal. Forget all notions of identity, concern, and rules. You and I will work together to kill this petty thief!” Even when incensed, Master Shuiyue still hadn’t lost her sense of reason.

Elder Long’s bizarre downfall had put her on her guard even in her great anger.

She recalled that no matter how well prepared she’d been in the past, she’d always been the one worse off when she faced Jiang Chen.

He Yan had been crippled in his fight against Jiang Chen.

Hai Tian’s match had been in a carefully selected ring, but he’d ended up dead.

In Long Juxue’s match, the one in which he surely would’ve died, it’d been Long Juxue who’d been cleaved into two in the end.

Elder Long had been brimming with confidence before he’d taken the field just now, but had turned into a sculpture in the blink of an eye. They hadn’t even found the reason why yet.

The battle strength of the silver robed elder was roughly on par with Elder Long.

He also knew that Jiang Chen was now the Purple Sun Sect’s prime enemy. If this person wasn’t eliminated, there would be endless trouble in the future.

Therefore, even with Elder Long’s ghastly condition in front of them, he still proceeded forward out of a sense of obligation.

He grasped the air with both hands and a pair of silver, sharp claws appeared on his hands. He bared his fangs and brandished his claws, giving off an exceedingly fierce feeling.

“There is nothing that cannot be forsaken in a fight for the sect. I, Silverroc, am willing to put my life on the line to slay this knave and clear away trouble from the path of my Purple Sun Sect!”

Master Shuiyue was gladdened to see Silverroc’s stern battle intent.

She had a much surer chance of succeeding with both of them attacking together.

She sent a message with her consciousness, "Law enforcement disciples, hold the formation for me and Elder Silverroc. If the opponent sends forth the spirit fowl in battle, cover us immediately!"

"Understood!" These disciples were all deathsworn from the sect, and as such, there was no doubt about their loyalty at all.

Jiang Chen gave a long laugh when he saw them murmuring, "No need for private murmurings, Shuiyue. Both of you can come at once if you're scared. What have I to be afraid of?"

How would Jiang Chen not be able to tell that this Master Shuiyue was plotting a group fight?

He flipped his hand over and brought out a long bone from the Redscaled Firelizard. This bone was the Firelizard's dragon bone, the strongest and most durable part of its body.

Its durability had increased even more after Jiang Chen's simple refinement.

The Firelizard had been a saint rank creature to begin with. Its base strength was already greater than a nine times refined spirit weapon and on the same level as an origin spirit weapon.

Having undergone a simple refinement, the bone would be able to put up a fight even when it met mid tier origin spirit weapons in battle.

Jiang Chen didn't dare take things lightly this time. He was meeting the combined blows of two ninth level spirit realm cultivators. This was why he'd brought out the Firelizard dragon bone.

This unassuming weapon was enough to give wings to a tiger in battle.

Jiang Chen stood there with an aura of invincible magnificence as he wielded the bone club, and ordered, "Gouyu, hold the formation for me and keep an eye on those troops."

"Young master, you're fighting one against two. Do you..." Although Gouyu was flabbergasted by Jiang Chen's strength, she still wasn't willing for him to meet the dual attacks from Master Shuiyue and Elder Silverroc by himself.

Jiang Chen gave a hearty laugh. "No worries!"

His Goldwing Swordbird dived as he finished speaking, letting Jiang Chen land on the ground.

"Jiang Chen, you have no idea of the immensity of the world and dared to be enemies with my Purple Sun Sect. You're courting death!" Elder Silverroc brandished his claws after he finished his proclamation and pounced.

Master Shuiyue also coordinated with him as she turned her hands over and transformed a simple and unsophisticated rune into a cloud of white light, a cloud that spread into the sky and came crushing down.

The white light flashed and materialized into a small mountain of ice that plummeted from above.

The temperature around Jiang Chen suddenly sank a dozen degrees.

A layer of frost formed upon all the grass and trees in his surroundings.

Jiang Chen was also slightly astonished. Master Shuiyue had had such a strong rune in her possession? The power of ice and snow within it were much stronger than the azure phoenix freezing qi that Long Juxue had originally possessed.

Master Shuiyue certainly deserved her widespread reputation, alright.

Long Juxue had leveraged her innate constitution to deploy a freezing qi that was indeed impressive, but she'd only just set foot into seventh level spirit realm.

Master Shuiyue however, was of the ninth level spirit realm and had deep foundations. This was absolutely not something that a young genius like Long Juxue could measure up to!

The small mountain of ice appeared all the more eye piercing as sunlight glinted off it.

If Jiang Chen's strength had halted at what it'd been when he'd killed Long Juxue, then he would only be able to sit and wait for death at the moment.

But the current Jiang Chen was no longer the Jiang Chen of yesteryear.

Red light exploded out of his God's Eye as twelve ice lotus vines instantly surged forth from around him. They slowed down the ice mountain, slowly becoming twelve proudly standing columns holding up the sky.

The enormous lotus flowers blossomed, akin to the mouths of twelve voracious gluttons, biting down deeply into the iceberg like the suction cups on a leech.

The Ice Lotus was a divine level spirit entity, and such an immensely strong power of ice was naturally a beautiful meal for them.

The twelve ice lotus vines were like twelve meridians as they quickly absorbed the ice elemental power.

On the ground, Jiang Chen himself blurred into a flaming meteor and charged straight forward.

Clang!

An awful collision rang out when his bone club connected with Elder Silverroc's claws.

Ripples from the violent impact spread out in all directions.

Elder Silverroc felt his hand go numb between his thumb and index finger as his chest also felt stifled. He was greatly shocked, "This dumb swine's strength is this domineering? He could actually take one of my blows with his level of cultivation, and looked quite at ease while doing so?"

The elder's bloodthirsty tendencies were provoked immediately by Jiang Chen's blow.

He grimaced, "Kid, take a few more hits from my claws!"

He shook his arms as the enormous claws seemed to meld into his arms. He leapt into the air and flared his spirit power, making it form a giant silver roc in the air.

With a low whistle, Elder Silverroc glided down in perfect form, his arms breaking through the air with overbearing momentum and clawing down fiercely at Jiang Chen.

This blow had set aside all the fancy embellishments of profound mysteries and was drawing in Jiang Chen for close quarter combat.

When Jiang Chen saw that he'd melded the weapon into his arms and become one with it, he knew that these claws must certainly be quite impressive, something that the elder was proud of.

The more that this was the case, the more that Jiang Chen's battle intent and manly demeanor would provoke doubt in him.

You think you're strong? I'm going to destroy you when you think you're in peak condition and rout everything you're most proud of!

Jiang Chen rose up, grasping the Firelizard bone club with both hands and abruptly sent it smashing down on the enormous claws with no flourishes whatsoever.

Elder Silverroc leered when he saw this. "Trying to compete in terms of durability with my silver rock claws? Break!"

The pair of enormous claws was a nine times refined spirit weapon to begin with. Add to that the elder's use of secret arts to meld it with his arms, the durability of the claws had surpassed all spirit weapons and was now a half step origin spirit weapon.

"I think not!" Jiang Chen roared lowly as he increased the strength of his arms. Boundless metal essence power instantly assimilated into the bone club.

Bam!

Another violent collision gave rise to endless ripples and created an vortex in the air that shot up to the sky. The aftershocks churned up all the sand, dirt, and rocks as well as snapped all trees and grass.

Clank!

Elder Silverroc suddenly heard a crisp breaking sound.

A heart wrenching pain suddenly travelled from his arms.

Faint lines actually appeared on the enormous claws on his arms in the next moment. The patterns and symbols that had been inscribed on their appearance had all been destroyed.

Every time a spirit weapon was refined, the refiner would meld their formation seals into the weapon. They would allow the strength behind the patterns inscribed on the weapons to be fully used.

Therefore, the more times a spirit weapon was refined, the higher its quality.

Silverroc was very confident in his pair of enormous claws. He'd wanted to catch Jiang Chen's blow, wrench his defenses apart, and then reach out a claw to rip Jiang Chen open from chest to stomach.

However, he'd never thought that his half step origin spirit weapon would be shattered by Jiang Chen's unassuming short club!

His momentary distraction resulted in another blow from Jiang Chen's club coming straight at his face.

Without his claws, Silverroc was a declawed vicious beast when facing an attack from such close quarters. His expression immediately and drastically changed.

The momentum of this bone club was extraordinarily fast, to the point where he felt that he would be unable to evade it.

“Take my sword, scum!”

Master Shuiyue had been waiting behind and building up momentum for a blow. The long sword in her hand transformed into a streak of light and flew in, stabbing straight for Jiang Chen’s back.

This stroke boasted an unparalleled speed and was the full strength blow of a ninth level spirit realm cultivator.

However, Jiang Chen had his own plans in mind as well. He knew that the best way to break through a dual attack from two sides was to kill one of them first.

So although Master Shuiyue’s stroke was strong, Jiang Chen still had the ability to defend himself.

But if he didn’t kill Elder Silverroc, Jiang Chen would land in a disadvantageous situation when he was attacked from behind and front.

Jiang Chen activated the lotus when his thoughts traveled here.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Vine upon vine shot forth from the ground like spring bamboo bursting through the ground after the spring rains.

The vines could be pliable yet stiff, and were currently acting as various ropes to weave into a net, hurtling towards Master Shuiyue to entrap her.

If Master Shuiyue resolutely followed through with her stroke, then she would surely be bound by these vines.

She suddenly recalled Long Juxue’s death.

Long Juxue had been entrapped by these vines and had instantly lost her ability to fight, resulting in her being hacked into two.

She grit her teeth and retracted the momentum of her strike, pulling her blade back to defend her vitals and backing up a dozen or so meters.

Jiang Chen seemed to have anticipated her as his bone club didn’t hesitate at all, continuing its forward motion.

Elder Silverroc had no place to run to. He could only use his broken claws to block the blow.

Bambambambam!

The club descended more than ten times as Elder Silverroc could only take the blows as if he was a punching bag. He spewed out great mouthfuls of blood.

“Master, go! Go get the forefather!”

Elder Silverroc fell down with a bang, reminding Master Shuiyue to hurry and escape.

In the moment before his death, Silverroc realized that Jiang Chen’s strength was enough to destroy them all right here!

In the entire Purple Sun Sect, likely only the forefather could suppress this person’s strength. He was absolutely at the level of spirit king.

It would be a fatal disaster if he was allowed to continue to develop!

Chapter 424: Destroying Shuiyue, Enraging Sunchaser

Master Shuiyue focused her attentions when she heard the reminder that a near death Elder Silverroc had issued. A feeling of helplessness rose in her heart. She couldn’t believe that Jiang Chen had improved so quickly!

The secular brat who’d been almost killed by Chu Xinghan in front of the Second Crossing years ago had progressed so rapidly in a few years? He killed two of three ninth level spirit realm cultivators facing him in almost the blink of an eye!

And now, her life was in danger as well.

A trace of regret truly flashed through her heart at this moment.

She suddenly felt that she’d paid too much of a price for one Long Juxue. She even had to pay the price of her life now!

“Shuiyue, you took part in slaughtering my clan and seizing the Hall of Healing, didn’t you?”

Jiang Chen turned to advance on Master Shuiyue now that he’d killed Elder Silverroc.

The bone club in his hand locked tightly onto Master Shuiyue.

Master Shuiyue’s face was drained of all color. Her eyes roared back to life again after regret flashed by, displaying a crazed look. “Jiang Chen, I admit that you’re a genius, but so what? Today, I will perish together with you!”

Perish together?

Jiang Chen snorted derisively, his eyes forming the evil golden eye again. The golden light shot forth violently as it locked onto Master Shuiyue’s consciousness.

The evil golden eye was most adept at destroying enemies when they’d lowered their guard.

When he’d destroyed Elder Silverroc, it had been because the elder had underestimated his opponent and hadn’t paid attention to the strength behind this art.

Master Shuiyue was now absentminded and distracted, a moment in which her dao heart was the least stable.

Jiang Chen could tell with a glance that this was when an opponent's mental defenses were the weakest.

This was when the evil golden eye would find it the easiest to sneak in!

Master Shuiyue had already sunk into madness at this point, prepared to detonate her spirit ocean and take Jiang Chen down with her in a bloody battle.

She suddenly felt a tyrannical strength shoot through her eyes when the beam of golden light arrived and dived deep into her soul.

Although she trained in the arts and techniques of ice, she too had a feeling of falling down to an icy cavern in this moment.

She circulated her spirit ocean and realized that her consciousness seemed to have been confined. She couldn't move her body according to her will!

This discovery scared Master Shuiyue witless as a thick sense of fear exuded from her eyes. She suddenly thought of Elder Long Luo.

"This is bad! I've been hit by his demonic art!"

Master Shuiyue howled tragically and tried to break free of the restraints of the evil golden eye. However, she had no idea what she'd fallen victim to and thus naturally couldn't speak of breaking free of it.

Jiang Chen laughed derisively as he once again hauled up the bone club with a flash of his body.

"Shuiyue, your biggest mistake in this life was to scout Long Juxue. Now let me send you on your way!"

Master Shuiyue's yet charming face was now filled with fear. Regret, fear, despair, and hatred all filled her heart.

Golden light flashed in front of her as Jiang Chen's bone club arrived in front of her.

"Hold, scum!"

A stern roar suddenly came from the air. The owner was a noticeable distance away, but had ripped through the void with his voice to ring next to Jiang Chen's ears like a clap of thunder.

"Old monster Sunchaser!" Jiang Chen wasn't the least bit unfamiliar with this voice.

Although Master Shuiyue's soul had been confined by the evil golden eye, she still possessed some of her consciousness and was gladdened to hear the forefather's arrival. She immediately whistled sharply a few times, calling out to him for help.

The origin realm forefather's aura was indeed astonishing. Even though he was such a distance away, his roar had encompassed the strength of his enormous true essence and had caused Jiang Chen's attack to halt briefly.

"Jiang Chen, if you dare touch a single hair on Shuiyue, I will hunt you down no matter the cost!"

Sunchaser's tone was urgent, brutal, and full of concern.

Master Shuiyue was his subordinate, but also his forbidden pleasure. There had always been an inexplicable relationship between the two of them all along.

However, their seniority was different, so they couldn't openly dual cultivate.

Even so, Shuiyue was Sunchaser's most cherished and beloved. Their relationship was exceedingly hidden, and no one within the sect knew of this.

When Sunchaser had just emerged from his closed door cultivation, he'd felt unsettled and a wave of unease. When he questioned those around him carefully and learned that Jiang Chen had escaped from the Eternal Spirit Mountain, even directly charging to the Shangyang Kingdom, and that even Master Shuiyue had brought two elders with her to the Shangyang Kingdom.

This news had greatly alarmed Sunchaser. He knew that his ill at ease feeling was because Shuiyue had met with danger.

Therefore, Sunchaser didn't pause at all as he emptied the sect of senior executives and brought them all with him.

He rushed to the Shangyang Kingdom with the fastest speed possible.

Sunchaser had already detected the situation when Jiang Chen had brought the bone club crashing down on Master Shuiyue, but sadly he was too far away and unable to rescue her. This was why he'd issued the warning.

Although Jiang Chen's attack had been slowed, this didn't decrease the killing intent in his heart.

So what of an origin realm?

Jiang Chen showed no hesitation at all even if he were to face Sunchaser's rage in the next moment.

He shook his right arm and sent the bone club smashing down.

Bam!

It connected solidly with Master Shuiyue's face and killed her on the spot.

Master Shuiyue's body crumpled, her eyes staring straight at Jiang Chen, unaccepting of her death and dying with great regret. She couldn't believe that she'd died in the moment that forefather Sunchaser had arrived to save her.

"How dare you, lowly scum!!"

Sunchaser felt as if his heart and mind were splitting open when he saw this scene. He saw Master Shuiyue fall down, but couldn't save her.

He threw his head back and howled, his rage as if the raging waves and thrashing seas that soared up to the heavens like a tsunami, covering the skies in his fury.

"Jiang Chen! I swear that I am less than human if I do not strip you of your tendons, skin you alive, and burn your bones to ashes today!"

Sunchaser had dominated the sixteen kingdom alliance for hundreds of years. Even the forefathers of the other sects didn't dare kill those of the Purple Sun Sect in front of him.

This Jiang Chen had actually dared kill Shuiyue in front of him!

This wasn't just simply killing a person, but deeply offending and a provocation against his incomparably noble position!

In the sixteen kingdom alliance, no one had ever dared naysay him as he ran rampant through all the sects.

It'd only ever been him controlling the life and death of others, and others listening to him.

When had it ever turned into someone dare challenging his authority, dictating the life and death of his sect, and being indifferent to his threats and warnings??

All of this made Sunchaser grow almost mad in his rage.

"Die, dumb animal!"

Sunchaser transformed into a ball of red light as he flexed his hand, slamming down with a hand seal that blazed like the sun.

Pressure that was as enormous as a mountain range came crashing down.

Jiang Chen knew that he wouldn't be able to take this hit that an origin realm cultivator had put his full force behind.

He curled up his body and had a lotus vine directly drag him beneath the ground.

Sunchaser howled angrily in succession as his eyes grew red from bloodlust. He screamed in rage, "Jiang Chen, you will be hard pressed to escape death even if you fly through the skies and earth today!"

Sunchaser flicked his hand as a broadsword appeared in his hand, rising up in his two handed grasp as if a wheel of the blazing sun and dancing with astonishing flames.

The light from the broadsword transformed into a slab of cutting power that cleaved straight into the ground.

Rumble!

A deep moat immediately appeared in the ground as if a bull plowing the fields, extending into the ground for a good ten feet.

A frosty look glinted in Sunchaser's eyes as he shot towards Gouyu and the others in the distance, shouting, "Kill all the intruders!"

This command was naturally issued to the Purple Sun Sect senior executives following from behind.

The Purple Sun Sect had completely emptied out this time. Sect head Zixu Zhenren and many other elders who were holding actual power in their hands had all arrived.

The sect's great army has quickly made their way over to encircle Gouyu and the others.

Gouyu rather calmed down at this moment. Even though the Purple Sun Sect's army had arrived, their numbers were greatly less than the Swordbird army's.

"Younger sister Huang'er, take advantage of the pitched battle later to slip away. You're not of the Jiang family and so they won't strive to keep you."

Gouyu looked at Huang'er with a trace of apology in her eyes.

Huang'er was rather composed as she smile faintly, "Don't bet n such a rush to leave elder sister Gouyu. Have some more confidence in your young master!"

Numerous vines suddenly shot out from the ground at this moment.

Jiang Chen's figure suddenly bounced off of one of the vines and he leapt onto the back of his Goldwing Swordbird. The Goldwing Swordbirds all started to move and set up their defensive formations after a clear whistle from Jiang Chen.

The power of several hundred Goldwing Swordbirds setting up the Eight Trigrams Assimilation Formation was absolutely astonishing.

When Sunchaser saw Jiang Chen once again reveal himself, it triggered his rage and he growled lowly, "Jiang Chen, your death is nigh!"

Sunchaser was as if a mad beast at the moment, striking without abandon as he would and completely oblivious to everything else around him. His figure flashed as he shot into the sky.

"Chirp!!"

Several hundred Goldwing Swordbirds shifted their wings in unison. Layers of golden colored light slowly formed into a ripple that ricocheted towards Sunchaser.

Sunchaser thrust his palm towards the ripple but was shook all over instead, his arm actually growing numb!

This attack prevented his advance!

A blow from a third level origin realm had been unable to destroy his opponent's formation!

Sunchaser was shocked and furious. He waved his broadsword and swung viciously towards the heart of the formation.

The main army from the Purple Sun Sect had arrived at this point as well.

Zixu Zhenren and another group of elders all took their places, ready to join the fray in combined attacks.

Jiang Chen was incensed and reached for his storage ring, ready to take out the Millionditch Stonenest and summon the Goldbiter Rat tribe.

At the moment, patches of aqua clouds swiftly approached from the south. A low and weathered voice rolled in. "Sunchaser, do you want any face anymore? How dare you mobilize the power of an entire sect for one of the junior disciples of my Precious Tree Sect?"

The voice belonged to forefather Thousandleaf of the Precious Tree Sect!

Judging from the looks of things, it would seem that the entire Precious Tree Sect had emptied out as well.

Sunchaser's face grew cold when he heard this and he looked over to the south. His killing intent immediately exploded. "Everyone attack with all your strength! Kill Jiang Chen first and then terminate the Precious Tree Sect!"

He would see things through no matter the consequences.

Sunchaser was in the full throes of his fury at the moment. He hated everything associated with Jiang Chen!

And the most common way in that Sunchaser expressed his hatred was to slaughter everything in sight and wipe out the clan!

Jiang Chen had wanted to use the Goldbiter Rats, but abruptly changed his mind when he saw those from the Precious Tree Sect arrive. He laughed heartily and completely activated the Lotus, hovering around the formation and providing ad-hoc cover for the Goldwing Swordbirds.

He held throwing daggers crafted from the Raven King's tail feathers in his hands, the God's Eye sending out splendid light as he searched for an opening in front of the formation.

He was prepared to give the senior levels of the Purple Sun Sect a lethal blow at any time.

Chapter 425: A Stalemate Between Origin Realms

"Everyone strike with all your might, kill him!"

Sunchaser charged out in front, his broadsword raised high and gleaming with the radiance of the blazing sun as he thrust forward with his greatest stroke.

"Blazing Molten Sun, Slash!"

The broadsword slashed down as the crimson light exploded almost a hectare wide, cleaving straight down to the center of the formation.

Concentric rings of force formed around the strike as it generated an enormous heat wave. The force ringlets fell from the skies like an immortal's overturned pill cauldron, churning the air with pure incandescent flames.

The force truly was an enormous wave of wildfire.

The formation made by the Goldwing Swordbirds could absolutely defend against the attack, but the tremendous heat wave would bake their feathers. This suffocating heat wave seemed as if it would burn everything under the sky.

Jiang Chen was immensely taken aback to see this as well.

"Who would've thought that Sunchaser would have such tyrannical strength!"

Jiang Chen didn't have enough attention to spare for killing the senior executives of the Purple Sun Sect at the moment. He focused on manipulating more than a dozen ice lotus vines to emanate curtains of icy power, fully sealing off the momentum of the heat wave.

Having just absorbed the power in Master Shuiyue's ice rune, the ice lotuses were also in peak condition.

Layers of icy walls kept sealing off the air around the formation.

"Hmph, pitiful little tricks! Break!"

Sunchaser's sword thrust was undeterred as he continued to send forth more heat waves.

Crack crack crack crack!

The walls of ice that the lotuses had created all crumbled.

It was a good thing that the ice lotus possessed strong innate defensive power. When a dozen ice lotuses were lined up together, they seemed to possess countless tentacles that transformed into a brilliant manifestation of frosty hues in the sky, roiling toward the void and continuously cutting away at the heat wave.

This heat wave was strong, but it wasn't enough to instantly destroy the ice lotuses.

Jiang Chen was well aware that the strength behind this heat wave was greater than his. If its full force was allowed to crash into the formation, countless Goldwing Swordbirds would be injured or killed, even if the formation held up.

Jiang Chen didn't want such a thing to happen, so he summoned the Lotus, using this method to assault the heat wave and disperse some of its force. As long as the strength behind the heat wave was decimated, the strength it would have to ram the formation with would be greatly decreased.

Sunchaser hadn't seemed to anticipate that Jiang Chen would prove this thorny. He snorted coldly and slashed left and right with his broadsword, continuously hacking away at the ice lotus vines.

The strongest aspect about the Lotus lay within its regeneration abilities. As long as the Flaming Heart of Ice remained, the Lotus would be invincible.

After Sunchaser had chopped twenty or thirty vines apart, the stumps then promptly regrew new vine tendrils.

Sunchaser was quickly swallowed beneath a sea of vines before long.

Although the vines were of no threat to him, they greatly decreased the momentum of his attacks.

This gave the Swordbird formation time to nurture a second barrage of attacks.

The several hundred strong Goldwing Swordbirds used the formation as a framework and used their innumerable sharp claws to form a whirlwind, sending it whirling towards Sunchaser.

Sunchaser was greatly infuriated. He'd never thought that he'd be caught by Jiang Chen!

He threw his head back in a howl and waved his broadsword madly, leaping into the air and transforming into a streak of red light as he broke free of the ice lotus vines' fetters.

"Break!"

Sunchaser followed through, using his charge to power his strike against the whirlwind as he cleaved down towards the whirlwind.

Wham!

The attack formed by the formation was instantly destroyed.

Sunchaser's gaze narrowed and locked onto Jiang Chen. He grew even more resolute in the depths of his fury. To round up bandits, one needed to capture their leader first. Approaching Jiang Chen and executing him was the only right course of action. Why bother with these feathered animals and monstrous vines?

Everything would be as intangible as the floating clouds as long as Jiang Chen was dead.

Jiang Chen was slightly surprised to see Sunchaser break free of the ice lotus vines with uncommon speed and no thought for his well-being.

Jiang Chen's hand plucked the air, and took out the miniature form of the magnetic golden mountain.

Sunchaser was so domineering that even the Lotus wasn't enough to stop him. If he sent out the Goldbiter Rats, he'd only be sending them to their deaths. It would make no difference at all.

He had to make use of his last trump card now.

Although Jiang Chen didn't have confidence in being able to fully deploy the golden magnetic mountain, if he tried his best and ignored the injuries that would undoubtedly rack his body, he felt he'd be confident in killing this old thief as long as he could restrain him for even the span of a breath.

However, he only had a fifty-fifty chance of successfully activating the golden magnetic mountain.

"Come on then." Jiang Chen's heart was serene, but fully resolved.

Since he had chosen to fight, he also had the determination to battle to death.

At that moment, a turquoise silhouette appeared in the air. The figure pushed out with his hands and formed a turquoise ball of air that roiled through the air, halting Sunchaser's unparalleled attack.

"Old monster Sunchaser, that's quite enough!"

This turquoise figure was forefather Thousandleaf's timely arrival.

When he saw Thousandleaf arrive, Jiang Chen flipped over his hand and put the magnetic golden mountain away again. Jiang Chen and forefather Thousandleaf both failed to notice that Huang'er, behind Jiang Chen, had also taken a timely step back.

No one noticed that, but Gouyu did.

In that moment of life and death, Gouyu had also rushed over with all her strength and was prepared to die with Jiang Chen.

She hadn't thought that a light would flash beside her, and Miss Huang'er would float lightly nearby the young master like a breath of wind.

Gouyu hadn't even seen how she'd done it.

In that moment, Gouyu even suspected that she'd seen incorrectly, because an immense presence had flickered in and out of existence from Miss Huang'er's caped silhouette, an incomparably strong demeanor.

The presence had suddenly retracted into itself when forefather Thousandleaf had revealed himself, as if that moment of change had only been a misconception. Gouyu was extremely baffled and wondered if she had in fact seen things correctly.

Was the gentle and tender Miss Huang'er in fact concealing enormous strength?

"No, no, I must've seen incorrectly." Gouyu tried to convince herself. Miss Huang'er only seemed as old as the young master. She looked genteel and fragile. No matter from what angle one appraised her from, she didn't seem like she would possess incredible martial techniques.

Sunchaser's attacks were halted by Thousandleaf. The former's red brow arched, "Thousandleaf, you dare come throw your weight around in my territory?"

Thousandleaf gave off an unworldly feeling as he laughed lightly and stroked his sideburns. He said faintly. "Jiang Chen is one of my Precious Tree Sect's members, and as the forefather of the sect, I naturally have the need to protect him. Sunchaser, why don't we just let the events of today be bygones?"

"Let the events of today be bygones?" Sunchaser's face contorted into an enraged grimace. "Jiang Chen butchered the royal family of my Shangyang Kingdom and killed the senior executives of my Purple Sun Sect, and you ask to just let this be? Thousandleaf, are you going senile in your old age? What right do you think you have to dictate that I leave this be?"

Thousandleaf furrowed his brow lightly, "Sunchaser, the sixteen kingdom alliance is in dire straits, and you spoke with such a strong sense of self righteousness that day during the selection. Now that some changes have occurred in the selection, you've completely torn up the contract and been at odds with the disciples of my sect numerous times already. You say that Jiang Chen killed the royals of the Shangyang Kingdom and destroyed your sect's senior executives, that is true. However, who started this grudge first?"

"The Shangyang Kingdom invaded the Eastern Kingdom, annihilated the Jiang clan and seized the Hall of Healing. These things happened as well, yes?"

Thousandleaf knew that Sunchaser wasn't one to talk reason, but he still couldn't help but want to talk rationally with the other.

"The Jiang family? Hall of the Healing? Are those ant-like existences on par with the senior executives of my sect?" Sunchaser was incensed. "Thousandleaf, shut your damned trap. If you've hardened your heart to protect this scum Jiang Chen, then I don't mind teaching you a lesson as well!"

As good as Thousandleaf's breeding may be, he was also enraged by these words. "Teach me a lesson? Sunchaser, I know of your arrogance, but your cockiness has reached new heights, hasn't it?"

"Hahaha, so what if I am? What can you do about it? You've always been a defeated opponent in terms of personal strength, and the fighting capabilities of your Precious Tree Sect are less than half of my Purple Sun Sect in terms of sect strength! Why can't I be arrogant!"

He lifted his broadsword and locked onto Jiang Chen from afar.

"Scum, even the gods descending upon the earth today won't save you!"

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "I finally understand why the Purple Sun Sect has always been one to run their mouths. They've inherited it all from you. Long Juxue, Shuiyue, and those two bullshit elders all said the same things to me and now they're all dead, yet here I stand."

Since they'd erupted in open hostilities, Jiang Chen naturally wouldn't have any words of kindness for Sunchaser.

Since you're burning so fiercely, then why I don't add a bit of fuel so that you go up in even greater flames.

Indeed, these words added fuel to the flames and made Sunchaser incredibly, explosively angry.

"Die, scum!"

Thousandleaf grasped with both hands and a wooden staff-like weapon appeared in his hands.

"Sunchaser, you and I are both of the origin realm, must we risk our lives in a fight?"

Sunchaser was livid in his rage. "Risk our lives? Thousandleaf, do you think you're able to make me lay my life down on the line in a battle? I don't mind sending you on your way if you truly wish to engage in a futile effort like a mantis trying to stop a chariot!"

Sunchaser was domineering because he had the strength to. He'd always been the undisputed first amongst the four forefathers in the sixteen kingdom alliance.

Therefore, he'd always had a strong sense of superiority when he faced the other three, and he was the most overbearing in terms of style and personality.

Thousandleaf also privately admitted that he would be the loser if he fought Sunchaser. Although there was but a hairline difference between the two of them, this was a crucial distinction in a match of life and death between experts.

However, he had no reason to back down now that things had progressed to this point.

He smiled faintly, a sense of openness in his smile. "Sunchaser, there is no shirking my responsibilities as the forefather of the Precious Tree Sect. I will protect my disciples. You may triumph over me, but it will

be difficult to ensure that you can emerge unscathed. Once you are heavily injured, then your Purple Sun Sect will not be without its share of worries either!”

“Threatening me?” Sunchaser started laughing in an ugly fashion. “Thousandleaf, don’t think so highly of yourself. Why don’t you weigh up how much you’re worth first!”

Thousandleaf’s expression changed slightly.

A hearty laugh sounded from the air at this moment. “If Daoist Thousandleaf isn’t enough, what about with me as well?”

This laugh was vigorous and in high spirits, swiftly flying in from the distance.

The feel of this person’s presence meant that another origin realm cultivator had arrived!

Chapter 426: Sunchaser Backs Down

Jiang Chen felt infinitely close to this voice, and his lips curved slightly in a heartfelt smile.

Old tutor Ye Chonglou had finally emerged from his closed door cultivation after three years. Him emerging now meant that he’d already entered the origin realm, and he’d thoroughly consolidated his cultivation in that realm.

Otherwise, he never would’ve hastily exited his training, not with his personality.

Ye Chonglou was riding the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon in the air. He landed in front of forefather Thousandleaf as if a divine deity arriving from the heavens.

Jiang Chen was also slightly taken aback when he saw the Phoenix-Dragon’s proud head. He hadn’t thought that this beast would awaken another portion of its bloodlines after the old tutor broke through. The Phoenix-Dragon had ascended to the rank of saint rank spirit creature!

It was twin blessings knocking the lordmaster’s door!

If Jiang Chen was startled, then Thousandleaf and the Precious Tree Sect were the epitome of surprise.

“Chonglou, you... broke through to the origin realm?” Thousandleaf was joyous and surprised.

“It was about time I shifted a bit after dithering in the spirit king realm for so long.” Ye Chonglou chuckled.

Thousandleaf was utterly delighted, “I truly must congratulate you for this. I, Thousandleaf, finally have another on the same path as me with the same ideals, one who I can call brother.”

In the Precious Tree Sect, Thousandleaf was one in the high reaches, unafraid of the cold in his lofty position as the forefather over a horde of juniors. Now that Ye Chonglou had broken through, this meant that there were two original realm cultivators in their camp, and that they could spar at any time.

Although Ye Chonglou had angrily left the Precious Tree Sect back in the day, his heart still resided with the sect, and was still of one mind with the sect in important matters.

Ye Chonglou smiled dashing and looked at Jiang Chen with a thick sense of affection.

“Little friend, you’re something alright! I’ve only entered closed door cultivation for three or so years, but you’ve soared to prominence and have caused this amount of ruckus. Good, good! Young folk should be thus, afraid of nothing and displaying an unrestrained and vigorous style that brims with talent. Who cares if even an emperor himself is present? Blast them all away if they dare step on your head!”

Ye Chonglou was profuse in his praise, and his bias towards Jiang Chen could be obviously seen.

Sunchaser’s gaze was cold and austere as he sized up Ye Chonglou, who’d descended from the skies. He was also incredibly surprised.

Ye Chonglou had broken through to the origin realm?

This was an enormously bad piece of news! This meant that there was another origin realm cultivator on the Precious Tree Sect side. This was definitely a negative development for Purple Sun Sect dominance in the sixteen kingdom alliance!

“Ye Chonglou, you’re a mere newly ascended cultivator. Are you thinking of strutting foolishly in front of me?” Sunchaser boomed lowly.

Ye Chonglou had always possessed an unbridled and dashing nature. He’d laid dormant in the Skylaurel Kingdom only because he was focusing on his dao and didn’t want to keep high profile.

In addition, being unable to break through to the origin realm had given him no desire to go about in society.

But now, how would Ye Chonglou show any face to Sunchaser’s mocking words? Ye Chonglou smiled remotely, “Sunchaser, who is possibly more arrogant than you? However, all of your arrogance will be useless today! If you want to fight, you should prepare yourself to face off against the combined attacks of three origin realm cultivators!”

“Three?” Sunchaser leered. “Forgive me for not seeing it, which three?”

The Phoenix-Dragon would have none of this after Sunchaser spoke. It threw its head to the skies and gave an immense roar that crested like rolling thunder.

It was apparent that having reached the origin realm, it had gained full sentience and completely comprehended human speech. The proud Phoenix-Dragon was greatly displeased by Sunchaser’s dismissal of it.

“Mm?” Sunchaser’s pupils contracted slightly. It was obvious that he previously hadn’t noticed this steed had also broken through to the origin realm!

Boundless envy surged up in his heart in that instant. As strong as Sunchaser was, he didn’t have a origin realm steed!

By what right and virtue did this Ye Chonglou have to possess a saint rank steed?

Sunchase was thrown into disarray in that moment.

He had a ninety percent surety if he faced off again Thousandleaf.

He would still have at least fifty percent confidence against Thousandleaf and Ye Chonglou combined.

But add a fierce saint rank spirit creature to the mix, then his chances of victory were absolutely not more than 30%.

This kind of contracted spirit creature was the sort that was least afraid of death. Once it discovered that its master was in danger, it would go utterly berserk and muster forth frightening, explosive battle power.

Sunchaser would rather face three origin realm cultivators rather than two origin realms, and a saint rank creature that might go berserk at any time.

The scales of power had noticeably tipped towards the Precious Tree Sect as soon as Ye Chonglou and the Phoenix-Dragon had appeared.

As strong as Sunchaser might be, he could only barely manage to meet three origin realm cultivators in battle. There was almost no hope of victory.

Those remaining in the Purple Sun Sect were certainly stronger than the Precious Tree Sect, but how could Sunchaser ignore the immense killing machine that was Jiang Chen?

How about Jiang Chen's million strong Swordbird army?

Sunchaser wasn't of the mind that anyone else in the Purple Sun Sect would be able to resist the Swordbird army, and particularly that mysterious formation.

With this assumptions, Sunchaser realized with shock that if they were to meet in battle today, it would very likely be the Purple Sun Sect being destroyed, and not them destroying the Precious Tree Sect.

Ye Chonglou's eyes blazed like torches as he noted Sunchaser's hesitation. He laughed heartily. "Sunchaser, fight if you will, why the apprehension? You've always liked playing with fire. Let's see if your playing this time will result in the annihilation of the Purple Sun Sect, or what?"

Jiang Chen had killed three of the senior levels of the Purple Sun Sect, but he hadn't truly harmed it. Several elders as well as sect head Zixu Zhenren all stepped forward.

They advised in low tones, "Forefather, lack of forbearance in small matters upsets great plans. They've come prepared today. The Shangyang Kingdom is sure to be destroyed if we fight, and our sect will be grievously harmed as well."

"Forefather, what our sect needs to do most now is to preserve our strength and wait for the right price to sell. We shouldn't brashly charge into battle and consume our sect's main strength. It's not worth it!"

They wouldn't have dared given advice to Sunchaser in ordinary times. But the situation was clearly laid out now. If things devolved to a battle, the first to be eliminated would be their Purple Sun Sect.

The senior executives had all participated in attacking Jiang Chen just now. Apart from Sunchaser, none of them had the strength to break through his formation.

If Sunchaser was entangled by the three origin realm cultivators, they would be completely at the mercy of others once Jiang Chen's formation sealed them in.

They would never want such a thing to happen.

Sunchaser had been arrogant and domineering for half his life, having always acted as he would with impudence, defying every law and regulation. However, he truly was hesitating this time.

When faced with the danger of sect annihilation, even one as rampantly bullying as he had to weigh up the severity of the matter.

Reason finally triumphed over impulse in the end.

He threw vicious glares at Thousandleaf and Ye Chonglou before locking his gaze on Jiang Chen, "Scum, I hope you're always this lucky!"

The flames of fury seemed ready to spew out of his hate filled eyes. Everything was indicating how incensed and frustrated he was at the moment.

Jiang Chen laughed heartily. "Old man Sunchaser, I know you're feeling quite aggrieved right now. You want to erupt, and yet you can't. However, for a sect that venerates the strong and have always bullied others, you should've long thought about the day that you would be humiliated instead?"

If looks could kill, the look from Sunchaser's eyes would've killed Jiang Chen a hundred times over by now.

It was a pity that he hadn't trained in the arts of the eyes and didn't possess this skill.

Thousandleaf also relaxed inwardly when he saw Sunchaser choose to back down.

To be honest, he was unwilling to meet a madman such as Sunchaser in battle unless he absolutely had to. He smiled faintly as he saw Sunchaser give ground. "Since this is the case, the matters of today will end here. Sunchaser, I rather hope you think of the greater picture and set aside your prejudices."

This was undoubtedly preaching to deaf ears like playing a lute to a cow. Sunchaser snorted coldly, a supercilious smile appearing on his face as he seemed quite dismissive of Thousandleaf's words.

His red eyebrow arched. "What, do you plan on spending the night here after I've let you go?"

Although Sunchaser had decided to abstain from fighting, that didn't mean he would be the first to withdraw his troops. After all, the Shangyang Kingdom was his sect's territory.

Allowing someone to come in and throw their weight around, unpunished, was already past his bottom line. He would be completely unable to be the one who left first.

"Jiang Chen, let's stop at a good spot. Will you come back to the sect with me?" Thousandleaf walked up with a slight smile.

Jiang Chen nodded. The Goldbiter Rats had long since found and secretly rescued Jiang Zheng and the others. He had gained back his principle and interest in revenge on this trip to the Shangyang Kingdom.

He felt absolutely satisfied and fulfilled having killed that old woman Shuiyue.

As for Sunchaser, although he was arrogant and a looming disaster, Jiang Chen truly didn't have the ability to kill him at the moment.

He couldn't bear to ask forefather Thousandleaf or lordmaster Ye Chonglou to take the stand either. After all, this was something that laid one's life on the line. He didn't have the right to ask this of others.

He immediately nodded. "Jiang Chen is grateful and will remember the gratitude of the forefather coming to my aid. I will listen to the forefather for all arrangements."

Jiang Chen had no reason to put on appearances since the forefather was being so kindly disposed towards him.

He then smiled at Ye Chonglou afterwards, "Lordmaster, I owe you again for this time."

Ye Chonglou gave a bark of laughter, "Good kid, you still talk of things like this with me?"

The old tutor actually felt great gratitude towards Jiang Chen. If it wasn't for Jiang Chen's pointers, he never would've been able to break through to the origin realm in this life. Where would all his current glory be then?

It had always been Ye Chonglou's ardent desire to participate in the decisions at the highest levels. However, with his previous cultivation at the spirit king level, although he had some influence, it wasn't enough to enter the circles of the four venerated ones.

But today, his high profile entrance was also an official proclamation that he, Ye Chonglou, had also entered the ranks of the venerated origin realm cultivators!

The layout of the sixteen kingdom alliance would change from now on. It was no longer an era of the four forefathers holding sway, and it was even less of one in which Sunchaser was the sole power.

All of this had come from Jiang Chen.

As Sunchaser watched the Precious Tree Sect and Ye Chonglou talk and laugh animatedly as they left with Jiang Chen, leaving behind a Shangyang Kingdom in shambles, the carcasses of Master Shuiyue and the others, Sunchaser's expression twisted as he suddenly threw his head back and howled. This howl soared to the nine heavens as a current of rage shot into the sky, unable to find an outlet.

The Purple Sun Sect disciples all cowered and trembled below. No one dared approach.

Everyone was well aware that in the forefather's life of dominance, he'd never come off the worse after an exchange like he had today. For the forefather and the sect, this was a day of utter humiliation and disgrace!

"Jiang Chen, Precious Tree Sect, and Ye Chonglou!" Sunchaser's teeth grated audibly as resentment suffused his tone and hatred colored his eyes!

Chapter 427: Joining the Precious Tree Sect

What infuriated Sunchaser even more was the sight of the bodies of the three elders, particularly Master Shuiyue. Jiang Chen had sent his club crashing down on her face, and her originally beautiful features had become a bloody mess.

Sunchaser's heart was dripping blood. If it wasn't for the presence of the senior executives of the sect, he would've surely gripped the body and wailed loudly.

Elder Silverroc had died in an even more ghastly fashion. Jiang Chen had almost pounded him into meat paste.

It was rather Elder Long Luo whose repose was a bit different. He seemed to be as durable as a metallic sculpture, his weight reaching several hundred kilograms.

"Forefather, there's something bizarre about Elder Long Luo's death." Sect head Zixu Zhenren said carefully, deathly afraid of angering a forefather caught in the full throes of rage.

Sunchaser didn't vent his spleen on others. He inspected Elder Long Luo's corpse with a darkened face, murmuring with a sinister look after a moment, "He's fallen victim to a metal attribute art and his body's been petrified into metal. This scum is not only well versed in the the arts of water and fire, but has such accomplishments in the art of metal as well! My Purple Sun Sect will not know peace if he is not eliminated!"

Sunchaser finally calmed down from his agitated rage. He began to consider his sect's strategy in the face of this inexplicably frustrating state of affairs.

He was an origin realm old monster after all. He wouldn't be one to wallow and lose himself in grief.

"Zixu, go make the arrangements. The royal family of the Shangyang Kingdom has been annihilated and a new clan must be raised. Our control over the kingdom cannot falter."

Zixu Zhenren hastily nodded. "I'll arrange things appropriately, please be at ease."

Sunchaser's gaze was as biting as a wintry tundra as he swept his eyes across the faces of those present. "All of you present have witnessed today's disgrace. Our Purple Sun Sect has dominated the sixteen kingdom alliance for more than a thousand years. Yet during that millennium, we'd never witnessed a crisis as enormous, nor a humiliation more profound, than what happened here today. Right now, I hope alarm bells are ringing in all of your hearts, that you've solemnly realized that our sect's infallible position has been severely challenged. As we stand here, we are surrounded by great danger. If you still wish to maintain the advantage of being superior to all those within the sixteen kingdom alliance, then look sharp! Remember the shame of today, and find bravery from disgrace!"

"Remember, the Purple Sun Sect has not fallen! The Purple Sun Sect is far from conceding in defeat! I have already made progress in today's closed door cultivation. When I throw off my shackles and ascend to fourth level origin realm, that will be the day we conquer the Precious Tree Sect! Today's debt, born of our humiliation, will be paid ten times over at that time!"

Sunchaser hadn't chosen to fight to the end today because he was only of the third level origin realm, and wasn't confident that he'd be able to take on three opponents.

The Purple Sun Sect would have no advantages at all if he couldn't destroy the three origin realm enemies.

But once his cultivation level broke through to fourth level origin realm, his strength would surge by leaps and bounds and he'd have full confidence even in the face of three origin realm cultivators.

Forefather Thousandleaf of the Precious Tree Sect was only of third level origin realm, far from breaking through to fourth level.

Ye Chonglou and his steed had only just broken through to the origin realm.

As long as Sunchaser made it through to the earth origin realm, he would absolutely be able to trample the two of them.

If the Precious Tree Sect lost their origin realm cultivators, then it would collapse without a fight, like monkeys fleeing a falling tree.

"Forefather, I must make a trip to the Eastern Kingdom and take care of matters after this affair before returning to the Precious Tree Sect."

Thousandleaf smiled slightly. "Since this is the case, I'll accompany you."

Ye Chonglou also smiled. "I'm also curious how the fengshui of the Eastern Kingdom is to give birth to such a heaven defying genius as you?"

The two elders laughed heartily and decided on personally accompanying Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen was touched. He knew that this was them still not at ease and worried that old monster Sunchaser would come swinging back for him.

He didn't put on airs and smiled, "It will be the height of good fengshui for the Eastern Kingdom that two origin realm forefathers are deigning to visit."

Forefather Thousandleaf was in a great mood as he gave orders, "Tianshu, take the rest of the people and return to the sect first. I will accompany Jiang Chen to the Eastern Kingdom."

Xie Tianshu knew full well now that Jiang Chen was the Precious Tree Sect's treasure, one that was even more valued than a sect head.

After all, even he might not have been able to kill three Purple Sun Sect elders in a row. Even if he could, he wouldn't have been able to do so that easily.

Therefore, he knew how to behave in this situation and didn't dare envy Jiang Chen. He laughed accordingly, "What a pity that I cannot go visit such a wondrous place. You won't think me slighting you, would you Jiang Chen?"

Jiang Chen knew that the sect head wanted to build closer relations with him and smiled faintly, "The sect head has to attend to a host of matters everyday. You must extend a great deal of effort and trouble in prioritizing sect matters first."

Jiang Chen then exchanged some pleasantries with the other senior executives. He knew that the forefather had purposefully arranged things thus when he didn't see the Iron family. The forefather hadn't wanted Jiang Chen to be disgusted.

The group of people travelled back to the Eastern Kingdom.

Thousandleaf and Ye Chonglou were actually disinterested in the Eastern Kingdom. They were going to protect Jiang Chen, and to express their attitudes about him.

They could all see that Jiang Chen's future was unlimited, and that his future would be above theirs. That day wasn't too far away either.

Jiang Chen obviously didn't plan on making a big fuss of things. He escorted the Jiang family members back to the Jiang Han duchy and had Xue Tong give them a large sum of wealth. Jiang Chen also gave them the three pill recipes and had the Jiang family clean up the Hall of Healing, leveraging the strength of the Hall of Healing to rebuild the Jiang family.

Jiang Chen had long since drawn the lines between himself and the Eastern royal family, but he wasn't opposed to Gouyu doing a few things for her family.

After all, the Eastern clan ancestor had been killed and the Eastern Kingdom now lacked an expert to hold down the fort. Things would become exceedingly dangerous for them.

The heir to the Jinshan duchy, Fatty Xuan, and the heir to the Hubing duchy, Hubing Yue, happened to bump into each other at the door of a random tavern in the capital.

"Fatty, you're here too? Do you know who's come to find us?" Hubing Yue was confused.

Fatty Xuan had once successfully lost weight after being stuck in the Boundless Catacombs for a month, but his weight had rebounded after three years and he was once again that bouncing ball.

He was also greatly baffled at the moment.

Their families were now numbered amongst the four great dukes in the Eastern Kingdom. Their identities had naturally risen dramatically as well. They were first class fops in the capital.

However, Hubing Yue was different from Fatty Xuan in that he focused on martial dao. His cultivation level had improved by leaps and bounds, and he was now amongst the true qi masters.

Fatty Xuan was lazy by nature and was only nine meridians true qi at the moment.

The two had entered the tavern as they chatted with each other.

"You've arrived, the young master has been waiting for a while." Xue Tong walked out from a corner and greeted them.

"You... you're my boss' follower?" A look of delight suddenly shot out from Fatty Xuan's thin slits for eyes. "I heard that something happened to the Hall of Healing a few days ago, saying that boss had returned to the Eastern Kingdom. Is it... is it true?"

Fatty Xuan was truly overjoyed now. He grabbed Xue Tong's arm with great agitation as his eyes lit up like twin suns.

Hubing Yue was slightly astonished as he paused, "You're... you're a spirit realm expert?"

Xue Tong smiled faintly, "Shall we, gentlemen? Let's not keep the young master waiting."

Fatty Xuan chuckled. "Go! Let's go! I thought I'd never see boss again in this life!"

Hubing Yue's eyes were shot through with red as he recalled the hardships and joys that they'd shared with Jiang Chen, as well as the gratitude of rebirth he owed Jiang Chen.

If it wasn't for Jiang Chen, Hubing Yue never would've reached the level of eleven meridians true qi master in three years, even though his potential was quite good.

"Young master, the two Lordships have arrived."

Xue Tong pushed through the door and sent a message ahead with his consciousness.

Fatty Xuan behind him couldn't contain his glee as he arched his body and cleared out a patch of space. He squirmed through the door and pounced on Jiang Chen, tears and snot falling down together.

"Boss, I've missed you so terribly very much!"

Jiang Chen was also happy to be reunited with his old friends. He clapped their shoulders and embraced them, finally calming Fatty Xuan's emotions after a while.

"Alright Fatty! I see that it's impossible for you to lose weight." Jiang Chen teased and looked at Hubing Yue. "Xiao Yue hasn't relaxed his training. Eleven meridians true qi master! There is hope for you for the spirit realm, very good, very good!"

Hubing Yue's eyes reddened further after Jiang Chen's compliments as his emotions were also highly agitated.

Fatty Xuan laughed uproariously. "I've thought things through. I've destined to be good for nothing in this life, and being fat is my trademark. No one recognizes me on the streets if I'm not fat, how depressing is that? Bro, you don't know how even though life has been glorious for me in the capital these years, it always felt like something was missing in my heart without you."

Jiang Chen sighed but was speechless. This was a natural occurrence in life. When childhood friends grew up, they were destined to pursue their own paths.

Fatty Xuan had the personality of a dandy, this was fated to be his life.

Whereas Hubing Yue had noticeably changed, his temperament becoming more steady.

"Xiao Yue, Fatty, you'll have to shoulder the responsibility of the clan one day. I only hope that you are still brothers when the day in which you grasp power arrives. I've come to arrange a few things this time and will be leaving shortly. If our fates are willing, we will meet again."

Although this was cruel, Jiang Chen was well ware that the trajectory of his life was now completely different from theirs. The chances they'd have to meet in the future would only decrease even more.

Jiang Chen had Xue Tong send them on their way after a few more hours. He gave them a few things in private. The items weren't too good, nor were they too bad.

He gave Hubing Yue a Five Dragons Heaven Opening Pill.

He gave Fatty Xuan some protective treasures and a spirit weapon.

Gouyu also took care of the Eastern clan affairs as well. She brought Eastern Zhiruo to meet with Jiang Chen so as to fulfill the little girl's request.

The little girl was young and had a forthright personality. She seemed to know that Jiang Chen and her were of different worlds. Although she had a multitude of emotions in her heart, she hid them all very docilely in her heart.

Jiang Chen quietly left the Eastern Kingdom after two days and officially joined the Precious Tree Sect with his followers.

After Jiang Chen joined, Ye Chonglou announced that he was returning to the Precious Tree Sect.

Forefather Thousandleaf was of an obvious mind to spread news of this far and wide as he gave great pomp and circumstance to Jiang Chen and Ye Chonglou entering the sect. He gave out invitations to the senior executives of all the sects to welcome them to observe the ceremony.

Jiang Chen didn't oppose this. He knew that forefather Thousandleaf had been suppressed too long and needed to show off a bit, to regain some confidence amongst the four sects.

Chapter 428: Envoy from the Sky Sect

Slamming his fist on the stone table in front of him, Sunchaser's face flushed, shifting between red and white. It was obvious he was more than a little enraged.

The invitation in his hand was from the Precious Tree Sect. It was inviting him and the senior executives of the Purple Sun Sect to attend the ceremony of Ye Chonglou and Jiang Chen entering the sect.

This invitation was worded very politely, but it was a naked challenge in Sunchaser's eyes. To invite the Purple Sun Sect at this time to watch the proceedings, it was completely toying with the Purple Sun Sect, making them lose face, and even a proclamation to the sixteen kingdom alliance that from now on, the Precious Tree Sect would replace the Purple Sun Sect and become the head of the four sects!

This was something that Sunchaser found hardest to accept.

What had just happened in the Shangyang Kingdom just now had already accumulated enough ire that he had nowhere to vent. Now, the Precious Tree Sect's actions were just adding oil to the flames and fueling his rage to new heights.

If they went, it was an undoubted humiliation of the Purple Sun Sect. Seeing the Precious Tree Sect strut around, comfortable in their position, was something that no one in the Purple Sun Sect could accept.

If he didn't go, the outside world would think that the Purple Sun Sect was already afraid of the Precious Tree Sect and didn't even have the courage to face the latter. Not participating would be dodging the issue.

Therefore, it was truly a difficult decision for Sunchaser.

He was contemplating when he saw Zixu Zhenren stride forth, a mysterious and stern look on his face. "Forefather, there is someone outside who claims he is from the Sky Sect and has asked to speak to you by name."

Sunchaser happened to be at a loss of what to do when he suddenly heard the news. His knitted brows arched upwards and a look of delight appeared, "Is he finally here?"

He was then a bit worried after his surprise. "I wonder if the Sky Sect envoy will fault us for Long Juxue being killed?"

Although he was inwardly anxious, Sunchaser didn't dare tarry. It was obvious that this envoy had quite a background when even an origin realm cultivator like him had to dance careful attendance.

A blue clad man was standing with his hands behind his back in the most venerated guest receiving hall of the Purple Sun Sect. His expression was cold and remote, and he exuded a strong solitary pride.

The senior executives of the Purple Sun Sect kept smiling and seeking to wait upon the man, but the blue clad man remained expressionless and didn't give them the slightest bit of face.

Sunchaser walked over swiftly at this moment. The normally arrogant forefather was now wreathed in smiles, and one could even detect a hint of humility, even fawning, in his smiles.

"The entire Purple Sun Sect have waited and yearned, finally welcoming the day the Sky Sect envoy has graced us with your presence. Sir Envoy, Sunchaser has been remiss in greeting you."

Sunchaser threw a look at the senior executives as he spoke, indicating for them to leave.

The envoy would only be irritated by service from people of that level.

The blue clad man's arrogantly aloof expression finally loosened a bit when he saw Sunchaser appear.

"Sunchaser, it looks like your sect's morale is quite low. It's not at all as impressive as you were boasting! This Purple Sun Sect is rather disappointing."

The blue clad man's tone was faint, but it had the natural quality of one in a superior position. This made Sunchaser have to lower his head docilely and accept this lecture.

Sunchaser smiled ruefully, "Sir Envoy, it's truly difficult to quickly summarize the reasons behind this."

The blue clad man gave a flick of his hands. "I didn't come here to listen to your complaints. Here, summon your innate constitution disciple. I want to assess to see if she is as she appears."

Sunchaser knew this would be bad as soon as he heard these words. He was dumbfounded and didn't know how to respond.

The blue clad man became a bit displeased when he saw Sunchaser dither. "What? Is it that I cannot summon one of your junior disciples?"

Sunchaser sighed lightly, "Sir Envoy, Sunchaser was incompetent and couldn't protect Long Juxue. She was killed during the great selection!"

Sunchaser knew that there was no way to conceal things at this point in time. He could only confess. Perhaps that would provoke the envoy's temper and gain him some sympathy.

"What?" The blue clad man was flabbergasted. "Are you jesting? One with an innate constitution was killed? Isn't your Purple Sun Sect the dominant power in the sixteen kingdom alliance?"

"The Purple Sun Sect has always been the head of the four great sects, this is correct. Even Lei Gangyang is enough to sweep all the disciples of the other three sects, much less Long Juxue. The one who killed Long Juxue this time was a perverse genius from a secular kingdom. I don't know what strange heritage he's received that makes his strength extraordinary. He's even killed three of my elders."

Sunchaser truly gritted his teeth whenever he spoke of Jiang Chen.

The blue clad man snorted derisively. "Isn't this new. The rise of a grass root from a secular kingdom that ended in the death of an innate constitution. What do you think your sixteen kingdom alliance is? Are there that many geniuses everywhere? Sunchaser, don't you feign compliance while acting in opposition. What is the reason? Did you send that Long Juxue to another power to pave the path of ascension for your Purple Sun Sect?"

Sunchaser was scared witless when he heard these words.

"Sir Envoy, where do these words come from? My Purple Sun Sect is but a tiny piece of land, how would we dare betray the Sky Sect? I, Sunchaser, have wholeheartedly flocked to the Sky Sect banner. I had thought to make use of the selection to awe and suppress the other three sects, building the foundations for the Sky Sect's entrance to the sixteen kingdom alliance. Unfortunately, a man's schemes are inferior to those made by heaven, and all our plans were wrecked and ruined by the appearance of a secular genius. A simple investigation will be enough to prove my words true or false!"

"Hmph! Secular genius!" The blue clad man was obviously disdainful of this matter. He felt that Sunchaser was exaggerating things. Remote, secular kingdoms could only give birth to certain levels of geniuses. Those characters were ants in the eyes of the Sky Sect.

"Sunchaser, I will be investigating this matter. You should know the consequences of betrayal if I discover the slightest falsehood. Hmph, the value of your Purple Sun Sect has decreased by at least one half without a genius of an innate constitution. We'd wanted to make an exception and give you the rank of a three star division master. Now, you are worth a rank of one star division master at most. Even this is an extra favor for you."

The blue clad man made a grasping motion with a single hand and an ancient, unadorned badge appeared in his hand. He threw it to Sunchaser.

"This is the badge of a Sky Sect division master. With it, you are a division master of the Sky Sect. The Purple Sun Sect no longer exists, you are now the Purple Light Division."

Sunchaser started, "Sir Envoy, why not the Purple Sun Division?"

The envoy started laughing coldly. "Purple Sun Division? Are you worthy of the two words 'purple sun'? These two words are a taboo. The Sky Sect's full name is the Ninesuns Sky Sect, with nine manors within the sect. One of them is the Purple Sun Manor. Now, are you sure you want to change your name to the Purple Sun Division?"

Cold sweat beaded Sunchaser's forehead when he heard these words. He was almost frightened out of his soul. This was a double taboo!

The first was a taboo in using the sect's name, and the second was a taboo using the Purple Sun Manor's name.

Sunchaser hurriedly waved his hands and said with a carefully reserved face, "No, not at all. The Purple Light Division is fine."

The blue clad man's expression was cold as he said faintly, "Sunchaser, the sect never keeps trash. We've appointed you as division master, but if you cannot show anything for your position, this badge may be confiscated at any time."

Sunchaser hastened to say, "Since we have joined the Sky Sect, Sunchaser will naturally put forth all his effort for the Sky Sect and exhaust myself in the task. I will not shrink from sacrifice even if I'm faced with mountains of blades or oceans of fire."

"Save the empty flattery. Your most pressing mission is to unite the sixteen kingdom alliance. Swallow the four sects and incorporate them into the Purple Light Division. If you can do this well, then even a rank of four star division master is possible."

The blue clad man knew the essence of being in power. One would have to dangle a sweet reward after dishing out a slap.

"Unite the four sects?" Sunchaser's eyes rolled around as he weighed this matter, then finally laughed ruefully. "Sir Envoy, if Long Juxue had been able to develop successfully, if the secular genius hadn't appeared, all of this might have been completed in ten or twenty years. But now..."

"Where's the difficulty?"

"There are many, the chief of which is the Precious Tree Sect. The Precious Tree Sect is now very influential, as if the sun at midday. It's received the addition of the secular genius as well as an origin realm cultivator, and a saint rank spirit creature. In terms of strength, the Precious Tree Sect is no longer inferior to my Purple Sun Sect... no, not less than my Purple Light Division."

"Precious Tree Sect? The blue clad man snorted coldly. "That sect with the most spirit medicine resources that you mentioned before?"

"Yes indeed." Sunchaser hastened to say.

"A decade or two, the Sky Sect has no time to wait that long. You must unite all sixteen kingdoms with one stroke and put all future worries to bed. The sect has sent me here to lend a helping hand at critical moments. Undue delay might lead to trouble. Although the sixteen kingdom alliance is a remote place, many gazes are now gathering here. If my Sky Sect does not take swift and ruthless action, it would not be pretty if other forces became involved."

Sunchaser was overjoyed by these words. He knew this meant that the envoy was personally taking action.

The blue clad man wasn't necessarily stronger than Sunchaser, but the former had the benefit of a good birth and a high status. So Sunchaser kept a very low profile in front of him because the other held his future and fate in his hands.

If Sunchaser somehow offended the envoy with a word, then the envoy would only need one word to destroy Sunchaser and the entire sect when he returned.

"Sir Envoy, with your action, unifying the four sects is absolutely a foregone conclusion. It so happens that the Precious Tree Sect is holding an induction ceremony and has invited the four sects to participate. Those from all the sects will be there at this time, and a strong blow from you will certainly result in success with one battle. The others will be submissive and meek, throwing themselves under the Purple Light Division's banner."

Sunchaser began to furiously kiss up to the blue clad man.

As the Sky Sect envoy, the blue clad man felt quite superior in the sixteen kingdoms. He didn't think there was anything inappropriate about Sunchaser's fawning, and accepted it all readily.

He was actually a bit stronger than Sunchaser. As a fourth level origin realm expert, he was a solid earth origin realm cultivator.

He completely surpassed Sunchaser both in terms of background or strength, so he didn't deign to show any humility in front of Sunchaser.

"How much longer until the induction ceremony?" The blue clad man asked after musing for a bit.

"The invitation said nine days."

The man contemplated some more. "Alright, then we must take down the other three sects in nine days on our trip to the Precious Tree Sect, incorporating them into the Purple Light Division. There can be no accidents about this. When this is complete, I will follow the orders from above and help you enter fourth level origin realm, giving you absolute strength in suppressing others and absolute authority in the Purple Light Division!"

Sunchaser's brows danced with happiness upon hearing this. This was such an unexpected delight!

Chapter 429: Divine Fruit of the Rosy Dawn

Sunchaser had been fruitlessly spinning his wheels when the arrival of the Sky Sect envoy immediately restored his fighting spirit and swept away his dejection.

No matter from what angle one approached things, the Purple Sun Sect was the absolute winner now that the Sky Sect envoy had decided to personally take the field.

Although they'd lost the name of the Purple Sun Sect, they'd received real power instead.

What did the badge of a division master of the Ninesuns Sky Sect mean? It meant that he, Sunchaser, was no longer someone with no patron at all. He'd latched onto a powerful backer.

Even the strong factions in the Myriad Domain wouldn't be able to ignore the existence of the Ninesuns Sky sect.

Even though he'd only received a badge of the lowest rank, no one would dare overlook him all the same.

The most critical thing was that the Purple Light Division would unite the four sects. This meant that Sunchaser would be in charge of more people, and even more experts would follow his orders.

Although they may not wholeheartedly submit to him in the short term, he'd naturally have his ways to bring them to heel in due time as his strength continued to increase.

After all, the situation was in front of them. Either they bent the knee, or faced destruction.

In the world of martial dao, going along with the flow was the true way of survival. Sunchaser didn't feel that the senior executives of the three great sects had the willpower to defy the Ninesuns Sky Sect.

To put things bluntly, it was their great fortune that the Ninesuns Sky Sect had cast its eye on them!

If there really was those who didn't recognize the greater picture, then he'd be forced to use some strong-arm tactics and kill one or two of them to make an example for the others to see!

Sunchaser had already started planning who he'd make an example of first.

Jiang Chen!

This name was certainly in first place.

Whether they were the Purple Sun Sect or the Purple Light Division, they would never have a moment of peace as long as this person was not eliminated.

Jiang Chen made appropriate arrangements for his follower upon returning to the Precious Tree Sect.

He was now the most central figure of the younger generation in the Precious Tree Sect. The worth of his followers had naturally risen as well—they enjoyed the treatment afforded to first tier disciples.

The benefits of joining the Precious Tree Sect were apparent in this manner.

Jiang Chen wasn't actually very interested in an induction ceremony, but everyone within the sect was highly enthused about this, so he didn't want to dampen everyone's spirits.

He could understand it as well. The Precious Tree Sect had been suppressed by the Purple Sun Sect for so many years. It was a natural desire to want to make use of this opportunity of exaltation and fulfillment for widespread fanfare.

The Precious Tree Sect gave Jiang Chen the best possible treatment. They hewed out a brand new residence for him alone in a sector with the densest concentration of spirit qi.

Only sect elders could enjoy such treatment. Even Lian Canghai and Xie Yufan didn't have the right yet to enjoy such privilege.

However, no one in the sect expressed dissatisfaction about this.

Jiang Chen had killed Long Juxue of the innate constitution in the great selection, annihilated the Wu family in the Shangyang Kingdom, and slaughtered three elders of the Purple Sun Sect.

Any of these glorious achievements were accomplishments that the younger disciples needed to look up.

How many elders within the sect could've done the same, much less the younger generation?

Although Jiang Chen enjoyed all of this treatment, he didn't become cocky or full of himself. Many elder held banquets to welcome him in the days after his return. He attended them all happily and didn't arrogantly turn any down.

He knew as well that the network of connections within the sect was complex. There was nothing bad about forming good relationships.

In this way, basically all of senior executives of the sect extended olive branches to Jiang Chen, apart from the Iron family.

He rejected no one.

This won him widespread approval and a good reputation a few days after entering the sect.

Apart from Jiang Chen, the other most in the limelight was old man Fei Xuan. He'd been promoted to elder-in-waiting before, and now that Jiang Chen had joined the sect, it had an undeniable impact to his influence.

Jiang Chen also took care to interact with him in many occasions. This also unknowingly raised old man Fei's status.

In contrast, Ye Chonglou was rather having an easy time.

Due to his cultivation level and status, he didn't need to consider anyone's face apart from forefather Thousandleaf.

Ye Chonglou was now the sect's second forefather, second only to one and above tens of thousands.

Jiang Chen finally became acclimated to the business of sect life after a few days and wrapped up various social calls as well.

When he returned to the residence that forefather Thousandleaf himself had broken ground, Jiang Chen discovered to his surprise that lordmaster Ye Chonglou had come visiting.

"Lordmaster." Jiang Chen was slightly surprised.

"Haha, what, you don't welcome a raggedy old man like me?" Ye Chonglou was in a wonderful mood. He'd returned to the Precious Tree Sect with the identity of a forefather, and the Iron family, the culprits who'd made him leave with resignation back in the day, could only look up to him. This feeling felt damn good.

"The lordmaster is an origin realm forefather, how would this kid not welcome you? I should be greatly kissing up to you!" Jiang Chen also joked back.

“You brat! Others may not know, but you definitely know what is the deal with my origin realm. If it wasn’t for you, I’m afraid I would’ve dithered in the spirit king realm for all of my life.”

A mixture of emotions coursed through Ye Chonglou. “I’ve been quiet for so long. I’d never have thought that I’d return to the sect one day and be standing at the peak.”

“Age has never been an issue in martial dao. The lordmaster possesses an undying hero’s heart. It was a given that you would make it here today.” Jiang Chen offered a few words of flattery.

The two sat down as the lordmaster suddenly asked, “Jiang Chen, I heard that Dan Fei left you a letter when she left?”

Jiang Chen was surprised by the lordmaster’s sudden question.

However, he didn’t deny it. He nodded slightly and didn’t mention the contents of the letter.

The lordmaster seemed to have guessed something as he sighed softly. “I raise Dan Fei since she was young. I might have overly spoiled her, which resulted in her slightly high brow personality. However, little Dan’s mindset is pure and kind, and she’s always had a stubborn streak in her character and style. I was in closed door cultivation when she left this time, so I have no idea what happened. With her personality, she would’ve never left without a reason. I am a bit worried.”

Jiang Chen also had no idea why Dan Fei had left. He too had found it odd. Dan Fei was so filial to the lordmaster, why would she leave when he was in closed door cultivation?

Jiang Chen was absolutely befuddled by the lordmaster’s words.

He’d naturally understood her letter. That short letter had been her confession of love to him.

However, he still didn’t understand. Even if she did have feelings for Jiang Chen, it hadn’t seemed like she needed to leave the lordmaster.

When he recalled his various experiences with her, Jiang Chen sighed lightly as well. No matter from what angle one looked at things, Dan Fei was a perfect match for a man.

Apart from being slightly proud, it could be said that she fulfilled all of a man’s fantasies.

However, some destiny was needed in the matters between a man and woman. Jiang Chen had always had a gentlemanly attitude in interacting with her. His thoughts had never drifted in that direction.

When he thought that Dan Fei’s departure might have something to do with him, Jiang Chen naturally hoped in his heart that everything was alright for her, and that no accidents would befall her.

When he saw that the conversation had taken a slight downturn, the lordmaster changed the topic. “Jiang Chen, it’s a factor of change for the sixteen kingdom alliance now that you’ve joined the Precious Tree Sect. In this way, you’ll also walk towards the light from the shadows. There will be countless numbers of eyeballs on you from this moment forth. You should be prepared.”

Jiang Chen smiled slightly and nodded, “Is it not the same for you, lordmaster?”

Ye Chonglou laughed heartily, “That is true.”

He immediately sighed softly afterwards. "It's a pity that the position of the sixteen kingdom alliance in the Myriad Domain is still fraught with peril. Although you and I have entered the Precious Tree Sect, I have no insight into where the path ahead of us leads. Jiang Chen, you're still young. I see in you a kind of potential, a potential that will change the times."

"You and the Purple Sun Sect are as if fire and water now. With my understanding of old monster Sunchaser, he will never be willing to take things lying down. I'm afraid this matter is not over."

Ye Chonglou rather dreaded Sunchaser. This was a madman with a narrow mind. He would always take revenge for slights to him.

With the Purple Sun Sect's domineering style in the sixteen kingdom alliance, they would never just silently take the loss after such an enormous humiliation.

"The lordmaster speaks what I think. There must be a termination of matters with the Purple Sun Sect sooner or later. There is no benefit to further thought. What I can do is train hard."

Ye Chonglou complimented Jiang Chen upon hearing this, "Absolutely! It's rare for a young man to be neither proud nor impatient. I will protect you no matter what, even if I have to put my life on the line. I will shelter you before you grow into your strength. Do you know? What I am looking forward to the most now is seeing how far you'll go!"

Ye Chonglou was viewing Jiang Chen as one of his own juniors now. Jiang Chen's position in his heart wasn't the least bit inferior to Dan Fei's.

It wasn't only because Jiang Chen had given him pointers and helped him enter the origin realm, more importantly, the lordmaster saw in Jiang Chen an unfathomable potential.

He suddenly took out an item from his storage ring.

"Jiang Chen, this is a Divine Fruit of the Rosy Dawn, produced by the Precious Tree of the Rosy Dawn. It flowers one red fruit every hundred years, a blue fruit every three hundred years, and a purple fruit every six hundred. This is a hundred year red fruit. Forefather Thousandleaf gave it to me upon my return. He gave me two that day, and I give one to you, saving the other for Dan Fei. In my heart, you and Dan Fei are as if children by my knees. This hundred year red fruit can help you advance another step forward in the spirit realm."

The Precious Tree Sect was called such because they had a treasured tree within the sect named the Precious Tree of the Rosy Dawn. It was roughly three thousand meters tall and covered an area of approximately 66 hectares.

The Precious Tree Sect was founded for this tree, and maintained its fortunes because the tree was still standing.

The Divine Fruit of the Rosy Dawn was exceedingly precious. It only produced thirty fruits, of which ten had to be harvested in the red fruit stage, another ten in the blue fruit stage, and the rest had a chance to mature into purple fruit.

A duration of six hundred years was necessary to complete one flowering cycle.

Therefore, those two red fruits were not to be dismissed. They were the result the accumulation of hundred years.

Jiang Chen hadn't thought that the lordmaster would gift him such a valuable present. When he heard the sincerity in the lordmaster's voice and how he mentioned Jiang Chen in the same breath as Dan Fei, a warm current flowed through his heart.

The lordmaster was a frank and forthright person. His affection and protection of Jiang Chen were not false. After all, the lordmaster erupted in open hostilities with the Iron family in the Skylaurel Kingdom back in the day.

And now, he was gifting Jiang Chen this Divine Fruit. Jiang Chen possessed the innocent heart of a child in both his past and present life. He naturally understood that there was no falsehood in the lordmaster's regards.

This fruit encompassed the love and protection, expectations, emphasis, and all sorts of feelings that the lordmaster had towards Jiang Chen. This filled Jiang Chen's heart and moved him beyond all measure.

Chapter 430: The Iron Family Submits

The lordmaster was the epitome of dashing grace as he laughed once heartily after pressing the fruit into Jiang Chen's hand and then drifted away.

"Jiang Chen, all resources are available to you in the Precious Tree Sect. I am but adding brilliance to your present splendor. Continue training! There are still roughly seven days to the induction ceremony. I hope you will appear on it with an even stronger posture."

The lordmaster came and left as he would. This was also to prevent Jiang Chen from having any psychological pressure.

Jiang Chen knew that the lordmaster was acting like this on purpose. This weighty gift was no superfluous item.

Jiang Chen had also heard of the Precious Tree of the Rosy Dawn.

However, forefather Thousandleaf hadn't mentioned the fruit of this tree to him in the days that he'd entered the sect. It was obvious that this resource wasn't something that even a young man like Jiang Chen could commandeer.

The lordmaster had gifted him even the Divine Fruit of Rosy Dawn, how was this possibly just mere added grace? This was absolutely a precious gift.

Jiang Chen's gaze flickered as he looked at the fruit that was so red, it seemed to be glowing. What he lacked most at this moment was resources like this.

"It looks like joining the Precious Tree Sect was a truly wise decision. With the lordmaster's personality, the fact that he has returned to old grazing pastures in the Precious Tree Sect is surely because he wishes to be a protective detail for me. The lordmaster's intentions are truly touching.

With Jiang Chen's knowledge of the lordmaster, he would've never returned to the sect without reason after he'd left. His return was more than likely a reflection of his desire to pave the way for Jiang Chen.

"The lordmaster values me so highly. I naturally cannot forgive this debt of gratitude. Perhaps I should find some opportunities to repay his kindness."

It wasn't that Jiang Chen was arrogant—he truly had many ways to help the lordmaster. It was that he'd purposefully held back at times in order not to make too many stunning and shocking moves.

This was because if he wanted to help the lordmaster, whatever he took out would be an enormous feat that was sure to stun.

Therefore, he'd always exercised quite a bit of restraint and had almost never made a move unless a chance to cropped up by coincidence. He also made his moves with utmost skill and care.

Like when he'd resolved the issue of the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon for instance, or that time when he'd written down his thoughts in cultivating spirit creatures or given the lordmaster pointers to breaking through to the origin realm.

Jiang Chen had done all of that very carefully to prevent himself from coming across as too out of this world.

He flung up the Divine Fruit of Rosy Dawn in his hand and decided to make good use of it. It could help a cultivator unequivocally break through to another level in the spirit realm. It was more than your typical good item.

"My cultivation is now at the peak of the eighth level spirit realm. If I take this fruit, does that mean I can immediately set foot into the peak of the ninth level?"

Jiang Chen was greatly moved when his thoughts traveled here.

The temptation of the ninth level spirit realm made him urge to try.

Although there were seven or so days left until the induction ceremony, Jiang Chen still decided to give it a try. If the Divine Fruit of Rosy Dawn was as legendary as rumored, then this time would be plenty enough.

He summoned his followers when his thoughts traveled here.

"Gouyu, you're now third level spirit realm and there is much room for you to improve. I have a batch of Fire Raven cores here. It should be enough for you to break through to the sky spirit realm. Some other resources you'll need are also here as well."

"Xue Tong, your path is different from Gouyu. The Fire Raven cores are unsuitable for you. I've prepared some pills for you and some spirit essence distilled from spirit medicines. They will all be extremely useful for your training."

"Qiao Shan, Qiao Chuan, Guo Jin, and Wen Ziqi, I've prepared a gift for each of you. All of you take a Five Dragons Opening Heavens Pill and break through to the spirit realm first."

Jiang Chen had also grown aware that the strength of his followers needed to improve. Otherwise, if great disruptions truly occurred in the Myriad Domain, it wouldn't do to be without sufficient strength.

He announced that he was entering closed door cultivation after making all of his arrangements.

The only people unhappy ever since Ye Chonglou and Jiang Chen had announced joining the Precious Tree Sect was the Iron family.

The Iron family and their confidantes quickly realized that the atmosphere within the sect had changed. The senior levels that had close relationships with them before suddenly distanced themselves.

Apart from a few neutral senior executives, the previous situation in the sect had been one of the Xie family and the Iron family being equally matched rivals to each other.

But yet in a few short days, those apart from the Iron family's lineal branches all seemed to form an accord and consciously became estranged from the Iron family.

It was obvious that no one was dumb. All could see the awkward situation that the Iron family was in now. The forefather had been dissatisfied with their performance to begin with.

They were also dead rivals with the Xie family, not to mention the past conflicts that new members Ye Chonglou and Jiang Chen had had with them.

The two strongest forces in the Precious Tree Sect were enemies with the entire Iron family. Given the circumstances, the decline of the Iron family was a foregone conclusion.

Elder Iron Long gave a long sigh within the headquarters of the Iron family, his face appeared aged and resigned.

Iron Dazhi was like a gamecock that had lost the fight. His head trailed and his spirits were lowly. He'd perceptively realized over the past couple of days that he'd lost the feeling of superiority of being able to summon the wind and call for rain as he was able to previously.

The sect geniuses who'd always called him "Brother Iron" also began avoiding his presence.

"A petty villain glorifying in his success, truly a petty villain becoming triumphant!" Only Iron Can seemed very unwilling to accept this outcome. "Jiang Chen is but a country bumpkin, what right does he have to climb on top of our heads? Why are the heavens this unfair? Our Iron family has a thousand years worth of heritage, is a country bumpkin to lord it over us like this?"

Iron Can gritted his teeth, outraged injustice suffusing his tone.

Iron Long glared angrily, "Shut up! Aren't you the cause of all of our troubles? Would this be the situation today had you been able to keep Yang Zhao and Lu Wuji under control? Perhaps Jiang Chen would even be in our camp! How do you not say that you're not good enough to accomplish anything, but more than enough to spoil things?"

Iron Long felt rage grow whenever he looked at Iron Can.

Even Iron Long had accepted things wholeheartedly now that things had progressed to this point, whereas that trash Iron Can was still running his mouth. This incensed Iron Long, making him deeply regret that his son didn't live up to his expectations.

When he thought about it, Jiang Chen's various grudges and conflicts with the Iron family had raised because of Lu Wuji. Lu Wuji happened to be the nephew of Iron Can's woman.

If Iron Can had been slightly stricter with Lu Wuji, would Lu Wuji have dared act so wildly? Would Lu Wuji have offended Jiang Chen to the point where relations couldn't be salvaged?

Therefore, everyone had the right to speak, but only Iron Can had no right to speak when it came to Jiang Chen.

Iron Long huffed out angrily and turned to look at the motionless Lian Canghai. He was Iron Long's true disciple and once the first within the sect.

"Canghai, you trained with Jiang Chen in the same quadrant. What do you think of him?"

Lian Canghai's mouth was filled with a bitter taste when he recalled matters. He'd originally been completely dismissive of Jiang Chen, noticeably underestimating this secular genius.

And now, Jiang Chen's momentum was set, but he'd tragically discovered that he was unable to become closer to Jiang Chen because of his master's stance.

However, Lian Canghai still responded to his master's question carefully. "When Jiang Chen was farming points in the sky quadrant, I'd thought him one to employ trickery and be opportunistic—someone who wouldn't amount to much. It was only when he barged into the meeting of the most high by himself that no matter in terms of bravery or strength, this person was bound to rise up. To be able to defeat two of Master Shuiyue's major disciples in a row means that his rise wasn't a fluke. In addition, it's said that he even killed an expert like Master Shuiyue in the Shangyang Kingdom. It isn't that I wish to bolster another's morale, but it's truly unsuitable to become enemies with him."

Iron Long sighed softly. He too knew that Jiang Chen wasn't someone to be enemies with. However, given how things were now, was there hope for the two parties to be reconciled?

Black lines of ill temper descended down Iron Can's face when he heard this. "Canghai, don't you think your words help the enemy too much and should go against your conscience?"

Lian Canghai was Iron Long's true disciple, and so his seniority wasn't lower than Iron Can's. His brows arched when he saw Iron Can thus out of line and he snorted derisively. "Go against my conscience? Elder Iron, isn't this hyperbole? Everyone is now part of the Precious Tree Sect, can it be that Elder Iron thinks that the Iron family should fight to the death with Jiang Chen? Forgive my bluntness, but your thoughts will push the Iron family into a bottomless abyss."

Although Lian Canghai was young, he wasn't the least bit inferior to Iron Can in terms of identity, status, and strength.

Therefore, he didn't give Iron Can any face when he acted so wildly.

Iron Long slammed his hand on the table and glared ferociously at Iron Can, "Iron Can, if you continue to refuse to see the error of your ways, then don't blame me for destroying you with one palm for the future of the family!"

"Dazhi, you're my lineal grandson. You tell me how my Iron family should interact with Jiang Chen?"

Although Iron Dazhi's personality was also domineering, he was different from Iron Can's narrow mindedness. He knew how to advance and retreat, and what the bigger picture was.

He laughed ruefully, "Grandfather, I used to hate Jiang Chen very much, but now I feel I don't even have the right to hate him. Think about it, he's younger than me, but has already killed three elders of the Purple Sun Sect. In his eyes, even our entire Iron family is likely nothing, much less me. I rather think that if our Iron family is to survive, there's nothing humiliating about lowering our posture and asking to reconcile with him. With the momentum of his rise, the Precious Tree Sect will be unable to keep him sooner or later, but our Iron family must forever remain in the sect."

Even Lian Canghai was slightly astonished by Iron Dazhi's words and revised his opinion of the latter.

It looked like failure wasn't a bad thing for some people.

It looked like Iron Dazhi had matured quite a bit after several setbacks and failures. He could actually analyze the bigger picture and come to this conclusion.

Lian Canghai also nodded. "Dazhi's words make great sense. If Jiang Chen truly rises, the sect is but a small temple in the end and cannot keep him. If he does not, then the Purple Sun Sect is first in line to wish to destroy him, what need is there for the Iron family to make a move? Therefore, no matter from what angle we pursue things from, there is no reason for the Iron family to continue to be at odds with him. We should go along with the flow for survival and make peace with him, even the Xie family. This will show those within and outside of the sect that the Iron family can see the larger issues!"

Iron Long was delighted by these words. He could tell from them that Lian Canghai and Iron Dazhi had truly grown up. They were thousands of times better than that good-for-nothing Iron Can.

"Good, I am much gratified that Canghai and Dazhi hold these opinions. What face can our Iron family not put down for the sect? If Jiang Chen rises, the Precious Tree Sect is sure to benefit and so we must reconcile with him beforehand."

Iron Long had been of this mind to begin with, and now that Iron Dazhi and Lian Canghai's words had paved the way, it was much easier to make this decision.