

Three Realms 681

Chapter 681: Jiang Chen Successfully Schemes Against the Two

Jiang Chen sneered inwardly. Do these two bastards still want to trick me even now?

“Fear not, senior brother Jun. Since this Lin Hai has dared offend our Regal Pill Palace, I will finish him off first!” Jiang Chen proclaimed, the hypocrisy clear only to him.

Lin Hai felt a rush of anxiety flood him after hearing those words. Having fought an intense battle, the two of them were like arrows at the end of their flight—they had scarcely any stamina left. They might have had a way to salvage the situation if it’d been any other ordinary genius. But of all people, it had to be the unfathomable genius that even Xiang Qin had bowed down to. Lin Hai was possibly not even Jiang Chen’s match when in peak condition, never mind his currently exhausted state. His expression changed almost immediately, “Junior brother Jiang, our sects have always been united and harmonious. Your fellow senior brother and I only fought a battle of pride, it wasn’t one to the death.”

Jiang Chen deliberately assumed a solemn expression, “This palace is no doubt an inheritance left behind by a powerful cultivator. Instead of sharing it, I would rather claim it for the Regal Pill Palace in its entirety.”

Lin Hai responded hurriedly, “If junior brother Jiang Chen so wishes, I will forfeit my share.”

“No. It will be detrimental to our business if you blab after leaving this place!” Jiang Chen’s gestures seemed to speak of his absolute resolve.

It was now Jun Mobai’s turn to be anxious off on the side. If Lin Hai really was killed off, Jun Mobai’s guilty conscience would weigh even more heavily. But even beyond that, if Jiang Chen later discovered Jun Mobai’s identity, the latter would have neither the confidence nor the means to deal with this top disciple. Additionally, if he were to simply watch and not help, Lin Hai might reveal everything in his irritation and drag Jun Mobai down with him.

Jun Mobai hurriedly spoke up as his thoughts came to a close, “Junior brother Jiang, let’s not resort to murder yet. Lin Hai has already expressed his sincere thoughts. After all, the Regal Pill Palace and the Dark North Sect have always had friendly relations. If they discover that we killed their number one genius, I fear that our relationship will hit rock bottom. Then, our enemies would no longer be the Sacred Sword Palace alone...”

This train of thought was extremely reasonable under normal circumstances. But it rang quite comically for Jiang Chen with the knowledge that one of them was a disciple of the Ninesuns Sky Sect, and the other from the Eternal Celestial Capital. They still wanted to play tricks even under these circumstances!

Jiang Chen pretended to be deep in thought, and then finally concluded, “Since it’s like this, I will treat senior brother’s wounds first. Here, please ingest this healing pill.”

Jiang Chen casually tossed a pill towards Jun Mobai. Jun Mobai was an undercover disciple of the Ninesuns Sky Sect and thus inherently paranoid. He found himself in quite the predicament after receiving the pill. Do I take it or not?

It was apparent from this that he had always held a sliver of wariness against Jiang Chen. He was worried on one hand that Jiang Chen might have already seen through their identities, but was also thinking about the palace on the other. Even if Jiang Chen hadn't seen through the two, he might also seek to hoard the inheritance for himself and possibly consider killing the two.

Jiang Chen noted Jun Mobai's hesitation, "Senior brother Jun, do you not trust me?"

Jun Mobai was suddenly at a loss for words. Did he not trust Jiang Chen? How could he possibly answer in the affirmative? Who knew whether Jiang Chen would turn hostile if he felt that Jun Mobai was suspicious of him? So Jun Mobai was all smiles. "It's not that I don't trust you, it's just that I've already taken a healing pill. I'll keep the one you've just given me for later use. There is no need to waste such precious medicine."

Jiang Chen's face turned solemn, "It appears that you don't trust me after all."

"Junior brother, you and I belong to the same sect. There's no need for suspicion. Would I possibly trust Lin Hai of the Dark North Sect over you? We are of the same sect, and should support each other in the Paramount Realm."

Jiang Chen nodded, "In that case, keep the pill for later use. Let me help you up."

Jiang Chen walked up with his hand extended. Jun Mobai took in a deep breath. He knew this was his only chance. Opportunity never knocks twice! His surging murderous was carefully concealed as Jun Mobai prepared to deliver the coup de grace as soon as the unguarded Jiang Chen walked over. Just as Jiang Chen was about to reach out, he suddenly halted with a hint of spurious amusement in his eyes. "Senior brother Jun, there's just one more problem..."

"What is it?" Jun Mobai asked in surprise.

"It's like this. I encountered a few people in Mt. Rippling Mirage; a true disciple of the Ninesuns Sky Sect, a fatty and a pill king."

"Mt. Rippling Mirage? Disciples of the Ninesuns Sky Sect?" Jun Mobai was shaken, "Junior brother Jiang Chen. Why didn't you mention this before?"

Jiang Chen scratched his head. "I didn't want the other sects to ask me too many questions, so I omitted some of the details."

"Could you have been mistaken? Mt. Rippling Mirage is definitely inaccessible to normal people. Even a true disciple of the Ninesuns Sky Sect might not be able to enter at will."

Jiang Chen laughed. "Then perhaps I mistook them for someone else. However, I did obtain an item from that person."

"What is it?" Jun Mobai asked curiously.

Jiang Chen produced the Moonshatter Awl with a twist of his hand. Jun Mobai's heart spasmed painfully when he saw it. Although he was a spy, he wasn't unfamiliar with the Ninesuns Sky Sect. Moreover, back when Cao Jin had caused a ruckus at the Regal Pill Palace, he'd used this Moonshatter Awl to attack the sect's great defensive formation. Jun Mobai had been within the Regal Pill Palace at that time and was naturally able to recognize both the item and its wielder. Seeing Cao Jin's Moonshatter Awl in Jiang

Chen's hands, Jun Mobai was momentarily stunned. However, he swiftly regained his composure and exclaimed with feigned surprise, "Junior brother Jiang Chen, is the Cao Jin you mentioned a blue-browed youth?"

Jiang Chen nodded, "Senior brother Jun, how did you know?"

Jun Mobai felt his heart pounding as it filled with boundless fear. He realized that the enormously powerful senior brother Cao Jin might have been slain by Jiang Chen! "Junior brother Jiang Chen is truly impressive! That blue-browed youth is indeed a genius of the Ninesuns Sky Sect. He once came to the Regal Pill Palace to cause trouble and used this weapon back then!"

Jiang Chen said with a face full of delight, "He was someone from the Ninesuns Sky Sect after all! Hahaha, fantastic!"

Jun Mobai inquired further. "Then... then what happened to Cao Jin?"

"I killed him. He had a lot of good stuff on him," Jiang Chen replied, his tone completely unperturbed.

Jun Mobai felt all his hair stand on end. It was at this moment—

With no forewarning, a beam of golden light shot out from Jiang Chen's eyes and into Jun Mobai's pupils. The latter felt his entire body tremble momentarily as an intense pressure started to constrict his soul. His blood, veins and even consciousness began to feel increasingly sluggish. What's going on?

Jun Mobai felt like he'd plunged into an icy cave. A realization struck him—but by that time, the second beam of light had already penetrated his eyes.

Wave after wave...

Waves of golden light penetrated his pupils as the solidifying power of the Evil Golden Eye invaded his eyes.

"Jiang Chen... you!" Jun Mobai had realized by now that he'd fallen prey to Jiang Chen's plot. He'd actually been on his guard against Jiang Chen, but had still failed to protect himself against this move despite all his defensive measures.

Lin Hai nearby had quickly grasped the situation and realized that their identities had been compromised the minute he saw Jun Mobai fall to Jiang Chen's plan. He was frightened out of his wits, as the need to escape consumed his thoughts. However, how could he possibly outrun Jiang Chen in his current state? He turned to flee, but as he ran, he discovered that the yellow sands in front of him had been replaced by a boundless glacial realm covered in brilliant, white snow.

"Jiang Chen, you played the pig to eat the tiger!" Lin Hai clenched his teeth, knowing that he had also been schemed against. He had entered Jiang Chen's formation. He saw everything clearly now. Jiang Chen had been deliberately stalling for time in talking to them. He'd been looking for a way to take them both out at the same time.

On the other side, Jiang Chen was also well aware that if he'd attacked them rashly, the two could escape by activating their escape talismans or other secret methods, to say nothing of the potential lethal final strikes that the spies from a first rank sect could use. Although he was confident that he could handle one head on, he wasn't able to kill two head on. Thus he'd feigned civility and spoken of

trivial things, giving his opponents the illusion that there was still a chance to kill him. This way, his enemies wouldn't immediately think of fleeing. After all, judging from their attitudes, both of them greatly coveted Emperor Featherflight's inheritance.

He'd been manipulating the formation that would trap Lin Hai as he'd played for time. He'd activated it to ensnare Lin Hai while he himself delivered a killing blow to Jun Mobai. He'd also needed an opportunity to deploy the Evil Golden Eye in that fatal blow. Under normal circumstances, Jun Mobai would be shielded by his impenetrable mental defenses. That was why Jiang Chen had mentioned Cao Jin, in order to cause some fluctuations in his consciousness. That momentary weakness induced by fear was all he needed for the Evil Golden Eye to invade.

Everything went just as Jiang Chen had planned. He'd grasped the perfect moment to attack, and although Jun Mobai had reacted after the Evil Golden Eye had penetrated his consciousness, it was far too late. That one opening had opened the floodgates to a series of attacks. In his exhausted and weakened state, there was no way for him to gather a defense. Countless strands of metallic energy flowed steadily into him, and after a few breaths, he'd transformed into a golden statue. Seeing Jun Mobai turn into metal, Jiang Chen felt more confident about his Evil Golden Eye. Compared to when he'd first started practicing the Evil Golden Eye, its power had grown exponentially.

Jiang Chen hopped into the formation after taking out Jun Mobai. He hadn't utilized the formation to kill, but rather to restrain Lin Hai from fleeing with an escape talisman. All escape and evasion arts were rendered ineffective inside the formation. And it was apparent that Lin Hai did not possess any powerful formation splitting technique or weapon.

Hatred flashed within his eyes when Lin Hai saw Jiang Chen step into the formation. "Jiang Chen, it's impossible for you to be a Regal Pill Palace disciple! There's no need to hide it any longer! Tell me, which first rank sect do you belong to? I remember that only the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital were privy to information about the Featherflight Emperor. Did another sect come to know about it? And had even concealed themselves so well!" Lin Hai gnashed his teeth indignantly, his tone full of resentment and an unwillingness to accept the situation.

Chapter 682: Emperor Featherflight's Remains

Given the current situation, Lin Hai's thoughts were perfectly understandable. After all, it was impossible that a person monstrous enough to kill a true disciple of Ninesuns Sky Sect, deceive him and Jun Mobai, and even drive them to their deaths could possibly spring from the Myriad Domain. There was no way Lin Hai would believe that a Myriad Domain genius could perform such a feat.

Xiang Qin's strength was exceptional in the Myriad Domain, and he could be considered to be the strongest genius of the region. However, Lin Hai was confident that both he and Jun Mobai could deal with this foremost genius. As for an expert at Cao Jin's level, that kind of existence was much stronger than even him and Jun Mobai. Even Xiang Qin would suffer a completely one-sided defeat if he were to encounter Cao Jin. However, this Jiang Chen was actually strong enough to take out Cao Jin!

Could he be the top genius of a first rank sect? Was he an emperor realm cultivator? Lin Hai's mind was filled with doubt and fear. He wanted to obtain the truth from Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen smiled calmly and stared at Lin Hai. "Senior brother Lin Hai, I didn't know that you were such a good actor." His tone was calm despite the rather messy situation.

"Jiang Chen, stop pretending already. Tell me that which first rank sect you're from!" Lin Hai said angrily.

"Whether or not I'm a spy is none of your concern. Emperor Featherflight, huh? I'm curious. Just who is this Emperor Featherflight to be so attractive as to warrant the attention of two first rank sects? Why have your sects searched for him relentlessly for thousands of years, and gone so far as to send out spies to infiltrate the Myriad Domain?"

Lin Hai frowned, "You don't know?"

Jiang Chen smiled calmly, "I don't. But I've managed to guess a little here and there from your conversation. Well? Are you going to spill the beans, or do I need to pry your mouth open for you?"

Lin Hai laughed loudly, "Spill the beans? I am an Eternal Celestial Capital disciple, and I'd rather die than be shamed! If this idiot Jun Mobai hadn't fought me to such a state, do you really think I would be scared of you?"

Jiang Chen smiled calmly, "Does that mean you're going to resist to the so-called bitter end?"

Lin Hai's face darkened, "Hmph, you'll have to cough up something if you want to kill me."

"Do I?" Jiang Chen didn't waste his breath. He shook the Soldier Rosary Beads once, and summoned forth a sky sage realm and three earth sage realm golden armored warriors, surrounding Lin Hai completely.

Lin Hai paled greatly, "Jiang Chen, do you only know how to play cheap tricks? I dare you to fight me one on one!"

"Fight you one on one? I'm afraid I would only dirty my hands that way." Jiang Chen wasn't willing to waste any more time on him, and commanded his golden armored warriors to launch a frenzied attack upon Lin Hai. Lin Hai was already completely spent, and the strongest advantage of these golden armored warriors was that they were completely unafraid of death. Therefore, Lin Hai fell almost instantly to their rush, suffering quite a few blows in the process.

Jiang Chen walked over to Lin Hai, and the first thing he did as he looked at the barely breathing form was to confiscate the flag. This flag was definitely a treasure, and Jiang Chen had thought it to be fairly extraordinary from the start. It was extremely useful for both offense and defense. It was also thanks to this flag that Lin Hai was able to turn things around again and again when he'd fought Jun Mobai. Other than the flag, Jiang Chen also took Lin Hai's storage ring as well. He had done the same with Jun Mobai's storage ring.

It had taken him no small degree of effort to take out these two cultivators, and Jiang Chen wasn't willing to tarry any longer. However, he didn't dare neglect caution as he walked up to the lofty palace in the lake and stared at it. After all, this brackish lake water was extremely corrosive. Even Lin Hai and Jun Mobai had been extremely fearful of it.

Jiang Chen might have cultivated the golden body of the Nine Transformations of Demons and Gods, but he still wasn't willing to test the corrosiveness of the lake water with his golden body. That was why he

used Lin Hai's flag to protect himself. Jiang Chen knew that this abode was absolutely not the same as the other buildings in the Paramount Realm. It was most likely a spatial abode that was naturally portable. Normally, a residence like this could only be made portable after refinement.

If he wished to refine this residence for himself, then he must first find its core. Only then he would be able to truly control it. Had it been any of the other experts from the Divine Abyss Continent, then they might've been fooled by this palace's appearance and thought it simply to be another building in the Paramount Realm. However, Jiang Chen possessed the knowledge and experience of his past life. He naturally wouldn't be fooled just by appearances.

Considering how little life force there was in the Paramount Realm, no one would be senseless enough to build a palace in this place. Moreover, this obviously wasn't a suitable place to establish a sect either. Lin Hai and Jun Mobai seemed to have used a certain secret art to lock onto the signs of Emperor Featherflight's consciousness.

Of course, a tracking method like this had its own limitations. If they hadn't entered the Paramount Realm or wandered close to this area, it would've been impossible to pick up any traces. Otherwise, Lin Hai and Jun Mobai wouldn't have sounded like they had searched futilely for Emperor Featherflight for thousands of years. Due to many concerns, they couldn't openly make a thorough search of the Myriad Domain. That was why they had no choice but to infiltrate the sects to search for Emperor Featherflight's whereabouts.

This Emperor Featherflight must have escaped to such an obscure place to avoid pursuit from the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital. Therefore, there must be plenty of traps inside. If I act recklessly, I may be attacked by them.

From Emperor Featherflight's point of view, he had every reason to lay all kinds of traps. After all, no one would like to see their inheritance happily taken away by their enemies after being hunted for such a long time. Jiang Chen was carefully on guard after entering the palace. The palace wasn't large, but it was a completely different world within.

"This place is truly grand. There is no way that a Titled Great Emperor could've refined a spatial abode like this. If this place truly is connected to Emperor Featherflight, then he certainly didn't create this place by himself." Jiang Chen guessed that Emperor Featherflight might have accidentally obtained an ancient inheritance. However, his discovery had also alerted the Eternal Celestial Capital and Ninesuns Sky Sect, and he had been viciously hunted down by the two sects as a result.

Jiang Chen unleashed his consciousness at full power as he tread on the palace's stone stairs, guarding against any possible mishaps. What Jiang Chen didn't expect was that the attacks and traps he'd expected to be thrown at him didn't happen. In fact, he didn't trigger any kind of restrictions at all no matter how carelessly he walked through the interior of the palace.

"How odd!" This situation almost made Jiang Chen disbelieve his senses. It was obvious that this palace abode contained some extremely powerful restrictions. However, none of them showed any signs of activating at all. Jiang Chen had been extremely experienced and knowledgeable in his past life, and so could more or less deduce the flows of power and restrictions inside the palace.

If these restrictions were in a state of high alert, then surely the energy in and around them would be balancing on a hair trigger, with barely suppressed activity. But the more he examined them, the more docile the restrictions looked. Not a single one seemed even primed to trigger, let alone be so sensitive to intruders.

“Could it be that Emperor Featherflight failed to refine this abode at all after he obtained it? Is that why he didn’t set these restrictions to automatically attack intruders?” Jiang Chen’s mind was filled with questions.

It was possible that Emperor Featherflight had been killed before he’d managed to refine the inheritance from the palace. Jiang Chen passed through many corridors and finally arrived at the back hall of the palace. Jiang Chen had just stepped foot over the entrance when he saw a corpse sitting cross-legged inside.

From a distance, the body looked like he was in a meditative state. The expression on his face looked as lifelike as ever. If it wasn’t for the fact that this man exuded no ripples of vitality whatsoever, Jiang Chen would have almost suspected that he was alive. His skin color and his countenance truly looked lifelike.

This man was sitting cross-legged with a grave expression on his face. It would seem that he didn’t even want death to mar his sense of style and pride. His face contained none of the struggles that a person would usually face on their deathbed.

“Is he Emperor Featherflight?” Jiang Chen looked behind the person and noted the stunning sight of a pair of wings. It was truly an incredible sight. This man truly was a Titled Great Emperor alright, considering that his body hadn’t rotted away even after a thousand years. Jiang Chen didn’t approach the body hastily. Instead, he stood far away and observed the body carefully. It only took him a moment to discover that there were no restrictions or traps around him at all.

Jiang Chen was now completely puzzled. If Emperor Featherflight had truly been forced to escape to a place like this, there was no way he would expose his body so openly and easily. It made even less sense that he wouldn’t arrange a little something to deal with his enemies.

Could it be that Emperor Featherflight had lost all ability to resist prior to his death?

It didn’t look that way either. If he could die looking this calm and collected, then he shouldn’t have been that powerless.

Jiang Chen approached him slowly. Then, he saw that a few words had been engraved on the floor before Emperor Featherflight.

A Notice For Those Who Come After:

“Mine name is Featherflight. I have travelled across the Divine Abyss Continent unhindered for thousands of years. Against any reasonable expectation, I was hunted down by the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital and ultimately wandered to this place. I have already burned out the wick of my life,, and have decided to use this place as my place of rebirth. I shall cast away my power and essence of a lifetime in hopes of entering the cycle of rebirth. To a person nearing his death, all gains and losses in this world are but a transient thing.

“A goose leaves behind its voice after its flight, but a man’s legacy after life is his name. I dominated the Divine Abyss Continent at one point, and was a hero of those times. Therefore, I shall leave behind my inheritance in hopes that my future heir will be able to spread the name of Emperor Featherflight and avenge me.

“My heir must eliminate the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital...”

Later on, Emperor Featherflight even detailed some of his experiences while he was being hunted by the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital, and some of the reasons he had chosen to escape to this place. He also explained some of the processes and the reason why he had chosen this lake bottom.

“I am a titled emperor, and I share no ties with the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital. The reason they hunted me was not because they wanted my martial dao inheritance, but because I obtained an ancient inheritance from a certain ancient secret realm. This ancient inheritance had been left behind by a great empyrean expert. However, not only did it contain an empyrean decree, but also a secret order of the legendary fate secret realm. The fate realm is said to be connected to the shores of the heavenly law. It allows a cultivator to connect directly with the heavenly law and ascend to the heavenly planes...”

For a time, Jiang Chen’s heart was filled with indescribable emotions as he read Emperor Featherflight’s last message. He had guessed that there would be something amazing like an empyrean decree amongst the goods, but he’d never dreamed that Emperor Featherflight would possess a secret order that would enable passage to the secret realm of heavenly laws too. *novε(lb.1n*

Jiang Chen might not have known the Divine Abyss Continent very well, but he did know that every physical plane had secret realms that were connected to the heavenly law.

Normally speaking, once an expert of a physical plane obtained the acknowledgement of the heavenly law, they would ascend to the heavenly plane through the normal channels of celestial orbit. Otherwise, if they hadn’t obtained this confirmation, then they would have to utilize secret realms to do so. Secret realms would give a cultivator the same chance to obtain the acknowledgement of heavenly laws, and ascend directly to the heavenly planes.

Chapter 683: Refining the Abode

Jiang Chen had conducted copious research into all sorts of physical planes in his past life. Many of the geniuses he’d encountered had actually ascended from these physical planes. As a result, he knew a great deal about those planes. This fate secret realm was likely a secret realm of the highest level on an ordinary plane like the Divine Abyss Continent. Something like this normally wouldn’t appear this easily. Its discovery would undoubtedly bring forth a world-shaking change to the ordinary plane it appeared in. After all, a path to the heavenly law might not appear even once in ten thousand years.

It was the first time that Jiang Chen had clearly seen the words ‘heavenly planes’ ever since his reincarnation. Although the message only mentioned the words without any sort of clarifying details, Jiang Chen still felt excitement begin to brew in his chest.

Even though the universe was vast, with plenty of heavenly planes, not to mention that the one connected to the Divine Abyss Continent might not have necessarily been the one that his father had

ruled in the past... Jiang Chen still couldn't help but feel much anticipation when he saw the words 'heavenly planes'.

A fate secret realm, empyrean decree and heavenly planes... These were all things far beyond the Myriad Domain. $n \cdot \sigma \cdot (v/e - \ell - (b/-1)/n)$

"No wonder the Eternal Celestial Capital and Ninesuns Sky Sect chased after him for a thousand years. No wonder they were willing to make preparations for a thousand years in the Myriad Domain. Their goal was these things." Jiang Chen had guessed from the beginning that it might be something like this. A first rank sect wouldn't have been this persistent if it'd only been Emperor Featherflight's inheritance they'd coveted.

After all, first rank sects weren't lacking in great emperors. In fact, they all had quite a few great emperors. They had even more emperor cultivators who had ascended to the emperor realm, but hadn't yet obtained a title. There was no way Emperor Featherflight's inheritance would be this attractive to a first rank sect. At the end of the message, Emperor Featherflight emphasized again that his heir must eliminate the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital.

It was evident from this inscription the depths of hatred Emperor Featherflight bore towards the two sects. After all, the reason he'd died from his injuries was entirely because of the relentless pursuit of these two sects. Yet, Jiang Chen couldn't help but feel the tiniest sense of odd.

He didn't doubt that Emperor Featherflight hated these two sects very much, but there was still something that didn't sit right with these words.

If these inscriptions had been directed at an ordinary heir, then everything written here would be logical and perfectly understandable. However, Emperor Featherflight shouldn't have been entertaining the notion that his heir would be an ordinary person. He should have been focusing on the high likelihood that the Eternal Celestial Capital and Ninesuns Sky Sect would find him. After all, in the situation in which he was being hunted down without rest, they were the ones most likely to track him down. Wouldn't all his inscriptions be useless then?

Once those of the Ninesuns Sky Sect or Eternal Celestial Capital barged in, who would give a damn about his carved words? His inheritance would be robbed like taking candy from a baby! In fact, they might even go as far as to humiliate Emperor Featherflight's body. Jiang Chen stopped when he thought up to this point. With Emperor Featherflight's intelligence, it was impossible that he wouldn't notice such an enormous flaw in his plans.

The fact that Emperor Featherflight had been able to escape the pursuit of two sects and enter the Paramount Realm proved that he was definitely an intelligent and courageous expert. How could he possibly not consider the notion that the first person to enter this place could be someone from the Ninesuns Sky Sect or Eternal Celestial Capital? If that happened, wouldn't his last words become a joke?

"If I was Emperor Featherflight, I would never overlook such an enormous flaw in my plans. I would absolutely come up with a way to trick these two sects into a trap." Jiang Chen put himself in the emperor realm cultivator's shoes. If it'd been him, he would never let his opponent have the last laugh. That was why Jiang Chen hadn't touched Emperor Featherflight's inheritance recklessly, even though they were right behind the cultivator.

"I mustn't act recklessly. Emperor Featherflight must've done this for a good reason. Perhaps he put his inheritance behind him to seduce the people of these two sects to take them." Jiang Chen could almost imagine the entire palace exploding the second he touched those items carelessly. Looking at how powerful the restrictions in this palace were, he was sure that he wouldn't be able to resist a full power blow from the restrictions at his current level. In fact, even a Titled Great Emperor might not be able to endure an empyrean cultivator's defenses. This palace abode was obviously the work of an empyrean cultivator. Emperor Featherflight had merely owned it for a while.

Although Jiang Chen wanted very much to take these treasures for himself, he suppressed the impulse in the end and decided to find the core of the palace first. Emperor Featherflight must have refined the palace before. The palace had then become masterless once more after Emperor Featherflight had passed on. If Jiang Chen could find its core, he could refine it just like Emperor Featherflight had and become its master. Once he had refined the palace, it would be completely under his control. When that comes to be, all the traps Emperor Featherflight had prepared would come to light.

"Mm, let's do it this way. I cannot act as Emperor Featherflight thought his intruders would, or I will definitely fall into his trap." Jiang Chen was very sober and very rational at the moment. He knew that he must obey his logic rather than be led by the nose by Emperor Featherflight. Although Emperor Featherflight's last message had no obvious signs of guidance, Jiang Chen had deduced that it might be all an act to seduce the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital into a trap.

If he'd been someone from the two sects and didn't know how this type of portable residence worked, there was a high likelihood that he might've rashly gone forward. If that really was a trap set up by Emperor Featherflight, then the consequences would've been too awful to contemplate.

Jiang Chen made four full patrols of the interior, probing every detail. If it'd been any other Divine Abyss Continent genius, they would have no idea what to do at all. The youngsters of this world possessed limited knowledge. They had no clear recognition of an empyrean cultivator's work. Only an expert would have an inkling of an idea as to what this palace was, and thankfully Jiang Chen's insight exceeded that of even an empyrean cultivator. This was his greatest advantage.

Jiang Chen set his sights on three rather suspicious locations about four hours later. Those particular locations looked rather innocuous, and wasn't particularly distinct from any other part of the palace. From his point of view and analysis, he was sure that one of these three locations was the palace's core. Since he had observed many refinings in his past, he was rather familiar with how artisans were inspired and their trail of thought. There was no doubt that these three places befitted an expert's mindset the most.

The first place Jiang Chen probed into with his consciousness didn't respond to him. But when he probed into the second spot, he immediately confirmed that it was the right place.

"This is it!" He was overjoyed. Although he had never experienced this feeling personally in the past, he'd heard countless people describing it. He knew that he had discovered the palace's core. As he expected, he felt immediate feedback coming from the palace the moment he filled it with his consciousness and attempted to refine it. Thanks to his past life, he quickly understood how he should proceed. As Jiang Chen continued to refine the core, the palace's response grew incredibly intense.

Reams of information and data related to the palace poured into his mind. It was quite the amazing experience.

“Haha, I knew that this was a portable abode. Mm, as I thought, this residence’s creator is an empyrean expert. In fact, he’s a mid rank empyrean expert... Unbelievable, this mid rank empyrean expert is actually a Divine Abyss Continent expert from two hundred thousand years ago?! Tsk tsk, the ancient age certainly has an illustrious history.” Jiang Chen was amazed as he scanned through the information.

He also guessed that Emperor Featherflight had only managed to refine a small portion of the palace. He hadn’t refined the abode completely. Otherwise, he could have used the palace to fight against those two sects. He could’ve even used the power of restrictions inside the palace to destroy his pursuers. According to the information left behind, the castle possessed tremendously powerful restrictions. No one beneath the empyrean realm could be expected to survive once those were activated. Of course, it wasn’t easy to activate the restrictions.

With the amount of resources remaining inside, it could attack three times at most. Once all three times were exhausted, he would have to find a new source of spirit power. Only then would he be able to reactivate the restrictions. It was obvious that Emperor Featherflight hadn’t mastered this knowledge when he’d refined the palace.

“The empyrean expert who created the palace was truly amazing. If I hadn’t possessed the memories of my past life and known some heavenly level refinement methods, I would have likely been met with the same fate as Emperor Featherflight. I wouldn’t have known about everything the palace contains.” Jiang Chen suddenly felt a great sense of contentment. He knew that he had made it big this time. Setting aside the value of the palace itself, its offensive and defensive powers alone were worth a first rank sect in the Divine Abyss Continent.

“It’s unfortunate that Emperor Featherflight hadn’t spent much time refining the palace. It had been too late when he discovered that it possessed offensive capabilities.” Jiang Chen realized this immediately after he’d finished. Emperor Featherflight had mastered the restrictions, but only in the end. His inheritances had been linked perfectly with them.

For a moment or two, Jiang Chen felt fear curl its clammy fingers around his heart, “It was indeed a trap. If I’d given in to temptation and grabbed the treasure immediately back then, I would’ve ended up taking the hit meant for the Ninesuns Sky Sect and the Eternal Celestial Capital.” It would’ve been a terrible way to die. But now, he had made the palace his own. Every scrap of information about the palace was filtering into his mind, including Emperor Featherflight’s misery.

“My apologies, Emperor Featherflight. From this day onwards, the palace shall fall under my surname Jiang. But don’t worry, the Ninesuns Sky Sect and I have been enemies for a long time. I’ll avenge you. As for the Eternal Celestial Capital, I wouldn’t mind taking them out in passing if they’re stupid enough to provoke me...” For a time, Jiang Chen was feeling very pleased with this whole encounter.

Taking the palace had benefited him greatly. Unfortunately, the palace’s previous master had already used up one of the three restriction attacks set by its creator. It only had two charges left now, Once the two charges were used up, the restrictions would lose their effect. If he wished to activate them once more, the amount of resources required to do so would be absolutely shocking. Even Jiang Chen’s

current wealth wouldn't be enough to fill one twentieth of the resources needed to activate one attack. It would be literally trying to put out a burning cart of firewood with a cup of water.

Chapter 684: Two Inheritances

Although there were only two charges left, they represented two life-saving chances. As more information about the palace flooded through his mind, Jiang Chen gained a better understanding of the residence and the one who'd created it. The mid rank empyrean cultivator was called Guo Ran. But of course, there was no information about the creator within the residence other than his name. He'd obviously passed on within the palace, and had also left behind his empyrean decree somewhere inside. Apart from his own decree, there was a secret order that looked like a silver key. Its unremarkable design gave no hint of the turmoil that had revolved around it.

"Is this secret order the way to the fate secret realm?" Jiang Chen knew that secret orders used to enter secret realms came in various forms. Some were keys, others talismans, and yet others proofs of identity. If one barged in without a secret order, then the restrictions within the secret realm would activate to attack the unauthorized intruder. If the secret realm really was that amazing, then Jiang Chen decided that he would go adventure in one no matter what. It could lead him directly to the shores of the heavenly law. If he could communicate with it, then maybe he could head for the heavenly planes.

"Whether or not the secret realm really exists, I must keep the order safe. I can't venture forth into the secret realm with my current strength, but with this, I'll be able to enter whenever its corresponding secret realm appears." In Jiang Chen's eyes, the secret order was even more valuable than the empyrean decree. Although the decree would turn Titled Great Emperors into dogs fighting over a bone, it paled in comparison to a genuine secret order.

It was still a mystery currently whether there were any empyrean cultivators in the Divine Abyss Continent. At least, Jiang Chen hadn't come into contact with any yet even given his unique position in the Myriad Domain. It was similarly unknown whether there were any empyrean realm cultivators in the first rank sects either. However, even if there were any in the Upper Eight Regions, they would be as rare as phoenix feathers and dragon scales. It was likely that not a single one had appeared in the last thousand years. Many Titled Great Emperors had no hopes of gaining recognition from the heavenly dao through their own cultivation, so refining the empyrean decree left behind from others was the best way to ascend to the empyrean realm. Therefore, a bloodbath would always occur whenever an empyrean decree appeared as numerous Titled Great Emperors stirred to action. This was also why such things had to remain hidden.

The secret order of the fate secret realm, an empyrean order, and the palace abode. These were the three inheritances left behind by the ancient empyrean realm cultivator Guo Ran. Any of them would be an ultimate treasure in the Divine Abyss Continent.

"To think that the Ninesuns Sky Sect's setup for a thousand years ended up benefiting me in the end!" Jiang Chen had the urge to throw his head back in laughter when he thought of this. He didn't have the slightest iota of kindness towards the Sky Sect, particularly after the multiple grudges they'd formed. They'd long since formed a feud to the death. Therefore, not only did Jiang Chen not feel embarrassed about taking their fruits of labor, but he even had the sweet thrill of revenge.

The connection between the palace and Emperor Featherflight was completely erased after Jiang Chen refined the core. This meant that all of the cultivator's defenses had been rendered useless. After Jiang Chen buried Emperor Featherflight's remains, he also picked up the cultivator's inheritance as well. It'd be a waste to just leave it there, anyhow. Although Emperor Featherflight had been a rogue cultivator, he was no simple character to be able to train to the level of Titled Great Emperor just based off his own potential and luck.

There were many reasons behind Emperor Featherflight's fame. The first was his set of wings. Imbued with thunder and wind attributes, they'd allowed him to soar high above the clouds with the speed of thunder and that agility of the wind. His speed was considered top notch even amongst Titled Great Emperors. If the two first rank sects hadn't flung every kind of trap and ambush in his path when pursuing him, they wouldn't have been able to even catch his heels when he fled. Then again, he wouldn't have perished if it hadn't been for his injuries. After he'd been grievously injured, he'd called upon his wings to carry him to safety, without thinking of the price that that would exact. These wings were primarily why he'd been renowned throughout the Divine Abyss Continent.

A method called the "Featherflight Tactics" were to be used in conjunction with the wings. It enabled the cultivator to dash to and fro like a gust of wind or crack of thunder, coming and going like a shadow. It was almost impossible to guard against it. In addition, Emperor Featherflight had a famous blade technique called the "Featherflight Blade" which had complemented his Featherflight Tactics, While still carrying the momentum of wind and thunder, the blade would drift through the air like a feather. An instant was all it took for the blade to morph from heavy to light, quick to slow, creating a bizarre style of swordplay that had secured its place as one of the most impressive techniques in the Divine Abyss Continent. n)(OVEL&1n

Emperor Featherflight had yet another treasure called the Featherflight Mirror. This treasure could greatly decrease the opponent's speed during battle if it could hit them with its light. No matter how fast they were, it had an absolute effect. The Featherflight Emperor had crossed paths with many other Titled Great Emperors back in his day, and the combination of the Featherflight Mirror and Blade had enabled him to kill many opponents on the same level. The Featherflight Mirror had been instrumental in helping him break through the encirclement of multiple Titled Great Emperors when they'd united to pursue him. It was because of all these treasures and methods together that Emperor Featherflight had risen above the pack of countless Titled Great Emperors.

Most ordinary Titled Great Emperors were no match for Emperor Featherflight, even if they were born of rich and powerful sects. Emperor Featherflight had possessed enormous luck indeed, as he'd accidentally obtained the inheritance of an ancient empyrean realm cultivator. This was the opportunity of a lifetime! But it'd because of this that he'd also attracted fatal attention. At least ten Titled Great Emperors had been sent by the two first rank sects to hunt him down. That battle had forced the Featherflight Emperor to utilize every scrap of his ability to escape alive, albeit injured. But he'd managed to throw them off his scent when he entered the Myriad Domain.

They'd speculated wildly, thinking that he'd made it through the Myriad Domain and entered the desolate wilderness. That area wasn't human territory, so even first rank sects didn't dare enter rashly. They'd also considered the Paramount Realm, but felt that the minuscule amount of life energy within the Myriad Domain wouldn't be able to support a Titled Great Emperor for so long. Add to the fact that it'd been the Myriad Empire's era back then, so it wasn't exactly an easy proposition to bully the Myriad

Domain into compliance. Forcefully entering the Paramount Realm might have alarmed the Myriad Empire and started a chain reaction. They might even be forced to expose Emperor Featherflight's secret. Therefore, whether it was the Ninesuns Sky Sect or the Eternal Celestial Capital, both had been very quiet as they covertly started searching, not daring to alarm the local authorities.

It wasn't until a hundred years that the two sects finally thought of planting their own people into the Myriad Domain and having their young geniuses search the Paramount Realm. Their spies had actually made it in during previous Grand Ceremonies, but had come up empty-handed. It wasn't until this particular ceremony when Lin Hai and Jun Mobai drew upon the experiences of their predecessors and avoided the routes previously searched that they'd finally found something.

But it all fell into Jiang Chen's hands in the end. Emperor Featherflight's inheritances were an easy matter, but it took him half a day to refine the wings. He barely managed to put his own stamp on them, and it'd likely take roughly five years to thoroughly refine the wings. Of course, Jiang Chen was in no hurry for results. It wasn't realistic to think that one could thoroughly refine the personal treasures of a Titled Great Emperor in just a few minutes.

When he took stock of the time, he noted that roughly seven days had passed since he'd entered the realm. Jiang Chen decided to leave the Paramount Realm early. He was still anxious to know what was going on in the outside world despite being in the Paramount Realm. He had a premonition that something would happen during this ceremony. He couldn't quite put his finger on what, but knew that it wouldn't be pleasant. Hence, he didn't want to waste time after receiving the inheritances.

Once the palace was refined, he could shrink it down to the size of a mustard and put it away. Jiang Chen followed the instructions left behind by the previous owner and turned the palace into a pinprick of light that floated into Jiang Chen's consciousness.

When he walked out of the palace, Jiang Chen kicked Lin Hai and Jun Mobai's remains into the brackish lake waters. With the corrosive ability of the lake water, the two would quickly dissolve into nothing before long. The Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital would glean nothing even if they tracked the disciples down here. They would never find out that Emperor Featherflight had passed here a thousand years ago.

Jiang Chen walked outside once he'd put everything in order. The transcendent region was enormous. He would've very likely gotten lost had it not been for the guidance of the jade token. He wanted to find a transportation point and crush the token to transport himself out of the Paramount Realm. He didn't want to spend a second more than he had to in a place with almost no life energy.

Hmm?

As he was making his way out, he froze. It almost sounded like someone was calling his name. He had to be hearing things. The transcendent region had almost an oppressive silence, with not a hint of sound. And yet, that call was only becoming clearer and clearer.

"Jiang Chen you cowardly bastard! Do you not care about the life of your little lover? Do you still hide now that that wench Ling Bi'er is in my hands? If you don't appear within twenty four hours, I'll be the first to enjoy her, and then everyone here will take their turn one after another..."

Jiang Chen had heard it clearly this time, it was Wang Han! Why is it Wang Han? How did this kid get into the Paramount Realm?

Chapter 685: Encounter on a Narrow Path

If I remember correctly, this brat should've scrambled back to the Sacred Sword Palace already. Suddenly, Jiang Chen realized, "Great changes must be taking place in the outside world as we expected. Otherwise, the Myriad Domain sects wouldn't have let the Sacred Sword Palace enter the Paramount Realm."

He felt somewhat anxious when his thoughts travelled up to this point. Killing intent also surged at the same time. Regardless of the nature of this upheaval, Jiang Chen was almost certain that the Sacred Sword Palace was colluding with external forces. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to overcome either the Regal Pill Palace and the Dark North Sect with their power alone, let alone the Great Cathedral. It was even less possible for them to act so brazenly in the transcendent region of the Paramount Realm.

"Haha, Jiang Chen, this Ling Bi'er is quite a tantalizing wench. Which youth in the Myriad Domain doesn't lust after her? How much of a commotion would it be if I disrobe her? Tell me, how many lush green hats would he have to wear if the goddess of the Myriad Domain is so promiscuous that any man can be her husband?" Wang Han's tone was filled with extreme resentment. It was obvious that he was filled with hatred for Jiang Chen and wanted to take it all out on Ling Bi'er.

Jiang Chen was immensely incensed. If Wang Jianyu hadn't suddenly intervened during their last battle, he would already have killed Wang Han in the arena. As expected, a snake not beaten to death would swing back for a bite.

"Wang Han you little bastard, it looks like you've steeled your heart to go against me!" Jiang Chen's heart grew flinty as killing intent surged and roared against Wang Han. This move from the Sacred Sword Palace disciple had crossed over Jiang Chen's bottom line. The kind of opponents Jiang Chen hated most in his life were those who tried to threaten him by taking the people by his side as hostage. As his senior sister, Ling Bi'er was one of the people he had the closest relationship with in the Regal Pill Palace. Although they didn't share the kind of relationship stated by Wang Han, Jiang Chen knew that this senior sister treated him very well. In his heart, Jiang Chen regarded Ling Bi'er as someone he had to protect.

Regardless of whether or not Ling Bi'er had truly fallen into Wang Han's hands, the words he'd just spoken were enough to cause Jiang Chen come to a resolute decision—Wang Han had to die! Although he was supremely furious, Jiang Chen did not lose his rationality. Wang Han surely had some sort of support since he'd dared jeer with such unbridled wanton. It was very possible that his backer wasn't as simple as a mere Wang Jianyu. Jiang Chen believed that Wang Han wouldn't have been able to enter the Paramount Realm if Wang Jianyu alone was his greatest backer. A stronger patron must have appeared, a force that even the Grand Cathedral's Xiang Wentian couldn't resist.

"Can it be that... the Ninesuns Sky Sect had finally discarded all pretenses of cordiality?" Jiang Chen's heart was full of questions. Considering Emperor Featherflight's matter, it was unlikely that the Ninesun Sky Sect would erupt in open hostility like this and launch an open invasion. If the Sky Sect were to

openly launch an invasion, it would no doubt invite the attention of the other first rank sects. That was completely incompatible with their plans.

“If not the Ninesuns Sky Sect, then... the Eternal Celestial Capital?” Jiang Chen shook his head at the thought of this. The Ninesuns Sky Sect and Eternal Celestial Capital were in similar situations. They would have to scheme in secret if they wanted to become involved. They would never invade blatantly.

Wang Han’s voice and wanton snickering came through constantly. His words were filled with unbearable obscenities, thoroughly displaying his wretched personality. Suddenly, Ling Bi’er’s cold and clear voice cut through the air. “Wang Han, your loud cries only serve to prove your guilty conscience. To think that the vaunted first genius of the Sacred Sword Palace would be so miserably base. What a thorough disgrace! Even if you’ve found yourself an emperor realm backer, it doesn’t change the fact that you’re a failure. Even if you recognize the Great Scarlet Emperor as your godfather, you will always be a failure in front of Jiang Chen.”

Jiang Chen’s expression turned solemn after hearing Ling Bi’er’s voice. *It is indeed senior sister Ling Bi’er!* Fires of fury surged in his heart along with boundless killing intent.

“Wang Han, Wang Han!” Jiang Chen repeated the name under his breath as a murderous chill flashed through his eyes. The bastard had thoroughly enraged Jiang Chen!

He was able calm himself down after some effort without losing his rationality. He knew that Ling Bi’er’s words were actually intended as a warning. The Great Scarlet Mid Region, emperor realm cultivators...

Jiang Chen was shaken; he never thought that the invaders would be from the Great Scarlet Mid Region. Could it be that history from six hundred years ago was about to repeat itself? The situation had become increasingly complex with the invasion of the Great Scarlet Mid Region.

“Great Scarlet Mid Region... Great Scarlet Mid Region,” As the fires of wrath leapt and crackled, his mind calmed down instead. He was now aware of the enemy and the direction he should be taking. Not only was the Great Scarlet Mid Region neighbor to the Myriad Domain, but there was also deep animosity between the two. An open invasion did not come as a surprise.

But, with what kind of pretense were they raising their banner this time? During the invasion six hundred years ago, the Great Scarlet Mid Region claimed to be avenging the Myriad Empire violation of a Great Scarlet sacred girl. Despite being a lousy excuse, it had served as a justification. What would be their excuse this time? However, another question popped up in his mind, “If the Great Scarlet Mid Region has truly invaded, it’s not surprising that the Sacred Sword Palace would shamelessly defect. However, how could Wang Han possess enough prestige to have an emperor level expert from the Great Scarlet Mid Region accompany him while in kicking up this ruckus? Could it be that they’ve come specifically for me?” Jiang Chen didn’t believe Wang Han possessed such charisma.

It was more than likely that the emperor level expert from the Great Scarlet Mid Region had come for him. Wang Han must have tagged along as the cannon fodder leading the charge. Jiang Chen was at solemn attention after thinking it over. Even though he didn’t know why Great Scarlet wanted find him specifically, he guessed that it probably had something to do with the sky ranked herbs he had obtained from the ancient herb garden. It could even be related to the Longevity Pill.

Being the Great Scarlet Mid Region, they would have surely obtained this information. It would be easy to lock onto him. As for him being in the Paramount Realm, it was most likely that those from the Sacred Sword Palace had leaked the information. Jiang Chen had sensed by this time that Wang Han's party was gradually approaching his location. They were separated by five kilometers at most.

Receiving absolutely no response after a stream of excessive provocation, Wang Han glared ferociously at Ling Bi'er. "Cheap woman, don't think that your little tricks will be able to escape everyone's notice. You want to notify Jiang Chen and help him escape, didn't you? Tsk tsk, what deep affection. Unfortunately, that bastard has been scared out of his wits and has already forgotten about chivalry. He's hiding in a corner somewhere with his tail between his legs, let alone caring about your wellbeing!"

Ling Bi'er sniffed disdainfully, "It's beneath me to talk to such a shameless person."

Wang Han was infuriated. "You little bitch! Trying to act chaste even now huh?? Just wait 24 hours and see how I'll train and humiliate you. You'll want to die from wanting me so much then! Haha, I can't wait to see that happen!"

Although she shivered with fright within, Ling Bi'er's demeanor was just as apathetic. She glanced at Qin Mo indifferently. "Senior, when I agreed to follow you, I stated that my condition wasn't to be humiliated. If the senior does not keep his word—and since this junior cannot outfight you—I can only detonate my spirit then."

Qin Mo laughed blandly. "Lass, are you trying to threaten me? Remember that if we do not catch Jiang Chen, I won't let you die peacefully either, much less Wang Han!"

The old man had been searching the transcendent region for so long, yet Jiang Chen was nowhere to be found. He was filled with frustration at continuously turning up empty-handed. Although he had suppressed his life-force and was able to reduce the drain on his vitality to that of a sage realm expert, he was becoming increasingly upset about the endless expenditure. After all, his losses would be great if he couldn't capture Jiang Chen. He would have obtained a couple of sky and a great deal of earth ranked spirit herbs if he had chosen to chase after the Regal Pill Palace.

He had come to hunt Jiang Chen because of potential profits. Moreover, Jiang Chen was the person that the Great Scarlet Emperor had specifically wanted. He would've lost this gamble if he didn't end up catching Jiang Chen. This undoubtedly caused him to feel rather dejected.

He had held back from pressuring Ling Bi'er along the way because he was confident that he would be able to thoroughly suppress this first level sage realm junior with his third level emperor realm strength. As such, he felt it wasn't worth breaking his promise. Those pledges would no longer be important once he captured Jiang Chen. With Sect Head Qin Mo's violent nature, how would he then let things be and treat Ling Bi'er nicely?

Ling Bi'er's expression froze slightly after hearing those words. But the resolution in her heart remained absolutely unshaken. She was actually roughly seventy percent certain that she could escape from Sect Head Qin Mo's grasp using Senior Shao Yin's escape talismans. But she didn't want to accept this kind of outcome. She wanted to escape together with Jiang Chen after she found him. And thus, she was fine taking the risk and waiting for Jiang Chen to appear. She would wait until the closing of the Paramount Realm regardless of the cost.

“Master, this base wench has alerted Jiang Chen. Why don’t we seal her mouth first?” Wang Han was quite upset and wanted to add fuel to the fire.

Sect Head Qin Mo waved his hand. “No need. Let her cry out, the louder the better. From your description, this Jiang Chen appears to be a person who values friendship and loyalty. He will not flee if he hears her.”

Wang Han felt somewhat awkward after hearing this. Even his master was praising Jiang Chen’s loyalty. Comparatively, he himself had immediately defected after seeing the experts of the Great Scarlet Mid Region. The difference between them was too great. Ling Bi’er’s admonition that he would always be a failure before Jiang Chen stung deep. He also knew it was true, although he didn’t want to admit to it. This was why he’d turned to anger in the depths of his embarrassment.

Wang Han’s mouth moved as if he wanted to say something. However, Sect Head Qin Mo’s expression suddenly changed, the corners of his mouth shifting into a bizarre smile.

“Wang Han, Wang Jianyu, keep an eye on this lass and make your way west.” No sooner had his orders been issued did Sect Head Qin Mo transform into a golden tempest, sweeping towards the distance. n)(0VEL&1n

Wang Jianyu cackled evilly as he moved forward to seize Ling Bi’er. Her expression changed abruptly as she crushed the talisman in her hand. With an evasive flash, she vanished into thin air.

Chapter 686: The Stalwart Lin Bi’er

Damn it! When he saw what had transpired, Wang Jianyu immediately chased after the fading light. Wang Han’s face also drained of all color. He would’ve started cursing if Wang Jianyu wasn’t his grandfather.

“After her!” Wang Han instructed with a wave of his hand. Those from the Sacred Sword Palace were all ashen-faced and didn’t dare to express the slightest dissent. They were all elders of the Sacred Sword Palace and by no means inferior to Wang Han, but Wang Han’s position now was even higher than Wang Jianyu’s, after becoming Sect Head Qin Mo’s disciple. Who would dare disobey him? Everyone left in pursuit of Ling Bi’er.

A majestic palace suddenly appeared in the desert after five kilometers. It towered over the yellow sands and measured over hundreds of acres in area. In the lead, Sect Head Qin Mo halted his pursuit about a thousand meters away and stared at the awe-inspiring palace. His expression was filled with momentary surprise. He hadn’t expected that such a magnificent palace would exist within the transcendent region of the Paramount Realm. *What’s the purpose of constructing such a palace in a realm devoid of life force?* He was even more astonished to see the silhouette of a person standing before the palace. The figure appeared young, but possessed a significant presence. “Jiang Chen?” Sect Head Qin Mo cried out with surprise.

Jiang Chen only returned a cold gaze, “And who might you be? If I remember correctly, there is no one of your caliber within the Myriad Domain.”

Sect Head Qin Mo laughed loudly. “Good, good, good... I hadn’t expected that someone so courageous could be found amongst the younger generation of the Myriad Domain. I wonder, are you blind or is it ignorant confidence?”

Wang Jianyu’s and his party arrived one after another as they were talking. The former’s eyes were full of terror. “Sir, the... the girl...”

Sect Head Qin Mo’s expression turned frosty. “Where is she?”

“Honored master, that crafty wench actually possessed an escape talisman. She crushed it instantly and escaped in a flash of light.” Wang Han’s tone was both exasperated and irate.

Sect Head Qin Mo glared furiously at Wang Jianyu, “Useless trash!”

Wang Jianyu could only lower his head without a word, he didn’t dare retort at all. He felt rather aggrieved. *You were the one who wanted to pretend you’re all that and not put restrictions on her! How would she have the opportunity to slip away otherwise?*

However, Sect Head Qin Mo then grinned, “Let it be. The girl is no longer significant since the star of the show has already appeared.”

Wang Han’s eyebrows twitched after seeing Jiang Chen standing before the palace. He was first astonished, but then ecstatic. “Jiang Chen, you animal! It seems that you do like to play the protector of maidens.”

Jiang Chen’s expression was indifferent. “Wang Han, I would tuck my tail behind me and behave myself if I were you. It seems that I’ve overestimated your moral principles. I didn’t expect that you would immediately defect, and recognize the thief as your father. However, this relationship is quite messed up. Since Wang Jianyu is your grandfather and now you have recognized the Great Scarlet Emperor as your godfather, wouldn’t that make Wang Jianyu the emperor’s father?”

Wang Jianyu’s expression changed drastically after hearing these words. He was filled with terror. How could he not know that Jiang Chen was trying to trip him up? Jiang Chen wanted to roast him on an open fire! Although the bit about Wang Han recognizing the Great Scarlet emperor as his godfather was nonsense, it was an undeniable fact that he had taken Sect Head Qin Mo as his master. Since he was Wang Han’s grandfather, he was indeed Sect Head Qin Mo’s senior. Wang Jianyu immediately began to sweat.

Sect Head Qin Mo was apathetic and unmoved by these words. He stared at Jiang Chen with cold eyes before cackling cruelly, “Brat, you have quite the glib tongue.”

No sooner had he spoken than the corners of his mouth abruptly lifted into an odd smile. Suddenly—seven zither strings shot out with a lift of his hand and rushed toward the sky, akin to the convergence of seven stars. The skyrocketing strings churned up light with boundless radiance as they intersected in the air, forming a fine, inescapable net which locked down the area.

“Get down here!” Sect Head Qin Mo shouted and pressed down with a single hand. Suddenly, a beam of light in sky crashed into the net of interwoven zither strings.

Sizzle... Sizzle... Ear piercing sounds rang out as the light was deterred by the zither string net. A figure fell out from within the light—Ling Bi'er.

Sect Head Qin Mo laughed loudly as he transformed one of his hands into an enormous palm of spirit energy and caught Ling Bi'er as she fell. Things developed swiftly within the time it took for a spark to fly off a flint stone. It was only a breath's time from the moment Sect Head Qin Mo took action until Ling Bi'er was recaptured. Even an expert such as Wang Jianyu hadn't realized who Sect Head Qin Mo was targeting. They only realized what had happened when Ling Bi'er was caught in midair. They were completely taken aback by astonishment and they couldn't help but admire the strength and abilities of the emperor realm expert.

The distant Jiang Chen had taken precautions the moment Sect Head Qin Mo made his move, but immediately realized afterwards that the target wasn't him. Ling Bi'er's light had already been trapped by the time he reacted. He'd originally been delighted after hearing Wang Jianyu's words, thinking that Ling Bi'er had already escaped. Unexpectedly, Ling Bi'er had turned back only to be captured once again.

"Haha, this lass is so blindly devoted. You have obviously escaped and yet you come back to die. Could it be that you want to go on the run with this brat like a pair of mandarin ducks?" Hints of glee could be discerned from Sect Head Qin Mo's laugh. He was overly proud of his extraordinary strength.

He'd been slightly worried that Jiang Chen also possessed a similarly powerful escape talisman. Qin Mo might have been able to hunt Jiang Chen down in the outside world if he'd utilized such a powerful escape talisman to flee, but with the weak life energy within the Paramount Realm, he wasn't fully confident about chasing after Jiang Chen. Now that Ling Bi'er had returned, he had gained another trump card. Jiang Chen wouldn't run away now even if he had the means. *This girl returned for you after a escaping successfully. Would you have the heart to abandon your lover and flee?*

"Jiang Chen, even this old man can't help but praise the girl's affection and loyalty. You have quite the charisma to be able to gain this exquisite young lady's unwavering devotion. She came back for you regardless of her own safety. Tell me, should this old man fulfill your wishes and let the two of you die together?" Sect Head Qin Mo laughed calmly, his fearless gaze fixed on Jiang Chen.

Ling Bi'er had originally wanted to return secretly and escape together with Jiang Chen. Alas, she had carelessly fallen back into Sect Head Qin Mo's hands. Anxiety burning in her heart, Ling Bi'er cried out, "Junior brother, forget about me and leave quickly! The Great Scarlet Mid Region has launched a full scale invasion and the fate of the Myriad Domain is unknown. Leave quickly and preserve your own life so that you can avenge everyone later on!" Ling Bi'er gave no thought for her survival and even felt somewhat guilty. She felt that her good intentions had dragged Jiang Chen down. At this moment, she only wanted Jiang Chen to leave quickly. It would lessen her guilt if Jiang Chen wasn't implicated by her mistake.

Wang Han was actually afraid that Jiang Chen would indeed abandon Ling Bi'er and flee. He laughed coldly, "Jiang Chen, didn't you have quite the glib tongue just now? Why not throw your weight around a bit more? This tramp is so devoted to you. Do you have the heart to abandon her?" Despite being rather nervous, he was still composed. Ideas flashed through his mind and he devised a plan in an instant.

“Wang Han, the likes of you who recognizes a thief as your father is not worthy of speaking to me.” Jiang Chen’s gaze shifted to Sect Head Qin Mo, “What position do you hold within the Great Scarlet Mid Region?”

Sect Head Qin Mo laughed loudly, “Brat, are you trying to get information out of me? In that case, I’ll play along with you—this old man is the sect head of the Zither Sect.”

“Zither Sect...” Jiang Chen nodded apathetically. “Noted. Now, tell me what you want.”

Jiang Chen couldn’t use force with Ling Bi’er in the enemy’s hands. Sect Head Qin Mo gazed calmly at Jiang Chen, also thinking of what to say. On the contrary, it was Wang Han who spoke. “First, present all the sky, earth ranked herbs and the recipe to the Longevity Pill to my master!”

The corners of Jiang Chen’s mouth twitched into a cold sneer, obviously disdainful of Wang Han. He raised his brows and addressed Sect Head Qin Mo, “Is the Zither Sect master so lacking in successors that he requires this kind of petty person to speak for him?”

Sect Head Qin Mo smiled indifferently, “Kid, there is no need to sow dissension between us. That type of move is useless against this old man. Wang Han’s words are my words—hand over the items.”

The old man was full of schemes and adept at maintaining a poker face. Wang Han was delighted after hearing these words.

It was Jiang Chen’s turn to be contemplative. The old man was impenetrable to persuasion and seemed difficult to deal with. This was Jiang Chen’s first time confronting an emperor realm cultivator. However, he wasn’t flustered and spoke with a tranquil smile, “Do you wish to bully me due to my young age? Or do you think I’m an idiot? You chased me all the way into the Paramount Realm in order to get your hands on the spirit herbs and pill recipe, disregarding all costs. If I handed them over to you just like that, wouldn’t I be throwing my life away?”

Sect Head Qin Mo cackled, “Then you wish to see this old man personally ‘handle’ this delicate and beautiful senior sister of yours?”

Jiang Chen’s expression turned frosty. “I have nothing to lose since things have developed thus. You are an emperor realm expert and we have no means of fighting against you. If you harm my senior sister, then I’ll just destroy all the spirit herbs and go down fighting. Since my senior sister has chosen loyalty over survival, I will respond in kind. However, if you want to take the herbs from me easily, dream on!”

Jiang Chen’s intention was clear; he would go down in flames with everyone if things came to that. *No matter how tyrannical you are, the most you will get out of this is our deaths. Don’t even dream about leaving with all the herbs intact!*

Sect Head Qin Mo started. This was what he feared the most. If Jiang Chen wasn’t cooperative and decided to destroy all the herbs, it would be meaningless even if he killed the disciple a hundred times over. Qin Mo’s main reason for entering the Paramount Realm was to claim the earth and sky ranked spirit herbs, along with the recipe for the Longevity Pill. There would be no point to killing the two Regal Pill Palace juniors if all of those things were destroyed. As for humiliating Ling Bi’er, it would only serve to vent the resentment of people like Wang Han. There was no significance in this act for him.

Chapter 687: The Terrifying Power of Restriction

Sect Head Qin Mo's expression sank, "What do you want to do, Jiang Chen?"

Jiang Chen didn't respond and took out a stalk of sky rank spirit herb with a cold laugh instead. Then, he replied in a remote, disinterested tone, "This is the first stalk of a sky rank spirit herb. If my senior sister isn't by my side safe and sound by the time I count to five, I'll destroy it."

Qin Mo frowned, "What nonsense are you spewing in broad daylight, kid? Shall I let your senior sister just walk over only for the two of you to escape via a talisman?"

Wang Ha nodded in agreement, "Honored master, this kid is fond of devious plans and traps. Don't fall for his schemes!"

Jiang Chen didn't bother wasting any more words. He smirked oddly, rubbed his hands together and reduced the spirit herb to dust. Then, he immediately took out another one. "I'll count to five again..." His tone was cold and cruel.

Sect Head Qin Mo trembled, even his organs started spasming. Jiang Chen had destroyed a sky rank spirit herb just like this! That was slicing flesh off Qin Mo's body! Even Wang Han hadn't thought that Jiang Chen would be so resolute. The expressions on all their faces were quite ugly to behold. Each new word of Jiang Chen counting down was akin to a sharp arrow. Each spoken number stabbed deep into the sect head's heart, making the muscles on his face tic and spasm. "Hold!" Qin Mo flung out a hand.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly, "You want to talk? Return my senior sister. Remember, no tricks. If I find that any restrictions or some such have been placed on her, you won't be able to get any of the sky rank spirit herbs either."

Said restrictions were precisely what Qin Mo had in mind, and he felt the strength leave his limbs when Jiang Chen voiced the warning. He gritted his teeth and threw Ling Bi'er over with a "Have her!" He then had his zither strings sweep through the air to form an inescapable net, one enclosing all of the air within. This was done to prevent Jiang Chen and others from escaping via talismans. Once the net was complete and the area sealed off, even a powerful talisman wouldn't be able to break through it. Sect Head Qin Mo was very confident that with his strength at the third level emperor realm, he'd be able to capture Jiang Chen, even if with some momentary delays.

When Jiang Chen saw Ling Bi'er fly towards him, he immediately made a hand seal and materialized the Minor Artifice Formation. "Senior sister, this way!"

This formation was something he had projected from the formation disk, so there'd been no need for many preparations to be made beforehand. Jiang Chen pulled Ling Bi'er directly into the residence.

"Junior brother, I've dragged you down with me." Ling Bi'er felt that she had inadvertently ruined things with her good intentions. "I made you destroy a sky spirit herb... I'll make it up to you in the future!"

"Heh, don't dwell on this, senior sister. It was all a trick." Jiang Chen flashed a smirk that was just a tiny bit sly. "Come on in with me, senior sister. That old bastard is strong, the formation won't keep him out for long."

A Minor Artifice Formation was a formation that combined the real and the illusory and it had a psychological battle at its heart. Jiang Chen held no illusions that it could actually confine his opponent. That wouldn't be realistic at all. All that he asked of it was to delay things a bit so he could prepare his

next step. After all, Jiang Chen had been able to find the foundation of this formation back when he'd been sky origin realm. The opponent he was facing now was an emperor realm expert with a level of consciousness that was in no way inferior to his at that moment in the past.

In the meantime, Ling Bi'er's heart raced as Jiang Chen pulled on her hand. A bit of sweat formed in the palm of her hand, but she still couldn't help but say, "Junior brother, this palace is very odd.. Are we really going to go inside? I have a sophisticated escape talisman here that can help us get away."

Jiang Chen shook his head, "It won't be of any use. That old man's sealed off the entire area. Although the talisman is strong, we won't be able to leave without a strong ability to break through the seal."

An escape glyph was a kind of space talisman that enabled one to quickly escape without leaving a trace behind. But, the glyph itself didn't contain the power to break through seals making it useless when the area was blocked off, unless one paired it with a strong art to break through the space. Jiang Chen did have the ability to break through seals and owned powerful weapons, such as the Moonshatter Awl he'd taken from Cao Jin, however, he wouldn't take a risk without being one hundred percent certain, not to mention that he didn't plan on leaving at all.

Whether it was this Zither sect head of the Great Scarlet Mid Region or the remnants of the Sacred Sword Palace, both had thoroughly trampled over his bottom line. Killing intent had filled his heart, and he was going to stay in order to do away with all of them in one go. Seeing how resolved Jiang Chen was, Ling Bi'er had no more doubts, albeit there was still a myriad of questions in her heart. She had an absolute trust in Jiang Chen now. She wouldn't fear even a Titled Great Emperor while together with her junior brother, much less a third level emperor realm cultivator.

Thus, the two quickly passed through the palace as Jiang Chen swiftly led Ling Bi'er to the core of the abode. Only there would they find absolute safety.

"Junior brother, have you been here before?" Ling Bi'er couldn't help but ask when she saw how familiar Jiang Chen was with the area.

He nodded and looked coldly in the direction of the outside. "Senior sister, what's the situation outside?" His tone was quite serious.

"I don't know much, but I've heard that many experts have come from the Great Scarlet Mid Region this time. The Zither sect is but one of many that arrived. From their words, it seems that our Regal Pill Palace was warned early and broke through the encirclement. The other sects have been surrounded and things are looking dire for them." Even someone as calm as Ling Bi'er couldn't help but feel a bit of panic when she spoke of the Myriad Domain's current predicament. The current Great Scarlet's invasion was on a large scale and looked like a complete repeat of the utter annihilation from six hundred years ago. The Myriad Domain had been much stronger then, yet had still found itself hard pressed to escape a disaster. Now... this time... Ling Bi'er didn't dare to think of the future.

Jiang Chen was silent for a moment, "Palace Head Dan Chi actually anticipated that great changes would come to the Myriad Domain. He had plans of disbanding the Regal Pill Palace and keeping a low profile. I hope he made it out this time. But, I'm worried that the Palace Head might find himself fleeing right back into the hands of the Great Scarlet Mid Region's forces, if all of them had been sent out to take down the various sects."

Ling Bi'er could easily see the same future unfolding and nodded with anxiety, "I wonder how the Regal Pill Palace is at the moment?"

"Let's make it through this situation first before thinking of that. Senior sister, remember not to leave this area." Jiang Chen's brows twitched as he was saying that. Then, his eyes suddenly blazed with light that beamed in the direction of the palace's outskirts. He had already sensed that an emperor realm cultivator had caught up to them.

"Jiang Chen, you little kid, I've rather underestimated you." Sect Head Qin Mo's sinister cackling danced in the air as he arrived in the palace. The Sacred Sword Palace members trickled in behind him, all of them staring viciously at Jiang Chen.

"Honored master, be careful of this brat's tricks!" Wang Han spoke up fawningly.

Sect Head Qin Mo waved his hand while looking around and smiling slightly, "To think that such a residence would exist in the transcendent region. Jiang Chen, looks like you were quite lucky. There must be some startling inheritance in this palace."

The old man's tone was casual, but he was quite on the alert as he roved around the surroundings with his consciousness.

Jiang Chen flicked a teasing, mocking glance at the old man, "What, this catches your eye as well?"

Sect Head Qin Mo laughed heartily, "Kid, you talk tough even at this time. I rather admire your courage."

Wang Jianyu and Wang Han both started smirking in a sinister fashion. It was apparent that everyone considered Jiang Chen and Ling Bi'er to be but fish in a barrel. They might have been able flee with the help of escape talismans in the outside world, but the palace was completely sealed off and their wings would be clipped as long as the exit was blocked.

Jiang Chen didn't grace them with a response, but turned to ask Ling Bi'er, "Senior sister, is this all of them?"

Ling Bi'er started but still counted the number of people present, "Yes. This is all of them. We're not missing anyone."

Jiang Chen nodded, smiling leisurely, "As long as they're all in here..."

Sect Head Qin Mo felt very uncomfortable seeing this relaxed smile. He felt that something was a bit off, but he couldn't really put his finger on what was wrong. So instead he turned to his men and said, "Wang Jianyu, you go first. I want him alive!"

He was an exceedingly cautious person. Since the Sacred Sword Palace wanted to defect and come under his banner, this was precisely the place to make use of them. Wang Jianyu sneered, he couldn't ask for anything more. He brandished his sword with the words, "Jiang Chen, let me send you on your way!"

Jiang Chen chuckled easily, "Send me on my way? Why don't you look in the mirror first and check if you're fit to do that? As for me, I've long since made arrangements for you all. The road to the underworld is long, and I won't be seeing you on!"

He didn't waste any more words after this as he sent a mental command, triggering the restrictions of the palace with his consciousness. The palace responded. It immediately went off like a volcano, countless numbers of restrictions exploding with the force capable of destroying the heavens and earth.

"What?! We need to get out!" Sect Head Qin Mo instantly sensed that things were awry and panicked. But it was too late. The unbound, unending force of the restrictions roiled forth with enough momentum to sweep away any and all obstacles. Wang Jianyu and the rest of the Sacred Sword Palace were unceremoniously pounded into dust whenever the rampaging power touched them. It turned on Qin Mo last.

The sect head felt unspeakable bitterness as he called upon his zither, trying to set up some defenses in front of him. However, the strong restrictions would continuously batter down any defenses he conjured, ripping all of them apart like paper.

Crack!!

The final defenses were destroyed as the tremendous power crashed onto the sect head.

Bang bang bang!

He had the protection of inner armor to call on as well, but was still heavily injured as soon as his defenses were broken. Qin Mo was truly scared witless now. "Jiang Chen... Jiang Chen... we can talk things through. I surrender, I have intelligence..."

However, a new dominating surge ripped apart his inner armor as soon as he finished speaking and pummeled him to nothing. The soul that departed the obliterated body didn't even have time to flee before it too was turned to dust by another wave of power. That fierce, overweening third level emperor realm cultivator had been reduced to nothing in an instant.

The last enemy alive was Wang Han, a bit luckier than the others by virtue of hiding behind Sect Head Qin Mo. He had still been caught in the wake of the attacks, his injuries weren't fatal, however. At this moment Jiang Chen made a hand seal and deactivated the restrictions. The entire palace returned to its previous, tranquil appearance, as if the hellish assault from just now hadn't happened at all. There was no one by Wang Han's side. There wasn't even a complete corpse on the ground. His face was ashen as he started to contemplate the sudden feeling that although the world was vast, there was no place in it for him at all. He wanted to turn and run, but recalling just how frightening the restrictions had been just now, he didn't dare move.

Chapter 688: Devastating Battle Situation

All of the nightmares that Wang Han had ever experienced in his life combined wouldn't have measured to the fear that he'd just felt. A third level emperor realm cultivator, the backer that he'd just managed to toady up to, had not even been able to put up a sliver of resistance against that terrifying strength. That was a third level emperor realm cultivator!

Wang Han's very organs were shivering in fear, and it almost seemed like his pores were following suit. Terror and despair chased out every whit of feeling from his body. Never mind Wang Han, even Ling Bi'er thought that she'd gone delusional right then. She didn't recover from her shock until after the restriction attack had vanished.

“Junior brother, what... what was that?” She stammered in incredulous, low tones.

“That old man liked to pretend he was all that. So I simply gave him a taste of what it felt like to have thunder and lightning strike him.” Jiang Chen smiled faintly and shot a solemn glance at Wang Han.

Wang Han’s will was so far gone that he couldn’t even keep himself upright at a casual glare from Jiang Chen. His knees weakened and gave way without warning, sending him tumbling to the ground. His mind had completely collapsed into gibberish. All of his urbane confidence, that overweening arrogance and sky high pride were reduced to dust, utterly destroyed.

“Who else can save you now, Wang Han?” Jiang Chen’s tone was ice over steel.

Wang Han’s face went ashen at those words, but seemed to get a surge of energy from some mad trench of his soul. He lifted his head to glare right back at Jiang Chen as he roared. His voice held more than a tinge of madness as he screamed, “And what are you proud of, Jiang Chen!? You’re strong, but are you stronger than the Great Scarlet Mid Region? Did you think only the Zither Sect had invaded the Myriad Domain!? Wrong!! The entire Great Scarlet Mid Region, all of the 20 some fourth rank sects have invaded us. The Myriad Domain is done for! Just what did I bide my time and endure humiliation for if not to save the legacy of the Myriad Domain?!”

It seemed that even in the worst possible situation, Wang Han still believed that he could worm his way out with an excuse. But Jiang Chen was no naïve youngling. “What a noble excuse you’ve managed to come up with this time, hmm? You lead the enemy into the Paramount Realm to hunt down Myriad Domain disciples. This became ‘biding your time’ for the greater cause?”

Wang Han laughed maniacally, “Legitimacy is the prize of the winner, much like the villain is always the loser. Jiang Chen, I have nothing more to say since you beat me. Kill me if you’re going to, but why toy with me?”

Jiang Chen’s expression darkened. “Wang Han, it’s no longer possible for you to evade death anymore. But tell me, what’s going on in the outside world?”

“Outside world? Hahaha, outside world? The various Myriad Domain sects are probably all dead by now! Yes, your Regal Pill Palace was smart and broke through the blockade before it was fully set up, but where else can they run to? Almost 20 fourth rank sects had invaded, and each one of them stronger than the Great Cathedral. What can the Myriad Domain bring to fight against them? Old man Dan Chi might have gotten out, but there was no way that he could actually find a way to live! The other emperor realm cultivators would have already gone to chase him. Hahaha, Jiang Chen! My Sacred Sword Palace has fallen, do you think your Regal Pill Palace can avoid the same fate? Dream on!” Wang Han had completed his mental transition to a mad dog. He knew full well that he was going to die, so he didn’t use the chance to beg for mercy, instead furiously venting his emotions to anyone who could hear.

As he capered around frantically, he suddenly felt a chill by his throat. When he touched his throat, he noticed a sharp arrow had pierced through his neck. Light from a blade flashed the next second as his head shot up into the sky. Jiang Chen gestured, and the corpse ground itself to dust in midair.

“Senior sister, we shouldn’t stay here for long. We need to get out,” Jiang Chen no longer hesitated as he spoke to Ling Bi’er.

Having just experienced the wildest rollercoaster of events thus far in her life, Ling Bi'er found it hard to catch up for a second. She found herself nodding by sheer instinct, and followed Jiang Chen out. When she set foot outside, she turned to take one last look at the palace, only to discover that it had vanished without a trace. "Junior brother... where did the palace go?" She was quite baffled.

Jiang Chen smiled and said, "I put it away."

"You put it away? Was... was that palace a portable space?" Ling Bi'er was shocked. Portable spaces were just like space rings. Naturally, Ling Bi'er wasn't unfamiliar with the concept. But where would one find a space ring with such capacity? Also, how could a space ring possibly hold an entire abode inside, and one with such powerful attack restrictions no less? The palace had obviously been a residence, the kind that one could carry around anywhere.

"Senior sister, the matters relating to this palace are extremely sensitive. We will run into many troubles if it's exposed." Jiang Chen knew just how vital this matter was, but he didn't tell Ling Bi'er the details because he didn't want her to become involved.

Ling Bi'er hastily responded, "Ah? Then I won't ask or bring it up to anyone in the future."

"Mm. I'll tell you about it when the time is right." The duo no longer spoke, as they both concentrated on leaving the transcendent region as quickly as they could. Along the way, they saw many corpses, the numerous slain Myriad Domain disciples.

"This is all Wang Jianyu's work!" Ling Bi'er frowned slightly.

Jiang Chen didn't have time to grow irate at the sight, "We're almost at a transportation point. Let's get out of here as soon as possible."

However, Ling Bi'er was the one to provide a voice of reason, "Don't be in a hurry, junior brother. If we go through the transportation formation now and appear outside, we may be surrounded and immediately captured. In my opinion, it would be best if we returned the way we came. We still have two days anyway, so as long as we travel at full speed, we'll still be able to get out of the Paramount Realm before it closes."

Thinking it over, Jiang Chen saw the sense in her words.

Two days later, the duo arrived at the edge of the Paramount Realm. However, they didn't encounter a single living person along the way. It was obvious that everyone had either been slaughtered by Wang Jianyu and his group, or had left. These geniuses had had no idea what was going on outside, so they had probably been completely defenseless when they teleported away. Their fates were likely rather bleak once they emerged outside.

"Junior brother, if we are surrounded after we got out, we must activate our escape glyphs immediately. We absolutely mustn't stay to fight," Ling Bi'er suggested.

Jiang Chen nodded. How could he possibly choose to fight in such a situation? It was obvious that this wasn't something that could be solved by individual strength alone. Jiang Chen wasn't afraid to fight, but it didn't mean that he would throw himself into a pointless fight either.

After passing through the entrance, the duo calmed the ripples of their consciousness and slowly moved outside. Jiang Chen borrowed power from the Bewitching Lotus of Fire and Ice to slip through the earth and snuck his way back to the perimeter.

The battle at the perimeter had been tragic and desperate. Corpses were scattered everywhere on the battlefield. Many of those corpses were those of the Myriad Domain cultivators, but some were also clearly from the Great Scarlet Mid Region. It seemed that the battle had reached a conclusion already. A group of Great Scarlet cultivators were sweeping through the battlefield for survivors, while another group interrogated the group of young geniuses who had been captured exiting the Paramount Realm.

Jiang Chen inspected the battlefield for a moment. He discovered that even Honored Master Tian Ming of the Dark North Sect was among the pile of corpses. The Walkabout Sect had also seemed to have suffered tremendous losses. It seemed very, very few of their party were still alive. The Great Cathedral had also suffered many casualties. However, the surprising part was the lack of Great Cathedral senior executives among the dead. Naturally, since the Regal Pill Palace had broken through the encirclement first, they didn't have a presence on this particular battlefield.

"Fleck it all to hell, I can't believe these ants of the Myriad Domain possess such strength! They cost us quite some men!"

"I know right? Those from the Great Cathedral could even employ the power of totems to fight. Even Sect Head Xing and Fu couldn't stop them. How unexpected."

"You know what else is strange? The Bamboo Sect still hasn't returned from their chase. I wonder how they're doing against Regal Pill Palace? Don't tell me they've slipped up too?"

Jiang Chen sussed out the situation as he listened in on the discussions happening above him. The senior executives of the Great Cathedral had actually managed to break free and escape with the power of totems. The Regal Pill Palace had made their getaway first, and the results of their rearguard battle hadn't reached this place yet. No matter how pragmatic Jiang Chen tried to be, it would seem that Regal Pill Palace still had a bit of hope left.

Now that Jiang Chen had gained an understanding what was going on, he had a rough idea on what to do next.

On one side of the battlefield, Sect Head Fu of the Golden Glyph Sect and Sect Head Xing of the Qitian Sect were interrogating the geniuses who had emerged from the Paramount Realm. Among them stood Xiang Qin, Yue Baize and Shen Qinghong. The captives numbered roughly thirty, all geniuses of various Myriad Domain sects. However, they had all become captives of the Great Scarlet Mid Region. It wasn't that Great Scarlet had decided to show them mercy. The two sects were simply trying to lay their hands on any information about the Paramount Realm. However, they didn't find anything useful no matter how much they questioned them. It was obvious that those who had exited hadn't run into Sect Head Qin Mo and the rest of his group. If that had happened, they would no longer be part of the world of the living.

"Just kill me already. It doesn't matter what you ask, my answer will always be the same. I don't know anything!" Xiang Qin's unyielding voice rang out, "The heavenly law sees all, you filthy bandits. One day, your Great Scarlet Mid Region will pay the price!"

Smack!

A whip lashed Xiang Qin cruelly as a fierce voice berated him, "You little ant! What right do you have to talk about the heavenly law? Even if there is such a day, the Myriad Domain won't live to see it!" The whip landed repeatedly on Xiang Qin's body.

Xiang Qin was stubborn as an ox despite the pain. Not only did he not cry out in pain, but he even started laughing aloud.

Sect Head Xing suddenly raised a hand and stopped the person whipping Xiang Qin. He cast an indifferent glance across the group of captives and asked, "Last chance. Who amongst you has seen Jiang Chen?"

At first, neither Sect Head Xing nor Sect Head Fu had known that Jiang Chen was inside the Paramount Realm. However, the more they thought about it, the more they felt that something wasn't quite right. They both thought that Sect Head Qin Mo's actions were far too out of the ordinary. It was only after they'd ruthlessly interrogated and tortured a captive that they accidentally found out that Jiang Chen was amongst the list of Regal Pill Palace disciples who'd entered the Paramount Realm. It was thanks to this captive that they'd also discovered that Jiang Chen had escaped from Mt. Rippling Mirage.

The two sect heads couldn't help but curse out Qin Mo loudly. They both thought that he had been absolutely despicable. It was obvious that the man had gone inside to take all the spoils for himself! If the Paramount Realm wasn't about to shut down very soon, they too would have gone inside and fought for their own share. They'd fought tooth and nail to annihilate the two great fourth rank sects that were the Walkabout Sect and Dark North Sect, but they'd gotten very few rewards for their efforts.

The Dark North Sect had been said to possess sky rank spirit herbs, but they weren't able to find anything at all from the leaders of the Dark North Sect. In fact, there weren't even that many earth rank spirit herbs. That was when the duo finally realized that they had been tricked by Qin Mo.

Chapter 689: Jiang Chen to the Rescue

However, none of the geniuses who'd emerged from the Paramount Realm had seen Jiang Chen inside. How would they possibly give any useful intelligence?

"This is your last chance, but it seems that none of you treasure it!" Qitian Sect Head Xing's tone suddenly turned frosty as his killing intent surged.

Jiang Chen and Ling Bi'er looked at each other beneath the ground, a feeling of helplessness rising in both of them. Their strength wasn't enough for the two of them to attempt a rescue. Jiang Chen hardened his heart and began making plans to leave. He was well aware that brashly attempting rescue would not only end up in failure, but might also condemn the both of them to death. Yet precisely at that moment, a voice transmitted through the air to his ears, "Sir Jiang, I'll lure the two emperor realm cultivators away, you save everyone."

Jiang Chen was first startled and then delighted, "It's Miss Huang'er!" Some bizarre confidence rose in his heart when he heard Huang'er's voice. He sent a message to Ling Bi'er, "Senior sister, listen to my commands. We're going to save them."

Ling Bi'er's heart trembled slightly. Save them? Save the group with two emperor realm cultivators standing guard? Just as she hesitated, the heads of both emperor realm cultivators snapped to one side, roaring, "Who's there?!"

The two enormous presences swept towards the northeast as soon as their voices sounded. Jiang Chen whispered harshly, "Let's go, senior sister!"

The two suddenly charged out from the deep crevice within the earth as he called upon the Lotus. Jiang Chen activated the formation disk and summoned the Ancient Slaughter Formation of Seven, covering the entire area with it. He was the absolute lord of the formation's domain once it was activated.

"Junior brother Jiang Chen?"

"Brother Jiang Chen!"

Surprised cries kept resounding, but Jiang Chen didn't bother with them, "Everyone, this is an emergency. I can't undo the restrictions on your bodies, so I can only take all of you with me. Don't resist with your consciousness, otherwise we'll have no end of troubles."

He didn't wait for them to respond as he pressed down and took them all into the palace in a flash of light. At the same time, he turned to Ling Bi'er, "Senior sister, activate the escape glyph!"

The escape glyphs that Ling Bi'er had received from senior Shao Yin were incredibly powerful, ones that surpassed the level of the Myriad Domain. When she heard Jiang Chen's order, she crushed one of them without hesitation as Jiang Chen retracted the formation disk at the same time, causing the formation to vanish. When light flashed again, Jiang Chen and Ling Bi'er had vanished from where they'd stood.

The entire process took place in the blink of an eye, with the sage realm cultivators in charge of standing guard over the captives unable to react in time. They only saw a world of glittering white snow abruptly appear in front of them, and disappear just as they were doubting their senses. But along with the snowy world, the Myriad Domain geniuses disappeared as well.

"Someone's rescued the captives!"

"Damn it, it was a diversion!"

"After them! Hurry!"

"After them!"

The scene was soon engulfed in chaos as those cleaning up the battlefield also rushed over. They too were shocked beyond words when they saw how chaotic things had become. However, no one knew which direction to go off in since the flash of light had vanished. Someone roared out, "Split up!" and all the sects split into different groups to start chasing in different directions.

As they did this, they all realized that if their opponent had dared flee in a flash of light, they must've fled for quite a distance. They would be searching for a needle in a haystack trying to chase them down like this. Unless they had an unimaginably powerful methods of searching using their consciousness, it would be an utter daydream to even hope to catch up to their opponent.

The groups all returned after a short while, each of them hanging their heads. It was obvious that everyone had come back empty-handed.

“Damn it, they got away.”

“That was a strong glyph. They made it out at least a hundred miles. There’s no way to track them down.”

“Sigh, let’s wait for the sect heads to return before making a decision.”

They were all dejected and very frustrated by what had happened. The operation to suppress the Myriad Domain this time was not the success they had envisioned. Apart from the Regal Pill Palace sneaking away ahead of time, a large portion of the Great Cathedral’s skilled fighters had made it out alive. Now that the young geniuses of the Myriad Domain had been rescued, this was just repeated slaps to their face, over and over again. The four sects who’d participated in this operation was likely going to become the laughingstock of the Great Scarlet Mid Region.

Sect Head Xing and Fu returned with dark expressions after half an hour. The two had given chase for a long distance, but had come back empty handed. Those in charge of guarding the captives hardly dared breathe when they saw the sect heads return with dark expressions.

“What’s going on? Where’s everyone?” Sect Head Xing asked darkly.

An oppressive silence answered him. Sect Head Fu flicked an eyebrow as well, “What’s going on? Are you all dumb?”

An elder stammered out at this point, “There... there was suddenly a world of ice here just now. Then the group of captives disappeared into thin air.”

The two sect heads had their expressions freeze over when they heard this. They looked at each other, now understanding what had happened. How could they not realize now that they’d fallen victim to someone’s distraction tactics? The opponent had obviously wanted to lure them away so that others could rescue the geniuses. What was pitiable was that the emperor realm cultivators had fallen for the bait, hook, line and sinker. A single move was all it had taken. They’d underestimated their enemy, plain and simple.

The two were extremely depressed but had no place to vent their rage. It wasn’t their subordinates’ fault. If it hadn’t been for the two sect heads being taken in by the diversion and leaving, nothing would’ve happened here. It was a mistake born of overconfidence.

Sect Head Xing began complaining as the two grew anxious, “Sect Head Leng’s taken the Bamboo Sect to chase down the Regal Pill Palace, but has still sent no word after so many days. Sect Head Qin Mo is even more ridiculous. He headed into the Paramount Realm, but still hasn’t returned even when it’s about to close. What, is he going to take up residence in there?”

It was obvious that the unfavorable situation was stressing Sect Head Xing out to the point where he was taking his anger out on his missing allies. Sect Head Fu also nodded, “Sect Head Leng and Qin Mo both had ulterior motives. They wouldn’t be in their current straits otherwise.”

The battle was basically over at this point, and their evaluation was nowhere close to positive. Therefore, the two were looking for scapegoats. After all, when it came down to things, the Bamboo and Zither Sects did indeed hold greater responsibility. If it wasn't for the two prioritizing their goals and leaving the group, this situation may never have developed the way it did.

Another person came running in with an urgent report as they chatted, "Sect Heads, another group of people have emerged from the Paramount Realm. We captured them all, but the realm's already sealed off."

Sect Head Xing hurriedly asked, "Any news of Jiang Chen?"

The person shook his head and added on, "Sect Head Qin Mo and those from the Sacred Sword Palace haven't come out either."

Sect Head Xing's expression changed rapidly, even Qin Mo didn't make it out? He looked solemnly at Sect Head Fu. For the first time, a hint of fear rose in their hearts. The Paramount Realm had closed, but Sect Head Qin Mo hadn't exited yet! This wasn't a good sign. It was very possible that he'd perished inside. Both of their hearts trembled. If Sect Head Qin Mo had perished, then their operation this time would be an utter failure.

On the other hand, if this was the case, then they could shove all responsibility onto the Zither Sect. Another scout came back with a report just as they were speaking, "Sect Heads, things are really bad! The Bamboo Sect's group was discovered about eight hundred miles out. They're... they're all dead!"

"What!?"

Sect Head Xing and Fu was shaken all over again as their fear started to grow. "Are you sure!? What about Sect Head Leng..."

"We've already brought the sect head's body back," The scout responded dismally.

Bamboo Sect Head Leng had set off in proud spirits, but had returned as a cold corpse. Looking at his body, it didn't even seem like he'd been through a hard battle, with no exterior wounds. However, his expression had been twisted into an extreme grimace, as if he'd weathered unspeakable terror before he'd died, freezing this expression on his face even in death.

Sect Head Xing observed the body for a while his neck began to prickle. The confirmed death of a sect head had finally caused wariness to spark in his eyes. "Sect Head Fu, it looks like we really did underestimate the Myriad Domain. There's such a strong cultivator in this region! There are no wounds on Sect Head Leng's body, but his consciousness has completely collapsed. This is an exceedingly sophisticated attack!"

With the collapse of the consciousness, there was no longer any will controlling the body, so bodily functions could naturally no longer continue.

Sect Head Fu remained silent for a long while as he looked at Sect Head Xing. Both nodded at the same time, "Our operations are at an end, we can go back to the Great Scarlet Mid Region and report to the emperor."

Both of them had made up their mind. Retreat.

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At a spot roughly four hundred miles to the southeast of the Myriad Domain, Jiang Chen retracted the light around him and released the young geniuses of the various sects. "Everyone, it's safe for now here. You should take advantage of this moment to refine the restrictions placed on you."

It was a good thing that the restrictions on the geniuses hadn't been too strong. They simply restricted movement. It was only a matter of time before they managed to free themselves. Xiang Qin in particular was covered in wounds. Jiang Chen gave him a few additional healing pills.

"Junior brother Jiang Chen, what's going on?" Shen Qinghong had been one of the first to free himself.

Jiang Chen roughly went over what he knew, stunning all of the geniuses in the telling. They were both relieved that they'd evaded disaster when they heard how the Sacred Sword Palace had betrayed the Myriad Domain and brought enemies into the Paramount Realm to hunt down geniuses, but also extremely infuriated at the same time.

"Everyone, the distance is far and the mountains are high. I hope we meet again in the future. I suspect that you won't be able to return to your sects just yet, as that would only be entering the lion's den. You are all geniuses of your sect, and I trust that I don't need to remind you what needs to be done. This is not a place to linger, so let us part ways here." Jiang Chen had already gone above and beyond the call of duty and morality by rescuing everyone.

Xiang Qin was quite forthright as he raised his hands in a cupped fist salute and spoke seriously, "I will repay your favor of saving my life one day! May we meet in the future!"

Those of the Great Cathedral exchanged glances and immediately left together.

Chapter 690: The Shattered Sect

People from the various sects expressed their gratitude toward Jiang Chen and began to take their leave after the Great Cathedral group departed. They all knew that it was more dangerous to travel as a large group under present circumstances. They recognized that a calamity had befallen the Myriad Domain and they were on the brink of extermination. Fortunately, all these young geniuses possessed unyielding resolution. Even beset by astonishment and fear, they could maintain their composure. One by one, they made their decisions and tendered their farewells until finally, only the three from the Regal Pill Palace were left.

"Junior brother Jiang Chen, what do we do from here on out?" Shen Qinghong had officially accepted his position and now looked to Jiang Chen for orders.

"What plans do you have?"

Shen Qinghong contemplated for a moment. "They said that the Regal Pill Palace broke through the siege. I'm guessing that the palace head must've returned to the sect. I wish to go back and take a look, whatever the case may be."

Ling Bi'er also nodded, "I also want to go back and see how things are."

Jiang Chen didn't object since all of them seemed to have the same idea. He definitely had to go back, especially since all of his followers were still at the Regal Pill Palace. After seeing no sign of protest from Jiang Chen, Shen Qinghong hesitantly enquired, "Then shall we leave right away?"

Jiang Chen motioned wordlessly with his hands, indicating that they should wait a while longer. Huang'er had drawn the two emperor realm experts away and would surely return to rendezvous with them. As expected, Huang'er's voice soon transmitted through the air, "Sir Jiang, please go on ahead. Huang'er will follow shortly."

Apparently, she didn't want to expose herself yet. Jiang Chen gave it some thought and didn't oppose her wish. He waved his hand, "Let's go."

It was as if the entire Myriad Domain had fallen into an endless inferno. There were signs of savage battle no matter where they went. Close to 20 fourth ranked sects from the Great Scarlet Mid Region had rushed in at the same time, bringing an extinction level event onto the Myriad Domain.

The trio tread carefully, avoiding certain battlefields along the way. Ling Bi'er's countenance seemed to have iced over while the corners of Shen Qinghong's lips spasmed repeatedly, mumbling unknown curses. The journey was not without its obstacles. The three finally arrived at the Regal Pill Palace after taking several detours.

However, only a vast field of ruins greeted the three homecoming disciples. They were completely frozen as they gazed upon the post-battle remnants of the sect from the shadows. The smoke and dust hadn't completely settled over the ruins yet. The great protection formation to the entrance of the sect had been shattered and the entrance to Rosy Valley completely blasted apart. It was absolute devastation—residences lay collapsed in every direction while corpses of Regal Pill Palace disciples littered the area—no signs of life could be detected.

Ling Bi'er was immensely alarmed and rushed toward her residence to find only rubble with no signs of life. When Jiang Chen arrived outside his own residence, he was surprised to see that even his upgraded Nine Gates Incineration Formation had been destroyed! Jiang Chen felt as if he had plunged into an icy cavern—all his hairs stood on end. The worst case scenario had indeed happened.

He scanned the residence thoroughly with his consciousness, his heart pounding wildly. He was extremely nervous, afraid that he would see the battered corpses of his followers. Fortunately, he didn't find any corpses. There were some signs of fighting within the residence, but not to the point of intense battle. He made some deductions after scanning the place for some time with his consciousness.

"The battle here wasn't intense. It must've been a supreme expert who'd charged in after breaking the formation. They seem to have abducted Gouyu and the others. Otherwise, the battlefield would be very disordered." Jiang Chen's anxiety receded slightly when he didn't find their corpses.

"I'm very sorry, Sir Jiang. Huang'er should've stayed back to protect this place." Huang'er had appeared next to Jiang Chen at some unknown time, her words apologetic and remorseful.

Jiang Chen's eyes were red as he shook his head. "This is not your fault. It's mine... I overestimated the power of this formation."

He was filled with remorse despite knowing that this was because the enemy was too powerful. But it was ultimately due to his own lack of power. If only he was stronger, the formation he put in place would have been more durable. Perhaps it could have even held out until he'd come back. It was too late. Anything was too late.

He punched the ground fiercely with deep emotion. He suddenly remembered something and shot swiftly towards the direction of the wood spirit spring. The sight of swordbird corpses littering the ground greeted his eyes as he arrived at the entrance to the cave, reigniting the flames of Jiang Chen's fury. All the swordbirds had been slaughtered. They had died in a ghastly fashion with their insides blown apart in a mess of blood and gore. Jiang Chen's chest wanted to explode after witnessing this carnage. His body began twitching continuously as his eyes grew red. He found the wood spirit spring empty on further observation. It seemed that even that had been looted by someone.

Long Xiaoxuan could no longer keep his calm at this point, to say nothing of Jiang Chen. He charged out from Jiang Chen's body with a fast whoosh! He circled the wood spirit spring thrice while roaring furiously. Jiang Chen also flung his head back and howled at the skies, unable to contain his wrath. His eyes were so widened in his rage that they seemed on the verge of splitting apart.

"Great Scarlet Mid Region, Great Scarlet Mid Region!" Jiang Chen muttered whilst grinding his teeth. Jiang Chen had formed enmity with many factions and gained several enemies who would fight him to the death since he set foot into the unknown world, but he had never been infuriated to such a degree, not even once. It'd been at most a personal grievance previously, whether with Long Juxue or Wang Han. But the Great Scarlet Mid Region had completely crossed over his bottom line this time, drawing out two lifetimes worth of wrath.

"Sir Jiang, it seems that sister Gouyu and the rest have been captured. We still have a chance as long as they're alive." Huang'er patted Jiang Chen's shoulders in soft consolation. Huang'er was astonished to see Long Xiaoxuan emerge in his true form, but she had no time to give this further thought in this moment. She felt similarly distressed after seeing Jiang Chen's suffering, wishing she was the one who was captured instead. She couldn't help but feel a hint of a cruel murderous intent after witnessing this spectacle, despite her calm and tranquil nature. Not to mention, Gouyu and the others were like family to her after living here for a few years—they'd formed deep ties of friendship. Huang'er's expression suddenly changed, "Sir Jiang, it seems we've fallen into a trap!"

Jiang Chen had been alerted at almost the same time. He produced several escape talismans with a grasp of his hands.

"Haha, who would've thought that watching a stump for a hare to dash against it really does work!" An unpleasant voice like a broken gong tore through the air. Following that, several voices of the same repulsive quality echoed in differing volumes as well.

Countless clouds suddenly materialized around Jiang Chen's residence, forming a grand and exquisite phantasmal palace. Jiang Chen activated his consciousness upon seeing this, but his heart immediately sank. The illusory palace had actually sealed off the area in the blink of an eye, effectively isolating the residence from the outside world. The space occupied by Jiang Chen and Huang'er shrank as layers of clouds pressed down on them. Woosh woosh woosh... figures dropped down successively like dumplings.

One, two, three...

There were a dozen in total and five leaders that were all emperor realm experts. A bald and burly man among them was at fourth level emperor realm. Jiang Chen was truly overwhelmed, no wonder that the Nine Gates Incineration Formation hadn't held out! There was an expert amongst them who was at mid emperor realm.

The Nine Gates Incineration Formation could only hold out against experts of initial emperor realm, despite having been upgraded by Jiang Chen. It was also possible to break the formation if several such experts attacked in unison. It would be even easier to break the formation if an expert at the mid emperor realm was added to the equation.

A subordinate standing beside the bald man produced a jade token projecting Jiang Chen's image, "Lord Gong, this brat is probably Jiang Chen."

The bald man burst into laughter, "Who would've thought that the decision I made on a whim would land me such profit?"

Boundless might converged on Jiang Chen as the bald man suddenly fixed his gaze him. "You're called Jiang Chen?"

Formidable emperor realm power surged out and tamped down on Jiang Chen's head like a mountain. Even Jiang Chen's breathing became distressed. Flames of fury roared in Jiang Chen's chest as he unleashed his own aura to resist the suppressive force.

"Did you kill everyone here?" Jiang Chen's tone was incomparably cold.

The man rubbed his bald head suddenly laughed. "Interesting, interesting... A mere sage realm brat is actually able to repel my emperor realm aura?"

"Did you or did you not kill these people?" Jiang Chen ignored the bald and burly man's attempt to act cool and solemnly repeated his question.

"Haha, why would I use a butcher's knife to kill a chicken? There are naturally people who killed them for me. Why? Judging from your tone, it seems that you're seeking revenge? Haha, interesting, interesting." The bald man's tone was filled with ridicule, amused by the struggles of his prey. He had thought this snivelling brat would be shivering in fear and begging for mercy under the circumstances. But this brat seemed to be growing increasingly bold. This surprised and excited him at the same time. After all, a compliant victim was rather boring.

"Did. You. Kill these people?" Jiang Chen's eyes were completely red as thick killing intent shot out from his Evil Golden Eye.

The bald and burly man couldn't help but laugh disdainfully after seeing Jiang Chen's state. "Brat, I didn't kill those people. But it makes no difference if you want to blame me. Remember, I am one of the holy kings of the Eternal Celestial Capital, Gong Wuji!" His entourage burst into laughter after hearing these words.

“And we are the Thunder Note Hall and Great Roc Sect of the Great Scarlet Mid Region. Brat, I’ll have you know that we exterminated the Regal Pill Palace and killed all the people here. How does a brat on the verge of death intend to deal with us?”

“Haha... Speaking of which, your Regal Pill Palace is rather fortunate. I heard the Great Cathedral and Dark North Sect were completely wiped out. But because we had some matters to ask, we sent back a batch of prisoners from here. They’ll at least live for a while longer. You, however, won’t be that fortunate...”

The bald and burly man suddenly waved his hand to stop the Thunder Note Hall and Great Roc Sect. He spoke with a slight smile, “Jiang Chen, I believe you also understand that the world of martial dao has always been one where the strong reign mighty. I feel that you have great aptitude and as such, I am willing to give you a chance. As long as you cooperate and put yourself under my control, perhaps you can survive.” The man’s words depicted his delight in being able to control the fate of others.