

## Chaotic 2471

### Chapter 2471: Dedicated Practice

The divine hall shook gently, and Jian Chen seemed to hear a grunt from the artifact spirit.

Jian Chen's lips could not help but curl into a smile. He knew he could already cause some problems to the artifact spirit with the Soul-destroying technique he had grasped.

Of course, it was only some problems. After all, his current Martial Soul Force was only equivalent to an early Overgod.

If it were not for the fact that Martial Soul Force could bypass the defences of the divine hall and directly attack the artifact spirit inside, it probably would not fail to even scratch the divine hall's itch.

After all, the greatest advantage of an artifact spirit of a divine hall was that they could use the object itself against enemies. As a medium quality god artifact, even Infinite Primes could do nothing to it.

However, once the tough shell they relied on was rendered useless, they would become extremely frail.

Martial Soul Force just happened to be the ultimate countermeasure against artifact spirits like that.

"Artifact spirit, was the scratching comfortable?" Jian Chen sat on a rock before the divine hall and said as if he was trying to hold back a smile.

"Hmph, it was comfortable. It was comfortable, alright. It was too comfortable. Jian Chen, you brat, keep it coming. Why did you stop? Have you lost the ability to keep casting it?" said the artifact spirit provokingly.

"I can't use the Soul-destroying technique I just grasped at will. I have not reached the point where I only need a thought for it. I just happened to be in need of practice. Since you desire your itches to be scratched by me so much, I'll give you what you want," Jian Chen said indifferently. With that, he closed his eyes and used the Soul-destroying technique again.

"He's actually using it a second time? Hmph, using a secret technique like that will definitely take quite a toll on him. Let's see how many times he can use it..." murmured the artifact spirit that hid in the divine hall to himself as he became alert.

Although the Soul-destroying technique earlier was not enough to harm him, the attack was enough to affect him to a certain degree. Once or twice was fine, but if there were a few more times, it would not feel great even if it could not injure him.

Afterwards, Jian Chen sat before the divine hall and used the Soul-destroying technique time and time again. As he used it more and more, he gradually gained a better grasp over it. The time it took him to cast it each time shrunk from once every two hours to once an hour to once every forty minutes.

Whenever Jian Chen's Soul-destroying technique struck the artifact spirit, the divine hall would tremble gently. The trembling became stronger and stronger as Jian Chen used the Soul-destroying technique more and more.

“It’s comfortable. It really is comfortable. This feeling is fantastic. In the ten million years I’ve been alive, I’ve never experienced something so wonderful. Jian Chen, hurry up...” The artifact spirit’s voice rang out, but in reality, his face hidden within the divine hall had begun to warp.

He had endured several attacks from the Soul-destroying technique. Each attack would strike his consciousness with great accuracy. Although he was not injured, it was a horrible feeling.

It was a pain just like a headache. A headache could not harm his soul, but it was definitely not a nice feeling.

That was the pain that the artifact spirit currently went through.

Finally, after casting it over a dozen times, Jian Chen stopped. He had basically depleted all of his Martial Soul Force.

“I’ve already shortened the time to condense the Soul-destroying technique to half an hour. Although I’m still quite far off from being able to use it in an instant, it’s quite an improvement.” Jian Chen stood up and made his way over to the cave where he could harvest Martial Soul Rock.

“Jian Chen, why aren’t you continuing? Are you just going to leave like this? I haven’t had enough yet...” The artifact spirit provoked him from behind.

Only when Jian Chen completely vanished did the artifact spirit let out a long sigh. “He’s finally gone. If this continues, he’ll drive me mad. Why did it have to be me who came across this bloody Martial Soul Force...”

With Martial Soul Rock, it was extremely simple for Jian Chen to recover Martial Soul Force. He only needed to collect the rocks and absorb the Martial Soul Force inside.

Moreover, Jian Chen absorbed Martial Soul Force at an extremely rapid rate. On the next day, he had completely returned to his peak condition. He left the cave and arrived before the divine hall to practise with the artifact spirit again.

The artifact spirit naturally could not go without saying a few offensive remarks when he saw Jian Chen. He provoked and scoffed at him.

However, Jian Chen turned a deaf ear to it all. He was too lazy to pay attention to it. He began casting the Soul-destroying technique as soon as he arrived.

Several hours later, Jian Chen had used the technique over a dozen times and left due to running out of Martial Soul Force. He returned to the cave to recover Martial Soul Force.

On that day, his speed to condense the attack increased once again. He went from one every half an hour to twice every half an hour.

Afterwards, Jian Chen would use the artifact spirit for practice daily. Finally, after half a month of practice, he became much more familiar with the usage of the Soul-destroying technique. The time it took him to condense the technique had shrunk to half a minute.

“Half a minute each time is still too long. I need to be able to condense it in a thought. I need to be able to cast it in an instant. Only then will it be a surprise attack.” Jian Chen was still dissatisfied. He continued to devote himself to practice.

However, the further he progressed, the more difficult it became. After another three months, Jian Chen was finally able to use the Soul-destroying technique at will. He could cast it instantaneously.

It was also from that moment onwards that he truly grasped a secret technique that involved Martial Soul Force!

This secret technique could make his Martial Soul Force attacks even sharper and even more powerful.

Of course, the artifact spirit underwent unspeakable torture during those months. He seemed to go through hellish pain; he who had existed for millions of years learned what it meant by living hell and how days could seem as long as years.

His attitude towards Jian Chen changed again and again. At the very start, he constantly made scathing remarks, scorning him all day long. However, from the second month onwards, he fell silent. He would often go silent for days on end.

During the last month, the artifact spirit seemed to be driven a little mad from the torture. It directly began to curse loudly after the silence from before.

“I can practise a second secret technique now. It’s called the Heaven-severing technique!”

“The Heaven-severing technique is extremely powerful. It’s specially designed for opponents more powerful than me. However, the Heaven-severing technique leads to intense overexertion, so it’s a trump card. It will drain half of all my Martial Soul Force each time I use it. The more powerful my Martial Soul Force becomes, the more powerful the Heaven-severing technique will become...”

“With first senior Hun Zang, second senior Chu Jian, and third senior Yue Chao’s Martial Soul Force as Ninth Heavenly Layer Chaotic Primes, they can probably kill weaker Grand Primes in a split second once they use the Heaven-severing technique...”

“Although the Heaven-severing technique is even more difficult to practise than the Soul-destroying technique, I need to grasp it as soon as possible. That way, once my Martial Soul Force reaches a sufficient level, I’ll have another trump card, a trump card that’s only second to the Profound Sword Qi!”

#### Chapter 2472: Astonishing News

Jian Chen began practising the Heaven-severing technique.

The Heaven-severing technique was truly much more difficult to practise than the Soul-destroying technique. Not only was it more profound and required an even stricter grasp and control over Martial Soul Force, but the other most important factor was that it heavily depleted Martial Soul Force.

With Jian Chen’s current Martial Soul Force, he could cast over a dozen Soul-destroying techniques in a single sitting. As he practised diligently, he grasped the Soul-destroying technique extremely quickly.

However, no matter how plentiful his Martial Soul Force was, he would consume half of it each time he cast the Heaven-severing technique. He would use up all of his Martial Soul Force after just two times, and then he would need to replenish it.

“Condensing the Heaven-severing technique is far harder than the Soul-destroying technique. It has already been half a month. I’ve tried condensing it countless times, but I haven’t succeeded a single time yet. Moreover, all of the Martial Soul Force is consumed during the condensation process.” Half a month later, Jian Chen emerged from the cave where Martial Soul Rock could be collected. He sat down on the rocks before the divine hall again and sank into his thoughts.

He thought through the process and all the minor details he went through each time he condensed the Heaven-severing technique during that half a month. He did his best to find the reasons for his failure.

During this time, the arrogant artifact spirit became quiet for once. It no longer bickered with Jian Chen.

“God dammit, this is utterly despicable. Jian Chen has begun practising a new secret technique for Martial Soul Force. It definitely seems like he’ll continue to experiment on me. What do I do? What do I do? Should I keep provoking him, where I disturb his thoughts with words so that he can’t comprehend the secret technique in peace? But if I anger him, will he keep using the Soul-destroying technique against me?” In reality, the artifact spirit had always been paying attention to Jian Chen. He felt extremely uneasy. He really did not want to go through the hellish days created from the torture of the Soul-destroying technique again.

He wanted to mess with Jian Chen and disturb his cultivation, but he was also indecisive. He had no idea what to do during that time.

Jian Chen sat there for three days. He finally cast the Heaven-severing technique again after that time.

Martial Soul Force rapidly rampaged through his soul, slowly condensing towards a point. This entire process lasted for an entire day. Only then did a tiny, black sword that only Jian Chen could sense condense in his soul.

This tiny, black sword was completely condensed from half of Jian Chen’s Martial Soul Force through a special secret technique. It was extremely condensed Martial Soul Force.

“I’ve finally condensed it!” Jian Chen immediately rejoiced when he saw the small, black sword. Afterwards, with a thought, the tiny sword in his soul immediately shot out of his forehead as an invisible pulse, disappearing into the divine hall in an instant.

The divine hall shook violently, like a person convulsing. The artifact spirit that hid in there finally let out a miserable cry.

Jian Chen could not help but smile when he heard the artifact spirit’s cry. It seemed like the Heaven-severing technique had made the artifact spirit suffer quite a lot.

“Artifact spirit, how do you feel now?” Jian Chen asked while holding back a smile.

“Jian Chen, you sly bastard! What skill do you have in always launching sneak attacks at me? If you’re really skilled, then remove the restraints on me from the Martial Soul Mountain. Let me fight against you fairly,” the artifact spirit said furiously.

“Fight fairly? Does fairness even exist in this world? If it were truly fair, the Elder of Mountains and Seas from your Gloomwater sect would not have chased us everywhere with his cultivation as a Grand Prime.” Jian Chen’s tone became rather cold.

The artifact spirit was left tongue-tied. At that moment, he felt like he could not retort. After all, he was an artifact spirit, not a sly old fox who had an eloquent tongue.

After a moment of silence, he said, “Jian Chen, why don’t we strike a deal? I’ll give you a droplet of hell water if you stop attacking me with Martial Soul Force.

Jian Chen stared at the divine hall calmly and said steadily, “It looks like you do fear the Heaven-severing technique a little. Although it’s very difficult to harm you, it can bring you extreme pain.”

“But I have made it clear. Unless you accept me as your master, you’ll be staying here obediently as my practise target for Martial Soul Force secret techniques.”

“Don’t you even think about making me yield to you...” The artifact spirit declined straightforwardly without any hesitation at all. He left no room for negotiation.

The miserable cries of the artifact spirit would constantly ring out on the Martial Soul Mountain during the next period of time. The Heaven-severing technique was far, far more powerful than the Soul-destroying technique. It caused the artifact spirit great pain.

As a result, the artifact spirit was tortured miserably by Jian Chen. He would wail out constantly, only a step away from crying out for his maker.

However, he sure was stubborn. He would rather endure this great pain than yield to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen’s practice of the Heaven-severing technique lasted for five years. With that, he finally reached a level where he could use the technique at will.

“Eighth junior, you’ve mastered the Heaven-severing technique so quickly?” On this day, Qing Shan came looking for Jian Chen. When he saw how Jian Chen used the Heaven-severing technique smoothly and at will, he was immediately amazed.

He arrived before Jian Chen and could not help but properly study him. He admired Jian Chen from the bottom of his heart and said, “Eighth junior, no wonder your strength has been growing so fast. I heard you personally killed a Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime last time. That shocked me for such a long time. Now that I look at it, you really are a rare genius. Those supreme prodigies raised by peak organisations only seem to be enough to be subservient to you now that I compare you to them.”

“You are too kind, senior Qing Shan. I was only lucky.” Jian Chen stood up and clasped his hands towards Qing Shan.

“There’s no need to be modest. I deeply understand just how difficult it is to practise the Heaven-severing technique. It’s not something one can master out of luck.” Qing Shan continued, “Oh right. Eighth junior, the Heaven-splitting Ancestor from the Nine Clouds Plane seemed to be slightly interested in you. He even sent a person to forcefully take you away back on the Desolate Plane.”

Jian Chen nodded. “That’s indeed the case. Senior Qing Shan, has something bad happened recently since you’ve suddenly brought this up?”

“No, no. There’s no bad news. Instead, there is good news.” Qing Shan chuckled as he seemed extremely happy. He took pleasure in others’ suffering. “Eighth junior, you spent your entire time practising the secret technique and paid no attention to the outside world, so you probably don’t know about the huge matter that has shaken up the entire Saints’ World.”

“What’s so severe that it can shake up the entire Saints’ World?” Jian Chen was curious.

“For some reason, the Heaven-splitting Ancestor from the Nine Clouds Plane offended the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng. He’s actually being chased around everywhere by the first majesty...”

Chapter 2473: The Martial Soul Lineage in Danger

“What? The Heaven-splitting Ancestor is being hunted down by the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng?” This news shocked Jian Chen.

The Heaven-splitting Ancestor was a peak expert who stood at the apex of the Saints’ World, someone only second to Grand Exalts. His strength was unimaginable. Someone like that basically stood supreme in the Saints’ World. Unless there were inconciliable grievances, even peak experts at the same level would not be willing to offend him.

All Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes possessed cultivation close to perfection and exceptional abilities. There would be quite a lot of problems once they had been offended.

Yet now, Jian Chen actually heard that the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, Yi Xin, was hunting down the Heaven-splitting Ancestor. While he was stunned, he also felt utterly astonished.

He was confused by why the Heaven-splitting Ancestor had fallen out with the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, and he was also shocked by the first majesty’s strength.

He had never thought that while they were both Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Primes, the Heaven-splitting Ancestor would actually be hunted down by the first majesty. This allowed Jian Chen to sense just how terrifying the first majesty’s strength was once again.

“A battle at such a level rarely ever happens in the Saints’ World. Now, basically all the peak experts across the Saints’ World are paying attention to this,” Qing Shan discussed with great interest. He was in high spirits, clearly extremely excited by the whole matter.

It felt like the Heaven-splitting Ancestor was not being hunted down by the first majesty but Qing Shan himself.

“Senior Qing Shan, do you know why they began fighting?” Jian Chen asked. An ancient piece of jade appeared in his hand silently. It was covered with the patterning of the ways.

The first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, Yi Xin, had handed the jade to him when he returned the Anatta Tower. As long as he had the jade, he did not have to worry about the Elder of Mountains and Seas finding him through his innate ability.

Unfortunately, he did not know that the Elder of Mountains and Seas was already dead back then, so the jade was not actually very useful anymore.

Qing Shan shook his head. "I don't know why they started fighting, but this time, I heard that the Heaven-splitting Ancestor has been utterly disgraced. He has been chased for several years, and he's still running right now."

At this moment, Hun Zang walked over from afar. He said to Jian Chen, "Eighth junior, I heard that you once assisted the current master of the Neptunean Divine Palace when you were in there. Did that actually happen?"

"Yes, I did. However, I had only struck a deal with Xiao Man back then. May I ask why you've suddenly brought up this matter?"

Hun Zang said in thought, "The Neptunean Divine Palace had been on the Nine Clouds Plane the entire time before. Previously, it was under the protection of the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, so no one in the Saints' World dared to eye it. However, ever since the first majesty killed her way through the Nine Clouds Plane, the Heaven-splitting clan's protective barrier has remained shattered. The Heaven-splitting Ancestor has fled from his clan as well, running all over the Saints' World. Now that the Heaven-splitting clan has lost its leader, it has lost its force of deterrence, so many peak experts have secretly infiltrated the Nine Clouds Plane to take the Neptunean Divine Palace away forcefully. The Neptunean Divine Palace fled from the Nine Clouds Plane as a result, so many experts are chasing it down right now."

Jian Chen became rather stern. Wealth could lead to all sorts of troubles. Now that Xiao Man and Zi Yun possessed an extremely valuable high quality god artifact, the Neptunean Divine Palace, while they were not powerful enough, they would obviously face a lot of problems. After all, he too had been hunted down by all those Grand Primes when he possessed the Anatta Tower.

After all, Zi Yun and Xiao Man were not like him. There was nowhere that they could hide because the Grand Primes could just peer into their location. The Neptunean Divine Palace could only protect them temporarily.

"It looks like the two of them are in danger," thought Jian Chen. Although his ties with Zi Yun and Xiao Man were not particularly deep, he was still rather reluctant to see them being harmed.

"Jian Chen, do you have confidence in roping in the new master of the Neptunean Divine Palace?" Hun Zang stared at Jian Chen with shining eyes.

Jian Chen was slightly surprised when he heard that. The Martial Soul lineage had existed for a very long time such that they themselves became an organisation. Did they still need to rope in the Neptunean Divine Palace?

Hun Zang sighed gently as some worry appeared on his face. "A few protector swords suddenly appeared in the Radiant Saint Hall. Every single protector sword is astonishing powerful, so with a few of them, the strength of the Radiant Saint Hall has risen. They've become the greatest organisation on the Desolate Plane. Our Martial Soul lineage has lost the power to fend off the Radiant Saint Hall, so we need to recruit people who stand with us."

"Protector swords?" Jian Chen was in doubt. He had stayed in the Radiant Saint Hall for some time. Although he did not know everything the Radiant Saint Hall hid, he did know most of it. Since when did the Radiant Saint Hall have protector swords?

"I can try, but I can't guarantee anything," said Jian Chen.

Hun Zang nodded. "If the new master of the Neptunean Divine Palace can band with us, we'll be able to keep her safe before she completely matures at the very least. At the same time, we won't desire anything she possesses. However, if she ends up with those other peak organisations, her situation won't be fantastic."

"A high quality god artifact might not be able to tempt a supreme expert like the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, but it is extremely tempting to most Grand Primes in the Saints' World. As a result, we're helping her, not harming her."

"Let's go and meet the new master of the Neptunean Divine Palace..."

Hun Zang took Jian Chen and Qing Shan to the top of the Martial Soul Mountain. Before long, Chu Jian, Yue Chao, Yun Ziting, Su Qi, and Bai Rufeng all gathered over as well.

The eight successors of the Martial Soul lineage had gathered together.

"Eighth junior, may I ask how much confidence you have in roping in the new master and making her stand on our side?" His fifth senior sister, Su Qi, stared at Jian Chen. Clearly, she cared about this matter very much.

After a moment of thought, Jian Chen said, "Actually, I don't have much confidence at all. I can only try my best."

Su Qi nodded. She was filled with helplessness as she sighed gently. "Originally, our Martial Soul lineage was no weaker than the Radiant Saint Hall. However, after the Radiant Saint Hall gained their protector swords, the difference in strength widened in an instant, forcing us to seek foreign reinforcement. Eighth junior, we'll all be relying on you this time."

"Roping in the Neptunean Divine Palace is only the first step. We need to gather even more people who will stand with us in the future, or our Martial Soul lineage will be in danger," Chu Jian added sternly. The appearance of the protector swords made them feel a great sense of danger.

Hun Zang glanced past everyone and said, "We'll talk about this in the future. Let's use the power of the mountain soul to head over first. The Neptunean Divine Palace seems to be trapped, so we better hurry up."

#### Chapter 2474: Crossing Through Space

Atop the Martial Soul Mountain were nine, grindstone-sized stone pedestals. They stood in a formation there. Every single pedestal was connected with many inscriptions.

As he looked at the nine pedestals, Jian Chen knew that this was where the secret for crossing a huge distance and appearing anywhere in the Saints' World through the power of the mountain soul lay.

The mountain soul was not the soul of the Martial Soul Mountain, but an apparition of the Martial Soul Mountain's power. However, this power was referred to as the mountain soul by the Martial Soul lineage.

That was where its name came from.



The formation created by the nine pedestals was crucial for connecting the power of the Martial Soul Mountain to the outside world.

During the years he spent in the sacred grounds, Jian Chen had absorbed a lot of knowledge regarding the Martial Soul lineage. Although he did not know everything, he did know most of it. He knew that there needed to be five people at least in order to activate the formation.

These five people all had to be members of the Martial Soul lineage. They could not be replaced by others.

Moreover, the higher the number of people who took part in activating the formation and the more powerful they were, the more terrifying the mountain soul's power would become.

At this moment, Hun Zang, Chu Jian, Yue Chao, Yun Ziting, Su Qi, Bai Rufeng, and Qing Shan all sat on the stone pedestals.

Jian Chen did not hesitate when he saw that. He arrived before an empty pedestal and sat down. He looked at the empty ninth pedestal and thought, "I wonder when the ninth successor of the Martial Soul lineage will appear." He could not help but think of the glorious age when all nine successors were present.

However, Jian Chen's mind quivered in the next moment. He felt like his soul had established an extremely obscure connection with the Martial Soul Mountain. He felt like he had become part of the Martial Soul Mountain, and they were inseparable.

Afterwards, he felt the world around him spin. He seemed to see countless stars flicker as they changed in position.

This feeling lasted for just a few seconds. When the landscape around Jian Chen cleared up again, he discovered that he was in a completely different region of space.

Many meteorites and shattered planets hovered in the surroundings. Violent energy filled the entire region.

Jian Chen glanced beneath his feet and discovered that the Martial Soul Mountain under him had already turned illusionary; it was completely condensed from energy. In that short moment, he had left the Martial Soul Mountain, crossing a tremendous distance and appearing in a foreign region of space.

"The Martial Soul Mountain really is wondrous. Just the speed alone is faster than interplanar teleportation formations. More importantly, it doesn't need five-colored divine crystals at all," Jian Chen sighed in amazement inside.

At this moment, a huge boom rang out from behind.

Jian Chen immediately followed the sound and looked over. He saw an azure divine hall there, shining with dazzling, blue light that formed an impenetrable screen of light, enveloping the entire structure.

A huge chain shone with dazzling light and wound around the screen of light, completely trapping the divine hall.

Several dozen Primordial realm experts surged with energy, using various methods to keep the divine hall suppressed.

Seven of them were Grand Primes, while the rest were Chaotic Primes.

Jian Chen's face immediately sank when he saw the trapped divine hall because it was the Neptunean Divine Palace.

"The people of the Martial Soul lineage have actually come as well. I never thought the Martial Soul lineage would be interested in the Neptunean Divine Palace as well. However, Hun Zang, let me say this first. Before the Neptunean Divine Palace runs out of energy, we're not allowed to fight against one another, just in case the Neptunean Divine Palace manages to slip away again."

It was impossible for them to hide the arrival of the mountain soul from the peak experts. Even from afar, they noticed it the moment it appeared. Immediately, an old voice boomed out.

He was a Grand Prime. His voice was thunderous, booming through the entire region.

"And what happens once the Neptunean Divine Palace runs out of power?" Hun Zang asked from the top of the mountain soul.

"Once it runs out, it'll obviously be up to your personal ability..." replied a peak expert coldly.

"Personal ability? Alright then." Hun Zang chuckled and approached the Neptunean Divine Palace with the Martial Soul Mountain.

"I'll contact the artifact spirit of the Neptunean Divine Palace and see if we can forge an alliance through eighth junior's relationship. If they're willing, we'll do it," Hun Zang said to the other members of the Martial Soul lineage secretly before sitting down.

Jian Chen immediately sensed an extremely obscure strand of Martial Soul Force drift out from Hun Zang's forehead, spreading towards the Neptunean Divine Palace carefully.

It was difficult for others to discover Martial Soul Force. Coupled with Hun Zang's careful control, even the Grand Primes present failed to sense it.

Martial Soul Force could penetrate everything, so the Martial Soul Force from Hun Zang passed through the energy restraints smoothly. It gently came into contact with the Neptunean Divine Palace without alerting anyone.

The Grand Primes in the surroundings stared at the Martial Soul Mountain the entire time. They paid close attention to all their actions. They were extremely stern.

A few of them even looked at the Martial Soul Mountain cautiously with fear.

The Martial Soul lineage was renowned across the Saints' World. Although they could not break through to Grand Prime, no one dared to underestimate the successors of the Martial Soul lineage.

This was because many experts who had once fought against them still felt lingering fear. Even after they became Grand Primes, they did not dare to look down on the Martial Soul lineage as long as they had not reached the higher levels of Grand Prime.

“Hun Zang, why hasn’t your Martial Soul lineage taken action yet?” At this moment, a voice rang out. An old man was questioning the Martial Soul lineage. He felt that something was off from how Hun Zang sat with his eyes closed.

“We’ve just crossed over a huge distance to come here, so we obviously need to recover. Moreover, wasting away all of the energy can’t be achieved in a single day or two. What’s the hurry?” Hun Zang replied calmly.

At the same time, Xiao Man and Zi Yun stood within the Neptunean Divine Palace. They were worried and panicking. Clearly, they knew the situation outside very well and understood the predicament they were in.

“What do we do? What do we do? What are we supposed to do? If this continues, the Neptunean Divine Palace will run out of energy one day.” Xiao Man was completely flustered. She was at a complete loss.

“Xiao Man, don’t worry. The Heaven-splitting Ancestor will definitely come save us. His battle against the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng should end soon.” Zi Yun comforted Xiao Man, but her beautiful face was filled with much unease as well.

At this moment, a short old man appeared silently. He said to Xiao Man, “Little master, Hun Zang of the Martial Soul lineage has contacted me. He said he wants to form an alliance with little master. If little master is willing, their Martial Soul lineage can break us out...”

“I won’t listen to them, I won’t. I’ll never form an alliance with them. They seem all nice, but they’re actually tricking us. Hmph, do you think I’m easy to trick?” Xiao Man shook her head in annoyance.

“The Martial Soul lineage has always possessed a good name in the Saints’ World. They never delve into tricks and schemes, so they should be trustworthy. M- moreover, Hun Zang said he’s Jian Chen’s senior brother. Jian Chen is outside as well,” said the artifact spirit of the Neptunean Divine Palace.

#### Chapter 2475: Objective Fulfilled

When she heard him mention Jian Chen’s name, the expression of the previously irritated Xiao Man immediately changed. She stared at the short old man with shining eyes and cried out, “What did you say? J- Jian Chen is outside? Brother Jian Chen?”

Even Zi Yun’s eyes lit up when she heard Jian Chen’s name. She suddenly looked at the short old man, and a strange light flickered through her eyes. There was undisguised eagerness and excitement.

“Jian Chen? Is it really him? It has been so many years since I last saw him. I wonder how he’s doing now...” Zi Yun thought inside. She could not help but think of the times she had interacted with him.

The old man nodded. “Yes, that Jian Chen. However, he seems to have become one of the successors of the Martial Soul lineage now.”

“I want to see brother Jian Chen. Let brother Jian Chen in. I want to talk to brother Jian Chen,” Xiao Man said excitedly. Back in the Heaven-splitting clan, she had offered the Pynite Ore to the Heaven-splitting Ancestor in exchange for him saving Jian Chen. In the end, Jian Chen vanished from the Desolate Plane completely, which made Xiao Man feel regret for a very long time.

Now that she finally received news of Jian Chen again after so many years, she was extremely excited.

Although she had not known Jian Chen for a very long time, he had assisted her when they met for the first time on the spatial battleship, which filled her with gratitude. Afterwards, when she and Zi Yun faced the pursuit of so many Godkings and were almost doomed, Jian Chen had assisted them in the end, allowing them to survive.

Even when she became the master of the Neptunean Divine Palace, Jian Chen had assisted her a lot.

Not only did Xiao Man develop trust for Jian Chen after all this, but she even felt like she could depend on him. She began to treat him as her elder brother.

“That might not be possible. The Neptunean Divine Palace has been restrained by many experts. Even if Jian Chen enters this place, he won’t be able to leave.” The artifact spirit was troubled.

“W- what do we do then?” Xiao Man frowned. She was at a loss.

Zi Yun hesitated before telling her, “Xiao Man, we’re out of options now. Once the Neptunean Divine Palace runs out of power, we’ll end up in their hands anyway. When that happens, who knows what will happen to us. Since that’s the case, why don’t we just form an alliance with the Martial Soul lineage? Jian Chen is a member of the Martial Soul lineage after all. I think that if we form an alliance with them, no matter how bad it is, we’ll be better off compared to ending up in the hands of the experts who have chased us relentlessly.”

Clearly, Xiao Man valued Zi Yun’s words very much. With that, Xiao Man immediately nodded. “Alright then. Since brother Jian Chen is a part of the Martial Soul lineage, let’s form an alliance with them. I believe brother Jian Chen won’t harm us.”

...

“Hun Zang, why hasn’t your Martial Soul lineage taken action yet? Are you saving your energy to take advantage of the situation once we’re all exhausted?” Another expert called out from outside the Neptunean Divine Palace. When he saw how Hun Zang remained seated on the Martial Soul Mountain, he felt that something seemed off.

“Martial Soul Force is extremely profound. Those who are not a part of the Martial Soul lineage will never understand its secrets. Hun Zang, are you secretly tampering with the Neptunean Divine Palace through the wondrous abilities of your Martial Soul Force?” A man in gold and violet armor asked. His battle intent surged as the power of slaughter wrapped around him.

He was the ruler of a large clan in the Saints’ World. He was extremely powerful.

At the same time, he was the only person present who did not take the Martial Soul lineage seriously.

Hun Zang slowly opened his eyes. He looked at everyone and smiled mysteriously. “Whatever. Since everyone wants our Martial Soul lineage to take action, we’ll do it then.”

“Martial Soul Array!” Hun Zang called out.

With that, a light flashed through Jian Chen’s eyes. He knew that Xiao Man had agreed to the alliance from Hun Zang’s action. Immediately, without any hesitation, he formed the Martial Soul Array with everyone else.

The Martial Soul Array was a famed array used by the Martial Soul lineage in battle. It was not complicated. Jian Chen had already grasped it in the sacred grounds.

As soon as the Martial Soul Array was cast, Jian Chen immediately felt his vital energies seemingly fuse with everyone else, and all of it surged towards Hun Zang. At that moment, all the power from the eight of them gathered on Hun Zang.

Moreover, with the formation of the Martial Soul Array, even the illusionary mountain soul below them seemed to fuse with Hun Zang, allowing Hun Zang to use its power as he wished.

Immediately, Hun Zang's presence surged. Energy pulsed from him like tidal waves, and the terrifying waves caused space to ripple.

"There's something off! Be careful, everyone!" The expression of the expert in violet and gold changed, and he immediately warned everyone.

Anyone could tell with a single glance that Hun Zang was using his full strength. There was no need to do something like that just to deplete the Neptunean Divine Palace's energy.

"Hun Zang, what are you trying to do?" At the same time, the other Grand Primes bellowed out. They were cautious.

"Oh no, he wants to destroy our restraint around the Neptunean Divine Palace. Stop him..." The armored expert saw through Hun Zang's intention very quickly and immediately warned everyone.

However, it was already too late. Hun Zang had arrived before the Neptunean Divine Palace and used the Soul-destroying technique five times. The five Soul-destroying techniques turned into invisible, sharp swords, directly stabbing into the restraints around the Neptunean Divine Palace.

The chain was a medium quality god artifact. It had been extremely useful in keeping the Neptunean Divine Palace trapped.

"Argh!" Immediately, a painful howl rang out from the chains. The Soul-destroying technique used by Hun Zang was far more powerful than Jian Chen's. Now that he had used it five times, the artifact spirit of the medium quality god artifact immediately suffered heavy injuries. It made the chains dim.

Hun Zang had unleashed his full strength when he sent out the Soul-destroying techniques. The power from the eight successors of the Martial Soul lineage gathered on him, along with the power from the mountain soul, so his current strength was far greater than before. He directly hurled out a fist. Its power was shocking and terrifying, collapsing space. He created a hole in the seal that the Grand Primes had laid down around the Neptunean Divine Palace.

He directly grabbed a part of the chain with his left hand and wrenched it. With a series of clinks, the entire chain was ripped from the Neptunean Divine Palace.

The Neptunean Divine Palace was immediately freed.

"Hun Zang!" The person in violet and gold armor bellowed out. He directly stabbed the spear in his hand towards Hun Zang.

Immediately, the spear shone with blinding light. Terrifying energy gathered over, and it shot through the air with the power from the ways of the world, directly appearing before Hun Zang.

Hun Zang's eyes suddenly became pitch-black. He stared right at the spear as invisible Martial Soul Force erupted.

Immediately, the spear trembled and dimmed. It slowed down as well, allowing Hun Zang to dodge it easily.

"Hun Zang, your Martial Soul lineage has actually ruined everything!" At the same time, the other peak experts were extremely furious. They all condensed the power of ways and launched multi-colored attacks towards Hun Zang, piercing through space.

They knew the powers of Hun Zang's Marital Soul Force, so they did not dare to use god artifacts. They were afraid that the artifact spirit would be injured, and the god artifact's power would plummet.

At this moment, the Neptunean Divine Palace turned into a blur and charged out as quickly as it could. It landed on the mountain soul and hovered before Jian Chen. Currently, it was the size of a fist.

"Kid, the little master trusts you a lot. Don't let little master down. I'll let you hold onto me for now. We'll discuss the other matters once we leave here." The artifact spirit's voice rang out in Jian Chen's head.

With a flash, Hun Zang appeared on the Martial Soul Mountain as well. He looked at the Neptunean Divine Palace hovering before Jian Chen and smiled faintly. "We've fulfilled our objective. There's no need to waste our efforts in a pointless battle against them. Let's go back."

"Hun Zang, your Martial Soul lineage has gone too far." The armored expert hovered beyond the Martial Soul Mountain. He worked with the other peak experts, launching fierce attacks at the Martial Soul Mountain.

Chapter 2476: I Only Recognise Jian Chen

"Let's go!" Hun Zang called out, and the Martial Soul Mountain there suddenly vanished. It completely disappeared along with the eight successors of the Martial Soul lineage and the Neptunean Divine Palace.

The attacks from the Grand Primes landed where the Martial Soul Mountain vanished. Devastating shockwaves collapsed space, reducing that region into darkness.

There were so many of them, but they were unable to stop the Martial Soul Mountain from leaving.

"I really never thought that we would go to such lengths only to be taken advantage of by the Martial Soul lineage in the end," a Grand Prime old man sighed at the sky. His face was filled with helplessness and regret.

The other experts also hovered in outer space and stared at where the Martial Soul Mountain had vanished from. Although they were vexed, they also felt powerless.

The eyes of the expert in gold and violet armor were cold. His face was extremely ugly. He snorted coldly before leaving in a flash.

All the peak experts who took part in the operation for the Neptunean Divine Palace ended up wasting their efforts. They allowed the Martial Soul lineage to take away the Neptunean Divine Palace easily.

The colossal Martial Soul Mountain hovered quietly in a distant region of outer space. It moved through space with an irregular motion.

Jian Chen, Hun Zang, and the others suddenly appeared on the Martial Soul Mountain. They had crossed a huge distance with the Neptunean Divine Palace, returning to the Martial Soul Mountain.

However, everyone was staring at the fist-sized Neptunean Divine Palace in Jian Chen's hand. They all smiled.

"I never thought that forging an alliance with the Neptunean Divine Palace would be so easy," said Jian Chen's fifth senior sister, Su Qi. Clearly, she was extremely happy.

Hun Zang chuckled from that. "Eighth junior was crucial to this entire process happening without a hitch. If it were not for eighth junior's connection, the master of the Neptunean Divine Palace would have never been willing to work with us."

"Haha, our Martial Soul lineage really has gained quite a lot of good fortune with eighth junior's arrival. The peak organisations have tried everything they can think of to rope in the Neptunean Divine Palace, but we, the Martial Soul lineage, succeeded in our first attack. It's all because of eighth junior," added Yue Chao in praise.

Clearly, the members of the Martial Soul lineage were extremely delighted over the fact that they had successfully forged an alliance with the Neptunean Divine Palace. Although the master of the Neptunean Divine Palace was still very weak, the divine hall was a high quality god artifact after all. It would bring great help to the Martial Soul lineage.

If the Martial Soul lineage waged battles elsewhere, the Neptunean Divine Palace would basically be a sturdy, moving fortress.

After all, the true Martial Soul Mountain could not be controlled. Moving through space with the power of the mountain soul could only take them to regions in outer space. They were unable to descend on the forty-nine great planes or the eighty-one great planets. Moreover, the mountain soul was not invincible. Once they encountered an extremely powerful opponent, its power could still be dispersed.

In terms of defence, the mountain soul completely paled in comparison to a high quality god artifact.

The addition of the Neptunean Divine Palace had made up for the Martial Soul lineage's only flaw in battle.

Bang!

With a heavy thud, the Neptunean Divine Palace turned back to thousands of metres long and landed on an open area of the Martial Soul Mountain.

If it were not for how extraordinary the Martial Soul Mountain was, this would probably be enough to crush the mountain to pieces.

Jian Chen looked at the Neptunean Divine Palace and smiled faintly. He knew that this had all been on purpose because even if the divine hall was terrifyingly massive, the artifact spirit could still make it as light as a feather and prevent all this.

“The Martial Soul Mountain really is extraordinary. I feel like it’s even more mysterious than the rumors say. When I tested it just then, I could not shake it up at all with my current power. Moreover, I can sense a very great suppressive power hidden in here. Once the suppressive power erupts, even I probably can’t leave. Little master, stay in here. Don’t go out,” said the short old man in the Neptunean Divine Palace sternly. He was fearful towards the Martial Soul Mountain.

“I believe that brother Jian Chen won’t harm me. If he really does harm me, then... then I’ll just accept all of it.” Xiao Man seemed like she was ready to risk everything. She completely ignored the artifact spirit’s words and immediately flew out.

Zi Yun followed Xiao Man closely. As she looked at the entrance that grew closer and closer, she discovered that her heart had started to beat faster and faster. Jian Chen’s tall, sturdy figure would constantly appear in her mind.

Finally, the two of them emerged from the Neptunean Divine Palace. They stood at the Neptunean Divine Palace’s grand entrance. From there, they saw Jian Chen standing with the seven other successors of the Martial Soul lineage with a single glance.

“Brother Jian Chen, I’ve finally found you!” Xiao Man called out happily. Just like an orphan who had found her long lost parents, she seemed extremely excited. She immediately ran over and clung onto Jian Chen’s arm closely.

Zi Yun stood at the entrance as she smiled. Her gaze remained fixed on Jian Chen the entire time. She seemed rather composed on the surface, but she was nowhere close to calm inside.

“Xiao Man, you’ve grown up!” Jian Chen smiled. Xiao Man now seemed like a lady in her twenties, no longer the little girl he had met back then.

Even Xiao Man’s strength had increased drastically since then. She had reached late Reciprocity, only a step away from Godhood.

Afterwards, Jian Chen looked at Zi Yun. He smiled and nodded at her in greeting.

“Several decades have passed, but apart from growing stronger, he hasn’t changed at all,” thought Zi Yun. For some reason, she suddenly felt extremely calm the moment she saw Jian Chen. It was as if the sense of danger she experienced in the past few years when she fled with Xiao Man in the Neptunean Divine Palace had evaporated in an instant.

It was like she had managed to find a calm, little island in the surging, tempestuous seas, finding a place that could shelter her from everything.

With a slight greeting, they formally began the discussion of the alliance.

“We can form an alliance, but I’ll only discuss with brother Jian Chen. I won’t talk to anyone else other than brother Jian Chen,” Xiao Man said firmly.



Hun Zang and the others looked at one another. In the end, they smiled bitterly and helplessly. Without any other choice, they could only allow Jian Chen and Xiao Man to discuss the exact details of the alliance separately.

#### Chapter 2477: Zi Yun's Heart

Jian Chen, Xiao Man, and Zi Yun sat around a stone table in a beautiful garden within the Neptunean Divine Palace.

Although Jian Chen had come as a representative of the Martial Soul lineage to discuss the details of the alliance with Xiao Man, it took the three of them quite a long time to reach that topic. Instead, they began a casual conversation.

After seeing Jian Chen, it seemed like she had suddenly found the person she depended on. She explained all the suffering, worries, and fear she had experienced outside, mentioning all the difficulties she went through. When she mentioned how she had been surrounded by all the experts, she even had to hold back sobs. She seemed pitiful.

"All of the Pynrite Ore in the Neptunean Divine Palace ended up in the Heaven-splitting Ancestor's hands?" Jian Chen naturally learnt about the deal between Xiao Man and the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, which made his face change slightly.

Although Pynrite Ore was only a high grade God Tier material, he had learnt from the Samsaric Immortal Exalt that it was far more complicated than it appeared on the surface.

That was because Pynrite Ore was a crucial material for the creation of an ultimate weapon. Once the ultimate weapon was refined, the Immortals' World and the Demons' World would be facing disaster.

"I was weak back in the Neptunean Divine Palace, and I couldn't even approach the Pynrite Ore. As such, I was unable to take it away. Originally, I planned on getting stronger before exchanging it with Xiao Man for other things. I never thought the Pynrite Ore would end up in the hands of the Heaven-splitting Ancestor instead," thought Jian Chen. The future was truly unpredictable. When he left the Pynrite Ore where it was before, he never thought he would lose all hope of taking it away.

He understood that since the Pynrite Ore had ended up in the hands of the Heaven-splitting Ancestor, there was no chance of him taking it back unless he became so powerful that he did not fear the Heaven-splitting Ancestor anymore.

However, the Heaven-splitting Ancestor was a Ninth Heavenly Layer Grand Prime, one of the most powerful existences below Grand Exalt. He stood at the apex of the world. Jian Chen could not deal with even the weakest Chaotic Primes with his current level of cultivation, so the difference between him and the Heaven-splitting Ancestor could not be described as just an uncrossable chasm.

"But what's the Heaven-splitting Ancestor going to do with all that Pynrite Ore?" However, Jian Chen also felt very curious. High grade God Tier materials were very precious, but they did not seem to interest experts like the Heaven-splitting Ancestor.

"Brother Jian Chen, where did you go when you left the Desolate Plane..."

"Brother Jian Chen, when did you join the Martial Soul lineage..."

...

Afterwards, Xiao Man seemed to become a curious child, asking various questions about what Jian Chen had gone through in the past few years. Zi Yun could not add in even a single word.

In the blink of an eye, a day and a night had passed. When Jian Chen saw how Xiao Man still did not plan on stopping, he finally could not help but cut her off. "Xiao Man, let's discuss the alliance first."

"Alliance?" Xiao Man came up with an evil idea when she heard that; she looked at Zi Yun and giggled. "It's not like I know anything about alliances. You might as well discuss it with sister Zi Yun. I'll follow whatever sister Zi Yun decides on. Sister Zi Yun, you have to talk with brother Jian Chen properly. I'll go cultivate first." With that, Xiao Man pulled a face cheekily at Zi Yun as she secretly said to her, "Sister Zi Yun, I've created an opportunity for you to spend time alone with brother Jian Chen. You have to make good use of it."

"Look at you, what are you talking about?" Zi Yun blushed slightly. She could not help but retort gently. However, she glanced at Jian Chen with a rather guilty conscience, and her heartbeat sped up.

A secret message from someone with Xiao Man's level of cultivation could not be hidden from even a Godking, let alone Jian Chen who was even more powerful. As a result, Zi Yun knew that Jian Chen had heard what Xiao Man just said.

"She must have done it on purpose," she cursed inside, but she actually felt rather eager and experienced a sweet feeling.

"Lady Zi Yun, since Xiao Man has given you the power to decide, you'll represent the Neptunean Divine Palace in discussing the exact details of the alliance with our Martial Soul lineage," Jian Chen said. His expression was completely natural as if he did not hear anything at all.

Zi Yun immediately felt slightly disappointed when she saw Jian Chen's ignorant behaviour. However, she showed none of it. She only sucked in a deep breath and began a formal discussion with Jian Chen.

The discussion about the alliance was very simple. It was just an agreement on a military alliance between the Martial Soul lineage and the Neptunean Divine Palace. The Martial Soul lineage would take responsibility for protecting the Neptunean Divine Palace, keeping its master safe before she became powerful. On the other hand, the Neptunean Divine Palace only needed to help out the Martial Soul lineage in battles elsewhere as a high quality god artifact.

Very soon, Jian Chen mentioned all the requests and suggestions brought up by Hun Zang and the others.

"The greatest enemy of your Martial Soul lineage is only the Radiant Saint Hall. Forming an alliance with the Martial Soul lineage is basically having the Radiant Saint Hall replace all the peak experts who have been chasing us through outer space. Alright then, it's no problem. I'll agree to the alliance in Xiao Man's place. At least we'll be able to cultivate peacefully after we've formed the alliance." Zi Yun agreed without any hesitation because the Martial Soul lineage's request was very simple. It was not particularly demanding. Moreover, the Neptunean Divine Hall's side would benefit more, so there was nothing to think too much about.

“If that’s the case, I’ll go tell my seniors.” Jian Chen immediately stood up. He was about to leave the Neptunean Divine Palace now that his objective was completed.

“Jian Chen!” Zi Yun stood up and called at him.

Jian Chen paused and looked back. “Lady Zi Yun, is there anything else?”

When she saw Jian Chen’s confused face, the light in Zi Yun’s eyes flickered. She gritted her teeth and worked up the courage. “Why don’t you spend some more time here? You’re in such a hurry to leave.” There was some hidden bitterness in her voice.

“There’s no need. My seniors are still waiting for me to tell them the results of the discussion. We’re all going to be on the Martial Soul Mountain in the future anyway, so we’ll have plenty of opportunities to see each other,” Jian Chen replied politely before leaving the Neptunean Divine Palace without even looking back.

Zi Yun stood around the stone table as she stared in Jian Chen’s direction blankly. There was undisguised disappointment and gloom on her face.

Chapter 2478: Astonishing Growth

From then onwards, the Martial Soul Mountain gained a divine hall, the Neptunean Divine Palace.

Ever since the master of the Neptunean Divine Palace, Xiao Man, arrived on the Martial Soul Mountain, she rarely appeared. She spent most of her time cultivating.

After all the running and everything else she had experienced in the past few years, she deeply understood the importance of personal strength, which was why she worked extremely hard.

As for Zi Yun, she would walk around the Martial Soul Mountain frequently. Aside from visiting the seven other successors, she would spend most of her time strolling around where Jian Chen entered seclusion.

However, Jian Chen entered secluded cultivation right after the negotiation for the alliance ended. He completely ignored the matters happening around him.

Even though Zi Yun had visited where Jian Chen cultivated many times, she never disturbed him. She only stood in the distance, looking at Jian Chen’s figure quietly. After a while, she would leave with some disappointment.

In the blink of an eye, a decade had already passed since the Neptunean Divine Palace and the Martial Soul Mountain established an alliance. Everything had been peaceful on the Martial Soul Mountain. Even though many peak experts knew that the Neptunean Divine Palace was on the Martial Soul Mountain, none of them dared to set foot there.

Jian Chen did not spend these ten years practising the secret techniques involving Martial Soul Force. Instead, he chose to refine his fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi.

He sat on the empty ground as sword Qi swam around him. An invisible sword intent revolved around him; it was more powerful sometimes and weaker at other times. As a result, he would shine with a surging glow from time to time, illuminating the entire Martial Soul Mountain.

After ten years of refinement, he had reached an extremely crucial point in the creation of his fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi.

Ten kilometres away, Zi Yun stood on a rock in a white dress. She possessed beauty that outshone the moon. Even though she was not as pretty as Shangguan Mu'er, she was still utterly enchanting, enough for countless men to worship her.

She stood there quietly as she stared right at Jian Chen with her pitch-black pupils.

"It has been ten years. It has been ten years already. I haven't struck up a single conversation with him since he left the Neptunean Divine Palace ten years ago. I wonder when he'll finish cultivating." Zi Yun sighed inside as she quietly stared at the figure in the distance.

She behaved the same today as any other day. After staring for two hours, she turned around to leave.

However, at this moment, a strand of extremely powerful sword Qi suddenly condensed in the distance. A finger-sized, silver-white sword Qi hovered above Jian Chen's head, shining with blinding light. It was as dazzling as the sun.

The sword Qi seemed to contain a mysterious power, allowing it to bypass all bodily defences and directly affect the soul.

Zi Yun, who originally wanted to leave, stopped subconsciously. She could not help but look at the strand of sword Qi above Jian Chen's head, and she immediately felt a piercing pain in her eyes. Even her soul felt like it was being ripped apart. It was as if it had been stabbed by countless sword Qi.

"W- what is this ability? My soul was almost injured from just a glance." Zi Yun was utterly shocked. She immediately closed her eyes and hid behind a rock in a flash, no longer daring to look at it again.

"I've finally condensed my fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi."

A while later, the devastating sword intent slowly disappeared, and Jian Chen opened his eyes. Now that he had refined his fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi, the strength of the other three strands had increased slightly as well.

"Now, my Profound Sword Qi can cause even greater harm to Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes. If I fought against the Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime from the Gloomwater sect again, it won't be as difficult as before for me to kill him even if I don't use Martial Soul Force," thought Jian Chen. His fourth strand of Profound Sword Qi made his confidence swell.

"The Profound Sword Qi I used back then in the Gloomwater sect was discovered by many peak experts, but not a single one of them recognised its origins. It looks like there are extremely few Grand Primes in the Saints' World who recognise the Profound Sword Qi."

"But fair enough. After all, the Profound Sword Qi was invented by the old master of the sword spirits. With his cultivation as a Grand Exalt, only Grand Exalts of the Saints' World can force him to use the Profound Sword Qi. Grand Primes obviously wouldn't have the right to learn about it."

"It looks like there's no need for me to hide my Profound Sword Qi so much in the future. After all, the Profound Sword Qi isn't like the twin swords. Not a lot of people know about them," Jian Chen thought. Afterwards, with another thought, a thin tendril appeared from the Space Ring on his finger. The tendril

constantly extended out, turning into an extremely colorful flower that was only three inches tall. It sat in his palm.

This was the Immortal Devouring Orchid.

“You’ve finally reached Godking. You haven’t wasted all my nurturing.” Jian Chen looked at the Immortal Devouring Orchid before waving his hand gently. The Immortal Devouring Orchid immediately dropped onto the ground and rapidly swelled.

In the end, it swelled to several hundred metres tall. Countless tendrils danced around beneath it, wanting to root into the ground. Unfortunately, the Martial Soul Mountain was too tough, and the mountain was protected by a mysterious power. As such, no matter how it tried, it was unable to root down.

“You should be able to devour Primordial realm corpses now. Here’s a First Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime.” Jian Chen waved his hand. Immediately, a Primordial realm corpse flew out and fell onto the ground.

As if the Immortal Devouring Orchid had just seen a source of great nourishment, it became extremely excited. Countless tendrils stretched over and wrapped around the corpse. Some of the roots directly stabbed into the corpse and started sucking away at it.

Afterwards, a thought appeared. After becoming a Godking, the Immortal Devouring Orchid had developed intelligence. Although it could not talk, it could communicate with thoughts.

“What? A corpse isn’t enough?” Jian Chen was stunned, but without any hesitation, he tossed out another corpse. It was also a First Heavenly Layer Infinite Prime.

Immediately, the second corpse was wrapped by the tendrils of the Immortal Devouring Orchid. Afterwards, its huge flower seemed to become a gaping mouth, devouring both corpses in one gulp.

“Jian Chen, w- what is this?” At this moment, Zi Yun arrived before Jian Chen as well. She stared right at the Immortal Devouring Orchid as she showed a look of interest.

“It’s... probably a wondrous plant that I’m raising,” said Jian Chen.

After devouring the two corpses, the Immortal Devouring Orchid seemed to reach its limit. It shook as it shrank, slowly climbing back onto Jian Chen’s right hand and entering the Space Ring again.

Two Primordial realm corpses were indeed its limit. It needed to digest them immediately.

“I feel like it’s very powerful. Even though it only has the presence of an early Godking, I feel like it’s a mid Godking,” said Zi Yun.

“It is indeed extraordinary, or I wouldn’t go to such great lengths to raise it,” said Jian Chen. The Immortal Devouring Orchid grew even faster than he had previously imagined. This filled him with anticipation.

If this continued, the Immortal Devouring Orchid would grow to a level where it could help him before long.

Of course, he had to provide the Immortal Devouring Orchid with enough food first.

#### Chapter 2479: Yue Chao Injured

Zi Yun sat down beside Jian Chen and stared at the side of his face. “Young master Jian Chen’s talent is outstanding and rare. You’ve just become an Infinite Prime recently, yet you already have the power to kill Ninth Heavenly Layer Infinite Primes. You’re thousands of times more impressive than those supreme prodigies raised by peak organisations in the Saints’ World. I wonder how outstanding a woman has to be for her to be worthy of you.”

However, as soon as she said that, Zi Yun felt like she had just said something inappropriate. How did she reach the topic of Jian Chen’s love life? It seemed like she was purposefully asking about it. It was far too obvious.

Zi Yun felt absent-minded after realising what she had just asked. Her heart beat rapidly as she became nervous. She thought, “What’s up with me? Why did I suddenly ask something like this? In the past ten years, did I... with young master Jian Chen...” As soon as she thought of that, Zi Yun could not help but blush slightly. She seemed rather embarrassed like a little girl.

Jian Chen sat there calmly. He stared off into space and said gently, “I’m already married.”

With that, Zi Yun immediately stiffened up. Her face immediately became rather pale, and her beating heart felt like it was being ripped apart.

“Any person with some level of status has many wives in the Saints’ World. With how outstanding Jian Chen is, it’s nothing special for him to have a partner already.” But very quickly, Zi Yun calmed down. In that instant, she thought of a lot of things and completely accepted them. She even calmed down.

“You already have a partner, but you can take on more. A supreme prodigy as outstanding as young master Jian Chen might have many wives in the future,” Zi Yun said softly.

Jian Chen shook his head gently and said calmly, “I already have three wives, but I’ve let down every single one of them. I’ve failed to live up to the role of a husband. Moreover, I’m completely devoted to cultivation, always working harder to reach a higher level of cultivation. I haven’t considered any aspects of love at all, so I don’t plan on taking on another woman in the future.”

“Perhaps my path is more suitable for being taken alone, without anything tying me back...”

Jian Chen completely understood that Zi Yun had developed feelings for him, but he had always treated her as a regular friend. He had never considered that, so he directly turned her down.

“I hope Zi Yun can understand,” thought Jian Chen. In reality, he could already tell ten years ago that Zi Yun had developed feelings for him unknowingly. The ten years of cultivation, in a certain sense, was avoidance.

Unfortunately, Zi Yun just could not see—no, perhaps she already saw, but she refused to believe it. She refused to give up. She truly would not stop unless she reached a dead end, which was why he could only say something like that.

Him never accepting another woman for the rest of his life could completely shatter any hope that Zi Yun held.

Zi Yun fell silent. She did not say anything at all. She only stared at the vast cosmos beyond the Martial Soul Mountain rather blankly. She was dejected.

At that moment, she felt like the world before her had lost its former color. It had become dull. Even though the outside world was colorful and varied, vast and beautiful, and her future path of cultivation would be smooth, she suddenly felt that everything was pointless.

At this moment, a figure directly fell over from beyond the Martial Soul Mountain. He was in free fall, directly falling towards the Martial Soul Mountain.

“It’s third senior!” Jian Chen recognised the falling figure right away. He happened to be Jian Chen’s third senior, Yue Chao. His face changed, and he immediately ignored Zi Yun beside him. He directly charged into the air, piercing through the sky as a resplendent streak of light like a strand of sword Qi. He arrived before Yue Chao in an instant and caught him.

“Third senior, why are you injured?” Landing back onto the ground, Jian Chen looked at the bloodied, pale-faced Yue Chao. He was extremely stern.

He could tell with a single glance that Yue Chao had suffered very heavy wounds.

Yue Chao was one of the three peak Chaotic Primes of the Martial Soul lineage. With his current strength and Martial Soul Force, he would be able to put up a fight against some regular Grand Primes or even kill them. However, he had become injured like this now.

“Third junior, who made you like this?” With a flash, Hun Zang arrived before Yue Chao. He immediately took out a God Tier pill and fed it to Yue Chao. His face was terrifyingly sunken.

“Third junior, why are you so injured...”

“Third senior...”

“Third senior...”

...

Afterwards, all the successors of the Martial Soul lineage made their way over. They all emerged from seclusion, gathering around Yue Chao. All of their faces were sunken as killing intent surged from them.

After ingesting a healing pill, Yue Chao’s situation took a turn for the better. He coughed out some blood a few times and slowly stood up. “I concealed myself and went to the Desolate Plane to check on some information about the protector swords, but I never thought I would be seen through in the end.”

“Did Yu Chen injure you?” Hun Zang growled. Yu Chen was the leader of the Radiant Saint Hall.

Yue Chao shook his head. “It was not Yu Chen.”

“Is it Xuan Zhan then? Aside from Yu Chen, only Xuan Zhan poses a threat to you from the Radiant Saint Hall. Even though Xuan Zhan is only a peak Chaotic Prime, his battle prowess rivals Grand Primes,” said Chu Jian.

“It’s not Xuan Zhan either. It’s a wielder of a protector sword,” said Yue Chao.

“What? You encountered a wielder of a protector sword?” Everyone was shocked as they collectively stared at Yue Chao.

Even Jian Chen became stern. He had already heard about the protector swords of the Radiant Saint Hall. It was exactly because of their existence that the Martial Soul lineage experience a threat, causing them to seek people to ally with.

Although he had not seen the protector swords before, he could tell that they were extremely powerful from what Hun Zang and the others said. After all, it was because of the protector swords that the Radiant Saint Hall was now the most powerful organisation on the Desolate Plane.

Yue Chao exhaled deeply. “I’ve basically gotten to the bottom of the protector swords. The protector swords are indeed extremely powerful and possess earth-shaking might. I think our Martial Soul lineage has no one that can match up to a protector sword in an open battle. However, the protector swords have fatal weakness as well. The protector swords lack the power of laws equivalent to its inherent power. I think that’s because the wielders possess far too low cultivations.”

“Originally, I only fought against a single person with a protector sword. Although I did not dare to clash with them openly, I was able to maneuver around them with the depth of my cultivation, preventing the person from attacking me. However, when the second protector sword appeared, they forced me to flee with injuries.”

“Third senior, do you know who the wielders are?” Su Qi asked.

“The terrifying power of the protector swords protect the wielders, masking their presence and appearance. I was unable to see who they were, nor was I able to harm them.” Yue Chao became rather stern and continued, “You need to get through the protective power around the wielder first in order to harm them.”

“This layer of protective power seems to possess a sliver of an extremely ancient imprint of consciousness, allowing it to block my Martial Soul Force. As a result, my Martial Soul Force was completely useless against the wielders. It was unable to penetrate their defence.”

With that, all the members of the Martial Soul lineage became extremely grim.

Chapter 2480: Returning to the Desolate Plane

The protective power from the protector swords could actually block their Martial Soul Force; that really was bad news for them.

This was because their Martial Soul Force would become completely useless before the wielders of the protector swords.

“Why would it be like this? What are the origins of the protector swords? They can even block our Martial Soul Force,” Chu Jian said sternly.

“There has never been an item or existence that can block our Martial Soul Force in the history of our lineage. None of the ancient archives have any records of something like that,” said Su Qi with a frown.

“The Radiant Saint Hall now has six protector swords. What will our Martial Soul lineage use to handle them in the future?” Yun Ziting asked solemnly.



For a moment, all eight successors of the Martial Soul lineage fell silent. The protector swords were so powerful and the Radiant Saint Hall had gained six of them all of a sudden. Coupled with their leader, Yu Chen, the vice-leaders, and the elders, they were several times more powerful than the Martial Soul lineage now.

Even with their alliance with the Neptunean Divine Palace, they were unable to make up for this difference.

“Senior Yue Chao, may I ask who the wielders are?” Jian Chen suddenly asked a while later.

“The identities of the six wielders have not all been made public. I only know two of them, and they’re Donglin Yanxue and Han Xin,” said Yue Chao.

“What? Two of the wielders are Donglin Yanxue and Han Xin?” Jian Chen was alarmed and stunned. He was clearly taken aback.

He was familiar with both of them.

Of the two, Donglin Yanxue was not as surprising. She was the Chosen Saint of the Radiant Saint Hall, and her talent was outstanding. As such, it made sense for her to obtain a protector sword. However, both Han Xin’s talent and potential were only average in the Radiant Saint Hall. He was not special, so him managing to inherit a protector sword surprised Jian Chen.

“Has it got to do with the artifact spirit?” Jian Chen suspected secretly as the light in his eyes flickered with uncertainty.

After a moment of hesitation, he stood up and immediately bid farewell to Hun Zang and the others. He told them he wanted to go to the Desolate Plane.

“You can’t. The Radiant Saint Hall is powerful on the Desolate Plane. Although they’re not exactly the supreme rulers, they’re not far from it now. Eighth junior, you’re also the person that the Radiant Saint Hall resents the most, so it’s too dangerous for you to go to the Desolate Plane,” Hun Zang said immediately.

“That’s right. Eighth junior, you’ve taken away the Grand Exalt’s cultivation method from the Radiant Saint Hall. The Radiant Saint Hall is currently looking for you everywhere. If you go to the Desolate Plane, you’re basically entering the belly of the beast.”

“Eighth junior, you can’t go to the Desolate Plane. After all, you don’t possess strength like senior Yue Chao...”

The other successors tried to persuade him as well.

“Seniors, do not worry. I have my methods of hiding, so I can prevent anyone from discovering me. You can’t forget how I managed to elude so many peak experts and all their exceptional abilities back on the Desolate Plane. My strength is obviously not as great as senior Yue Chao’s, but my ability to stay hidden is probably greater than any of you,” Jian Chen said confidently. Not only did he have the mask from Mo Tianyun, which would cover his presence completely, he also had the jade pendant from the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, which prevented innate abilities like what the Elder of Mountains and Seas possessed from finding him.

With those two factors, he could truly reach perfection with his disguises. Unless it was a supreme expert like the first majesty of the Heavenly Palace of Bisheng, basically no one in the Saints' World could see through his disguises.

Swish!

Jian Chen immediately turned into a streak of light and shot off the Martial Soul Mountain with lightning speed. He vanished into the vast sea of stars in an instant, leaving by himself.

"Has Jian Chen left?" After Jian Chen's departure, the gloomy Zi Yun arrived as well. She looked at the people of the Martial Soul lineage with hollow eyes.

Su Qi sighed inside when she saw Zi Yun's appearance. She said softly, "Eighth junior is only leaving the Martial Soul Mountain temporarily. He'll be back before long."

Zi Yun said nothing. She turned around and left rather gloomily, disappearing into the Neptunean Divine Palace.

A powerful streak of light shot through outer space like a comet, covering ground rapidly.

Within the streak of light was Jian Chen, who was holding a star chart. He navigated his way as he unleashed his full speed.

"With my current speed, I only need three days to reach the closest interplanar teleportation formation," thought Jian Chen. He did not teleport to the Desolate Plane using the power of the Martial Soul Mountain this time. Instead, he planned on using teleportation formations.

Each time the Martial Soul Mountain teleported someone, it would consume a tremendous amount of power. Moreover, it would form a huge target, which could be easily discovered by people. It would be inconvenient given the purpose of his visit. If he used interplanar teleportation formations, he would be able to truly avoid any and all attention.

Three days later, Jian Chen arrived on the great planet closest to him. He paid some five-colored divine crystals and stepped into the teleportation formation.

"Although I've lost the Anatta Tower, the mask from senior Mo Tianyun can disguise the divine hall on me too, preventing the formation from discovering anything living on me," thought Jian Chen. Every single interplanar formation forbid people carrying spatial artifacts with living creatures inside; this was to prevent people from moving large numbers of people and affecting their profits.

After all, an interplanar teleportation formation was a money-maker for any peak organisation. They would never let anyone reduce their earnings.

Of course, this rule could be ignored if one had powerful strength or a great background.

Several dozen teleportation formations were arranged in a large square in the centre of the imperial capital of the Violet Wind Empire. The teleportation formations constantly flickered as cultivators flowed in and out. It was clearly extremely busy.

Of course, the teleportation formations that constantly flickered could only take people across planes. The larger teleportation formations that could take people across planes were clearly much more quiet. They would normally go for around a dozen days or more without lighting up.

Several dozen soldiers were stationed around the interplanar teleportation formations. The person who stood out the most among the soldiers was an extremely unkempt man. He was laying back on a cane chair. He seemed to be extremely comfortable.

At this moment, one of the interplanar teleportation formations suddenly lit up. With an intense flash of white light, a white-robed middle-aged man with a striking appearance emerged.

The middle-aged man was Jian Chen after changing his appearance.

Jian Chen caught sight of the unkempt old man on the cane chair nearby. His expression did not change, but he sighed emotionally inside, "I left here several dozen years ago. I never thought I would return now."

Although the unkempt old man had shown him kindness in the past, Jian Chen also understood what his identity was right now. He could not show that he knew the unkempt old man, so he did not look at the old man much at all. He walked out of the teleportation and disappeared into the sea of people very soon.

However, unbeknownst to him, when he was about to disappear into the sea of people, the unkempt old man's eyes suddenly snapped open. He glanced at Jian Chen with suspicion and wondered, "Why has this troublemaker come here again? Wherever this kid goes, there's never peace. He went to the Star Brilliance a while back, but in the end, a Grand Prime died for no reason and drew out Nine Brilliance. Afterwards, he went to the Aqua Plane and destroyed a large sect there. Now, he has actually returned to the Desolate Plane. I hope he doesn't make a mess of the Desolate Plane like last time..."