

Three Realms 631

Chapter 631: The Battle That Caused Cao Jin To Have a Mental Breakdown

Cao Jin had an ugly expression on his face when he saw the veritable flood of Goldbiter Rats carpet the ground. They were so numerous that every square inch within ten meters was completely covered. He knew that he was in great trouble now. As strong as the six wolverines were, his first thought when confronted by so many Goldbiter Rats was that they were done for.

“You have a lot of trump cards, don’t you, Jiang Chen?” Cao Jin’s face was dark as he lifted his gaze to stare at Jiang Chen. It wasn’t until right then that Cao Jin realized he’d still underestimated Jiang Chen. Jiang Chen seemed to have no end to the cards he could pull out, and worse, they were completely unpredictable! The six wolverines had been one of two major trump cards that he had held to use against Jiang Chen. He had hardened his heart to take Jiang Chen down, and had immediately slapped it down as soon as they faced off. But who would’ve known that his first trump card would be of no help at all, but rather end up being wasted instead! Cao Jin was rocked by astonishment as well as a growing anger.

“As one of the ten great disciples of the Sky Sect, Cao, you too have quite a few trump cards at your disposal, hmm? What else do you have? I’ll give you a chance to use them all.” Jiang Chen smiled faintly. He wasn’t the slightest bit afraid even though he was facing off against Cao Jin. Instead, the will to battle burned ever more brightly. Cao Jin did have another trump card left, but he didn’t want to use it lightly now. The loss of his first trump card still more or less affected him.

He sneered and burst upwards like lightning, giving a long whistle. “Why do I need to use a trump card against a mere petty thief like you? My usual techniques are enough to kill you!”

He pointed down at Jiang Chen as he spoke, and the heavens shone with a radiant splendor as they violently surged towards Jiang Chen. This was one of the trademark techniques of the Sky Sect, the “Milky Way Point”! It was as stunning as the celestial heavens, and the point as if a shooting star.

Jiang Chen was a bit surprised by this technique, but a somewhat strange smile crossed his face in the next instant. Of all things, he hadn’t expected such a coincidence! The “Milky Way Point” was actually identical to the “Supernova Point” he practiced, but the mysteries and changes encompassed within Cao Jin’s strike was noticeably less complex than the “Supernova Point”. This also meant to say that it was very likely that Cao Jin’s method was the novice version of the “Supernova Point”.

Jiang Chen sidestepped, easily evading the attack. Since he was familiar with the technique, he knew exactly what the enemy’s next move was. Cao Jin’s “Milky Way Point” was indeed bedazzling and very domineering, but much to his chagrin, his most vaunted technique seemed to be completely useless! He didn’t even hit a hint of Jiang Chen’s shadow, let alone striking down his enemy!

How... how was this possible?

Even the supremely confident Cao Jin felt that things had gone all too awry. Everything had taken a queer turn since meeting Jiang Chen. His best technique, one of the ultimate arts of the Sky Sect, was something that Cao Jin had always relied on to kill enemies, and it had never failed him before. In fact, he’d sent many of the Regal Pill Palace elders flying with a single point when he had shown up at the sect. But now it seemed ineffective against a minor disciple from the same sect!

What the hell is this?!

It almost seemed as though Jiang Chen had practiced his technique before since he seemed to be able to anticipate every one of Cao Jin's moves. No matter how Cao Jin tried to switch up his rhythm to execute his "Milky Way Point" to its utmost power, it was all for naught. Jiang Chen was always able to anticipate his next step. How was this a fight to the death? This was more like a martial spar between peers!

"Tsk tsk, Cao, the Ninesuns Sky Sect is a first ranked sect at the end of the day, no? These little unorthodox tricks are all you've learned? It's not enough to even scratch an itch!" Jiang Chen could see that Cao Jin's dao heart had been slightly affected. After all, it was just one bizarre occurrence after another. As resolute as Cao Jin's mentality was, it was impossible for him to be completely unaffected by this point.

Cao Jin grew incensed as he grabbed at the air, and an ancient sword with an exceedingly keen edge appeared in his hand. "Jiang Chen, your death is a worthy one as you've forced me to bring out my weapon!"

Cao Jin was thoroughly enraged now. His sword moved through the air like water, leaving scars in the air like a whip of stars as they layered and intersected with each other to form a net that roiled towards Jiang Chen.

What seemed like a simple stroke was actually one that'd condensed many complex notions and embodied an exceedingly strong intent. "Jiang Chen, do you think you're on the same level as me just by using a few tricks as a first level sage realm? I'll use the truth to let you know just how ludicrous your thoughts are!"

Cao Jin's sword technique wasn't flashy at all, but every seemingly careless stroke had great meaning behind it. Every single move and strike came together to form a marvelous sword formation.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

The air around them was quickly filling with Cao Jin's furious sword intent. This prickly intent wasn't just the demonstration of the dao of swords anymore, but encompassed even the very meaning of this profound technique within them. The space was fully enclosed by Cao Jin's cutting sword intent before long.

Rumble.

The technique contracted violently, eviscerating at least a million Goldbiter Rats, leaving behind nothing but ground flesh and bloodied gore across the ground. Cao Jin laughed coldly as he sheathed his longsword. It was obvious that he felt that it was impossible for Jiang Chen to survive his "Sword Ocean Cover", even if the latter had bones and tendons made of iron. However, he didn't know which bloody pile was Jiang Chen out of the numerous ones in this area. After a careful look around, he started rummaging through the mess in search of Jiang Chen's storage ring.

However, he didn't find it no matter where he looked!

"How is that possible?" Cao Jin was baffled. "Blood and flesh are reduced to nothing under the cover of the 'Sword Ocean Cover', so there should be a storage ring somewhere here."

His ears twitched at this moment as he suddenly swept his arm backwards, snatching a few arrows out of the air. "Mm? Not dead yet?"

Cao Jin was flabbergasted. He'd seen with his own eyes just now how the raging "Sword Ocean cover" had enclosed Jiang Chen! He's not dead? How's that possible?

"Cao, you're much better than that Ding Tong." Jiang Chen's voice sounded from the void.

Cao Jin regarded his surroundings as he fully opened up his consciousness, but still couldn't locate Jiang Chen's precise location. This made him feel vaguely uncomfortable. His consciousness was at the peak of the sage realm, with a corresponding level of power. How could he not sense where Jiang Chen was? How strong was Jiang Chen's consciousness? He was still hesitating when a golden mountain came crushing down on him. When Cao Jin noticed it, he immediately remembered when Jiang Chen had used it to preoccupy him and taken advantage of the distraction to kill Fatty Wu.

"Repeating the same trick! Get the hell away!" Cao Jin viciously flung a punch out to send the magnetic golden mountain flying away. However, since Jiang Chen was manipulating the mountain, it only skidded back a few meters before it came hurtling back towards Cao Jin again. At the same time, twelve beads rolled towards him and transformed into twelve balls of golden light, shifting into twelve golden-armored warriors who charged towards Cao Jin.

The battle had already developed to the point where both of them were holding nothing back. There wasn't a need to hide anything anymore. Of the twelve golden-armored warriors, three were of the sky sage realm, three earth sage, and six mortal sage realm. Their combat ability was certainly nothing to scoff at. However, Cao Jin's potential was also very stunning given his ability to cultivate to the level of the ten great disciples. He was wholly unafraid of this kind of attack and met them head on with his fists and kicks.

He slowly defeated the twelve golden-armored warriors. If it wasn't for the fact that they were puppets, those warriors with the lower cultivation level might've been reduced to bloody messes already. Jiang Chen sighed with admiration from his vantage point in the shadows. He had to admit that Cao Jin was the strongest and most difficult to handle opponent that he'd met so far in his life. He'd deployed almost all of his trump cards and had made use of countless schemes, but still had yet to take this person down. He hadn't even caused any tangible injury to Cao Jin!

"Cao is a source of trouble alright. If I don't kill him, I'll be constantly plagued with trouble when I leave this area." Jiang Chen knew that he had become the Ninesuns Sky Sect's hated enemy. If he didn't kill Cao Jin today, he would be visited by endless harassment in the future. It was a good thing that his plan had yet to come to an end.

Just as the magnetic golden mountain was slamming itself against Cao Jin without pause, countless lotuses had arranged themselves in a radius of thirty some meters around him. Although Cao Jin was being attacked by the magnetic golden mountain and the twelve golden-armored warriors, he still had enough attention to spare for his surroundings. He knew that Jiang Chen would certainly have kept a few tricks up his sleeve.

Indeed, there was suddenly a violent trembling beneath his feet as numerous ice lotus vines erupted from the ground, shooting furiously towards Cao Jin like innumerable tentacles.

“What the hell?!” Cao Jin was almost numb to Jiang Chen’s ever-changing techniques. It was a good thing that his own strength possessed an overwhelming advantage, so no matter what tricks Jiang Chen brought out, Cao Jin felt that he could solidly stand his ground in the face of it all. He’d be able to handle it all in the end!

Therefore, when he saw these countless vines snarling towards him, Cao Jin swept his sword in an arc and severed them. But in that moment, the magnetic golden mountain once again came hurtling down on his head. Resigned, he could only raise his fist and slam it into the magnetic golden mountain again. But at that exact moment, the twelve golden-armored warriors furiously pounced on him, and the vines beneath his feet split the earth like spring bamboo after a rain shower.

Even an expert like Cao Jin couldn’t maintain a perfect defense in the face of a simultaneous attack from the sky, the ground, and below the ground. “Jiang Chen!!” Cao Jin threw his head back and howled to the skies, thoroughly enraged by his opponent’s shameless methods. However, there was nothing he could do about it. Jiang Chen did indeed have more tricks up his sleeve than Cao Jin.

Bam!

As quick-witted and responsive as Cao Jin was, the furious stream of attacks was enough to tie up his defenses. A sky sage warrior managed to deal him a vicious blow in the back. Even though this blow wasn’t fatal, it still caused the blood in his chest to froth to the point where he almost spat it out in a bloody mouthful. This solid blow hadn’t been an easy one to withstand. Cao Jin had never once been forced to such a disgraceful state since he’d made his debut in the world. Even when he’d been defeated by that mysterious expert that day in the Regal Pill Palace, he hadn’t ended up like this either. That had also been at the hands of an emperor realm cultivator, so he hadn’t felt it to be an embarrassing matter.

But now, his opponent today was a mere ant of the first level sage realm! This really frustrated Cao Jin to the point where he wanted to spit blood!

Chapter 632: Cao Jin Dying With Everlasting Regret

“Jiang Chen, you coward! Do you dare reveal yourself and meet me head-on?” Cao Jin was at the height of his rage. Although an attack on this level wasn’t life-threatening, it was still maddening to be humiliated by an ant like Jiang Chen.

Whoosh!

Jiang Chen’s figure suddenly halted in midair about a hundred meters away.

“Meet you head-on?” One could clearly see the hints of mockery in his smile. “Cao, you’re at peak sage realm and want me to fight you in single combat. Should I call you naive or am I the idiotic one?”

Jiang Chen wasn’t the sort who blindly followed established rules. Even if he’d met a mortal sage or earth sage realm cultivator, he felt that he would be able to take them on in battle. But Cao Jin was one step away from emperor realm. Jiang Chen wasn’t so overconfident to think that he could go toe to toe with such an opponent. He wasn’t a typical hotheaded youth who could be provoked with one line. He only acknowledged one point, that any method was a good method as long as it defeated the opponent.

Jiang Chen wasn’t so much of a fool as to face off against one of the ten great disciples of the Sky Sect with his cultivation of a mere first level sage realm. The resources and treatment he’d enjoyed in this life

was less than one hundredth of what his opponent had had thus far. If it wasn't for his memories from his past life, the difference between him and Cao Jin was that of heaven and earth due to the circumstances of their births. It was because of this point that Jiang Chen had the right to fight Cao Jin. He'd never do something so brainless as to give up his only advantage and go toe to toe with his opponent.

By this time, the Goldbiter Rats had defeated the six wolverines. Cao Jin watched it happen with his own eyes, but was in no condition to help his contracted spirit beasts. He was already completely preoccupied with the attacks from the three entities. Although his life wasn't in danger at the moment, the situation was far too precarious for him to free a hand to help the six wolverines. His mind wasn't on them either.

He'd split out part of his consciousness to try and lock onto Jiang Chen's position. He'd decided this time that he would completely take out Jiang Chen, even if he ended up a bit injured for his troubles. His Sword Ocean Cover previously hadn't locked onto Jiang Chen's consciousness, which had allowed the latter to escape through using some smoke and mirrors technique. Cao Jin wasn't going to allow that to happen again when Jiang Chen's true body revealed itself this time.

"I must hit him with one fatal blow this time!" Cao Jin clenched his fist, holding another talisman inside. This was his other trump card, the Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune!

This rune could erupt forth with dark lightning capable of destroying the world, unstoppable in its might. If Jiang Chen was targeted by this rune, he'd be unable to run to anywhere within a radius of fifty kilometers. The bolt of lightning was akin to a thunderstorm, denying all chances of escaping.

"The Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune is my final ace. I'll have to rely on my own techniques if I still can't kill Jiang Chen. Unfortunately, I'm unable to even draw close to him in the face of all his tricks!" Cao Jin knew that this was his last chance. He locked on with his consciousness—

In a burst of speed, Cao Jin employed some fancy footwork to evade the attack from the vines and punched upwards to blast the magnetic golden mountain away. In return, he took some blows from the golden-armored warriors in his back.

Bambambam!

Using the momentum from the blows, he shot forward, once again locking on with his consciousness. His chance was here! He opened his hand and activated the Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune.

"Die!" Cao Jin grimaced as the light from the rune flashed, causing the skies and earth to darken.

Rumble.

Countless streaks of darklightning descended from the skies in the next instant. Darklightning wasn't ordinary lightning. It was said to be the accumulated vengeful thoughts of the underworld, ascending to the clouds thanks to the power of reincarnation and condensing to form darklightning. Darklightning was wrathful and fiendish, sinister beyond comparison. When struck, endless malicious intent would entangle around its target and quickly reduce the victim to a skeleton.

“A thunder rune?” Jiang Chen started when he saw Cao Jin’s ace, but it was his next move that stunned Cao Jin in return. Jiang Chen raised both hands up and adopted a welcoming posture, as if very much welcoming the darklightning’s arrival!

Just as Cao Jin was standing there, stunned, the magnetic golden mountain above him came crashing down viciously again. It was a good thing that his reflexes were fast enough to allow him to push upwards with both hands, arresting the mountain in its tracks. He was about to push it away when the twelve golden-armored warriors pounced fearlessly. Some wrapped themselves around his head, others around his legs, and more around his waist. Countless vines surged upwards furiously at the same time and entwined around his body, trussing him up in the blink of an eye.

Cao Jin was immensely enraged as he shouted loudly, “Get away!”

Rumble! n(-0Vε/bn

He struggled free of all of the vines as the force of his shout fragmented them into small pieces. The golden-armored warriors however, weren’t alive and so didn’t know the meaning of fear. They came back for another round after being shrugged off. Since Cao Jin’s hands were preoccupied with the magnetic golden mountain, he could only use his shoulders and knees to attack. This undoubtedly hampered his movements.

This was when something astonishing happened. The lightning descended, but—

Just as they were about to reach Jiang Chen, some mysterious power seemed to halt their attack, causing them to disappear into the void. It was as if there was a miraculous black hole on Jiang Chen that could swallow the darklightning!

Cao Jin felt like an iron weight had just crashed into his chest. His eyes witnessed everything, but his mind refused to make sense of it. He had been able to bear the loss of the six wolverines to the Goldbiter Rats, but this ace of the Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune was something that could kill even an ordinary emperor realm cultivator once they were caught by it! And yet they hadn’t even scratched Jiang Chen. It was more as if he’d absorbed them all.

Cao Jin was utterly stunned senseless by this bizarre scene. He almost wondered if Jiang Chen was a ghost or a demon at this point! Was he immortal? Was any sort of attack effective on him? Although he was just first level sage realm, Cao Jin had the misconception in that instant that it was impossible to beat Jiang Chen!

Jiang Chen retracted his hands as the smile on his face widened. His posture was as relaxed as though he was enjoying the spring wind. He looked at Cao Jin, “Cao, looks like you’ve used another trump card!”

Cao Jin opened and closed his mouth, having the feeling of wanting to cry but being unable to.

“Jiang Chen... I swear I’ll kill you!!” He had almost completely lost his mind in the depths of his rage.

“What a coincidence, that’s what I want to say to you!” Jiang Chen suddenly smiled and snapped his fingers. In the next moment, the scene changed.

Cao Jin was still hesitating when he felt the air constrict around him. Layers of strange walls in the air appeared in the next instant, and no matter how he charged at them, Cao Jin would only rebound.

“What’s going on?” Cao Jin was really panicking now. He’d been nonplussed when his aces had failed just now, but not to the point of panicking. Now, not only was he a bit frantic, he was even a bit afraid. Matters had completely gone out of hand, and he was now locked in a storage space, like he’d been confined to an independent jail in space in this area! He was unable to break through no matter how he charged at it.

“Is this a formation?” Cao Jin was startled and thought that he’d met with a formation again. He took out the Moonshatter Awl. He attacked the air fiercely with the formation splitting technique, but realized that this cage in the air was no formation at all. The formation splitting technique had no effect.

“This isn’t a formation?!” Cao Jin was even more frightened and screamed out. “Jiang Chen, you devious little prick! What trick are you up to now?”

Jiang Chen laughed leisurely and looked at the struggles of a caged beast. He knew that Cao Jin would be unable to escape this time. He immediately brought out the magnetic golden mountain, activated the Soldier Rosary Beads, and furiously smashed towards Cao Jin. He also called out at the same time, “Do it, Brother Long!”

There was a violent trembling in the air as a true dragon appeared in the sky in the next instant, materializing in a mysterious manner.

“Dragon? True dragon?!” Cao Jin’s reaction was the same as Ding Tong and Elder Chen’s, reacting like they’d seen a ghost. As strong as he was, his heart sank when he saw a true dragon from the ancient times. Although he felt that this dragon was likely a young one, even the weakest of dragons were still a real dragon!

Dragons were by nature a fighting race, and one of the most superior bloodlines from the ancient times. Their combat ability and potential were practically innate, and even the weakest of them would be a supreme genius in the human race. Not to mention that Cao Jin had discovered by now that it was this dragon’s domain that was restraining him!

Amongst the humans, only the emperor realm cultivators could deploy their own sphere of influence, their domain. However, this dragon seemed to be able to do so having yet to enter the emperor realm! It was apparent from this just how great this race’s potential was!

Cao Jin so greatly regretted his actions now. He finally understood that Jiang Chen had been deploying all sorts of smoke and mirrors with him, but his final ace was this true dragon! If he’d summoned this dragon immediately, then Cao Jin would’ve recognized his inevitable defeat and ran. But Jiang Chen had put on the act that they were evenly matched, making Cao Jin think that he could handle his opponent and thus hadn’t wanted to run away at all. He’d become gradually numb to all of Jiang Chen’s actions, resulting his current predicament of being locked in the dragon’s domain.

There were no words to describe Cao Jin’s regret, but there was nothing he could do in the face of the dragon’s domain, even with all the arts and techniques available to him. Under Long Xiaoxuan and Jiang Chen’s continued assault, Cao Jin was thoroughly beaten like a dog fallen into water. His eyes were still full of everlasting regret in the very moment that the last breath left his lungs.

Long Xiaoxuan however, picked up his body unceremoniously and crunched it a few times. Cao Jin’s equipment kept falling out, such as the Ocean Cover Sword, Moonshatter Awl, and multiple richly

stocked storage rings. This was an unexpected windfall for Jiang Chen. Shi Zhen and Fatty Wu storage rings also naturally made their way into his hands.

Chapter 633: Jiang Chen's Departure

There were quite a few nice things in Cao Jin's storage ring. Apart from the two emperor level spirit equipment of the Ocean Cover Sword and the Moonshatter Awl, there were many more precious items. Multiple martial techniques, all sorts of pills, and quite a few talismans. There was even a sky rank spirit herb and a few earth rank spirit herbs!

Jiang Chen wasn't that enthused about the martial techniques since he had all sorts of divine systems already in his mind, so he could tailor any sort of technique he cared to practice for himself. As for the pills, although the pills of a first rank sect were quite good, they weren't to the point where they would cause Jiang Chen to drool over them. It was rather the sky and earth rank spirit herbs that had given Jiang Chen an unexpected delight. Of course, what he liked most were the dozen or so talismans.

They were all different types; some for attacking, some for movement, and some for defense. Although there weren't any as incredible as the Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune, the level of these talismans weren't that low either. Jiang Chen unceremoniously put them all away. These would become vital tools in his arsenal when he faced off against enemies in the future.

As for the fatty's storage ring, it greatly depressed Jiang Chen. The fatty had come prepared, so his storage ring was empty. There was almost nothing of any value. Jiang Chen was so irritated after finding out that he almost threw it away. The second rank pill king he'd killed off first had had the same thoughts as the fatty. His storage ring was almost empty as well because he'd been afraid some accident would happen. His ring only contained some of the spirit herbs he'd harvested since entering the mountain, apart from his identity medallion as second rank pill king.

"It looks like these two were also on their guard against Cao. They didn't bring any of their treasures with them." Jiang Chen identified the crux of the problem after a brief moment.

He wasn't overly excited about doing away with the three invading Sky Sect disciples. Matters wouldn't end because they'd perished, and in fact might even worsen things from here on. The instant the Tristar Sect had revealed the secret, the Myriad Domain was destined to no longer enjoy peace. Destroying these three might've just added fuel to the flames. However, Jiang Chen had had no other recourse. These three would've killed him had he not killed them. Jiang Chen wouldn't have disregarded his personal safety out of consideration for the Myriad Domain, not to mention that the Sky Sect's designs on the Myriad Domain wouldn't stop just because Jiang Chen refrained from killing these three.

"That these three could enter the forbidden area means that the formation on the outskirts of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect has really declined in power since ancient times. Otherwise, it would be exceedingly difficult for even an emperor realm expert to forcefully crack open a rift in that formation."

According to the notes in the sect's journals, the formation on the outskirts could defend against Great Titled Emperors at the very least. Only empyrean cultivators would be able to break through the formation on the outskirts. But now it looked like the various blockages in the spirit veins powering the formation, formed as the aeons passed, had still affected the formation's power in the end. Before Jiang Chen had seen those notes, he'd thought this formation was everlasting and enduring.

Using the three Sky Sect disciples as a standard, Jiang Chen understood that the formation on the outskirts was at less than a tenth of its peak form, possibly even less than one twentieth. But, it wasn't beyond repair. As long as he could unclog the spirit veins beneath the formation and repair the fragmented parts, the formation could still return to its peak condition. However, it wasn't something that could be accomplished in one night, and Jiang Chen naturally had no time to attend to it now.

Besides, the three fellows had only barged into the ancient herb garden, such had been their limits. This was only the very outskirts of the ruins of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. Its true heart would only reveal itself after going through the formation on the altar. Even Great Titled Emperors would have almost no hope of barging in, much less these three young disciples.

Jiang Chen still decided to leave the mountain and return to the Regal Pill Palace for a look. Having been absent for two years, he really was impatient to go back.

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In a secret location of the Ninesuns Sky Sect. Tens of thousands of soul lamps dotted the room.

They all belonged to the most important personages of the Sky Sect. The highest of them were naturally the heavyweights of the sect, such as the sect head, elders, manor heads, high level inspectors, and the division heads of the larger divisions. The soul lamps of the young geniuses were located to the right. The elders' lamps were tinged green, and the young geniuses, a red hue.

This location was one of the forbidden zones of the Sky Sect. Entrance into this location required a special medallion, and those in charge were higher level administrators.

On this day, the patrolling administrator suddenly heard a sharp crack as a red soul lamp shattered. Whenever this forbidding sound rang out, it meant that one of the sect had perished. Those who could have a lantern here were all important people in the sect. They were either heavyweights or geniuses, the present and future of the sect. Therefore, every lamp being taken care of here was very important.

When the administrator heard the lamp shatter, his heart jumped and he took a hasty look at the name on the shattered lamp. It was Shi Zhen.

"Shi Zhen? Second rank pill king Shi Zhen?" The administrator's heart spasmed. When it came to Shi Zhen, he was at most a pseudo first-rate genius in terms of martial dao, but absolutely the pinnacle when it came to pill dao. It was why he had the right to place his soul lamp here, and in a position closer to the front at that. The further ahead one's placement was, the higher their position.

The administrator sighed when he saw Shi Zhen's soul lamp shatter. Sigh, a second rank pill king! Such a young pill king absolutely had the ability to ascend to sixth, even seventh rank pill king! The heavens envy the talented. What a pity for Shi Zhen.

Although he was surprised, the administrator wasn't in a hurry to make a report. He planned on notifying his superiors only when his shift was over. After all, although Shi Zhen's position wasn't low, it wasn't to the point where the sect had to tremble because he'd perished. As a Sky Sect disciple, it was a common thing for one or two to be lost when they travelled about outside. No one usually minded if their status wasn't too high up.

Half an hour passed, and another crisp shattering sound rang out. The administrator's heart spasmed again. What's going on? What kind of day is this? Why are there two lamps shattering on the same day?

It was a very rare occurrence for two lamps to shatter on the same day. This would only happen if the sect was at war, but the sect hadn't declared war on anyone recently. The administrator scrambled for a look and saw that it was formation genius Wu Zheng who'd fallen.

"Wu Zheng? That fat head with the big ears? Wait, this kid is more cowardly than a rat, and more cautious than a fox, how could he..."

The administrator almost wondered by now if a mistake had been made. Fatty Wu Zheng was like a turtle, and usually kept his head and limbs inside his shell.

"Odd, so odd. A pill dao genius and a formation genius. Am I seeing ghosts?" The administrator murmured to himself, his expression growing ugly as he wondered if he should make an early report. After all, it was a bit out of the ordinary for two geniuses to perish in one day.

However, he immediately discarded this thought. After all, he had a great responsibility to look after the soul lamps, and it was a great taboo to leave his station for no reason. "Forget it, the life and death of these two aren't enough to affect the sect's fortunes. There's no need to overreact. Perhaps it's just a coincidence?"

After much waffling, the administrator held fast to his decision to make the report after his shift was over. However, the stunning matters still weren't over with. Just as he'd regained his calm, another soul lamp shattered with a crisp sound.

The lamp that shattered this time caused the administrator to leap straight up in the air. It was one in the first row of the young geniuses! When he took a closer look, he saw that it was one that was ranked ninth!

"Cao Jin? Cao Jin of the ten great disciples?" The administrator couldn't remain calm anymore. He'd realized that something major had happened. Three young disciples had perished within a day. He could overlook the first two, but the third was no trifling character. He was one of the ten great disciples! Someone perishing on this level would absolutely send ripples throughout the entire sect.

After all, there were more than a million young geniuses. Those who could emerge from their countless number to make it into the top ten were incredible, whether in terms of potential or fortune. It was absolutely a grave matter that a genius of that sort had fallen, not to mention that Cao Jin had a venerated master. He was the personal disciple of Elder Chen Lei, one of the four venerated elders of the Sky Sect. The four venerated elders were second only to the sect head, the grand inspector, and on par with the vice sect heads. That such a personage had finally raised a disciple who ranked in the top ten, but had now perished for seemingly no reason—the administrator felt horrified at the very thought. He didn't even know how to make the report.

However, he knew that he couldn't drag this matter out. The longer he did, the more trouble he'd be in. And so, he didn't hesitate and instructed one of his men, "Keep watch over this place, I'm making a trip to headquarters."

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“What?! Say that again!” Elder Chen Lei almost thought something had gone wrong with his ears when he heard the administrator’s report.

“I... I... this subordinate was keeping watch over the soul lamps and saw that... Sir Cao Jin’s soul lamp had shattered.” The administrator’s teeth were chattering in the face of Elder Chen Lei’s terrifying aura.
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Elder Chen Lei surged to his feet . A look that seemed like it would devour everything shot out of his eyes as he grabbed the administrator, flying towards where the soul lamps were kept.

Fifteen minutes later, Elder Chen Lei’s enraged howl reverberated throughout the entire sect. Various heads poked out of residences, as members of the sect began to wonder. Exactly what incredible thing had happened in their sect?

Chapter 634: Conflict in the Regal Pill Palace

News of Cao Jin perishing instantly traveled through the Sky Sect. Even ordinary elders had to make way in front of one of the ten great disciples, because for those people, becoming a powerhouse in the sect was only a matter of a few decades. If no accidents happened, they would always end in a position higher than an elder.

“Investigate this closely! Whoever supplies valuable information will be awarded a hundred thousand saint spirit stones and one thousand Heroic Sage Pills!” Elder Chen Lei was enraged beyond measure after he confirmed that Cao Jin had perished and immediately promised a heavy reward.

The Sky Sect was extremely large and spread out, with over tens of millions of disciples. Elder Chen Lei had many personal disciples, but Cao Jin was undoubtedly the one he was most proud of. He had bestowed the Moonshatter Awl, Ocean Cover Sword, and Apocalyptic Darklightning Rune onto Cao Jin after all. It could be seen from this just how much Elder Chen Lei spoiled Cao Jin.

Elder Chen Lei was more than a thousand years, and had two disciples whose cultivation had surpassed the emperor level. However, they were ones he’d taken in hundreds of years ago. They had all formed their own factions now, their wings fully grown, and were sect heavyweights in their own right. However, Elder Chen Lei was still most satisfied with Cao Jin because the latter was so young with much untapped potential. He was already half step emperor realm at his young age. His potential was obviously not something that an initial emperor realm cultivator of several hundred years of age could compare to.

Elder Chen Lei had also always practiced a laissez-faire philosophy when it came to his disciples. He didn’t overly discipline them and didn’t even really restrict their movements. Thus, he wasn’t very clear on Cao Jin’s latest adventures.

This was actually the attitude that most in the Sky Sect held as well; very few would ever ask about the matters of others. Therefore, no one responded immediately with any valuable intelligence when Elder Chen Lei’s reward was announced. This meant that no one knew where Cao Jin had perished.

This both infuriated and shocked Elder Chen Lei. He’d always felt that someone who had free rein would have more ambition and vision. But who knew that Cao Jin had been given so much freedom that Elder Chen Lei didn’t even know where he’d died!

The elder immediately summoned all his subordinates and disciples, howling at them, "Investigate this!! Get to the bottom of this even if you have to overturn the heavens and earth!"

Elder Chen Lei clenched his teeth as boundless killing intent overflowed from his eyes. As an expert of eighth level emperor realm, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the entire sect trembled when he was enraged. There were very few who had an eighth level emperor realm cultivation, after all.

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Jiang Chen was able to control the formations at his whim after refining the Crimson Heaven formation disk, and could naturally come and go as he would. There was still a bit of time until the Myriad Grand Ceremony, so he took a detour to take a look at Mt. Rippling Mirage before he departed. Two years of time had passed, just like that, and his heart naturally filled with emotion. However, Jiang Chen knew that he would be back.

The two wyverns had actually wanted to leave with Jiang Chen, but he'd felt that that would be too conspicuous, so he left them within the mountain.

Since entering the sage realm, not only had Jiang Chen's own strength grown immensely, but so had the Cicada Wing art. It was now very suitable to use for flight. It only took him a few days to arrive in Regal Pill Palace territory. But with his cautious nature, he didn't hurry back to the Regal Pill Palace, but dressed up as a wandering cultivator.

Since the Tristar Sect had revealed the secret, Jiang Chen had no idea what the current situation in the Myriad Domain was and naturally wouldn't make any move lightly. But it looked like the region was calm for now. There didn't seem to be any drums of war beating just yet.

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The Regal Pill Palace had returned to normal after Cao Jin's disturbance. However, because of the Tristar Sect revealing the secret, the entire Myriad Domain had sunk into a bizarre fear, the feeling that disaster was coiled and just waiting to strike.

Although Palace Head Dan Chi often stepped forward to boost morale, this emotion more or less lingered and spread. It was a good thing that the Regal Pill Palace wasn't entirely without good news. There were only a few days left until Myriad Grand Ceremony, and second genius Jun Mobai also broke through to the sage realm, right behind Shen Qinghong. This was an undoubted boost to Myriad Domain morale that two geniuses had broken through, one after another.

However, as the Ceremony drew near, the other sects all secretly put forth their strongest efforts as well. They weren't willing to be left behind as the Regal Pill Palace continuously reported their good news. On the Sacred Sword Palace side, Wang Han broke through to second level sage realm and managed to keep his fierce momentum all the way to peak second level sage realm, just one small step away from third level sage realm. The Great Cathedral was even more ridiculous. Their top geniuses Xiang Qin and Yue Baize all broke through to third level sage realm, and Xiang Qin must've eaten some sort of heaven defying item as he looked poised to breaking through to the earth sage realm! This left all the other sects speechless. Xiang Qin was so young, yet already showed signs of breaking through to fourth level sage realm. This alone made the top geniuses of other sects pale in comparison.

“Sigh, it looks like all the other sects have made good use of the vast amounts of earth rank spirit herbs that they received.” Palace Head Dan Chi sighed lightly.

Now that the Tristar Sect had revealed the secret of the ancient herb garden, everyone in the Myriad Domain knew of this matter. So there was no compulsion to keep it a secret anymore.

Elder Yun Nie sighed. “The Great Cathedral has always been extraordinarily strong. They’ve gained much this time and have come out ahead.”

“It’s a pity that the only person I favored to challenge the order of the Myriad Domain, Jiang Chen, was unable to emerge from Mt. Rippling Mirage. Of all the plans we’d made, that was the one development we overlooked.” Palace Head Dan Chi was still full of regret when speaking of Jiang Chen even today, two years after the fact. Elder Yun Nie had spent so much time with Jiang Chen that he too quite valued the boy. He also felt extremely depressed.

Elder Lian Cheng however, laughed coldly. “He brought it down on himself! If he’d left with Yun Nie and the others, he might not have gone through all that then.”

Some of the other elders were also thinking this, but they weren’t at liberty to say it. Elder Lian Cheng was in fine spirits now because his disciple Shen Qinghong had broken through to the sage realm, cementing his position as first amongst the younger generation. Without Jiang Chen, there was no one to block his glory. Elder Lian Cheng was naturally happy to see this unfold.

“Alright, more than two years have passed since that incident. We should look forward. Palace Head, what is the goal of our Regal Pill Palace in the Myriad Grand Ceremony this time?” It was Forefather Qi, the junior brother of the previous palace head, who spoke up.

Dan Chi didn’t dare hide anything in front of the forefather and said solemnly, “We can only do our best this time. Shen Qinghong and Jun Mobai have broken through, but the geniuses of the other sects are quite stunning as well. Setting the Great Cathedral aside, those of the Sacred Sword Palace are our death rivals. I’m worried that they’ll seek public retribution for private wrongs. As for Wang Han’s strength, the younger generation of our Regal Pill Palace...”

Dan Chi didn’t finish his words, but everyone knew his meaning.

Elder Lian Cheng however, was openly displeased. “Palace Head, although Wang Han is strong, Shen Qinghong has broken through to the sage realm and isn’t necessarily that much worse than him. When one engages in a serious spar, one has to have the momentum and courage to fight for victory. If we start cowering before the battle, how will our Regal Pill Palace rise above all the sects?”

Elder Lian Cheng’s mentality had undergone a slight shift since Shen Qinghong had broken through to the sage realm. The most important thing was that he had been sorely injured after Cao Jin had visited last time, and his mindset had been affected as well. He felt that he’d been purposely kept out of the loop for the ancient herb garden and left to wallow in his ignorance. Due to all of these reasons, Elder Lian Cheng now had a belly full of anger towards Dan Chi and Yun Nie.

Although information about the ancient herb garden had been restricted due to the heavenly oath, that clearly hadn’t passed through Elder Lian Cheng’s mind. He felt that he’d been ostracized by Dan Chi and Elder Yun Nie. He hadn’t received a single spirit herb stalk out of so many! He was naturally infuriated.

Dan Chi flicked a noncommittal glance at Elder Lian Cheng. “Stubborn blindness is not the way forward for cultivators of our generation. If Elder Lian Cheng had gone to Mt. Rippling Mirage, you would’ve known how much hostility the Sacred Sword Palace bears towards the Regal Pill Palace. Wang Han hates our sect with a passion.”

Elder Lian Cheng snorted coldly again. “Wang Han has just broken through the sage realm not long ago, why is he able to ascend to the second level and even come close to third level? This is because his sect values him enough to willingly expend resources on him! Our sect has sky and earth rank spirit herbs far in excess of the Sacred Sword Palace. I don’t understand why we still refuse to use resources on our geniuses?!”

Not only were these words a precursor to a tantrum, but they were also interrogative. Elder Yun Nie couldn’t help but speak up, “Brother Lian Cheng, this is a bit out of line, isn’t it? Of the two sky rank herbs we received, one went to the palace head and the other went to me. No one had any objections to this. As for the earth rank spirit herbs, we obtained 45 of them and already split them up! Brother Lian Cheng, you took two yourself, isn’t this right?”

Although 45 stalks seemed plenty, there were many senior executives in the Regal Pill Palace as well. Two going to each one meant that many of the elders wouldn’t get any, even if distribution was limited to one each. As for the younger generation, they’d reached a consensus of not distributing any for the time being.

After all, only those in the sage realm and above had the right to receive earth rank spirit herbs in the ancient herb garden. Shen Qinghong and the others hadn’t gotten any either. Out of consideration for this, it was reasonable that the younger generation didn’t get any. After all, there wasn’t enough to go around in the older generation, so why would the younger generation be satisfied first?

However, it would’ve been better had Elder Yun Nie not said this. Elder Lian Cheng grew incensed when he heard this. “Hmph! Are there only two sky rank spirit herbs? 45 earth rank spirit herbs? I’ve heard that Jiang Chen gave you half his spirit herbs when he left, so there are three sky rank spirit herbs, hundreds of earth rank, and almost three thousand blades of Sage Fledgling Grass!”

So this was what Elder Lian Chen was most put out about. Elder Yun Nie didn’t hide anything. “Jiang Chen gifted these to the sect, and it wouldn’t be good if we split it up before he emerges. Therefore, this all goes to the public domain and no one has the right to divvy it up. It belongs to the sect.”

“Since it’s in the public domain, why can’t people who need it, such as Shen Qinghong, use them?” Elder Lian Cheng pressed further.

“Shen Qinghong is one of your disciples. Since you’ve received earth rank spirit herbs, why don’t you give one to him? Not to mention that having just broken through to the sage realm, it’s too early for him to use earth rank spirit herbs. His ability to use them isn’t in question, but it would just be a waste. He’ll be able to use them sooner or later, so why the rush now?” There was sense in Elder Yun Nie’s words.

Chapter 635: Return to Regal Pill Palace

In reality, what Elder Yun Nie said made a lot of sense. Forget Shen Qinghong, even if he were to use an earth rank spirit herb himself, he wouldn’t be able to fully absorb its effects either. After all, earth rank spirit herbs were made for emperor realm cultivators. It was considered a lavish expenditure beyond

one's rank if even a sage realm expert used it. While the effects would be splendid, wasn't it a waste if one could only absorb ten percent of such a good spirit herb? Right now, Shen Qinghong was only at the first level sage realm. If he were to use an earth rank spirit herb, he would at best absorb ten percent of it and raise his cultivation by one level. What was the meaning in that?

One could certainly use earth rank spirit herbs, but not in such a wasteful way. After all, there was a finite amount of earth rank spirit herbs. What was the difference between using it this way and just completely wasting it?

However, in Elder Lian Cheng's eyes, Palace Head Dan Chi and Elder Yun Nie were purposefully limiting and suppressing Shen Qinghong. The elder had only obtained two earth rank spirit herbs himself. He was naturally unwilling to give one to Shen Qinghong. Therefore, Elder Lian Cheng's goal was earth rank spirit herbs that'd been labelled for public use. The reason he was making such a fuss was because he was targeting the pool of public spirit herbs. He wasn't just aiming for the earth rank spirit herbs. He was also aiming for the sky rank ones as well.

Jiang Chen had left behind three sky rank spirit herbs for the sect. Earlier, Palace Head Dan Chi and Elder Yun Nie had split up the two that the sect had obtained amongst themselves. The reason for this distribution was because one of them was a palace head, and the other person was the Herbal Hall Hallmaster, who'd accomplished a great merit in the ancient herb garden. Therefore, they deserved their share, whether one looked at it from the standpoint of reason or sentiment. However, a further three sky rank spirit herbs had been provided by Jiang Chen. If it was a contribution by Jiang Chen to the sect, then why couldn't it be shared amongst the rest?

"Forefather Qi, Elder Hu, both of you are people of great virtue and prestige in the sect. I, Lian Cheng, feel that this is quite unfair to the two of you. Are the two forefathers of the sect not qualified to obtain even one sky rank spirit herb?" Elder Lian Cheng adopted a flattering tone as he turned to them.

He was obviously voicing words they wished to hear while plotting for himself too. Forefather Qi and Elder Hu held incredible status in Regal Pill Palace. After the two elders had gotten their share, then would come Elder Lian Cheng's turn. Coincidentally, there were only three sky rank spirit herbs in the public domain. After the two elders had taken one spirit herb each, only one would be left. No matter how one looked at it, it should go to Elder Lian Cheng.

Elder Lian Cheng had previously been injured by Cao Jin, and he'd fixated on the feeling that he'd been wounded for the sect's sake. He believed that he had toiled hard and performed a valuable service for the sect, so there was no reason he should fail to obtain a sky rank spirit herb! If Elder Yun Nie could receive a sky rank spirit herb, then Elder Lian Cheng should also have one too! He would feel quite put out otherwise.

Forefather Qi and Elder Hu exchanged glances with each other. They would be lying to themselves if they said they weren't tempted.

"Dan Chi, since this is for public use, then us old fellows should have first priority to use them no matter what. A sky rank spirit herb is something that one only encounters serendipitously, so in my opinion, why don't we..." As the former palace head's junior brother, Forefather Qi was someone who even Dan Chi had to call senior uncle. He was a person of great virtue and prestige, and his words were weighty in their own right.

“Senior uncle, the agreement regarding the public spirit herbs is a matter of public accord. There are two reasons why I haven’t distributed them. One is because Jiang Chen’s location remains a mystery. It would be doing him a disservice if we give away his spoils of war without careful consideration. Two, the method of distribution isn’t an easy choice to make. If we distributed all three sky rank spirit herbs beforehand, then the youngsters below us wouldn’t any hope at all. It is a bit unfair to them.”

In reality, Forefather Qi knew that Dan Chi was a man who lacked selfish motives. That was why Forefather Qi had no intention of targeting the palace head and didn’t shame him after these words. “Dan Chi, you are now the palace head. As the head, your word is law. I am old, and while I do have great use for a sky rank spirit herb, I am happy to leave it for the young geniuses as well.”

On the other hand, Elder Hu said, “That is not the case, ole brother. The situation in the Myriad Domain is currently quite complex, so I believe that us old fellows should continue to increase our strength. An increase in our strength will affect the sect’s fate more in critical moments than our young disciples’.”

“Elder Hu’s words make sense. After the previous incident, I too believe that our young disciples are still incapable of standing on their own for now,” Elder Lian Cheng latched onto the elder’s words. He’d seemed to unintentionally bring up the previous incident, obviously wanting to emphasize the fact that he had gotten hurt for the sect’s sake, and had rendered a valuable service for the sect.

Elder Yun Nie suddenly smiled, “Since everyone wants a share of the sky rank spirit herbs, I happen to have the perfect method that will be the best compromise.”

“What method is it?” Elder Hu’s eyes lit up.

“There are three sky rank spirit herbs left. Forefather Qi is a person of great virtue and prestige, and the eldest senior of the sect. Naturally, he deserves a sky rank spirit herb. There are no objections to this. As for the remaining two sky rank spirit herb, we can distribute one to the most influential elder based on status and prestige. The final one shall be offered as a reward to the genius with the most talented performance during the Myriad Grand Ceremony. This way, both the elder and younger generation are not neglected. This is the perfect method to satisfy both worlds.”

Elder Hu laughed heartily when Elder Yun Nie finished, “This method is wonderful. I agree!”

Palace Head Dan Chi was also laughing on the inside. Elder Yun Nie’s plan had a clear purpose. It perfectly cut off Elder Lian Cheng’s attempt to obtain a sky rank spirit herb. The elder had kicked up such a fuss for a sky rank spirit herb, but it just so happened that he wouldn’t get one through this distribution method. Since two of the sky rank spirit herbs were to be split amongst influential elders, Forefather Qi would acquire one without a doubt. As for the last remaining sky rank spirit herb, Elder Hu was even more qualified than Elder Lian Cheng. This meant that Elder Lian Cheng wouldn’t get a single sky rank spirit herb despite having argued until he was blue in the face.

If you think you’re capable, then go compete with Elder Hu for the spirit herb!

Forefather Qi cast a meaningful glance at Yun Nie and was inwardly impressed with the latter’s quick wittedness. This method might appear fair, but in reality it had split apart the tacit understanding between Elder Hu and Elder Lian Cheng. Originally, the two elders had joined forces to obtain a sky rank spirit herb each for themselves. However, this suggestion had put Elder Hu and Elder Lian Cheng in direct conflict for one sky rank spirit herb instead.

This way, the unspoken alliance between the duo had naturally fallen apart.

Most importantly, Elder Yun Nie's suggestion appeared to be the epitome of objectivity and selflessness. It was a suggestion that took care of his old comrades and encouraged the youngsters as well. It was a perfect method that satisfied both sides. No one could criticize it.

Elder Lian Cheng pondered for a moment and immediately deduced Elder Yun Nie's intentions. His expression instantly sank. "Elder Yun Nie, what do you mean by this? Are you targeting me on purpose?" Elder Lian Cheng couldn't quite maintain his facade as his expression turned dark.

Elder Yun Nie was absolutely innocent, "What do you mean, Elder Lian Cheng?"

Forefather Qi smiled and interjected before Elder Lian Cheng could respond, "In my opinion, this suggestion is worth considering. The seniors should take precedence, and the youngsters shouldn't be neglected either."

Elder Lian Cheng didn't dare refute Forefather Qi's words.

Palace Head Dan Chi nodded, "If there are no objections, then the decision is made. Forefather Qi and Elder Hu are the two most qualified forefathers of the sect. They will both obtain a sky rank spirit herb each. The last sky rank spirit herb will be put up as the reward for the Myriad Grand Ceremony. Any Regal Pill Palace disciple who obtains the best result shall obtain this sky rank spirit herb."

Forefather Qi smoothed things over while laughing, "Don't be dejected, Lian Cheng. Your Shen Qinghong is the top talent among the younger generation. In my opinion, this sky rank spirit herb would most likely fall into your faction."

Elder Lian Cheng opened his mouth, but wasn't sure what to say. If he argued any further, then it would mean that he planned to fight for the sky rank spirit herb against his own direct disciple Shen Qinghong.

"Alright, let us end things here today." Palace Head Dan Chi adjourned the meeting with a wave of his hand.

Elder Hu was all smiles as he chatted with Forefather Qi. He was naturally happy since he'd obtained the sky rank spirit herb he wanted, and thought that both Palace Head Dan Chi and Elder Yun Nie had given him much face. As for Elder Lian Cheng, Elder Hu naturally wouldn't care what the former was thinking.

Just as Palace Head Dan Chi was about to return to his residence, a ray of light suddenly flashed into his hand and landed on his palm. It was a message glyph.

Palace Head Dan Chi opened it for a look. At first he was unconcerned, but a rapt expression instantly appeared on his face after he read its contents. The message glyph was actually from Jiang Chen! Jiang Chen! He's emerged from Mt. Rippling Mirage?

Palace Head Dan Chi exited a side door of the sect's formation at a certain corner of the Regal Pill Palace and was greeted by a sight for sore eyes, Jiang Chen, the boy he had not seen for two years.

"Well met, Palace Head."

“Haha, Jiang Chen! I knew it! You were no average person, and a mere Mt. Rippling Mirage wasn’t enough to hold you. It would appear that my predictions are very much accurate!” Palace Head Dan Chi was absolutely overjoyed. Today was the happiest day of his life in the past two years.

“Palace Head, has news of the Tristar Sect’s betrayal and surrender to the Ninesuns Sky Sect already been exposed?”

“Have they truly flocked to Ninesuns Sky Sect’s banner?” Dan Chi had deduced this earlier, but had had no evidence in the end to prove his theory.

“It’s absolutely true. I learned of it just a few days after I entered Mt. Rippling Mirage. I’d simply refrained from saying so because it is a matter of the utmost importance. Tristar Sect’s Ding Tong pursued and attempted to kill me the day I entered Mt. Rippling Mirage. That kid was in fact a disciple sent by the Ninesuns Sky Sect into the Myriad Domain to set up their plans. Not only have Ninesuns Sky Sect set their eyes on the Myriad Domain, this wasn’t a plan that’d only sprung up a couple of years ago. They’ve likely prepared for this for a very long time.” Jiang Chen knew how important this matter was, so he had to report it in full to the palace head.

“Let’s head inside first before discussing anything further.” Dan Chi came to solemn attention inwardly, but didn’t panic.

He carefully asked about the relevant details once they’d returned to his residence. Jiang Chen told Dan Chi everything he’d learned from Ding Tong and some of the evidence he had discovered. Now that things had reached this point, Jiang Chen didn’t even conceal the matter of Cao Jin.

“You’re speaking of Cao Jin, that blue browed youngster?” Dan Chi’s expression changed considerably upon hearing this. “Did... did he entered the forbidden area of Mt. Rippling Mirage?”

“You know about him, Palace Head?” Jiang Chen remembered Cao Jin claiming that he had came by Regal Pill Palace before. Was that actually the truth?

“Not only do I know him, I’ve even fought against him once. This kid’s strength is unfathomable, and I barely managed to take a blow from him. If I wasn’t aided by a benefactor, I do not know if I could even block three moves from him.” Dan Chi had bowed to no one in his life, but to this day he couldn’t help but feel less capable than he would’ve liked when thinking of Cao Jin, even though the palace head was currently at seventh level sage realm.

Dan Chi immediately reiterated the story of the disturbance that Cao Jin had caused.

A mysterious cloaked person? A beautiful figure abruptly flashed across Jiang Chen’s mind. He couldn’t help but think, could that have been her? Jiang Chen might not have witnessed it with his own eyes, but the first thought that crossed his mind had to do with that mysterious Miss Huang’er.

Chapter 636: Rumors from Ancient Times

Jiang Chen had his own speculations, but he didn’t lay them bare. In fact, Dan Chi was the one who stared at Jiang Chen with surprise in his eyes, “Jiang Chen, you said that that blue-browed young man entered Mt. Rippling Mirage. In that case you... how... did you...”

Jiang Chen had only said that Cao Jin had entered Mt. Rippling Mirage, but the disciple hadn't said that he'd killed Cao Jin. After all, that was much too outlandish. Dan Chi was extremely curious. With that blue-browed young man's strength and the fact that he'd entered Mt. Rippling Mirage to chase and hunt Jiang Chen down, Jiang Chen had still been able to escape at leisure? Not to mention that the Mt. Rippling Mirage's restrictive formation was completely intractable.

At this point, Jiang Chen understood that there were some things he could no longer keep secret. He immediately confessed in full to Dan Chi about the inheritance of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, but he didn't admit that he was the one who'd killed Cao Jin. Instead, he arranged the story such that Cao Jin had accidentally barged into the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's formation and had been killed by the formation. He wasn't afraid of letting the palace head know that the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's inheritance was already in his hands.

That being said, he still couldn't reveal the secret that Long Xiaoxuan had killed Cao Jin. After all, the bloodline of true dragons was a critical matter. As for the inheritance of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, Jiang Chen had given it a lot of consideration. He thought that it was fine if he revealed it to Palace Head Dan Chi.

Surprisingly, Palace Head Dan Chi wore a solemn look on his face, and fell into a long silence after Jiang Chen finished his explanation. It was only a long time later that the palace head muttered with wonderment, "So, the rumors from ancient times are actually real! The Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect... the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect!"

"What rumors from ancient times?" Jiang Chen asked in surprise. He hadn't heard of any rumors from ancient times when gallivanting around the Myriad Domain. There were no such records amongst the Regal Pill Palace's records either.

He couldn't help but feel a little curious when he heard Palace Head Dan Chi muttering. Jiang Chen was extremely interested in the history behind the Divine Abyss Continent. While this continent appeared separate from his previous life, there always seemed to be this vague connection between the two of them. He just couldn't seem to find the connection between the two together with the information and intelligence he currently possessed. That was why he couldn't help but investigate every time he heard the words 'rumors from ancient times'.

"Jiang Chen, do you still remember what I said back when the Regal Pill Palace formed an alliance with the Precious Tree Sect? I said that the Myriad Domain would soon fall into chaos in the next ten years, and that an era of chaos might descend upon the entire Divine Abyss Continent"

Of course Jiang Chen remembered that. Back then, Dan Chi had brought up the general situation of the Myriad Domain and placed a lot of hope on him. Dan Chi had said then that he'd simulated the Myriad Domain's future countless times. However, Jiang Chen was the only odd factor in the equation that the palace head hadn't been able to puzzle out.

Back then, Dan Chi had stated clearly that Jiang Chen might be the only person who could solve this predicament.

"Palace Head, what does all this have to do with the rumors from ancient times?" Personally, Jiang Chen was more concerned about the rumors.

“Jiang Chen, I don’t know much about the rumors from ancient times either. I’ve only heard some scattered bits when I was exploring the Upper Eight Regions.

“It is rumored that there were countless sects and experts on Divine Abyss Continent during ancient times. Amongst them, some powerful ancient sects possessed large groups of experts who’d transcended the level of a Titled Great Emperor.” Palace Head Dan Chi himself didn’t know what the level beyond Titled Great Emperor was called.

Jiang Chen added it in for him, “Empyrean expert.”

“Empyrean expert?” Palace Head Dan Chi’s eyes lit up, “How do you know this, Jiang Chen?”

“I learned this from the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect.” In reality, Jiang Chen had known of it a long time ago from the memories of his past life. All secular planes had their own ways to differentiate between the boundaries between martial arts, but when someone exceeded the limits of the mundane and broke through the void, they would be recognized by the heavenly laws and be given a unified title of “empyrean expert”.

“Empyrean expert, empyrean expert...” Palace Head Dan Chi muttered a couple of times in fascination and awe. “In the ancient times, empyrean experts ruled this land, and the Divine Abyss Continent was far stronger than it was now. The Divine Abyss Continent back then was likely in its final era. However, that era had come to an abrupt stop. Due to a disorder in the orbit of the celestial bodies, the Divine Abyss Continent and multiple other planes overlapped with one another in areas that allowed for teleportation. This allowed many alien races who were much more powerful to invade through these regions.”

Palace Head Dan Chi paused for a moment before smiling ruefully, “Although the disorder of the heavens’ orbit only lasted for a year, it was enough for countless alien races to invade the Divine Abyss Continent. They clashed furiously against the indigenous forces of the Divine Abyss Continent. Their goal was to take over the Continent and enslave every living being. No one knew how many months and years this protracted war lasted. In fact... no one even knew what the final outcome was. It was as if the history of that time had been utterly obliterated after that enormous battle. To this day, that part of the history is blank, and no records of that time can be found anywhere. It was as if history itself had been separated by a great chasm.”

Palace Head Dan Chi sighed, “Of course, these are just the rumors I heard in passing. There is no way for me to confirm whether that is truly the truth. The Myriad Domain’s status is too low, and no valuable clues can be found at all.”

Although the amount of information Dan Chi provided was pitifully small, Jiang Chen was more of a mind to believe it as real. This was because the records of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect matched the scattered bits of information Palace Head Dan Chi had found. The text and diagrams on the stone walls and journals of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect both mentioned the invasion of powerful enemies from beyond the region. These powerful enemies from beyond the region should be the alien races mentioned by Palace Head Dan Chi.

“Palace Head, could it be that these invaders are the ancient demon race?” Jiang Chen asked curiously.

Dan Chi nodded, "Correct. After the ancient times, those invaders were all collectively known as the ancient demon race. In reality, there was more than one race who invaded the Divine Abyss Continent, but we simply call them collectively as demons."

Jiang Chen remembered that the term 'ancient demons' had appeared more than once in the Myriad Domain. In fact, the sixteen kingdom alliance had always been considered to be at the cusp of where the demons were sealed. It was just that these rumors had never been validated before.

"Jiang Chen, the fact that you discovered the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's inheritance proves that you are a man of great fortune. However, you must keep this information a secret, just as I will not reveal this to a third person. This matter is of the utmost importance. Who knows, perhaps the forbidden land of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect may be the Regal Pill Palace's safeguard in the future." Dan Chi was more joyful than surprised in regards to the revelation of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect.

"Palace Head, do the Ninesuns Sky Sect's arrangements share any connection with these ancient sects?" Jiang Chen asked curiously.

Dan Chi thought for a moment, but contrary to Jiang Chen's expectations, he responded, "Who knows how many forbidden areas on the level of Mt. Rippling Mirage exist on the Divine Abyss Continent? There are also numerous ancient ruins much superior than Mt. Rippling Mirage in the Upper Eight Regions. These ancient ruins exist in even the sixteen kingdom alliance. We can see from this that there are many such ancient ruins that'd survived the ancient era. But how would they know which ancient ruin contains an ancient sect's inheritance?"

It made sense to Jiang Chen. Back at Skylareland Kingdom, even the likes of him had obtained the inheritance of the Bewitching Lotus of Fire and Ice at the Maze Realm Autumn Hunt. He had also obtained the magnetic golden mountain back at the trials of the sixteen kingdom alliance. Ultimately, he was simply picking up scraps left behind by other cultivators. If he could pick up such scraps from even such small places, it was clear that there were countless ancient ruins on the Divine Abyss Continent, as many as the hairs on an ox.

Of course, if it hadn't been for Jiang Chen being uncommon, a normal person would find it very difficult to stumble across 'scraps' like the Bewitching Lotus of Fire and Ice and the magnetic golden mountain. But no matter what the Ninesuns Sky Sect's intentions were, their great ambition and designs on the Myriad Domain had been made abundantly clear.

"Jiang Chen, it would appear that the Ninesuns Sky Sect is confident in their ability to swallow the Myriad Domain. Even a sect like the Tristar Sect has fallen under their sway. I'm worried that they might have some kind of conspiracy set up during this Myriad Grand Ceremony. Therefore, the Myriad Grand Ceremony may very well be a turning point for the Myriad Domain."

"You think so too, Palace Head?" Jiang Chen was surprised. The reason he had left Mt. Rippling Mirage so urgently was because he'd been driven by a powerful hunch. He had the niggling feeling that something of great import would happen during the Myriad Grand Ceremony. He thought that it was just his intuition alone, but he didn't think that the palace head had thought the same as well.

Palace Head Dan Chi's gaze was laden with weight, "I'm not the only one who has felt this. It is likely that all the great leaders of the Myriad Domain and those who are even slightly sensitive have had a similar

premonition. I'm guessing that every sect will be making some sort of preparation of their own. I am worried that many sects will buckle beneath the Ninesuns Sky Sect's aggression, and our Regal Pill Palace may very well be the only one who stands in defiance against them."

It was possible that such a thing might happen. However, Jiang Chen thought that Ninesuns Sky Sect might not even accept the compromise offered by the sects of the Myriad Domain. It was obvious that the Ninesuns Sky Sect saw value in Myriad Domain as a territory, not as a force. After all, even the strongest sect in the Myriad Domain, Great Cathedral was just average. Even a hundred Great Cathedrals couldn't compare to one Ninesuns Sky Sect.

"What is your plan, sect master?" Jiang Chen knew that Dan Chi had his own ambitions, and his own plan. However, there was nothing Palace Head Dan Chi could do against the giant that was Ninesuns Sky Sect in a short period of time, no matter how shrewd he was. ~~no~~**VE-IB**-In

"Jiang Chen, you've known about my thoughts and aspirations for a long time now. However, I'm in no hurry to build my kingdom overnight either. If there is truly nothing that can be done, I will not be so foolish as to try and smash an egg against a rock. The best way is none other to break up the Regal Pill Palace temporarily and bide our time. If ten years is insufficient, then we wait a hundred years. If a hundred years is insufficient, then we wait five hundred years... As long as our legacy remains, it is only a matter of time until we recover our homeland and unify the Myriad Domain!" Dan Chi's eyes shone with the light of resolution. It was a light filled with grave, determined intelligence.

It was obvious that Dan Chi would never agree to bend his knee and submit to Ninesuns Sky Sect. The second he did so, the spirit of the sect would break along with him. A sect could be dissolved, but as long as the kindling of their spirit hadn't extinguished yet, then the sect would still be alive. Similarly, even if a sect hadn't yet been destroyed, if their legacy was extinguished, then it was no different than them being destroyed.

A sect's inheritance wasn't determined by the integrity of its territory or the number of its disciples. It was determined by whether its spirit was still alive. In this regard, the spirits of both the Regal Pill Palace and Precious Tree Sect were well and alive, despite their relative strengths. Just like the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, although they had died out completely, their powerful spirit had continued to shine for eons. Jiang Chen had been inspired by that powerful mentality the moment he entered the forbidden land of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. This was the power of a legacy. This type of strength was stronger than a fist, and more reliable than a weapon!

Chapter 637: The Young Master Has Ascended to the Sage Realm?

One had to say, although Palace Head Dan Chi's strength was nothing more than a wisp of smoke in front of the Ninesuns Sky Sect, his ambitions and magnanimity, as well as vision, were all things that were worthy of Jiang Chen's admiration. It was a true achievement for a sect head to be such a martyr, even temporarily. Only those who could be so resolute and decisive held the truest hope of reaching the stars they aim for.

"Palace Head, although the Sky Sect is strong, they still pale in comparison to the ancient sects. I trust that if the Sky Sect purposefully suppresses the Myriad Domain, it will be reviled beneath the heavens. Even if it is capable of consolidating its power in short order, it will not be able to hold onto that power for long." Although Jiang Chen didn't know what the Sky Sect's plans were, he believed that the Divine

Abyss Continent wasn't a place where they could simply dictate order. What he was most worried about wasn't the Sky Sect, but the legendary ancient demon race. Moreover, his worries weren't without ground.

He'd once returned to his old home, the territory of Jiang Han, in the Eastern Kingdom. He'd run into an odd event on its lands, discovered by his younger cousin Jiang Yu. The spirit herbs on a certain patch of land had ripened overnight. This matter had left a deep impression on Jiang Chen, and he'd sent men to investigate. Although the investigation hadn't been very thorough, it was enough to indicate various types of strange sealing power hidden in that area.

Jiang Chen had been weak back then, so he hadn't looked deeply into the matter. However, even then he'd been able to conclude that it was a gravely ill portent. So now that he thought back on it, it was quite possible that the sixteen kingdom alliance was a place where the demons were sealed.

Looking at it more closely, it was now apparent to him that the omen was quite frightening. If it took shape, it was possible that even the Myriad Domain, much less the Eastern Kingdom, would not be able to bear the results. In addition, Jiang Chen had bumped into a spirit creature called Mang Qi in the Boundless Catacombs when undergoing the Hidden Dragon Trials in the Eastern Kingdom. That had also been a strange place.

It looked like Mang Qi had been sealed there since ancient times, but it was still alive. How many years had passed since then? If Mang Qi was merely a first level spirit realm creature, how could it live for so long? The lifespans of spirit creatures were longer than humans, but not to such a ridiculous extent!

If he thought about it carefully, the Boundless Catacombs that Mang Qi had resided in were also full of peculiarities. Jiang Chen could almost be certain now that the spirit creature's display of power back then had just been the barest tip of the iceberg. Its true strength was absolutely not that simple. A spirit realm creature from the ancient times would never be able to survive the ravages of time to live until now. Even the king of tortoises wouldn't live for so long. It seemed that the Eastern Kingdom had truly hidden many bizarre riddles. Back then, his ability only in the true qi realm, Jiang Chen only had a shallow understanding of most things and hadn't delved deeply into them. With what he knew now, a careful appraisal of the events had revealed all the inexplicably bizarre points. Jiang Chen naturally wouldn't forget that he had a promise with Mang Qi that he would try to save it from its seal, "The Great Formation of Myriad Souls Confinement".

"The Great Formation of Myriad Souls Confinement?" Jiang Chen's eyelid suddenly twitched as he remembered something.

Palace Head Dan Chi started when he saw Jiang Chen's strange action. However, Jiang Chen didn't say anything as he grabbed at his head with both hands, thinking furiously. He hadn't had much of an impression when Mang Qi had first mentioned the "Great Formation of Myriad Souls Confinement". But now that it had crossed his mind once again, he remembered that the journals of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had mentioned this formation. They'd spoken of an exceedingly strong sealing formation that the sect hadn't been able to set up by its own strength alone. The notes had said that the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had combined efforts from a few other formation sects to set up a "Great Formation of Myriad Souls Confinement". As he connected the dots, Jiang Chen suddenly felt sweat pour down his back.

“Can it be... can it be that Mang Qi is one of the ancient demons...” Jiang Chen felt that he’d plunged into an icy cavern. He really did feel a cold draft on his back. He’d made a heavenly oath that he’d help Mang Qi break free! If that spirit creature was really of the ancient demon race... then hadn’t he been tricked by Mang Qi?!

However, Mang Qi had also sworn that if Jiang Chen helped it break out of its shackles, it would recognize Jiang Chen as its master and listen to the boy’s bidding. He too had sworn a heavenly oath.

The more Jiang Chen thought, the more of a headache he had. However, with things the way they were now, there wasn’t much point to thinking too much about this now. His current level of strength wasn’t enough to evoke more than a lazy swat from the Ninesuns Sky Sect, much less the ancient demon tribes.

“Palace Head, we need to make quite a few preparations in advance of the Myriad Grand Ceremony.” Jiang Chen brought the topic back to the upcoming event.

“Mm. The Grand Ceremony is in half a month. I’ll make some preparations during this time. Jiang Chen, you’ll be the focus of attention. Don’t reveal yourself for now, let’s make our decisions accordingly later.”

Jiang Chen’s status was exceedingly awkward at the moment. Those of the six great sects would be holding a certain prejudice against him because of what’d happened in the ancient pill garden. Jiang Chen’s name had also entered into the Sky Sect’s vision time and time again. Perhaps that sect already had their eyes set on Jiang Chen. Thus, Palace Head Dan Chi didn’t want Jiang Chen to easily expose himself.

Jiang Chen wasn’t much interested in the Myriad Grand Ceremony. However, there was a martial sparring aspect to it in which the winners could enter the Paramount Realm. He was really looking forward to the realm.

The Paramount Realm was where the emperor realm cultivators in Myriad Domain history released the essence of their lives in their last moments, leaving behind the purest essence of their martial dao. Such a place would have traces of the cultivator’s martial spirit. It would be a fortuitous occurrence to any cultivator who could inherit the martial dao comprehension of an emperor realm cultivator. Jiang Chen naturally wanted to go try his luck.

Although he had the memories of his past life, there was much Jiang Chen didn’t understand about this world’s experts. Since he had the opportunity to understand them further, Jiang Chen didn’t want to pass it up! The two agreed in the end that if no other mishaps arose, Jiang Chen would participate in the Myriad Grand Ceremony.

“Jiang Chen, the sect has been arguing nonstop the past couple of days over the sky rank spirit herbs that you’ve gifted to the sect. Let’s not announce your return just yet, I’m afraid Elder Lian Cheng will want the sky rank spirit herbs in your possession.” Although Palace Head Dan Chi knew that Jiang Chen wasn’t necessarily afraid of Elder Lian Cheng, he still didn’t want the two to erupt in open hostilities out of consideration for the sect.

It didn’t matter to Jiang Chen either way, and he smiled. “I’ll return to my residence and then make a trip to senior sister Bi’er’s residence. I promised to help cure her father’s poison three years ago. Who would’ve thought that this matter would drag on until now!”

“Haha, good! A man’s word is worth its weight in gold.” Dan Chi looked admiringly at Jiang Chen and clapped his disciple’s shoulder. “Go on back first!”

Jiang Chen rose to take his leave. When he reached the mouth of the Rosy Valley, he had no other recourse but to pretend that he was Mu Gaoqi to fool the guards. They didn’t take a close look at him either, just seeing a figure flash by in front of them.

“Eh, was that senior brother Mu Gaoqi just now?”

“I think so, but when did senior brother Mu Gaoqi become so fast?”

“I think it’s weird too. I heard that senior brother Mu Gaoqi is in closed door cultivation, attempting to assail the sky origin realm. Are the rumors false?” The guards chattered at each other as they were completely baffled by the situation. If Mu Gaoqi was in closed door cultivation, why would he appear at the mouth of the Valley?

When it came to Mu Gaoqi, the guards’ tone were full of respect and reverence. They weren’t talking about the cowardly and shrinking Mu Gaoqi of yesteryear, but a true top genius of the sect. The sect had fully excavated Mu Gaoqi’s potential as an innate wood constitution, and had tailored a cultivation path for him to greatly enhance his martial dao level.

Over the past two years, his innate wood constitution had been aptly developed and he’d bounded from third level origin realm to the point of trying for the sky origin realm. His rate of improvement was the most furious one in the Regal Pill Palace in the last two years.

Equally crazed was Tang Hong of the Precious Tree Sect. After undergoing a baptism in the wood spirit spring and receiving many benefits from Jiang Chen, his already strong potential had once again taken a large step forward. Add his decidedly mad bent when training to the mix and he too had made large strides forward to peak fifth level origin realm in the past two years. His cultivation level was catching up to Lordmaster Ye Chonglou!

However, Ye Chonglou was different from Tang Hong. Although both had been baptized in the wood spirit spring, Jiang Chen had gifted dragon blood and crystals to Ye Chonglou. The latter’s miraculous rate of improvement had been because he’d refined the dragon blood. On the other hand, Tang Hong had made it to the fifth level origin realm purely on the basis of excavated potential. This kind of cultivation speed was one that even the best geniuses in the Regal Pill Palace might be hard pressed to match.

When Jiang Chen arrived at the entrance to his residence and saw everything in order, his heart settled with relief. Over the past two years, he’d been most afraid that something might’ve happened at home.

Thankfully, everything was still peaceful.

Huang’er was playing the “Ethereal Soothing Melody” within the residence when her strings of her qin suddenly vibrated. A trace of delight flashed through her clear eyes as she dampened the strings with both hands, then ran out barefoot. “Sir Jiang?”

Jiang Chen smiled to see Huang’er walk out barefoot. “Miss Huang’er, your ‘Ethereal Soothing Melody’ has truly reached the peak of an ethereal realm after two years.”

Huang'er laughed softly, "You're finally back."

Figures began to dash out from the residence one by one. It was first Ye Chonglou, then Gouyu and Xuetong, then all the other personal guards... everyone was delighted to see Jiang Chen. n-/o-(v)-e-/l--
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"Jiang Chen, you... you..." Ye Chonglou stared at Jiang Chen, surprise brimming from his eyes. "Your cultivation..."

"Congratulations to Sir Jiang for ascending to the sage realm." Huang'er smiled charmingly.

Everyone was stunned, and then was immediately overcome with joy. It'd been two years since they'd seen the young master, but now that they had, he was already in the sage realm! One had to know that even the most exemplary genius, Shen Qinghong, had only broken through to the sage realm in the past two years. Jiang Chen had only entered the Rosy Valley three years ago, and had only been first level origin realm then. But now, three years later, he was of the sage realm!

Chapter 638: Dispelling the Divine Befuddlement Miasma, Senior Sister Reveals Her Thoughts

Ye Chonglou was at the peak of fifth level origin realm. Gouyu and Xue Tong were both at fourth level, and the rest were both at peak of second level origin realm. Tang Hong was now an earth origin realm genius of the Rosy Valley, also at peak fifth level origin realm and was one of the more preeminent geniuses in the valley. However, Tang Hong had his own residence, and so didn't live with Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen was quite satisfied with everyone's improvement. It'd only been three years after all, so it was very difficult already to improve themselves to this degree.

"Ah yes, Lordmaster, I'd like to speak privately with you." Jiang Chen said to Ye Chonglou after greeting everyone. Ye Chonglou knew that it wouldn't be a small matter if Jiang Chen was taking such precautions, so he quickly walked out with Jiang Chen.

"Jiang Chen, is something important about to happen?" Although the lordmaster didn't normally set foot outside the residence, he was still very sensitive to the developments of the greater picture.

Jiang Chen nodded. "It's very possible that some notable matters will happen. The Tristar Sect is colluding with the Ninesuns Sky Sect. I anticipate that disaster will soon descend upon the Myriad Domain. The scale and strength of this disaster may be large enough that a fourth rank sect such as the Regal Pill Palace may not be able to remain steadfast in its face. Therefore, for the sake of the future of the Precious Tree Sect, I have to recommend that the lordmaster take Tang Hong and the others back to the Precious Tree Sect right away."

"Right now?" Ye Chonglou was a bit surprised. "Are we in that much of a hurry? Tang Hong would still like to participate in the Myriad Grand Ceremony and vie for a placement on the Myriad Hidden Dragon ranking!"

"There's no meaning in that anymore." Jiang Chen waved his hands. "In fact, it's still up in the air whether or not the ceremony can be successfully held."

"Things are that serious?"

“They might be even more serious than I’m describing. Palace Head Dan Chi is already prepared to dissolve the Regal Pill Palace at any time.”

Ye Chonglou’s expression instantly darkened as his tone turned grave, “Then it looks like the situation is at its worst.” He was an altogether decisive person. “Alright, then I’ll immediately go find Tang Hong and the others to take them back to the Precious Tree Sect. If the greater picture has reached this point, we’ll temporarily disband the Precious Tree Sect as well.”

To a certain extent, the Precious Tree Sect was the same kind of sect as the Regal Pill Palace. It was the sort that held the mentality of passing down their legacy of spirit through the ages. They would never bend their knee to enemies and be enslaved by others.

Jiang Chen nodded. “It’d be best to dissolve the sect immediately if you hear of anything and leave the Myriad Domain. No matter how troubled the times ahead may be, we will still meet again as long as we are all alive.”

Ye Chonglou patted Jiang Chen’s shoulder. “Jiang Chen, the luckiest thing I’ve ever encountered in my life, and my proudest, is getting to know you. Don’t worry, although my strength is humble, I’ve long since anticipated that there would be great changes in the Myriad Domain. To that end, I’ve made many preparations beforehand. Although they won’t affect the Myriad Domain as a whole, I’ve been able to design a few escape routes.”

“Ah. When does the lordmaster plan on departing?”

“Tomorrow.” Ye Chonglou was very firm. “I will take my leave from Palace Head Dan Chi tomorrow.”

Jiang Chen gifted another batch of Origin Fostering Pills to the elder. “Lordmaster, take these upper rank Origin Fostering Pills with you. You and Tang Hong will be able to use them for a long time.

“Also, here’s an Origin Doubling Pill for you. You’ll be able to rise a level without conditions after ascending to sixth level origin realm, and you’ll be able to assail seventh level origin realm in a short amount of time.” Jiang Chen took out a million upper rank origin spirit stones as well. “Here’s also a million spirit stones that I gained in the Mt. Rippling Mirage Pill Battles. It should be enough for the next couple of decades of use.”

Ye Chonglou felt a bit abashed and he sighed, “Jiang Chen, I’ve been benefiting from you all along. I am truly ashamed.”

“Please don’t speak this way, lordmaster. If it wasn’t for you taking care of me in the Skylareland Kingdom, there wouldn’t be the Jiang Chen of today either.”

Ye Chonglou didn’t stand on ceremony with Jiang Chen and accepted everything. “Jiang Chen, as long as the Precious Tree Sect has you, the sect will undoubtedly one day be revived even if it is destroyed.” His voice thrummed with emotion.

“Oh right, Lordmaster, how is your Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon after it assimilated the bloodline of a true dragon?”

Ye Chonglou responded joyfully, “The Phoenix-Dragon is a descendent of the dragons alright! It absorbed the true dragon bloodline even better than I did. Its cultivation level has long since broken

through the human sky origin realm. In my opinion, right now, it has more right than me to assail the sage realm.”

“The sage realm won’t be a problem after the baptism in the wood spirit spring. The lordmaster has great hope of making it to the sage realm.” Jiang Chen continued, “On another note, Tang Hong’s potential is excellent and I hope that the Precious Tree Sect will show him preferential treatment. If he can develop fully into his strength, his accomplishments in the future will be unfathomable.”

Even geniuses in small places have potential, but they simply lacked the resources to excavate it from youth. The differences between them and geniuses in large territories wasn’t in innate potential, but the amount of support and resources received during their development. This point was particularly noticeable for Tang Hong. After receiving large amounts of resources from Jiang Chen upon joining the Regal Pill Palace, the rate of his cultivation had improved ferociously, even faster than some Regal Pill Palace geniuses. From Jiang Chen’s perspective, if Tang Hong had received Cao Jin’s level of treatment, then his current accomplishments might even be on par with Cao Jin.

Xue Tong walked in after Ye Chonglou had finished speaking. “Young master, Miss Bi’er has sent over cultivation resources again.”

“What do you mean?” Jiang Chen started. Did Ling Bi’er know he was back? That was impossible.

“Ever since she returned from Mt. Rippling Mirage, Miss Bi’er has sent over cultivation resources every month and has taken great care of us. Some fellows came by a few times to start trouble in front of the residence, but Miss Bi’er soon taught them a lesson.”

Jiang Chen smiled and felt a certain empathy with Ling Bi’er’s desire to save her father. He’d owed the other a promise for three years now. It was high time to make good on it. He waved his hand, “I’m going out.”

Ling Bi’er was standing outside the residence, her frozen bearing at great odds with the rest of the surroundings. Even after three years, the ruthless blade of time had left no discernable marks on her. She was still as pure as water and detached as frost. However, her figure seemed to be a bit thinner and her charming face a tad skinnier.

It was usually Gouyu greeting Ling Bi’er, but this time the former hadn’t, instead sending Xue Tong notify Jiang Chen. After all, she’d come on time every month for the past three years, regardless of rain or shine to deliver cultivation materials. Gouyu had wanted to rebuff her in the beginning, but Ling Bi’er didn’t pester them or make any explanations. She merely put the items down and turned to leave.

Gouyu’s heart wasn’t made of rock or iron. She was slowly touched over the years by Ling Bi’er’s quiet, caring ways. Although they hadn’t exchanged many words over the past three years, only a look or a small gesture was needed to communicate between women, just as the fall of one leaf is enough to indicate autumn’s arrival. Gouyu was certain that one like an icy mountain such as Ling Bi’er was only extending her affections to them because of someone else.

Gouyu’s reaction to this had slowly melted from her initial rejection to hesitant acceptance. She now both admired and respected Ling Bi’er. To be able to continue steadfastly in this fashion for three years, no matter what her motives were, it was worthy of Gouyu’s respect.

When Ling Bi'er heard the footsteps, she was about to put her items down and leave, when she suddenly wavered. A look of disbelief shot out of those clear eyes.

Jiang Chen?

Indeed, the one who entered her sight this time was the familiar face that had always marked her dreams, and the one she'd thought about for a thousand days and nights.

Their eyes unexpectedly met. It was as if the last thousand days and nights hadn't happened at all, as if time itself had been rewritten. Seemingly, she had only just left his residence yesterday, and had merely come again today.

"Have you been well, senior sister Bi'er?" Jiang Chen smiled leisurely.

Ling Bi'er suddenly whirled around and strode quickly in the other direction. After putting some distance between them, she couldn't hold it in anymore, leaning on a nearby tree to quietly sob. She was a strong girl and naturally didn't want Jiang Chen to see her crying.

After a while, she heard Jiang Chen's footsteps coming from the distance and hurriedly composed herself, wiping her face clear of tears and adjusting her emotions. She knew that Jiang Chen had purposefully made his footsteps sound loudly from far away, likely to remind her that he was coming. When she thought about how a man with such a heroic air as him was so conscientious as well, Ling Bi'er couldn't feel help but feel a surge of sweetness in her heart.

"Senior sister Bi'er, my promise to you is late by three years. How is your father? Let's go take a look."

Ling Bi'er knew that Jiang Chen was afraid she'd feel awkward and was proactively mentioning her father to distract her. The two walked side by side and soon arrived at Ling Bi'er's residence. It was a good thing that Ling Hui'er was absent, so they were fortunately spared her antics. Jiang Chen walked up to Ling Su's bed to see that his eyes were greatly sunken in. At first glance, he was all skin and bones.

"Thankfully I'm not too late. Senior sister, where are the spirit herbs?"

Ling Bi'er took out the four spirit herbs they had prepared in advance. Now that Jiang Chen had entered the sage realm, the strength of his consciousness had greatly improved. He was much more confident in curing this Miasma when compared to three years ago. It could even be said that he was now absolutely assured of success.

Yet even so, it took him seven days and seven nights before he finished thoroughly cleansing the Miasma from Ling Su's mind. When he dragged himself out of the room with footsteps that spoke of exhaustion, he was greeted with the sight of an anxious Ling Bi'er.

"Senior sister, your father's Miasma has dragged on for too long. It wouldn't have been so complex to cure if it'd been just when he'd been poisoned."

"Junior brother, then..."

"He's completely fine. He'll return to his usual self after a few days of rest and recovery." Jiang Chen smiled easily.

Ling Bi'er swayed where she stood, and hastily reached out a hand to support herself, barely managing to keep her composure. Her lips vibrated slightly, tears welling up in her beautiful eyes. "Junior brother, thank you, thank you! I once swore an oath that I would serve whoever cured my father. In the future..." She bit her lip lightly and gathered up her courage to say, "I... I won't refuse anything that junior brother wants me to do in the future."

With Ling Bi'er's personality, it was already an enormous act of courage that she could voice such words.

Chapter 639: Upgrade to the Nine Gates Incineration Formation

A rumor had begun to run rampant within the Myriad Domain as of late. Moreover, the rumor had a proverbial face to attached to it, which was why those who heard it couldn't help but look favorably on its authenticity. The rumor went that two treasures of the Myriad Empire had mysteriously disappeared when the nation had met its demise. Not even the Great Scarlet Mid Region, the force who had crushed the Myriad Empire, had been able to discover those two treasures. It was said that the day these two national treasures appeared once more would be the day the Myriad Domain was revived.

Meanwhile, another rumor spoke of an expert, skilled in divination and calculation, who predicted that the two treasures, the Imperial Jade Seal and the Guardian Dragon Seal, would appear during this upcoming Myriad Grand Ceremony. Although this rumor wasn't widespread, everyone amongst the six great sects of Myriad Domain had heard about it one or another. The rumor was very much like a cat's claw, scratching against the hearts of the various sect heavyweights; an indescribable itch that simply wouldn't go away.

The attraction that these two treasures had was undeniable. Obtaining these two treasures symbolized the ownership of the inheritance tokens of the Myriad Empire. Obtaining them meant grasping the right to unify the Myriad Domain under one rule. Nearly every top sect in the Myriad Domain shared a similar ambition in this regard.

Who didn't wish to unify and rule the Myriad Domain as its master?

Who didn't wish to recreate the Myriad Empire's glory and bring about eternal supremacy?

The benefits were obvious in terms of the increase in status and the monopoly of resources. Any ambitious expert would seek to gather all these for themselves. Palace Head Dan Chi was no exception.

Although danger lay in wait on all sides for the Myriad Grand Ceremony this time, and a devastating storm seemed ripe to descend upon the region, opportunities always coexisted with risk. n-)o.)v(.e-(ℓ)-b-(l/-n

Jiang Chen had kept an unusually low profile upon his return from Mt. Rippling Mirage. After sending those from Precious Tree Sect off and curing Ling Su's Divine Befuddlement Miasma, he no longer had any concerns he needed to take care of. However, it didn't mean that he was idle. On his way back from Ling Bi'er's, Jiang Chen had decided to further perfect his Nine Gates Incineration Formation. It certainly had plenty of room to improve. Back then, Jiang Chen could only allow the formation to display fifty to sixty percent of its maximum strength. At best, it could defend against a sky sage realm expert.

"I don't know what misfortune will strike the Myriad Grand Ceremony. This formation should be improved for when I am absent from the sect." Jiang Chen didn't lack for wealth at the moment.

Previously, he'd only had several tens of thousands of upper rank origin spirit stones that he could spare. But now, he literally had tens of millions in his pocket, from the various harvests he'd had. He wasn't short on spirit stones for formations at all. Not to mention that he also had the two sets of formation flags from the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. These two sets were the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's trump cards. Since the primary and secondary flag could be used separately, Jiang Chen took out the secondary set for his use.

He was of the mind to make his designs grander. Therefore, he decided to use the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's formation flag to construct the Nine Gates Incineration Formation.

The base of the formation had been constructed a long time ago. Switching to a more powerful formation flag would no doubt strengthen it further. Thanks to the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, Jiang Chen now had a decent grasp on some of the profound mysteries of formations. Using that, he managed to improve the Nine Gates Incineration Formation further. He used almost a million spirit stones to upgrade it.

Each detail and step required to upgrade the formation was done to perfection. After spending a full four days on the task, Jiang Chen was finally done upgrading the Nine Gates Incineration Formation. After the formation had been improved, it was instantly ten times more sophisticated than it was before.

"Not even the formation splitting art executed by Cao Jin's group of three can find a gap in a formation at this level!" Since Jiang Chen knew of the formation splitting art, he had purposely designed his formation to counter it. He closed all the loopholes he could find in this formation.

Besides, the only reason the trio had managed to enter Mt. Rippling Mirage was because the outer formation of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had been massively weakened over the years. Many flaws had appeared on the formation itself, and the spirit veins beneath it had been blocked. In reality, their success hadn't been due to the trio's strength at all. If it were otherwise, not even three emperor realm experts would have been able to cut through the ancient formation with their arts.

Of course, Mt. Rippling Mirage was just one part of the outer ring of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. It was obvious that the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect hadn't bothered to make its outer formation overly complicated. In addition, the sect had to leave a glimmer of hope to its inheritor. If they built the outer formation to be impervious to everything, then how would their inheritor manage to enter? In the end, Mt. Rippling Mirage was just a part of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's outer formations. It wasn't the core of the sect's formation. The forbidden area of inheritance beyond the altar was the true core of Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's formation. It was those formations that were the real proof of the sect's true strength.

If Jiang Chen hadn't had the sect's keepsake, he wouldn't have even gleaned hints of how the formation operated, much less enter it. Considering the breadth of his experience Jiang Chen possessed during his previous life, the fact that even he hadn't been able to puzzle out how the formation worked showed just how much effort Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had put into their inner core formations. The setup of Ancestor's Cliff and the tower of inheritance had been closely intertwined with each other. In comparison, Mt. Rippling Mirage's formation could only be considered trivial at best. It hadn't been built to completely seal the path from the outside at all.

Jiang Chen walked around the formation several times and felt relatively satisfied with his handiwork. "I haven't spent three years in the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect in vain. My ability in formations has reached a different level of proficiency, and I can use formations a lot more flexibly than I used to. An ordinary first level emperor realm expert should not be able to break through this formation."

Satisfied, Jiang Chen created jade formation tokens. This time however, he refined only three tokens. He kept one for himself, one for Gouyu, and was planning on giving Huang'er the last.

However, when Jiang Chen came to pass the jade token to Huang'er, she said, "Sir Jiang, I've heard that the Myriad Grand Ceremony is an extremely grand proceeding. Huang'er wishes to follow you and broaden her horizons. Is that acceptable?"

Jiang Chen stared blankly at Huang'er for a moment. Then he remembered that she was likely fraught with boredom after cooped up inside the residence for several years. Being cooped up all the time would not do well for her illness either. After thinking for a moment, Jiang Chen nodded, "It is good for Miss Huang'er to travel and divert your boredom if you are feeling stifled. However, the Myriad Grand Ceremony this time is particularly dangerous..."

Huang'er smiled charmingly, "No, no, I am not afraid. If anything happens to me, then only Huang'er is to blame. I guarantee that Elder Shun will not make trouble for you, hee hee."

Jiang Chen wasn't afraid that Elder Shun would trouble him. Rather, he was missing that old fellow a little. Many years had passed by already. He wondered if Elder Shun had found the Requiem Wood yet. Although Huang'er's condition was very stable right now, the Generation Binding Curse would still exist as a hidden threat after a decade or two. The curse couldn't be eradicated completely without the Requiem Wood, and thus Huang'er's condition at present couldn't be considered good.

Huang'er was an incredibly intelligent and understanding person. She immediately guessed that Jiang Chen was worrying about her illness when she saw the slightly odd look on his face.

"Sir Jiang, all life and death are ruled by fate. Thanks to your skillful treatment, Huang'er has never lived an easier life than these last three years. I am satisfied with this already." Huang'er's attitude was incredibly optimistic. She actually consoled Jiang Chen instead. Jiang Chen was seldom impressed by anyone, but he greatly admired Huang'er's optimistic and magnanimous temperament.

Of the many women he'd come to be acquainted with, Gouyu was bold and vigorous, Dan Fei quiet and elegant, Ling Bi'er reserved as ice, and Ling Hui'er cute and innocent. Last but not least, Wen Ziqi was cultured and refined. However, no one could compare to Miss Huang'er in terms of unearthly manner and magnanimous bearing.

Miss Huan'er seemed to carry the bearing of a well-mannered noble lady since birth. Her words and actions were ever perfectly appropriate and gracious. What was even rarer was her innate kindness and lack of competitiveness. Jiang Chen wasn't familiar with Huang'er's true identity, but he could guess that her birth was anything but common. In fact, she might just be greater than his imagination.

Since Huang'er was now going to the Myriad Grand Ceremony, Jiang Chen had no choice but to give Xue Tong the last formation token. He instructed him carefully on how to use it. Thankfully, Xue Tong was an extremely reliable person. He would memorize anything Jiang Chen said in his heart and execute them

strictly to the letter. Out of all of Jiang Chen's personal guards, Xue Tong's ability to execute matters was unparalleled among them all.

Looking at the time, Jiang Chen noted that there were still a few days left before the beginning of the Myriad Grand Ceremony. Therefore, he took the opportunity to enter closed door cultivation for several days and refine some pills.

He had two to three thousand blades of Sage Fledgling Grass in his possession right now. Every Sage Fledgling Grass could be used to refine a cauldron of Heroic Sage Pills. In the best case scenario, one refining would result in seven to eight Heroic Sage Pills; in the worst case, perhaps five to six pills. The overall production value was quite high.

Jiang Chen took the opportunity to refine over one hundred Heroic Sage Pills. Ever since he'd ascended to the sage realm, his demand for pills had grown with each passing day.

No matter how superior Jiang Chen's memories from his previous life, cultivation was still ultimately attained through the accumulation of countless resources. No theoretical knowledge could replace this truth.

Apart from the Heroic Sage Pills, Jiang Chen also refined a cauldron of Longevity Pills. This time however, he successfully refined a total of five Longevity Pills. Four of the five pills were middle rank products, but the last one was actually of upper rank quality. Adding these to the three Longevity Pills he had left, Jiang Chen had a total of eight Longevity Pills.

"The empyrean expert level pill masters of ancient times were all wealthy beyond imagination. Pill refining is truly a skill that creates wealth." Jiang Chen couldn't help but sigh ruefully. The Longevity Pill he'd sold - a lower rank pill no less - at the auction last time had netted him over tens of millions of spirit stones. If he were to auction these middle and upper rank pills again, the prices would only be far greater than before.

The last time Jiang Chen had refined the Longevity Pill, he'd taken a total of seven days to succeed. However, he was only at earth origin realm at the time, and the strength of his consciousness at the time was far inferior to his present level. This time, the amount of time Jiang Chen spent to refine the Longevity Pill didn't even reach half the amount of time he spent last time. The amount of consciousness he exhausted was also far less than last time. Almost every aspect of Jiang Chen had greatly benefited as his cultivation and level of consciousness increased.

Jiang Chen had heard of Elder Yun Nie's multiple attempts to refine the Longevity Pill. He hadn't succeeded even a single time. Jiang Chen could understand why. After all, a pill wasn't something that could be refined just because one had a recipe. This was particularly true for an extremely complicated pill like the Longevity Pill. There were a lot of things that needed to be taken into consideration. It was unlikely that Elder Yun Nie would discover a path to success without ten to twenty years of research.

Naturally, Jiang Chen remembered that the Regal Pill Palace had promised the Dark North Sect's Honored Master Tian Ming a Longevity Pill. Therefore, Jiang Chen took three Longevity Pills - one lower rank pill and two middle rank pills - and delivered them to Palace Head Dan Chi.

Chapter 640: Setting Out for the Myriad Grand Ceremony

Three Longevity Pills? Palace Head Dan Chi was stunned when he saw what Jiang Chen had brought out. “Jiang Chen, you refined all of this?”

Jiang Chen smiled and didn’t deny anything. “I’m afraid that Honored Master Tian Ming will come asking for the pills again this time at the ceremony. We can’t keep delaying the matter of making good on our promise.”

The look in Palace Head Dan Chi’s eyes was complicated as he gave a long sigh. His eyes remained fixed on Jiang Chen. “Those with ability can accomplish anything! Jiang Chen, it is the Regal Pill Palace’s greatest fortune to have you. If I take a moment to think back, although I have a few achievements to my name since becoming the palace head, mostly due to my ambitions, they’ve had a relatively minor impact on the greater picture over the past decade. But the most important thing I’ve done since becoming Palace Head is bringing you from the Precious Tree Sect to the Regal Pill Palace.”

With how the situation had developed, Dan Chi had to admit that all he’d done for the Regal Pill Palace had indeed greatly improved the sect’s standing in martial dao and immensely decreased the gap between the Regal Pill Palace and the other four sects. But the fortunes of a sect wasn’t something that could be changed by the careful planning and execution of a few decades. And yet the current situation of the Myriad Domain was so precarious that there was no more time left for Dan Chi to realize his goals and ambitions.

This was what depressed Dan Chi the most. He had so many thoughts, plans, and ambitions.

However—

With the current changes in the greater picture, there wasn’t enough time for him to realize them! Everything he had now was nothing more than a rock thrown into a lake when chaos inevitably descends. It would raise some ripples when thrown in, but nothing after it sank. It wouldn’t give rise to any waves at all. Now that he thought about it, the only thing he could be thankful for was the discovery of a group of young geniuses for the Regal Pill Palace. Jiang Chen for instance, and Mu Gaoqi. When it came to Shen Qinghong or Jun Mobai, Dan Chi still didn’t think much of them even though they’d broken through to the sage realm. There was too great a cultivation gap between them and their peers in the Myriad Domain, and they had much further to go to be compared to Dan Chi.

One had to know that at their age, Dan Chi had been poised to break through to the earth sage realm, and he’d been nominated to be the next palace head. His peers at that time in the various other sects had been dallying around the middle management tiers of their sects, with very few making it to an elder level. Yet Dan Chi had already guided the Regal Pill Palace for a few decades.

Whether it was compared to their peers in the Regal Pill Palace or in other sects, Shen Qinghong and Jun Mobai had nothing to boast about by breaking through to the sage realm after thirty years old.

The earth sage realm would be a dividing line, as would the sky sage realm. Even Dan Chi, with his heaven defying potential, had spent a few decades in the mortal sage realm. He’d only broken through to the sky sage realm in the past two years due to some fortuitous circumstances. Elder Shun’s pointers for one, and the benefits brought about by earth rank spirit herbs. Those had been critical. If it wasn’t

for those, he would've needed another five to ten years to break through to the sky sage realm. Therefore, Shen Qinghong and Jun Mobai's results didn't put him in an optimistic frame of mind.

On the other hand, Jiang Chen and Mu Gaoqi were different, particularly Jiang Chen. When he'd first entered the Regal Pill Palace, he'd only been at first level origin realm. Now three years later, he'd taken an enormous leap forward and was now first level sage realm. This kind of speed of improvement would've left even Dan Chi in the dust back in the day. It'd be one thing if he only had a heaven defying cultivation speed, but his ability to challenge opponents levels higher than him was even more perverse!

He'd been able to render a ninth level origin realm opponent helpless when he'd been only at earth origin realm. Jiang Chen had been at ease even when facing off against a first level sage realm opponent! Although he hadn't mentioned how he'd thrown off Elder Chen's pursuit, it went without saying that Jiang Chen had somehow killed Elder Chen! It was apparent from this just how stunning this boy's potential was. As for being able to take down someone like Cao Jin, Dan Chi didn't even dare think too deeply about it. He was now certain that the terrifying phenomenon he'd seen that day in the Precious Tree Sect had been from Jiang Chen breaking through to the origin realm. Otherwise, there would've been no reason for such stunning phenomena to appear without reason in a mere sixteen kingdoms alliance.

Dan Chi was now very much aware that Jiang Chen must be a genius who'd inherited the fortune of the heavens and earth. Even the Sky Sect wouldn't be able to suppress him. The Regal Pill Palace wasn't qualified to contain someone of such fortune. Dan Chi didn't treat Jiang Chen as a mere disciple anymore, but as a potential who could impact the future of the entire Divine Abyss Continent! Of course, Dan Chi didn't mention any of this to anyone, even those he was closest to in the sect.

Heaven's secrets were not to be spoken of.

No matter what, the stronger Jiang Chen was, the more likely it was that the Regal Pill Palace would have to make use of his strength. No matter where his future lay, the legacy of the Regal Pill Palace wouldn't perish as long as Jiang Chen lived. Therefore, Dan Chi firmly believed that it wouldn't matter even if the Regal Pill Palace was disbanded. Its fortunes wouldn't dissipate as long as Jiang Chen still survived. This was why he'd told Jiang Chen his thoughts of temporarily disbanding the sect. Dan Chi had wanted to see what Jiang Chen's thoughts were. If Jiang Chen agreed, then Dan Chi would feel that his move was the right one to make.

As he thought about Jiang Chen, so did he think about Mu Gaoqi. Compared to Jiang Chen, the latter's light was a bit more subdued, but with his innate wood constitution, he would absolutely grow into a powerhouse that would impact the sect's fortunes for the next millennia. With Mu Gaoqi's potential, he'd grow into someone who would be able to shoulder the sect in a hundred or two hundred years, even without Jiang Chen. He'd be able to lead the Regal Pill Palace into the ranks of the third rank sects!

However, what was different about the two was that while Mu Gaoqi's future could be estimated, what Jiang Chen would bring to the sect was something that even Palace Head Dan Chi couldn't fathom. Jiang Chen's potential was simply too strong, so strong that he'd be able to affect the entire chessboard of the Divine Abyss Continent.

"Palace Head, Elder Yun Nie has come to visit." Elder Yun Nie came to visit as Jiang Chen and Dan Chi chatted.

“Haha, good timing! I haven’t told Elder Yun Nie that you’re back yet. His concern for you isn’t any lesser than mine.” Dan Chi waved his hand at Jiang Chen. “Your return can set his heart at ease.”

Elder Yun Nie seemed to be a bit thinner after three years. It was apparent that the pressure on his shoulders had been quite a burden over the years. Apart from the Longevity Pill, he was also preoccupied with the matter of the sky and earth rank spirit herb distribution.

“Oh? You have guests, Palace Head?” Elder Yun Nie tossed out an offhand comment when he glimpsed two shadows through the door. He immediately froze afterwards as the door opened to reveal Jiang Chen. “You... Jiang Chen?”

Jiang Chen rose to bow. “Greetings to Elder Yun Nie.”

Elder Yun Nie rubbed his eyes, shock writ all over his face. “It’s really you? Am... I dreaming?”

“Haha, Yun Nie, this is the biggest piece of good news that our Regal Pill Palace has received in the past three years. Jiang Chen actually returned a few days ago, and I’d planned on telling you before we set out for the Myriad Grand Ceremony.” Palace Head Dan Chi smiled.

Elder Yun Nie was delighted. “That’s absolutely wonderful!”

Palace Head Dan Chi summarized what had happened to Jiang Chen, and Elder Yun Nie’s face also flitted through a variety of expressions when Cao Jin was mentioned. He also greatly worried on Jiang Chen’s behalf.

“Good, fantastic! Jiang Chen, with your potential and fortune, you would outshine even the top genius of a first rank sect, much less the Myriad Domain. The heavens are smiling upon the Regal Pill Palace!” Elder Yun Nie sighed.

When Palace Head Dan Chi brought out the three Longevity Pills, the sight left Elder Yun Nie completely flabbergasted and unable to speak. He looked at Jiang Chen, commendation and anticipation in his eyes.

So what if the Myriad Domain was in a precarious situation and its future shrouded with uncertainty?

As long as the sect had geniuses like Jiang Chen and Mu Gaoqi, they would rise again even if all the various forces in the Myriad Domain perished tomorrow.

“Ah yes Palace Head, I came to ask if the list for the Myriad Grand Ceremony has been decided upon yet? Now that things in the region are shifting, I think that it’s best we prepare.” Elder Yun Nie recommended.

“I’ve already decided on the names, Yun Nie. We’ll only bring Shen Qinghong, Jun Mobai, Ling Bi’er, Nie Chong, and... Jiang Chen this time. I will lead with Elder Lian Cheng, you and Forefather Qi, Elder Hu will be in charge of protecting the sect.”

Dan Chi wanted to travel light this time and take less people with him. Elder Yun Nie had come this time to actually speak on Mu Gaoqi’s behalf. He had entered a critical moment at this time, and there was no need to give up on his closed door cultivation for the ceremony. Even if he was successful in making it to the sky origin realm, it would be very difficult for him to obtain a high ranking amongst the young geniuses. Therefore, it was better if he stayed behind.

When he saw that Palace Head Dan Chi hadn't named Mu Gaoqi, Elder Yun Nie nodded. "That is just as well. It will be easier to respond if anything happens if we take fewer with us. Ah, Palace Head, what are your thoughts on the rumors of the Imperial Jade Seal and Guardian Dragon Seal?"

Dan Chi spread out his hands. "Rumors are rumors. Although I am tempted, we have no guarantee of making a play for these two items. Therefore, let's leave it to fate."

Elder Yun Nie thought for a moment and felt that this made a great deal of sense. Jiang Chen didn't interrupt when he heard of this new topic. He wasn't interested in the two treasures that signified power and authority, but the Paramount Realm.

Elder Yun Nie took his leave after the three chatted some more. They'd come to an agreement that the Longevity Pill would still be announced under Elder Yun Nie's name, but they would reveal only one for now to sell to Honored Master Tian Ming. No one knew what would happen in the upcoming uncertainty, so there was no need to share the news of the rest of the pills. n).0ve**l**bIn

Three days later, the Regal Pill Palace retinue for the Myriad Grand Ceremony officially set out. Palace Head Dan Chi and Elder Lian Cheng brought the group along, with only five young geniuses and a few elders and followers from the Hall of Might. Roughly thirty in number, Huang'er traveled with them as Jiang Chen's follower.