

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 21: Meeting Chu Ziyang Again[1,018 words]

Chapter 21: Meeting Chu Ziyang Again

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan...

He had been hatching countless plans to make Chu Ziyang cancel or reject this engagement.

If it were anyone else, it would have been easy.

Not just easy—most people wouldn't have even wanted to be engaged if they knew it was him they were betrothed to.

But his opponent was Chu Ziyang—someone who could treat him like a mere servant.

His usual tricks wouldn't work on her.

But, in the end, he felt that tricks weren't necessary.

"As long as I convince her and take all the blame, Chu Ziyang will definitely be willing to reject the engagement!"

He was fairly confident—after all, there wasn't anyone who would willingly marry him.

He was more self-aware of his own reputation than anyone else.

He assumed that Chu Ziyang had been forced into this by her parents or the elders of the Chu Clan and had no choice but to marry him.

However, if he could take the blame and perhaps shift her marriage to someone else from the Bai Clan, he was certain that Chu Ziyang would agree to cancel the engagement.

(Hmph! Sister, see this? This is how you cancel an engagement!)

Bai Zihan cursed his sister in his mind.

He believed Bai Xueqing could have taken a similar approach to cancel her engagement if she had truly wanted to.

Reaching a mutual agreement while ensuring a smooth resolution without negatively impacting either party.

But no—she had to humiliate the protagonist and turn him into an enemy.

Although Bai Xueqing and the other Bai Clan members didn't take her ex-fiancé seriously, Bai Zihan was confident that, in a few years, they were going to regret it.

Anyway, he had his own problems to worry about and couldn't really check what's up with that ex-fiancé.

A report from the guards confirmed that Chu Ziyan had arrived and had gone to his sister's place.

(Should I send someone to bring her here?)

Bai Zihan pondered.

But before he could decide—

"Young Master, Lady Chu wants to see you!"

A guard arrived to inform him.

(Finally!)

Bai Zihan immediately stood up and made his way toward Chu Ziyan.

As Bai Zihan stepped out of his courtyard, he took a deep breath, mentally preparing himself.

(Alright... Time to make sure this engagement never happens!)

Soon, he arrived at the reception hall.

The moment he stepped in, his eyes locked onto a familiar figure.

Chu Ziyan sat leisurely on a cushioned chair, one leg crossed over the other, sipping tea as if she owned the place.

Her eyes shimmered with amusement the moment she saw him.

"So, we finally meet again, Young Master Bai," she said with a smirk.

Bai Zihan felt a shiver run down his spine.

(That damn smirk... Just seeing it brings back trauma!)

Still, he quickly regained his composure and forced a smile.

"Lady Chu," he greeted, giving a polite bow. "It's been a long time."

Chu Ziyang tilted her head, her smirk widening.

"Oh? That's new. So, why did you want to meet with me?"

Chu Ziyang asked.

"Lady Chu, I believe we both know why I wanted to meet with you."

Chu Ziyang raised an eyebrow but didn't interrupt.

"This engagement... I think it's a mistake," Bai Zihan continued, feigning deep regret.

"I know the elders arranged it, but let's be honest—would you really want to be married to someone like me?"

Chu Ziyang leaned back, resting her chin on her hand.

"Go on!"

Encouraged, Bai Zihan pressed forward.

"I am well aware of my... reputation. I'm not talented, I've made countless mistakes, and I don't have the best character. Everyone in the Bai Clan knows this. I am the last person worthy of being your fiancé."

He looked her in the eyes, trying to appear as sincere as possible.

"I have no doubt that you were forced into this. But I don't want you to suffer because of me. If you cancel the engagement, I will take all the blame. I'll make sure no one blames you or your clan."

He gave her his most self-sacrificing look.

Silence!

For a moment, Bai Zihan felt hopeful.

(That was perfect! There's no way she'd want to marry me after that, right? Right?!)

Then—

Chu Ziyang smiled.

Not just any smile.

A slow, knowing smile filled with amusement and something far more dangerous.

Bai Zihan's heart dropped.

(Wait... why does she look like that?!)

Chu Ziyan rested her cheek on her hand, her red eyes gleaming with pure delight.

"Ah~ I see."

Bai Zihan gulped.

"Y-You do?"

"Yes!"

She sat up straight, crossing her arms.

"However, I have no intention of cancelling this engagement."

Chu Ziyan declared.

"Huh?"

Bai Zihan was confused. He was certain she would accept his proposal to call off the engagement.

"You seem to be mistaken about something, Bai Zihan."

Chu Ziyan continued, watching his bewildered expression.

"Neither my parents nor my elders forced me into this engagement. I was the one who suggested this engagement."

Chu Ziyan made a shocking announcement.

(What?!!!)

Bai Zihan couldn't help but be stunned.

(She was the one who suggested it?! How? Why?!)

His mind reeled, unable to process what he had just heard.

Looking at Chu Ziyan's face, Bai Zihan was sure she wasn't joking.

He wanted to yell, shout, and demand to know what the hell was wrong with her, but he knew that would only make things worse.

So, he forced himself to calm down, realizing that losing his composure wouldn't change anything.

"Why?"

Bai Zihan couldn't help but ask.

"I am the worst person to marry. Although I am the heir to the Bai Clan, with my lack of talent, there's no way I can keep this position."

Bai Zihan continued, perhaps driven by a genuine curiosity about why she chose him—or maybe in a last attempt to convince her that she had made a mistake.

"My personality isn't the best, and although my appearance is decent, I don't think you're particularly attracted to it either.

Lady Chu, why would you want to marry me?"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 22: A Marriage of Convenience [1,154 words]

Chapter 22: A Marriage of Convenience

Bai Zihan asked seriously.

This had now shifted from both of them simply being in the same unfortunate position to Chu Ziyuan being the one responsible for putting him in it.

There was a momentary silence as Chu Ziyuan looked outside, then back at Bai Zihan.

"Everyone praises me for my talent and beauty. Countless marriage proposals are sent to the Chu Clan every year," she said, her voice calm yet carrying an underlying weight.

"But in the end... I'm still just a girl."

Bai Zihan blinked in confusion.

Chu Ziyuan leaned back, resting her chin on her hand.

"No matter how strong I am, how talented, how accomplished... My clan still wants to marry me off to a powerful family. That's just how things work."

She sighed, twirling the teacup in her fingers.

"I didn't want to leave my fate in the hands of some unknown man—someone chosen by my clan for the sake of alliances or benefits. So, instead of waiting to be married off to a stranger, I made my own choice."

She looked at Bai Zihan and smirked.

"I chose you."

Bai Zihan felt a chill run down his spine.

"B-But... Why me?"

He couldn't understand. Of all people, why would she willingly choose him?

Chu Ziyang chuckled.

"Of course, my clan wasn't exactly thrilled when I suggested marrying you. Bai Zihan, the infamous good-for-nothing young master of the Bai Clan?"

She gave him a teasing look.

"They thought I was joking."

Bai Zihan clenched his fists.

(Hah, even they look down on me... Well, they're not wrong...)

It was one thing for him to insult himself, but another to hear it coming from someone else.

"But the Bai Clan is still a powerful family, one my clan wants to befriend. And since I insisted, they eventually agreed."

Bai Zihan's lips twitched.

(Goddamn it! Elders, please work harder. Can you really give away your princess to a villain like me?)

Bai Zihan thought.

Chu Ziyang tilted her head, looking amused.

"Now, as for why I want to marry you specifically?"

She leaned in slightly, her red eyes gleaming with mischief.

"The first reason is simple—I want to become Bai Xueqing's sister."

Bai Zihan choked on his own breath.

(What kind of reason is that?!)

"She's my close friend and almost like a sister."

Chu Ziyang mused.

"Wouldn't it be fun to be an actual part of her family? To have that connection?"

Bai Zihan stared at her in disbelief.

"The second reason," Chu Ziyang continued, ignoring his shocked expression, "is that you're easy to contr... I mean that you're quite obedient."

Bai Zihan's body stiffened.

"I mean, look at you." She gestured at him playfully.

"You wouldn't dare do anything to me unless I allowed it, right?"

Her smirk deepened.

"If I want the freedom I've always desired, a little sacrifice is inevitable. Marrying you gives me almost all of it, so why not?"

She smiled at him like a cat playing with its prey.

Indeed, the main reason was that Bai Zihan was someone who feared the strong and oppressed the weak.

He was also lazy and lacked ambition.

While such traits were typically looked down upon, they were exactly what Chu Ziyang wanted.

As the stronger person, she knew that Bai Zihan would never dare to challenge or demand anything from her.

Moreover, unlike other suitors, she had never been ogled by Bai Zihan—whether because he was used to beauties or simply didn't find her type appealing.

Either way, she felt that by marrying Bai Zihan, her clan would secure the desired marriage alliance, while she would finally be free from the burden of marriage.

As for what Bai Zihan felt, well, she didn't particularly care.

"With you, I lose nothing."

Bai Zihan felt his soul leave his body.

(This woman...)

He finally realized that she had thought this through thoroughly and wanted to marry him—not out of love, but because he was an easy target.

His lips trembled as he tried to find a way to counter this insanity.

"But... but what if I refuse? What if I—"

"You won't."

Chu Ziyan cut him off smoothly, her confidence unwavering.

"You don't have the option. Uncle Bai would surely not let you."

She sipped her tea, completely at ease.

Bai Zihan opened his mouth, then closed it.

...She was absolutely right.

His entire plan to escape this engagement had been crushed before it even started.

(F**K! Father must have known. No wonder he was confident and didn't object to me meeting with Chu Ziyan before the engagement was announced.)

Chu Ziyan placed her cup down and smiled.

"Now then, let's talk about when our engagement is going to be announced."

Bai Zihan wanted to cry.

(I've been trapped!)

"B-But isn't there a better option? Like... What about Bai Jian?"

Bai Zihan suggested, refusing to give up just yet.

Although he was aware that doing so would ultimately mean losing his position as heir, that was a small sacrifice he was willing to make.

Chu Ziyan shook her head.

"You know I can't! Doing so would be equivalent to becoming Xueqing's enemy."

Chu Ziyan explained.

She was well aware of the political situation within the Bai Clan and how the branch family was trying to replace the current head of the clan.

Her marrying someone other than Bai Zihan would be the same as supporting them, and she knew it could cause a rift between her and Bai Xueqing.

"Moreover, that person is quite controlling and dominant. He seems hard to manipulate."

(That should be her real reason!)

Bai Zihan thought.

In the end, Chu Ziyang simply wanted someone weak and easy enough that she could continue to do whatever she pleased without being ordered around—and he was the perfect candidate.

Bai Zihan scratched his head, trying to come up with an idea to change Chu Ziyang's mind and escape this engagement.

"Actually, this is also good for you too!"

Chu Ziyang suddenly said.

Bai Zihan turned to her, his expression clearly asking how in the world this could possibly be good for him.

"Do you have someone you like?"

Chu Ziyang asked.

Bai Zihan shook his head.

"Then there's no problem being engaged to me."

(That's the problem!)

Bai Zihan thought, though he didn't say it out loud.

"You won't interfere in my business, and I won't interfere in yours."

Chu Ziyang stated.

But Bai Zihan still had a sullen face. Even if he wasn't engaged to her, he had all the freedom in the world.

Seeing his expression, Chu Ziyang added another "advantage."

"How about this? In the future, even if you find someone you love, I wouldn't mind if you kept her as mistress."

Chu Ziyang said.

"Unbelievable!"

Bai Zihan muttered.

It wasn't just her words that were unbelievable, but the sheer lengths she was willing to go to.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 23: Battle for Chu Ziyan?[1,064 words]

Chapter 23: Battle for Chu Ziyan?

Bai Zihan had no choice but to relent after numerous attempts to cancel the engagement proved futile.

"Hmph! When I get stronger, she'll realize what a big mistake she's made!"

Bai Zihan fumed and muttered angrily.

Of course, this was just a way for him to console himself after his plan had failed miserably.

"If only there was someone who could help me."

But unbeknownst to him, many of his enemies were already plotting to make his goal a reality—including the elders of the Bai Clan, who wished to dethrone Bai Zihan as heir.

They knew that with the Chu Clan involved, removing Bai Zihan as heir would become nearly impossible, at least as long as he was announced as Chu Ziyan's fiancé.

However, they weren't about to let that happen so easily.

"You know what is happening in the clan, right?"

Bai Feng asked.

Bai Jian nodded.

Of course, he knew.

He was furious—not only had Bai Zihan's position as heir been solidified, but he had also gained Chu Ziyan as his fiancée.

Chu Ziyan had arrived at the Bai Clan, and in three days, the engagement would be officially announced, making it known throughout the entire empire.

"Don't worry, you still have a chance!"

Bai Feng said with a smile.

"What?"

Bai Jian asked in confusion.

He had assumed his father's plan had been crushed and that there was no way to change Bai Zihan's position as heir.

"Haha... Bai Zihan, marrying Chu Ziyang? How could that be possible? Chu Ziyang must surely detest the idea."

Bai Jian's eyes narrowed at his father's words.

"You mean...?"

Bai Feng smirked, his eyes gleaming with cunning.

"The other elders must have realized this as well. It's obvious—whichever wins Chu Ziyang's heart before the engagement is officially announced will also secure the position of heir."

Bai Jian clenched his fists. It made perfect sense.

If Chu Ziyang herself rejected Bai Zihan, then the engagement would fall apart.

And without the backing of the Chu Clan, Bai Zihan's position as heir would become vulnerable once more.

But they also knew that while the marriage with Chu Ziyang was necessary for the Bai Clan, the groom needed to be replaced—everything else would remain unchanged.

Bai Feng leaned closer, lowering his voice.

"I don't know why Bai Tianheng claimed that Chu Ziyang wants Bai Zihan, but it's clearly a scheme. However, what if she finds a better option? Someone stronger, more capable... someone truly worthy of standing by her side?"

Bai Feng continued with excitement.

"If she falls in love with someone else and chooses to cancel the engagement with Bai Zihan, it would be entirely possible—and no one, not even the Clan Leader, would interfere."

No matter what, Bai Feng believed that as long as Bai Jian could change Chu Ziyang's mind or seduce her into canceling the engagement and choosing someone else, there would be no problem.

Even Bai Tianheng wouldn't object, otherwise that will be going against the interest of the clan.

"Among your peers, you're the most promising candidate. Even the elders acknowledge your talent. If you manage to win her over, then—"

Bai Jian felt his heart pound.

Indeed, among the younger generation, he was the most talented and the one most deserving of Chu Ziyan.

"The heir's position is as good as mine..."

Bai Jian finished, his eyes flickering with ambition.

"That's right!"

Bai Feng nodded.

"No matter what, before the engagement is officially announced, you must make Chu Ziyan yours."

Bai Jian took a deep breath.

Chu Ziyan...

He had always admired her—her talent, her beauty, her reputation as one of the most extraordinary geniuses of their generation.

And yet, she was about to be wasted on Bai Zihan, that useless fool.

Bai Jian's lips curled into a determined smile.

"She'll realize soon enough who the better man is."

Bai Feng patted his son's shoulder.

"Good. Chu Ziyan will be staying at the Bai Clan manor for the time being. Use this chance well. No matter what, you must make her change her mind."

Bai Jian nodded.

No matter what... he would not let Bai Zihan win this time.

Such schemes were not exclusive to Bai Feng. Other elders were also giving similar instructions to their sons.

Although they supported Bai Tianheng and were willing to help Bai Jian become heir, that didn't mean they had no other candidates in mind—especially their own children.

Bai Jian was indeed the most talented, but even if their sons were less capable, as long as one of them could win Chu Ziyan's heart, they knew they would have a chance at the heir's position.

Meanwhile, Bai Zihan remained completely unaware of the brewing conspiracies.

Still dejected over his failed attempts to cancel the engagement, he hadn't realized just how many eyes were now on Chu Ziyuan.

However, that didn't mean he intended to stay in this state for long.

He was too weak.

He knew that if the engagement proceeded, he would have no choice but to grow stronger.

Knowing Chu Ziyuan, he had to be prepared—not just to resist her dominance in the future but also for the possibility that an admirer of hers might one day rise up to challenge him.

After all, wasn't this the typical cliché scenario?

A powerful young genius is forced into an engagement with someone they don't love due to family politics, only for their true love to train desperately, gain recognition from the girl's family, and eventually defeat their unwanted fiancé in a grand battle?

Even though Chu Ziyuan had refused to cancel the engagement, meaning she likely had no lover, Bai Zihan knew his own situation well enough to recognize that he could easily end up playing the villain in a similar story.

Even if that wasn't the case, there were plenty of admirers of Chu Ziyuan and there might be some who could try to kill him, believing he had forced the marriage upon her.

This was another reason why he hadn't wanted this engagement in the first place.

"Whatever!"

In the end, it all boiled down to one thing—he was too weak.

If he were stronger, none of this would be a problem, even if he did marry Chu Ziyuan.

And for that, the most important step lay ahead—cultivating the Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique.

Chapter 24: Cultivating Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique

Chapter 24: Cultivating Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique

Bai Zihan had already ordered his servants to gather the necessary ingredients for cultivating the Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique.

The materials required were incredibly rare and precious, each one a treasure that would make even powerful cultivators envious.

Like Grade-3 Dragon Blood Marrow—extracted from the bones of dragon-type beasts, it could vastly strengthen one's physical body, making it tougher than steel.

Grade-4 Netherfire Essence—a flame-infused mineral capable of tempering the body's meridians, increasing their resilience and energy flow.

Grade-4 Void Spirit Grass—a mystical herb that enhances bodily endurance and allows one to recover from injuries at an astonishing rate.

And there were almost twenty other ingredients, all of which were above Grade 2.

Each of these materials was exceedingly difficult to obtain, but Bai Zihan had the backing of the Bai Clan.

Within the Bai Clan, all the required ingredients were available.

Of course, that didn't mean he could simply take whatever he wanted, since they didn't belong to him.

As the heir Bai Zihan has many privileges but he wasn't allowed to squander the clan's resources without justification, especially the Grade-3 and above ingredients.

However, he had already anticipated this hurdle and obtained permission from his father.

As for how he convinced his father, when he approached his father, Bai Tianheng, with the request, he emphasized that it was solely for his training and also promised that he would not sabotage the engagement.

Of course, sabotaging the engagement seemed difficult, so he didn't want to—not that he wouldn't if he could.

But his father didn't know that, and he wanted to take advantage of that.

Given Bai Zihan's past behavior, Bai Tianheng was obviously worried that his son would do something reckless.

With that promise, Bai Tianheng could be less worried about Bai Zihan interfering in the engagement—though if he did, his father's belt was waiting for his ass.

Moreover, upon hearing that it was for training, Bai Tianheng was more than pleased.

And although those ingredients were precious, to Bai Tianheng, they weren't worth as much as Bai Zihan's future.

Of course, Bai Tianheng assumed that Bai Zihan would ask the clan alchemist to refine a pill or something—he had no idea that Bai Zihan was going to directly use these ingredients for body refinement.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have agreed so easily, knowing just how potent those Grade-4 and Grade-3 ingredients were when directly consumed or refined.

Anyway, Bai Zihan had no problem with collecting the ingredient for his body refinement unlike the protagonist who probably would have to search far and wide to obtain it.

With these resources in hand, Bai Zihan was ready to cultivate the Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique.

However, Bai Zihan knew that the process wouldn't be easy.

There was a chance that he could die if he couldn't endure the pain—and it would be a gruesome death.

But he was ready, at least he thought he was.

He was going to cultivate in isolation and instructed the servants not to disturb him or allow anyone else to interfere.

Until he came out, nobody was allowed to interrupt his training.

"Huuu..."

Bai Zihan took a deep breath as he stepped into his personal training chamber.

The room was reinforced with formations to suppress energy fluctuations, ensuring that no one would sense what he was about to do.

The ingredients had already been delivered, each one glowing with an aura of power.

The lower-grade ingredients emitted faint energies, while the higher-grade ones radiated overwhelming pressure.

The first step was to take the Grade-2 Ironwood Root, a tempering material that strengthened bones.

"Let's start!"

He swallowed the Ironwood Root.

The moment it entered his body, a dull pressure spread through his skeleton, like a slow, rhythmic pounding deep within.

His bones vibrated, reinforcing themselves under the root's essence. It was uncomfortable, but not unbearable.

Silently, he endured.

Next came the Grade-2 Thunderleaf Vine—a plant known for stimulating the nervous system, making the body more responsive.

The moment he absorbed its essence, a sharp tingling sensation ran through his body, his nerves twitching involuntarily.

His muscles stiffened, the sensation spreading like countless needles pricking beneath his skin.

His fingers trembled slightly, but he took deep breaths, keeping himself steady.

Still, he did not make a sound.

Then came the Grade-3 Bloodstone Extract, which stimulated blood regeneration and increased vitality.

The moment the extract merged with his body, his heart pounded violently.

"Guhh—!!!"

A torrent of energy burst through his veins, surging like a raging flood.

His blood felt like it was boiling, his skin turned bright red, and his organs threatened to rupture from the overwhelming force.

His breathing became ragged. He clenched his jaw, but a low groan escaped his lips.

"I can't... No! I have to endure!"

The excruciating pain nearly shattered his mind, but Bai Zihan forced himself to stabilize it.

With each new herb that he consumed, the pain multiplied, but there was no going back.

If he stopped, then death was the only outcome awaiting him. His only path to survival was to continue and endure until the end.

Minutes passed.

With each refined ingredient, his body experienced pain unlike anything before—so excruciating that he wished for death instead.

However, Bai Zihan still persisted.

He knew that this pain was only temporary—something he had to endure. Otherwise, given his circumstances, death could claim him at any moment.

"L-Let's continue..."

Now, it was time for the Grade-3 Dragon Blood Marrow.

He swallowed the thick liquid, and instantly, a powerful surge of vitality spread through his veins.

"GAAAAHHH!!!"

His bones cracked and reshaped, his muscles twisted violently, and his skin split open, revealing raw flesh underneath.

"ARGHHH!"

His veins bulged as red-hot energy stormed through his body, threatening to tear him apart from the inside.

It felt like he was being ripped apart and reforged at the same time.

He gasped, black spots dancing at the edges of his vision.

His body trembled uncontrollably, but he bit his lip hard enough to draw blood, refusing to pass out.

With so many herbs already in his system, it was a miracle that his body hadn't exploded, but he still had to endure the overwhelming power they unleashed.

Just as he barely stabilized the Dragon Blood Marrow, he proceeded with the Grade-4 Netherfire Essence.

The instant it fused with his meridians, it felt as though his entire body had been set ablaze.

"GAAAHHHH!!!"

Bai Zihan let out a bloodcurdling scream as hellish flames scorched his internal organs.

His meridians strained, expanded, then burned as the energy coursed through him.

His skin was charred and cracked, and his bones radiated searing heat.

"AAAAHHHHHHH!"

Bai Zihan thrashed violently, every fiber of his being engulfed in endless torment.

This was hell—perhaps even worse than hell itself.

(Why... Why am I suffering like this?)

Doubt crept into his mind.

No reason seemed sufficient to justify the torment he was enduring—it felt meaningless, unbearable.

Wouldn't it be easier to simply give up and let death take him? Wouldn't that be a relief?

But he wouldn't. He couldn't.

No matter how agonizing it was, surrender was not an option.

"I am Bai Zihan, someone who will rise to trample over everyone. I refuse to give up!"

Bai Zihan might have been a coward, but he was never one to give up easily. As long as even the faintest glimmer of hope remained, he would cling to it with everything he had.

Although his body screamed in pain, he took the final step—Grade-4 Void Spirit Grass.

An icy surge followed the fire, sending a chilling force through his burning body.

"GGHHAAAH!!!"

It felt as though his body was being torn apart and rebuilt, only to be shattered again in an endless cycle of torment.

His organs quivered, his bones hardened to an unnatural degree, and his flesh continuously regenerated—each time stronger than before.

"AAAAAHHHHHHH!"

Seconds? Minutes? Hours? Bai Zihan had no way of knowing. Trapped in the depths of agony, time lost all meaning.

He screamed. He thrashed. He endured.

For what felt like an eternity, his body and mind were pushed to the brink—until, at last, something changed.

The unbearable pain began to fade.

The suffocating pressure gradually subsided.

His shattered body mended itself, his skin toughening, his muscles reforging into something far beyond human.

With a shaky breath, Bai Zihan slowly opened his eyes.

"Did I... survive?"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 25: Rebirth Through Pain[1,194 words]

Chapter 25 - Rebirth Through Pain

Bai Zihan slowly opened his eyes, his vision unfocused as he tried to make sense of what had just happened.

His body still ached, though the unbearable agony had finally faded.

For a long moment, he simply lay there, staring at the ceiling, his mind sluggishly piecing together his experience.

He had survived.

Barely.

"Hah... Hah..."

His breath came in ragged gasps, his chest rising and falling heavily as he tried to steady himself.

The pain was beyond anything he had ever imagined—so unbearable that only a madman would willingly go through it a second time.

And yet, despite everything, he knew—this was only the beginning.

The Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique wasn't a one-time process. He would have to undergo this torment again. And again. And again.

The thought alone made him shudder.

"...I really don't want to do that a second time," he muttered hoarsely.

But he had no choice. If he wanted strength—to stand above everyone—he had to endure.

And if he could do it once, then he could do it twice.

With a deep breath, Bai Zihan pushed those thoughts aside and focused on his body.

Before cultivating the technique, the sheer brutality of it made it seem like it would leave him crippled, his meridians shattered, and his foundation ruined.

Yet now that he had cultivated the Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique, he found no lingering side effects.

In fact... he felt stronger.

Much stronger.

He clenched his fist, feeling a surge of raw power coursing through his veins.

His muscles felt denser, his bones tougher, his very flesh seemingly more refined.

It was as if his body had been reforged from the inside out, every part of him now stronger than before.

"It seems like the suffering was perhaps worth it?"

The pain he had endured wasn't something just anyone could withstand, even knowing that it would make them stronger.

Although he felt a newfound strength, he wasn't entirely sure if it justified what he had gone through.

He needs to test that out before drawing a conclusion.

It also seemed like he had also broken through to the Late-Stage of Core Formation.

"System, show me my status!"

[Host Info]

Host: Bai Zihan

Age: 16

Cultivation Realm: Core Formation (Late)

Constitution: None

Martial Arts: Nine Shadows Flowing Light Sword (Minor Mastery)

Well, considering all those high grade ingredients that he consumed, it was no wonder that he has broken through a minor realm.

It was an unexpected gain, but a welcome one.

Regardless, the primary increase in his strength wasn't his cultivation but his body, and he wanted to know just how much stronger he had become.

Curious, he slowly stood up, stretching his limbs and rolling his shoulders.

His movements felt smoother, lighter, as if his body had been unshackled from invisible restraints he hadn't even known were there.

Flexing his fingers, he clenched and unclenched his hand.

The subtle shifts in his muscles, the way his tendons pulled—everything felt different.

Testing further, he took a step forward—only to nearly stumble as he moved faster than expected.

His speed had increased.

His control over his own body had changed.

A smirk tugged at his lips.

"This... isn't bad."

Bai Zihan's smirk deepened as he flexed his fingers, a surge of excitement replacing the exhaustion that still lingered in his body.

He had endured unimaginable agony, but now it was time to see if the suffering had truly been worth it.

Closing his eyes, he took a deep breath, feeling the flow of energy within his body.

His blood coursed like a raging river, his muscles coiled like steel cables, and his bones radiated an unshakable sturdiness.

Then—he moved.

Boom!

The moment his foot pushed off the ground, the stone beneath him cracked, spider web-like fissures spreading out.

His body blurred, reappearing on the other side of the chamber almost instantly.

"...!"

Bai Zihan blinked in mild astonishment. He hadn't expected that.

His speed had tripled—no, possibly even more.

This wasn't just fast—this was explosive.

He clenched his fist and thrust it forward.

Boom!

The air in front of him rippled violently, a compressed shockwave blasting out, shaking the chamber walls—walls that had been strengthened by formations.

"...Three times... or perhaps four times stronger."

That was his initial estimation.

His physical strength had increased at least threefold, maybe more.

If this was the result of just the first session, he could only imagine how terrifying his power would become after fully attaining the first form of the Primordial Chaos Body.

Perhaps then, no one in the Desolate Heaven Empire would be able to kill him.

Of course, that was still a distant goal.

He would need to collect even rarer ingredients and withstand even greater pain to refine his body further through the Primordial Chaos Body Refinement Technique.

Still, his current body was already vastly superior to most, something that others might not be able to achieve even after years of hard work.

His current physical strength—was it already superior to a Core Condensation cultivator?

That didn't necessarily mean he could defeat a Core Condensation cultivator, but if they only compared raw physical ability... Bai Zihan wasn't sure if any of them could overpower him now.

A chuckle escaped his lips.

"This is good!"

Although he might not yet be able to win against those in the Core Condensation Realm and beyond, he could at least survive if he fought one.

His survivability had drastically increased with this.

And yet, he wasn't done testing.

If his strength had increased this much, what about his defense?

Bai Zihan lifted his hand, his fingers tightening into a fist. He hesitated for a moment before taking a deep breath and—

BAM!

He punched himself in the chest.

A dull thud echoed in the chamber, but that was it.

Bai Zihan frowned, looking down. He had felt the impact, but it didn't hurt.

The power he used was 50 % of what he could muster but with the increased strength, it was enough to knock out anyone in the Core Formation Stage.

"Let's increase the power."

This time, he focused, drawing on his full power which is enough to even seriously hurt Core Condensation cultivator.

BOOM!

His fist slammed into his torso, sending a powerful shockwave outward. The air trembled, the chamber walls quaked slightly, and yet—

Although he felt a slight ache where he had struck himself, it was so insignificant that even ten such attacks wouldn't make a difference.

Even he was momentarily stunned.

His body had already surpassed the level of ordinary body refinement cultivators. No, it was beyond that.

His defense was so high that most physical attacks would be useless against him. Even powerful techniques might struggle to break his body now.

Although he hadn't yet achieved the first form of the Primordial Chaos Body—the ability to absorb all types of energy—even without that, his physical resilience was superior to those with powerful constitutions.

Bai Zihan took a deep breath, his smirk returning.

"Perhaps this body is already comparable to those of the Golden Core Realm cultivator!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 26: No Way Out[1,351 words]

Chapter 26 - No Way Out

Bai Zihan stepped out after testing his newfound strength.

Only a day had passed since he had gone into seclusion to refine his body, yet it seemed like major events had unfolded in the Bai Clan during his absence.

Preparations were in full swing for his engagement with Chu Ziyan. However, that wasn't the biggest surprise awaiting him.

The moment he emerged, Luo Qing approached him in a hurry, an anxious look on her face.

"Young master!"

She called out urgently.

Bai Zihan glanced at her, wondering why she was in such a hurry.

"What happened?"

"Lady Bai Xueqing has been looking for you. She wanted to talk with the young master and instructed me to inform you as soon as possible," Luo Qing said.

(What? What did I do now?)

Bai Zihan was immediately alerted when Luo Qing mentioned that his sister was looking for him.

Bai Xueqing only looked for him when he caused trouble.

Whenever she did, he knew he was in some kind of predicament—just like the time with the Heaven Sword Sect disciples.

"Did she say why?"

Bai Zihan asked.

"Lady Bai Xueqing hasn't told me her reason and just instructed me to inform the young master," Luo Qing replied nervously.

She seemed to have some idea about what it might be but didn't dare to speculate on Bai Xueqing's thoughts or intentions.

Bai Zihan also didn't press for details.

If Bai Xueqing had something important to say, he would find out soon enough.

Without wasting any more time, he made his way toward his sister's residence.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

"Who is it?"

A cold voice came from the room—it obviously belonged to Bai Xueqing.

"It's me, sister!"

Bai Zihan answered.

"Come in!"

Bai Zihan immediately entered the room and saw his sister sitting on her chair.

She glanced at him, her sharp gaze assessing him.

There was something different about Bai Zihan, but she couldn't pinpoint what it was. She didn't dwell on it either.

"Sister, why did you call for me?"

Bai Zihan asked immediately, not wanting to waste time.

"I won't waste words with you. First, your engagement with Chu Ziyang has been finalized. This is good for you."

"..."

Bai Zihan remained silent, though he wanted to complain. How was this good for him?

However, complaining would yield no results. Instead, she might question why he was complaining when he was getting more than he deserved—just like their father.

He was well aware that Bai Xueqing cared more about Chu Ziyang than him. Even if he was dissatisfied, she wouldn't necessarily care.

Perhaps if it were the other way around and Chu Ziyang wanted to break off the engagement, Bai Xueqing would have supported that decision.

"I don't need to tell you what will happen if you don't treat her well," Bai Xueqing warned.

Knowing Bai Zihan's past behavior, she was well aware that the chances of him causing trouble were high.

Mistreating Chu Ziyang was also a possibility—perhaps by seeking a mistress or some other nonsense.

So, Bai Xueqing was warning him not to pull any of that and to treat her well.

Though, with Chu Ziyang's cultivation compared to Bai Zihan's, she didn't even need to get involved.

If Bai Zihan dared to mistreat her, Chu Ziyan could deal with him herself.

Still, as Chu Ziyan's good friend, Bai Xueqing thought she had a responsibility to make sure her brother became a suitable husband.

"More importantly, this engagement secures your status as the Bai Clan's heir," Bai Xueqing stated, ensuring that Bai Zihan understood the benefits.

"But don't let that make you complacent. You're still far from being worthy of her."

Hearing that, Bai Zihan's expression remained unreadable.

(Who wants to be worthy of her? I am indeed unworthy—please cancel the engagement!)

Bai Zihan cursed inwardly.

"Work hard," Bai Xueqing continued. "If you want to stand beside her, you need to prove yourself."

Bai Zihan couldn't help but want to complain that he didn't want to stand beside her—nor did he want to prove anything.

(Why is my engagement successful when I have trashy talent, while the protagonist's engagement gets canceled for the same reason?)

Bai Zihan couldn't help but realize how opposite his life was compared to the protagonist's.

(Perhaps my sister's ex-fiancé is relieved to have had his engagement canceled?)

Bai Zihan began to suspect.

If he had to be engaged to someone as fierce as Bai Xueqing, he would be overjoyed to have it canceled.

Of course, he could only think this way because, even if his engagement was broken, it wouldn't affect him or the Bai Clan too much.

It was different for Bai Xueqing's ex-fiancé—Bai Zihan knew that he would definitely return for revenge.

Bai Xueqing let her words settle before delivering the next piece of news.

"Secondly, you have been admitted to the Heaven Sword Sect."

Bai Zihan's eyes narrowed slightly.

(What? That's impossible!)

To be admitted into the Heaven Sword Sect, one had to meet strict requirements—such as reaching the Core Condensation Realm before the age of fifteen.

As a fifteen-year-old who was only in the Core Formation Stage, Bai Zihan didn't meet any of the requirements.

He lacked both cultivation talent and hard work—two things the Heaven Sword Sect valued.

"Make good use of this opportunity," Bai Xueqing said.

"Wait... What?"

Bai Zihan interrupted his sister, despite initially planning to just listen and get it over with.

But this unexpected news left him questioning her.

Just what kind of medicine had the Heaven Sword Sect taken to suddenly accept him as a disciple?

"Sister, what do you mean that I have been admitted to the Heaven Sword Sect?"

Bai Zihan asked.

He knew that, with his talent and personality, there was no way the Heaven Sword Sect would accept him.

"It is what it is. After this engagement with Ziyan, you are coming with us to the Heaven Sword Sect. I hope you behave yourself there. Otherwise, even father won't be able to protect you from punishment."

Bai Xueqing said.

"How is this possible? I don't meet any of the Heaven Sword Sect's requirements."

Bai Zihan protested.

"Hmph! They made an exception because they know you have a Dao Bone."

Bai Xueqing replied, looking disgusted. She knew how Bai Zihan had obtained it—and in her opinion, it was utterly disgraceful.

Of course, outsiders didn't know that. Only a few high-ranking members of the Bai Clan were aware.

"More importantly, being Chu Ziyan's fiancé helped. The elders of the Heaven Sword Sect are already aware of the engagement and accepted their father's request for the two of you to be together."

Of course, that wasn't all. Bai Tianheng must have sent plenty of bribes to the Heaven Sword Sect as well.

Additionally, being Bai Xueqing's brother helped—but she wouldn't admit that.

"..."

Bai Zihan didn't know how to respond.

It seemed like ever since he learned about his engagement to Chu Ziyan, everything had gone downhill for him.

Of course, he wouldn't admit that most of it was due to his own behavior. His father was only making decisions he believed were best for his son.

"And lastly, I called you here for this reason."

(What? There's more?!)

Bai Zihan groaned internally. He had already heard enough shocking news.

"Ziyan is being approached by other Bai Clan boys. It seems the elders are making their moves."

Bai Xueqing said.

(Oh?)

Hearing this, instead of getting angry, Bai Zihan felt a glimmer of hope.

He hadn't expected to have allies within the Bai Clan—though, of course, he understood their intentions.

But as long as they succeeded, he would be free from this engagement.

"You need to stop them!"

Bai Xueqing ordered.

"Huh? Why?"

Bai Zihan asked.

"Why? You're her fiancé! What? You don't want to?"

Bai Xueqing glared coldly at him.

It looked like a long lecture was incoming if he said no.

"Of course, of course! I will as you say."

Bai Zihan quickly agreed, knowing better than to argue with his sister.

"That's all. You may leave!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 27: The Pestering of Bai Jian[1,249 words]

Chapter 27 - The Pestering of Bai Jian

Chu Ziyuan stood in the Bai Clan's garden, surrounded by ancient pavilions and a small artificial lake.

The fragrance of blooming spirit lotuses drifted in the air, but her mood was anything but peaceful.

It could have been the most peaceful place in the world, but that serenity was shattered by the presence of multiple individuals—primarily the Bai Clan's male geniuses and their attendants, all flocking around Chu Ziyuan.

Ever since the talk with Bai Zihan, she had been approached by various Bai Clan geniuses.

Most of them were subtle in their intentions, expressing polite admiration, dropping hints about their own strengths, and trying to cancel her engagement with Bai Zihan.

However, one person among them was neither subtle nor polite.

Bai Jian!

The undisputed most talented male of the younger Bai generation, Bai Jian was tall, handsome, and possessed an innate arrogance that came with knowing he was superior to almost everyone his age.

Having already reached the Golden Core Stage at just seventeen, he was considered one of the Bai Clan's future pillars.

Unlike the others who were merely probing, Bai Jian made his intentions clear.

"Miss Chu, you deserve better."

Bai Jian stated. His voice carried confidence, as if he were merely stating a fact.

Chu Ziyuan arched an eyebrow, her expression unreadable.

She had been dealing with this since yesterday, with them trying their best to persuade her to cancel the engagement with Bai Zihan.

"And you believe that better choice is you?"

Chu Ziyan asked, her tone indifferent.

"Of course!"

Bai Jian replied without hesitation.

"Everyone knows Bai Zihan is a disgrace to the Bai Clan. A lazy, arrogant fool who has squandered all his opportunities. He has nothing—no talent, no discipline, no future."

He stepped closer, lowering his voice.

"Do you think someone like him can protect you? Can he stand by your side? If anything, he will be the greatest burden of your life."

Chu Ziyan wasn't too interested in what Bai Jian had to say, as she was already well aware of that.

Perhaps that is precisely why she felt much more relieved to marry Bai Zihan than someone like Bai Jian.

Bai Jian smirked.

"I can be your true partner. One who is worthy of standing beside you. You and I are alike, both blessed with talent, both destined for greatness. Bai Zihan is nothing but an obstacle. If you refuse this engagement and choose me instead, not only will you gain a powerful ally, but the Bai Clan elders will also support the decision. Everyone wants you to be with someone who matches your worth."

Bai Jian continued babbling about his greatness and how he was the only one worthy of Chu Ziyan while Bai Zihan wasn't.

It might be somewhat true, as Bai Jian was a rare genius, and apart from Bai Xueqing, he could be said to be the greatest talent of his generation within the Bai Clan.

However, to Chu Ziyan, it was worthless.

After all, while talent like Bai Jian's was rare, it wasn't exactly difficult to find—especially in the Heaven Sword Sect, where geniuses gathered.

Moreover, compared to her own talent, Bai Jian was nothing noteworthy. She had already reached the Nascent Soul Realm at seventeen.

"Young Master Bai," Chu Ziyan finally said.

"I will keep what you said a secret, but you are not allowed to insult my future husband. Refrain from saying that again and leave."

She wasn't too concerned about Bai Jian insulting Bai Zihan but wanted to use that as an excuse to chase away the nuisance.

Bai Jian frowned.

He hadn't expected to be rejected like this and refused to accept it.

How could he, the genius of the Bai Clan, be rejected while Bai Zihan, a mere waste, was accepted by someone like Chu Ziyan?

"Miss Chu Ziyan, please stop joking. Future husband? You don't seriously consider marrying that waste, do you?"

Bai Jian scoffed.

"Miss Chu Ziyan, you might not know, but Bai Zihan can only keep his position because of his engagement with you. As long as you agree to cancel the engagement with him and engage with me, the result will be the same. The Chu Clan and Bai Clan will still be united through our marriage."

Bai Jian explained.

Like all the others, he believed that the only reason Chu Ziyan had accepted the engagement with Bai Zihan was because the Chu Clan sought a marriage alliance with the Bai Clan.

"I don't need to," she replied. "My engagement is already decided."

Bai Jian's expression darkened, but he quickly masked his irritation with a smile.

"I see. You're bound by duty," he said smoothly, taking another step forward.

"But duty is not absolute. A marriage between two people should be based on compatibility, strength, and mutual respect. You and Bai Zihan have none of that."

He reached out, as if to take her hand, but Chu Ziyan shifted slightly, evading his touch without making it obvious.

Bai Jian's eyes flickered with something unreadable—perhaps frustration, perhaps amusement.

"If you're worried about the Chu Clan's interests, rest assured. The Bai Clan elders will not only approve but will actively support our engagement."

It seems like no matter what she says, Bai Jian will refuse to believe that Chu Ziyan would want to marry Bai Zihan.

His persistence was beginning to grate on her nerves.

She didn't show it, of course.

Her face remained calm, her posture relaxed, but an unmistakable coldness seeped into her gaze.

(How troublesome.)

If Bai Jian only crossed the line, she could teach him a lesson like she had done with Bai Zihan.

But she couldn't.

Bai Jian was just pestering her—no good reason to beat him up.

(Where the hell is Bai Zihan? Shouldn't it be his responsibility to protect me from such problems?)

Chu Ziyan began to get angry as she remembered Bai Zihan, who had seemed to disappear after that conversation with her.

If he were present, he could at least deter these people from casually approaching her.

With his reputation as a bully and someone who doesn't care about the rules, he was the kind of person other members of the Bai Clan didn't want to deal with.

(Is he intentionally avoiding me?)

Chu Ziyan thought.

After all, she knew Bai Zihan didn't want to be engaged to her.

It would make sense that Bai Zihan wouldn't interfere with Bai Jian and the others if they were doing something he desired.

He might even encourage these Bai Clan members to pester her more, in order to cancel the engagement.

Just thinking about that, Chu Ziyan's anger grew.

Not only because she, someone admired by many, was willingly getting engaged to him, but he also dared to think of her as some kind of burden.

Many boys would be willing to do anything to marry someone as beautiful as her, and she had thought Bai Zihan would be no different.

Who would have thought that he was actually planning to cancel the engagement, rather than begging her to stay?

Bai Jian continued to pester her, relentlessly trying to convince Chu Ziyan to dissolve the engagement.

Chu Ziyan grew increasingly annoyed and thought that maybe it was time to take more drastic action to make them stop bothering her.

Just then, a voice echoed in the Bai Clan's garden.

"What the hell are you all doing here?"

It was Bai Zihan's voice!

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 28: Shadows of the Past[1,317 words]

Chapter 28 - Shadows of the Past

Hearing Bai Zihan's voice, everyone turned toward the source.

Bai Zihan stood at the entrance of the garden, his expression twisted in irritation.

While others might see this as him being angry due to these Bai Clan members approaching his fiancée, in reality, he was angry because he, Bai Zihan, had to come here to help Chu Ziyuan.

His presence, while not particularly domineering, carried a certain arrogance—though those who knew him understood it was just his usual attitude.

Chu Ziyuan glanced at him, her expression unreadable.

(So he finally decided to show up, huh?)

Chu Ziyuan was certain that Bai Zihan wouldn't show up at all, yet he did, which added some points in her opinion—although that would be until she learned that Bai Zihan was forced by his sister.

Bai Clan members began to flatter him at his presence, with some already fleeing the scene, wanting nothing to do with the problematic child of the Bai Clan.

Others were also planning to do the same.

(It's like he's some kind of plague.)

Chu Ziyuan thought when she saw many of those people who had been pestering her run away at the speed of light.

The people she had difficulty trying to chase away were immediately leaving at the mere presence of Bai Zihan.

Although that could just show how bad a reputation and personality Bai Zihan had, at the moment, she felt good about this trait of his.

Bai Jian, on the other hand, narrowed his eyes slightly.

"Zihan, I was just speaking with your fiancée," Bai Jian said with a smirk.

Although he didn't like dealing with Bai Zihan most of the time, today wasn't a situation where he could easily back down.

"Hah?"

Bai Zihan sounded irritated as he looked around.

"And I reckon that you all are here for the same reason as well?"

Bai Zihan said as he glared at them.

They didn't know what to say and merely nodded in agreement.

Sigh!

He didn't sigh because of their answer. Rather, even with so many people gathered here, Bai Zihan knew that they had failed.

Just looking at Chu Ziyang's face, Bai Zihan knew that they could never succeed in seducing her even if he gave them three years.

She looked more like she was ready to beat them up—just as she had beaten him years ago—rather than someone who could fall in love.

(Useless!)

He thought.

"If so, then you should all leave!"

Bai Zihan directly commanded them as if he owned the Bai Clan's garden.

Bai Jian turned toward Bai Zihan with a composed smile.

"Ah, Zihan. No need to be so aggressive," Bai Jian said smoothly.

"We were merely having a friendly conversation. After all, Miss Chu is going to be part of our Bai Clan. Isn't it only natural for us to get to know her better?"

Some of the other Bai Clan geniuses nodded in agreement, feigning innocence.

"Cut the bullshit, Jian," Bai Zihan said coldly.

"I know exactly what you're all thinking."

A brief silence fell over the group.

Bai Zihan let out a low chuckle.

"I don't care what fantasies you have, but let me give you a piece of advice—leave it alone while I'm still being nice."

Bai Zihan didn't want to deal with them anymore, and if he didn't help Chu Ziyang while they were still harassing Chu Ziyang, then he knew that he would be called again by Bai Xueqing.

Since that was the case, and these useless fools weren't going to succeed anyway, he wanted them to give up right then and there to avoid wasting his time.

"What? Still not going?"

Bai Zihan asked, now visibly annoyed by the lack of obedience from these people.

One should know that he, Bai Zihan, was always domineering in the Bai Clan, and no matter how strong one was, they had to listen to him.

(Just because you think my position is unstable, you want to be disobedient?)

Bai Zihan thought.

"Hah! Just because I have been behaving particularly well these days, you now think that you can go against me?"

(Lies!)

Everyone thought as Bai Zihan lied through his teeth about being on his best behavior.

If he had truly been on his best behavior, he wouldn't have made trouble for those Heaven Sword Sect disciples.

"Especially you, Bai Jian. I don't think you've forgotten, have you?"

Bai Jian's fingers curled slightly, but he kept his face calm.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," Bai Jian replied nervously.

"Oh? Maybe I should remind you," Bai Zihan said, tilting his head.

"Don't you remember begging me to spare you? And I did—on the condition that you'd obey whatever I said. What? Have you forgotten already?"

The surrounding Bai Clan members stiffened as they all knew what Bai Zihan was talking about.

Even Chu Ziyang raised an eyebrow as she wasn't aware of such an interesting thing.

Bai Jian's eyes darkened, but he kept himself composed.

"That was a long time ago!"

Bai Jian yelled as his hand trembled.

"Was it? Just a little boy who got a bit stronger, and now you think you can go against me?"

Bai Zihan said, poking a finger against Bai Jian's forehead.

Bai Jian's jaw tightened.

Indeed, he was once just a boy who was thoroughly bullied and humiliated by Bai Zihan.

Of course, it wasn't just him. Perhaps almost every Bai Clan Member of his generation had suffered at least once at the hands of Bai Zihan.

Before cultivation, Bai Zihan was much stronger than others, and talent didn't matter much because all of them couldn't cultivate.

But Bai Zihan had always been the heir and, as such, wielded much more authority than others.

It didn't help that he was nurtured well due to being the heir and also because of his doting mother, who spared no resources to help him since birth.

They, the Bai Clan's younger generation, knew that Bai Zihan was the heir and someone that they had to listen to.

Therefore, Bai Zihan could do whatever he wanted to them, and during that period, they were indeed helpless against Bai Zihan—to the point that they are still scared of Bai Zihan to this day.

They might be powerful, much more powerful than Bai Zihan, but their mental scars made them fear Bai Zihan, despite them insulting and backbiting him in his absence.

This was especially true for Bai Jian, who had likely suffered the most under Bai Zihan's hand.

While Bai Zihan didn't always resort to violence, he treated the Bai Clan members like servants, often pushing them around, and Bai Jian, in particular, found himself blamed for things he hadn't done—things that were actually Bai Zihan's fault.

This treatment was what drove Bai Jian to work relentlessly to escape Bai Zihan's bullying and the suffering that came with it.

It was also the reason why he became obsessed with the position of heir—so that one day, Bai Zihan would understand the pain of losing everything and suffering like he did.

"Zihan, don't think you can threaten me like before. I'm not that same person anymore. I've changed!"

Bai Jian declared, his voice firm with newfound resolve.

(This time, I'll overcome my trauma!)

In the past, he would have been too afraid, his instinct forcing him to bow down before Bai Zihan due to the scars of his previous humiliation.

Even now, deep down, he knew he was stronger than he used to be, but the memories of his torment would have usually made him hesitate.

But today... Today, something had shifted.

Bai Jian felt a surge of courage he hadn't felt in years.

The time had come for him to finally confront the shadows of his past and break free from the chains that Bai Zihan had once wrapped around him.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 29: Consequences Of Disobeying[1,208 words]

Chapter 29 - Consequences Of Disobeying

Bai Zihan raised an eyebrow, his lips curling into a smirk as he heard Bai Jian's declaration.

"Oh? You've changed? Interesting!"

Bai Zihan, his voice dripping with amusement, as if the mere idea of Bai Jian standing up to him was laughable.

Although Bai Zihan was aware that Bai Jian had high cultivation and could easily defeat him in a direct battle previously, it was a different story now considering that he had cultivated the Primordial Chaos Body.

Even if that weren't the case, he didn't believe Bai Jian could actually dare to harm him.

He had a thousand and one methods to make Bai Jian submit, using all sorts of means. Of course, that wasn't necessary now that he has a powerful body.

For a moment, the entire garden fell into silence, the tension thick in the air.

Every Bai Clan member stood still, knowing they couldn't afford to offend either of them.

At the same time, many secretly hoped that the two would fight and destroy each other, giving them a chance at the heir position.

With Bai Zihan and Bai Jian around, the others had little to no hope of claiming that position for themselves.

"So, you plan to continue disobeying me, Jian?"

He asked, his tone sharp, as though daring Bai Jian to answer.

Bai Jian's fists clenched at his sides.

His mind screamed at him to stand firm, to finally take control of his own destiny.

But as the weight of Bai Zihan's gaze bore down on him, a part of him instinctively recoiled.

He had been bullied by this very person for years, humiliated, broken down. It wasn't so easy to erase those memories.

At first, his throat felt dry, but then, mustering all the courage he could, he said, "That's right! You, Bai Zihan, don't get to dictate what I should do!"

Bai Jian's voice was steady, but his gaze flickered briefly, uncertain.

At first, Bai Jian trembled slightly, perhaps out of fear—this was the first time he had openly opposed Bai Zihan.

But the moment the words left his mouth, a sense of relief washed over him, quickly replaced by newfound confidence.

(That's right! There's no need to fear Bai Zihan. He's just a bully abusing his position. Beyond that, he has no real power.)

Bai Jian thought as he felt that the trauma that has been haunting him for years is finally coming to an end.

"Haha... "

Bai Zihan laughed, as though finding his uncertainty amusing.

"Is that so?"

He stepped forward, closing the gap between them with casual ease, his steps light yet purposeful.

As he stood face to face with Bai Jian, Bai Zihan looked down at him, his smile widening.

"You know, Jian," he said with a gleam in his eye, "I find it amusing that you think you can disobey me. But let me remind you of something very important."

Before Bai Jian could react, Bai Zihan's hand shot out, fast and firm, slapping him across the face.

SLAP!

The sharp sound of the strike echoed in the garden, silencing even the wind.

Even Chu Ziyan, who had been watching the entire exchange, was surprised by Bai Zihan's sudden and unexpected slap.

Bai Jian staggered slightly, the sting of the slap burning his cheek.

His eyes widened in shock, and for a moment, he almost thought that he was dreaming or something.

Bai Zihan stood tall before him, his presence overwhelming, his eyes burning with authority.

"Remember this, Jian," he said coldly, his eyes staring right at Bai Jian.

"I am the future leader of the Bai Clan. And I don't have time for disobedient fools who think they can disobey, now or in the future!"

Bai Zihan declared, a clear warning to Bai Jian and also to the others present.

Bai Zihan's sudden action surprised them and, at the same time, sent a shiver of fear through the crowd.

It wasn't that the slap itself was particularly strong, but the sheer audacity of the act—the way Bai Zihan struck Bai Jian without hesitation—was a chilling reminder of his past behavior.

Many had thought that, due to his low cultivation talent, Bai Zihan would finally lay low and avoid making enemies, especially with his position at risk.

Without the protection of his heir status, continuing to offend others could very well lead to his downfall.

But Bai Zihan was still the same Bai Zihan—a bully who didn't think twice before slapping even someone like Bai Jian.

"Know that this slap is not only for disobeying me but also for speaking those foolish words," Bai Zihan said arrogantly.

The other Bai Clan members, who had been watching with bated breath, let out a collective sigh of relief.

At least it was Bai Jian who got slapped by Bai Zihan and not them.

But as Bai Jian stood there, the sting of the slap still fresh on his cheek, he couldn't believe it.

He, who had cultivated tirelessly and became the second strongest in the clan, had just been slapped in the face—by a so-called "waste."

Perhaps he could have accepted it if it had been Bai Xueqing, but Bai Zihan?

Although he had endured it in the past, he was a different man today. At least, that's what he wanted to believe.

"Bai Zihan!"

Bai Jian growled angrily as he glared at Bai Zihan.

Although a flicker of nervousness remained—his instincts screaming at him to submit—there was also anger and determination burning in his eyes.

"How dare you slap me? Do you think you can get away with this just because you're the heir?"

Bai Jian snapped.

"You only got away with your actions in the past because you were the heir. But with your lack of talent, there's no way you can hold onto that position for long. Don't think I will still endure whatever you do like before."

Bai Jian's aura flared as he prepared to strike Bai Zihan.

The gathered Bai Clan members gasped.

"Should we stop him?"

"Zihan is too weak. He might die if Jian attacks him with full power!"

"Oh no! Jian is serious. He's really going to strike Zihan!"

...

Worry spread through the crowd.

Although many didn't like Bai Zihan and would have loved to see him suffer, killing a fellow clan member—especially the heir—would have dire consequences.

But even if they wanted to stop Bai Jian, they were too far away—and too weak compared to him.

Chu Ziyang also moved, intending to interfere. If Bai Jian really struck Bai Zihan with his Golden Core cultivation, he could kill him.

However, just as she was about to step in, she caught sight of Bai Zihan's confident smile.

She halted in her tracks.

(Does he have some kind of trump card?)

Chu Ziyang wondered.

As the heir of the Bai Clan, Bai Zihan must have some life-saving artifact or another hidden trick up his sleeve.

Since Bai Zihan was the one who had slapped Bai Jian first, and Bai Jian was merely reacting, she decided not to interfere—just in case she ended up ruining Bai Zihan's plan.

Besides, knowing Bai Zihan's reputation, she had never heard about him suffering any real setbacks.

Novel Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! Chapter 30: The Unveiling of Power

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan!

Chapter 30 - The Unveiling of Power

In the moment of his anger, Bai Jian forgot to control his strength and launched himself at Bai Zihan with full force.

Only at the last second did he realize what he was doing.

(Oh no!)

Bai Jian tried to suppress his strength, but it was already too late.

His fist, containing the Qi of the Golden Core Realm, was heading straight for Bai Zihan, who stood there without moving an inch.

Everyone watching held their breath, expecting Bai Zihan to be sent flying, perhaps even crippled on the spot.

But then—

THUD!

A single hand rose, fingers closing around Bai Jian's fist in an effortless grip.

Bai Zihan, whom everyone had believed to be weak, had just completely stopped Bai Jian's full-powered punch.

Silence fell over the garden.

The Bai Clan members stared in stunned disbelief.

Even Chu Ziyan, who had refrained from interfering due to her suspicions, felt her heart jolt.

(What...?)

She knew Bai Zihan's strength better than most.

He was weak.

His cultivation was shallow compared to theirs, and his body was even frailer—he had never been one to train physically.

And yet... he had just stopped Bai Jian's full-force punch, despite Bai Jian being in the Golden Core Stage.

It was one thing to barely withstand or survive the blow, but Bai Zihan hadn't even taken a single step back—despite being only at the Core Formation Stage.

There was a two-major-realm difference between them.

Even a Core Condensation Realm cultivator might not have been able to stop Bai Jian's punch.

Bai Jian, the second strongest of their generation, stood frozen, his arm trembling.

His mind couldn't process what had just happened.

(He... caught it?)

Just a second ago, Bai Jian had feared that he might accidentally cripple or kill Bai Zihan.

Now, he had completely forgotten about that, overwhelmed by shock—his attack had been effortlessly stopped by Bai Zihan, of all people.

(No... That's impossible!)

Before Bai Jian could fully register his shock, Bai Zihan's grip tightened around his fist.

"Is that all?"

Bai Zihan asked.

While his expression remained unchanged, internally, he was both excited and pleased with how powerful his body had become.

In that moment, he felt that all the pain he had endured was worth it.

Of course, he didn't show the satisfaction on his face as he still needed to deal with Bai Jian.

Bai Jian's pupils shrank as the reality of the situation sank in—Bai Zihan, whom he thought he could easily handle, had effortlessly blocked his attack.

In the next instant—

BANG!

A powerful kick struck Bai Jian directly in the stomach.

"ARGH—!"

Bai Jian's body lurched backward violently, his feet leaving the ground as he was sent flying.

He crashed onto the stone pavement, coughing as pain exploded through his abdomen.

Normally, he could have reacted in time and dodged such an attack, but he was too mentally shaken by the sheer absurdity of the situation.

Of course, while Bai Zihan's kick was painful, it hadn't dealt any serious injuries—after all, Bai Jian was still a Golden Core cultivator while Bai Zihan didn't use any Qi.

Gasps rippled through the crowd.

Bai Jian, the mighty genius of the Bai Clan, had just been kicked to the ground like an insect.

And the one who did it—

Was Bai Zihan.

The supposed waste!

"You should think twice before trying this kind of shit again."

Bai Zihan said arrogantly, dusting off his robes.

His blood-red eyes swept across the gathered clan members, his tone filled with lazy contempt.

"What? Still watching?"

He asked sharply.

It had been quite a while since he had ordered them to leave, yet they were still here, testing his patience.

Not wanting to anger Bai Zihan further, the other Bai Clan members quickly obeyed and began to disperse.

However, what had happened at that moment was etched into their memories—they couldn't forget the sight of Bai Zihan stopping Bai Jian's punch.

Many speculated whether Bai Zihan had relied on his own strength or used some mysterious artifact.

Most believed the latter, as that was the only explanation that made sense.

Of course, if they were as powerful as Chu Ziyang, they would have known that Bai Zihan had used no artifact—it was purely his own power.

Bai Jian slowly stood up, now the only other Bai Clan member left apart from Bai Zihan.

He stared at Bai Zihan with a mix of contempt and confusion.

But one thing was clear—he no longer had the courage to attack again.

It would be humiliating to attack twice only to fail again.

More than that, the confidence he had gathered to overcome his trauma and stand up to Bai Zihan had been crushed.

That familiar fear, which had tormented him years ago, was creeping back into his heart.

"What? Want to go again?"

Bai Zihan asked unreservedly, his tone laced with anger.

He didn't care about Bai Jian—whether now or in the past.

He was already irritated that Bai Jian had dared to defy him, and he had mercifully spared him.

Of course, in reality, this was merely Bai Zihan's arrogance speaking.

To others, it could be said that this was simply his karma—his past cruelty coming back to bite him, although it didn't quite work well.

It was like the devil proclaiming himself to be a saint.

But regardless of perspective, one fact remained—Bai Jian could do nothing now.

To save himself from further embarrassment, especially in front of Chu Ziyan, he merely glared at Bai Zihan one last time before leaving.

Bai Zihan watched Bai Jian's retreating figure, and only then did he finally turn his gaze to Chu Ziyan—who was still staring at him.

Her intense gaze made him shiver slightly.

"What?"

Bai Zihan asked.

"You... When did you become this strong?"

Chu Ziyan asked, her voice laced with suspicion.

"Huh? Can't I train? Do you think that only a genius like yourself can grow stronger?"

Bai Zihan scoffed.

He didn't think there was any need to explain his strength.

After all, while his improvement was significant, it wasn't at a level that would make people too suspicious.

Most would simply assume that his parents had spent valuable resources to strengthen his body using medicinal pills.

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