

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 81: Schemes Laid Bare[1,053 words]

Chapter 81: Schemes Laid Bare

Tian Yuheng didn't interrupt Grand Elder Bai Ren.

After all, it was indeed not good to accuse Bai Zihan, the heir of Bai Clan and hand out a heavy punishment, given his status.

While Elder Shen was obviously being pushed back by the many people who had come to support Bai Zihan, he was not going to back down easily.

With the evidence he has, he didn't think any one could really do anything against him.

"Hmph! Although your Bai Clan is powerful, that doesn't mean you can do whatever you want in Heaven Sword Sect."

Elder Shen continued coldly.

"Sect Leader, we have undeniable proof that Bai Zihan has been breaking the rules of Heaven Sword Sect. No matter what, we have to punish him according to the rules."

Elder Shen said this to prevent Tian Yuheng from favoring Bai Zihan.

If he indeed forsook the Sect's rules for Bai Zihan's sake, his reputation would definitely fall—which would be great for their Anti-Sect Leader faction.

If not, then he would proceed to hand out the punishment to Bai Zihan.

That was also good for their faction, as everyone knew Tian Yuheng had a good relationship with the Bai Clan and had even brought Bai Zihan into the sect.

By not being able to protect Bai Zihan, he would lose the trust of the Bai Clan. The Bai Clan might even blame Tian Yuheng.

Tian Yuheng stared at Elder Shen, then at Grand Elder Bai Ren.

"Elder Shen, are you certain about your evidence?"

Tian Yuheng asked calmly.

If the evidence was certain and Bai Zihan had broken the rules, he couldn't escape punishment, though it would not be too severe like Elder Shen intends to.

However, neither Tian Yuheng nor Bai Ren had seen the evidence yet and couldn't be sure.

"Certainly! Elder Shan, show them!"

Elder Shen ordered.

"No need!"

Bai Zihan finally intervened.

He had let everything play out as he planned, and there was no need to keep playing along with his enemies' scheme.

"What do you mean, Bai Zihan? Do you confess to your crime?"

Elder Shen asked, his tone mocking.

He thought that Bai Zihan didn't want others to see his "crime" exposed and was going to admit it himself.

"You wish!"

Bai Zihan sneered.

"There's no need to see your evidence because I have something that will prove yours worthless."

Bai Zihan declared.

He reached casually into his robes and pulled out a Memory Crystal Mirror.

"I believe," Bai Zihan said lazily, his smirk widening just a bit, "there's no need for Elder Shan's 'evidence.' Since you all like drama so much, let's enjoy a better show, shall we?"

With a snap of his fingers, the crystal flashed—and the hall darkened slightly as images projected above it.

The first scene appeared: a dimly lit room, clearly somewhere secluded within the Sect.

And in it—clear as day—stood Shen Liang and Mei Rulan.

Shen Liang's voice rang out, for everyone present to hear it.

"As long as you do this right, Mei Rulan, not only will you be rewarded, but the Sect Elders themselves will back you."

Shen Liang continued.

"Blame Bai Zihan for stealing your underwears and peeking in female bathroom. As for the other things, you don't need to worry, I'll take care of it."

Mei Rulan, her face nervous but greedy, nodded fiercely.

The crowd exploded into an uproar.

"What? Senior Brother Shen was the one who orchestrated this whole thing?!"

"So Bai Zihan was really falsely accused?"

"Then what about the evidence in Bai Zihan's courtyard?"

"No, no! Senior Brother can't have done something so disgusting."

...

Disbelief and confusion filled the hall as they couldn't believe their eyes.

Especially those girls who are fans of Shen Liang.

After all, Shen Liang—who was a role model for most disciples—scheming against someone and falsely accusing him was something they had never imagined.

Moreover, the look of pity on their faces turned into anger as they stared at Mei Rulan, who had earlier acted like a pitiful victim.

Now she was exposed for what she was—a lying bitch who was just greedy.

Elder Shen's face turned pale.

Along with him, Shen Liang and Mei Rulan stood frozen, stunned at seeing their conversation being played in front of everyone.

Mei Rulan was pale with fright, feeling the glares of everyone burning into her.

Falsely accusing someone was a grave crime in Heaven Sword Sect, and she couldn't escape punishment.

But Bai Zihan wasn't done yet.

With another flick of his fingers, the scene shifted.

This time, it showed someone sneaking around Bai Zihan's courtyard in the dead of night—carefully planting undergarments and other "evidence" around, making it look like he'd stolen from other disciples.

Of course, it was Fang Jinyan, along with another lackey of Shen Liang, who was doing it.

The evidence was crystal clear—anyone could see who was the victim and who was the mastermind.

Shen Liang gritted his teeth in rage.

The final image froze: the culprit smirking as he tucked a final piece of clothing under Bai Zihan's bed.

The hall went dead silent.

You could hear a damn pin drop.

Bai Zihan looked around lazily, then chuckled under his breath.

"This... is your 'undeniable proof,' Elder Shen?"

Bai Zihan said with a sneer.

He casually tossed the crystal over to Tian Yuheng, who caught it with a flick of his sleeve and quickly verified it with a sweep of his spiritual sense.

Genuine. Untampered. No illusion arts.

The Sect Leader's face darkened visibly.

Grand Elder Bai Ren snorted coldly, the sound like a thunderclap.

"Scheming against my Bai Clan's heir in such a despicable way—don't think anyone involved can get away easily!"

Elder Shen's face twisted, veins bulging at his forehead.

He opened his mouth, ready to spout something—anything—but no words came out.

What could he say?

The evidence was clear. Unmistakable.

He could only glare at his nephew, who couldn't even handle a simple task and had completely messed up.

Meanwhile, Elder Qinglan's lips curved into a very slight, razor-sharp smile.

She didn't need to say anything either.

Bai Zihan had perfectly gutted them with the truth.

All that was left now was to punish the true criminals—and there was no doubt about who they were.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 82: Script Has Flipped! [1,026 words]

Chapter 82: Script Has Flipped!

"Fang Jinyan!"

Shen Liang's mind roared furiously.

(That damn traitor!)

Fang Jinyan was the only one who had been present when Shen Liang plotted with Mei Rulan and also when planting the evidence in Bai Zihan's courtyard.

He was supposed to be loyal—his trusted pawn.

Yet now, standing silently behind Bai Zihan, his betrayal blazed as bright as the midday sun.

"You—!"

Shen Liang's hand shook as he pointed at Fang Jinyan, words caught in his throat from sheer rage.

Fang Jinyan, in contrast, only smiled faintly and lowered his head in a polite bow toward Bai Zihan, as if declaring his allegiance without saying a single word.

Offending Shen Liang was definitely not a good idea, but in Fang Jinyan's eyes, Bai Zihan was much more powerful.

While Bai Zihan had everything under his control, Shen Liang arrogantly believed it was the other way around.

To Fang Jinyan, who knew better, Shen Liang had always looked like a clown—grinning and laughing triumphantly, unaware he was already caught in Bai Zihan's web.

On the other hand, Bai Zihan showed no cards until the last moment, even quietly calling for the Sect Leader and the Elders.

Even he, who had helped Bai Zihan gather the evidence, hadn't known about this until now — and he was certain it had been part of Bai Zihan's plan all along.

Moreover, from this day onward, Shen Liang would have a hard life in Heaven Sword Sect... if he could even stay.

So, switching sides—and doing it cleanly and decisively—was Fang Jinyan’s only path forward.

"You bastard..."

Shen Liang hissed under his breath, his face twisting into something ugly and venomous.

Completely different from his usual calm and collected appearance.

But it was understandable. After all, the plan he thought was flawless was ruined, and now he was the one left to suffer.

Meanwhile, the crowd was completely losing its mind.

"Looks like Fang Jinyan was acting like Bai Zihan’s double agent."

"No wonder Bai Zihan was so calm. He was already prepared!"

"So the news about Fang Jinyan and Bai Zihan fighting and Bai Zihan running away in fear was all bullshit."

"Looks like it. Just look at Fang Jinyan now—he’s acting like Bai Zihan’s lackey."

Everyone could understand why Shen Liang was raging at Fang Jinyan after being exposed.

After all, like Shen Liang, they had also assumed that Fang Jinyan and Bai Zihan were at odds.

Many Mystic Moon Peak disciples had been present when they fought—that was undeniable.

But now, even that seemed suspicious.

Was it all a setup?

Had Bai Zihan planned everything from the very beginning?

They didn’t know—but just the fact that Bai Zihan could pull something like this off made a cold shiver run down everyone’s spine.

‘I’m not afraid of the blade I can see—it’s the hidden dagger in the dark that terrifies me.’

Although Bai Zihan is one of the weakest in terms of pure strength which they assume, his schemes—the ones you couldn’t see coming until it was too late—were what truly terrified them.

If even someone like Shen Liang couldn’t stand against him, how could they?

And now, with Mei Rulan exposed for lying and conspiring with Shen Liang, the entire case had flipped.

Instead of Bai Zihan being on trial, it was Shen Liang and Mei Rulan who stood accused.

Everyone's eyes were now locked onto Tian Yuheng.

With Shen Liang as the mastermind, they couldn't rule out Elder Shen's involvement either—especially since he was Shen Liang's uncle.

So now, the final decision lay in the Sect Leader's hands.

Tian Yuheng's expression was terrifyingly cold, his brow tightly furrowed.

He slowly raised his hand—and the entire hall fell into deathly silence.

Tian Yuheng's gaze swept across the room, pausing briefly on Elder Shen, then on Shen Liang and Mei Rulan.

"You," Tian Yuheng's voice was low but struck like thunder, "dared to tarnish a fellow disciple's reputation with false accusations. You conspired to frame him, forged evidence, and even dared to misuse the Punishment Hall."

His gaze turned razor-sharp.

"Shen Liang. Mei Rulan. Do you have anything to say in your defense?"

He asked, though it was clear he didn't believe they had a single excuse that could save them.

Shen Liang's fists clenched so tightly that bloody crescents formed in his palms.

He tried to force his voice to sound steady.

"This... this is a misunderstanding!"

He said hoarsely, his face pale.

"Bai Zihan must have fabricated this! Just like he did back in the Bai Clan!"

Shen Liang shouted in desperation and anger.

Mei Rulan collapsed to her knees, trembling, tears spilling down her face.

"S-Sect Leader, I was forced! I—I had no choice!"

It seemed the two of them had no way forward but to tell even more lies.

However, everyone still remembered Mei Rulan's greedy smile when she accepted Shen Liang's offer—and Shen Liang's smug excitement when he spoke about Bai Zihan's downfall.

And the Memory Crystal Mirror had already been checked by Tian Yuheng personally. There was no tampering. No room for excuses.

"Enough!"

Tian Yuheng's voice was a blade slicing through her pitiful cries.

"No amount of excuses will wash away your crime."

He turned slightly, his gaze now settling on Elder Shen.

"And Elder Shen," Tian Yuheng's tone grew even colder, "as a respected Elder, you participated in framing a disciple without proper investigation, abused your authority, and sought to disrupt the sect's internal harmony for your personal agenda."

"You have shamed Heaven Sword Sect."

Each word was like a hammer striking down.

Elder Shen staggered back half a step, cold sweat pouring down his back.

He knew.

It was over.

With Shen Liang's guilt established, they would naturally trace it back to him.

Moreover, he had indeed abused his authority by summoning Bai Zihan and handing down the harshest punishment he could.

Even a little investigation would reveal his involvement with Mei Rulan's false accusation.

Either way, it was a political death sentence.

There was no way he could continue as the Hall Master of the Punishment Hall—a role that demanded fairness and impartiality.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 83: When Justice Demands a Hand[1,240 words]

Chapter 83: When Justice Demands a Hand

Tian Yuheng waved his hand.

"Elder Yu!"

Elder Yu stepped forward immediately, her aura overwhelming the hall like a crashing tide.

She was one of the elders of Punishment Hall like Elder Shan, though a supporter of the Sect Leader's faction, and someone the Sect Leader trusted.

"Take Shen Liang and Mei Rulan into custody. They will be stripped of their Core Disciple and Inner Disciple statuses respectively and expelled after the Sect Assembly."

Tian Yuheng also handed out quite a severe punishment to them, which was understandable.

After all, they had tried to mess with the Bai Clan's heir—and the punishment needed to be heavy enough to satisfy the Bai Clan.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to explain things to them.

"As for Elder Shen and the others who were also involved..."

Tian Yuheng's voice paused, considering what punishment would be appropriate.

Right now, only Shen Liang, Mei Rulan, Fang Jinyan, and the lackey who planted evidence in Bai Zihan's courtyard were confirmed to be involved.

Fang Jinyan—anyone could tell—was working as a spy for Bai Zihan, so naturally, there wouldn't be any punishment for him.

However, Elder Shan and the other disciples who went to arrest Bai Zihan might also be involved, although there was no concrete evidence yet.

At the same time, some might have been innocent, merely fulfilling their duties.

"You are suspended from your duties pending full investigation. Until then, you are confined to your residence."

Elder Shen's body shook violently, and for a moment, it seemed like he might cough up blood.

After a proper investigation, his involvement would easily be exposed.

Moreover, a full investigation could uncover all the other corruption he had committed behind everyone's backs.

Losing his status as Hall Master or elder would be the least of his worries.

The Anti-Sect Leader faction would also abandon him immediately—like rats fleeing a sinking ship.

After all, without status to back him up, no one would risk themselves to save him.

Still, he gritted his teeth, swallowing his humiliation with trembling fists.

It seemed like the case was finally coming to a close, with all the culprits facing punishment—
Until Bai Zihan stepped forward.

"Wait!" Bai Zihan said.

The entire hall, already holding its breath, turned stunned gazes toward him.

Tian Yuheng's raised hand paused midair, his sharp eyes narrowing slightly.

(Could it be that he's unsatisfied?)

Tian Yuheng thought.

Although he had handed down a severe punishment, it might still not be enough to satisfy the devil of the Bai Clan.

"I recall," Bai Zihan said leisurely, his voice carrying clearly across the hall, "that when Elder Shen handed down my punishment, he decreed that if I was framed... the framer would suffer the same sentence."

A heavy silence blanketed the room.

Some disciples gasped, remembering exactly what Elder Shen had said during that hearing.

—Cut off the right hand.

—A year of isolation in the Reflection Cave.

—And possibly expulsion from the Heaven Sword Sect.

It wasn't just a punishment—it was a crippling humiliation, a destruction of a cultivator's future.

Bai Zihan tilted his head slightly, a lazy, mocking smile playing on his lips.

"Now that the truth is out, shouldn't we honor Elder Shen's own words?"

His words weren't loud, but they slammed into the crowd like thunder.

Shen Liang's face was drained of all colors.

Everyone understood instantly what Bai Zihan was implying.

He wanted Shen Liang's right hand.

Tian Yuheng's face grew even grimmer.

Even he hadn't expected Bai Zihan to be this ruthless.

But... fair was fair.

Bai Zihan was merely asking to enforce Elder Shen's own decree.

Bai Zihan's gaze shifted lazily to Shen Liang, who was being held down by Elder Yu's binding technique.

"You heard it, didn't you, Shen Liang?"

His tone was light, even casual—but it carried the weight of a thousand mountains.

"You plotted against me. You fabricated evidence. You nearly ruined my future in the Heaven Sword Sect."

"And now..."

Bai Zihan's eyes glinted like sharpened blades.

"Return what you owe. You will lose your right hand. And you will spend one year in the Reflection Cave. That should be your punishment."

A visible ripple of gasps swept through the crowd.

Even the outer and inner sect disciples watching from the edges of the hall were stunned.

If this truly happened, the Heaven Sword Sect would lose one of its geniuses.

On the dais, Tian Yuheng didn't immediately speak.

Instead, his sharp gaze pinned Elder Shen to the spot.

"Is what Bai Zihan said correct?" he asked coldly.

Elder Shen's lips trembled.

He wanted to deny it, find some loophole, make some excuse.

But he couldn't.

Too many had witnessed him arrogantly decree Bai Zihan's original punishment.

And if he went back on it now, his credibility—what little was left—would be completely destroyed.

After a long moment, Elder Shen finally croaked out.

"...Yes. That was indeed what I said. But it was merely a slip of tongue."

Tian Yuheng's face darkened even further.

Just when he thought things couldn't get worse, Elder Shen only made it worse.

Of course, Tian Yuheng couldn't let this escalate unchecked.

While the Shen Clan wasn't as powerful as the Bai Clan, it was still one of the strongest clans.

Cutting off the right hand of their genius was tantamount to provoking them.

"Disciple Bai Zihan, how about you show some leniency?"

His voice echoed heavily across the hall.

"You've already proven your innocence and brought the truth to light. For the sake of the Heaven Sword Sect's harmony, perhaps it's best to leave some room for mercy."

It was clear.

He was asking Bai Zihan to back down.

Not for Shen Liang's sake—but to protect the sect's stability and face.

Unfortunately for him... he was talking to Bai Zihan.

Bai Zihan smiled slightly, his eyes curving—but there was no warmth, only a sharp, chilling edge.

"Leave some room for mercy?"

He repeated softly, as if tasting the words.

Then his gaze sharpened, cold as ice.

"One must keep their word, wouldn't you agree, Sect Leader?"

Tian Yuheng's outstretched hand froze midair.

The weight behind Bai Zihan's words made it impossible to press further without completely losing face.

Everyone could feel it.

Bai Zihan wasn't going to back down.

Not even if the Sect Leader himself asked.

The air grew unbearably tense, as if an invisible hand was squeezing the entire Punishment Hall.

At that moment, Bai Xueqing hurriedly stepped forward.

Her brows knitted tightly, her voice urgent.

"Zihan! Let it go! Why ask for more when you've already gotten back at Shen Liang!"

Bai Xueqing thought Bai Zihan was being disobedient again, even when the Sect Leader was already helping him.

Bai Zihan turned his cold gaze toward her.

So cold that Bai Xueqing instinctively shut her mouth.

He spoke lightly, but each word struck like a hammer.

"Would you be saying the same if they had succeeded? Would they have shown mercy?"

Bai Xueqing's lips quivered.

She couldn't answer.

Because everyone knew the truth—especially her.

Shen Liang had pretended to offer help, demanding an apology from Bai Zihan first.

And she, too, had agreed, thinking that a simple apology was a small price to pay to escape disaster.

But now—could she righteously ask Bai Zihan to back down?

Bai Zihan continued coldly.

"One should pay the price for messing with me. No matter who they are!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 84: Bai Zihan's Judgment[
1,558 words]

Chapter 84: Bai Zihan's Judgment

The hall was dead silent.

No one dared to speak.

No one even dared to breathe too loudly.

At that moment, everyone understood one thing clearly.

Bai Zihan would not forgive.

If there was someone no matter who it is, their status, background or talent, they could escape Bai Zihan's retribution once he set his mind on it.

Even Bai Xueqing, the genius sister of his, more valued at Bai Clan, couldn't stop Bai Zihan.

Perhaps there was only one person who could intervene without much consequence — Grand Elder Bai Ren.

Even if he acted forcefully, he wouldn't lose face. As the Grand Elder, he had the authority to stop Bai Zihan if he believed he was making a rash decision.

But that was only if he wanted to stop him.

Rather than intervening, Bai Ren actually looked proud.

He nodded in agreement with Bai Zihan's words, and in his heart, he believed — this was how the heir of their Bai Clan should act.

Fearless. Decisive. Merciless toward their enemies.

Offending the Shen Clan? Making them an enemy?

So what?

If they wanted to, the Bai Clan could wipe the Shen Clan out with ease.

Grand Elder Bai Ren had always believed in finishing things thoroughly — no debts left behind.

Previously, he had a negative opinion about Bai Zihan because of his cultivation talent and reputation and thought of him as a lazy, senseless troublemaker.

But that has all changed now.

Even without much cultivation talent, he believed that the character Bai Zihan showed was epitome of who their Bai Clan's future leader should be.

Tian Yuheng slowly withdrew his hand and said nothing more.

After all, it was simple: offend the Bai Clan or offend the Shen Clan.

Between the two, offending the Shen Clan was the obvious choice — especially when Shen Liang was the one at fault.

Tian Yuheng didn't think the Shen Clan had much ground to stand on regarding Shen Liang's punishment — it was his own fault, and he had brought it upon himself.

They wouldn't have a justifiable reason to wage war against the Heaven Sword Sect either.

And even if they did try to fight, the Shen Clan didn't have the strength to destroy the Heaven Sword Sect – unlike the Bai Clan.

The Bai Clan had both the justification and the power to do as they pleased – even if that meant going against the Heaven Sword Sect, especially if Tian Yuheng mishandled the situation here.

Bai Zihan's gaze fell on Shen Liang, who was caught in place by Elder Yu..

Bai Zihan walked towards him and his intention was clear. Bai Zihan want to take Shen Liang's arm/

Shen Liang glared at him with burning hatred.

"Bai Zihan, do you think you can take my arm? Don't overestimate yourself!"

He roared, his Nascent Soul cultivation flaring violently.

Even after being exposed and pinned down for breaking sect rules and scheming against another disciple – all thanks to Bai Zihan – But he still underestimated him.

Shen Liang believed Bai Zihan was just a weakling. Maybe he couldn't outsmart him, but when it came to strength, he was certain there was no way he'd ever lose to him.

He broke free of Elder Yu's hands and glared at Bai Zihan, daring him to come closer.

There was no way he would just let this happen – not because of some punishment, not because of his uncle, and certainly not because of someone he saw as beneath him.

Elder Yu was stumped about what to do. She wanted to restrain Shen Liang again though more forcefully this time.

However, before she could do that, Bai Zihan made his move. Bai Zihan knew he couldn't overpower Shen Liang by himself.

But he never planned to.

"Grand Elder!"

He didn't need to say anything more.

Grand Elder Bai Ren, seated in the corner like a slumbering beast, finally opened his eyes.

A terrifying aura pressed down.

Boom!

Shen Liang's body instantly buckled under the weight, forcing him to his knees.

Elder Yu quickly retreated from Shen Liang, dragging Mei Rulan along a bit forcefully, as she clearly had no desire to be anywhere near the scene.

"ARGH!"

Shen Liang howled, his cultivation meaningless in front of that oppressive force.

"How about now?"

Bai Zihan said mockingly as he walked toward him.

In Shen Liang's current state, even a child could kill him.

Shen Liang's face twisted into raw terror.

"No! No! You can't! I'm a Core Disciple! I'm the Shen Clan's genius! I—!"

He shrieked, scrambling for anything — pride, status, fear — to stop what was coming.

"Bai Zihan, think carefully!" he gasped desperately.

"Your Bai Clan isn't invincible! If you do this, you'll make an enemy of the Shen Clan! You could have an ally instead!"

He tried to bargain, tried to tempt Bai Zihan.

But Bai Zihan wasn't listening.

He wouldn't have gone this far if he cared about the Shen Clan's opinion.

To him, they weren't worth more than his revenge.

Bai Zihan lazily pulled out his sword from his storage ring.

The cold blade flashed under the hall's light.

"NO! NO, NO, DON'T—!"

Shen Liang's screams echoed through the hall.

Just as Bai Zihan raised his sword—

A violent surge of spiritual pressure exploded from Elder Shen!

"STOP—!"

Elder Shen roared, lunging forward to save his nephew.

But—

Boom!!

Before he could even take two steps, a terrifying force crushed down.

Grand Elder Bai Ren flicked his sleeve casually.

Elder Shen was smashed into the ground like a dead dog, similar to how Shen Liang was.

"Stay still," Bai Ren said coldly, his voice like rolling thunder.

"You're lucky we're only taking the hand, not the head."

Even though Elder Shen was a powerhouse in his own right, in front of Bai Ren, he was nothing — a toddler before a mountain.

Coughing blood, Elder Shen could only glare helplessly as Bai Zihan stood before Shen Liang.

Shen Liang shrieked, struggling madly, but there was no way that he could free himself from Grand Elder Bai Ren's restraint.

"Bai Zihan, think carefully! Please, I'll apologize! Just let me go this once!"

Seeing Bai Zihan approaching, Shen Liang couldn't hold onto his pride any longer and began to beg.

"Please! I'm begging you!"

He didn't care that countless disciples and elders were watching — he didn't want to be a cripple.

Bai Zihan just gave him a smile before his sword flashing mercilessly.

Without hesitation—

Slick—!!

A flash of silver.

Puchi—!

A spray of blood arced through the air.

Shen Liang's right hand was cleanly severed at the wrist, thudding wetly to the polished floor.

"AAAAARGHH!!"

Shen Liang collapsed, writhing and sobbing like a wounded beast.

Several disciples turned their heads away, unable to bear the sight.

But Bai Zihan didn't even blink.

He stood there, completely unmoved.

Because to him, this wasn't cruelty.

It was justice.

The sharp scent of blood filled the hall.

Grand Elder Bai Ren has stopped restraining Shen Liang as his hand has already been severed.

Elder Yu quickly came over and calmly sealed Shen Liang's meridians to stop the bleeding.

Bai Zihan flicked the blood from his blade with a lazy motion, as if brushing dirt from his sleeve.

The deed was done.

And the hall remained deathly silent.

Everyone was thinking the same thing – Bai Zihan really dared to do what he said he would.

He had actually cut off the hand of Shen Liang, one of the top geniuses, respected and feared by countless disciples.

Even if they had been schemed against like Bai Zihan, none of them believed they would have had the guts to do what he had just done.

Most would've been satisfied if Shen Liang was just stripped of his status.

But Bai Zihan took it a step further.

He took Shen Liang's right hand – his future.

This completely shattered their opinion of Bai Zihan.

The young master they once looked down on as just some spoiled brat from a prestigious clan... now appeared before them as a terrifying figure.

They were still in the process of comprehending what was happening.

No one dared even think of speaking.

The only sound in the Punishment Hall was Shen Liang's wails of pain.

"AAAHHHHH!"

Shen Liang was experiencing pain like never before.

But more than the pain of having his hand cut off, the horrifying reality finally sank in – this wasn't a nightmare.

He had truly lost his right hand. He had really become a cripple.

A genius of the Shen Clan and the Heaven Sword Sect, Shen Liang's future had once been brighter than anyone's, and his reputation soared as high as the sky.

But today, he had lost everything.

As the pain dulled slightly thanks to Elder Yu's emergency healing, Shen Liang's eyes burned with hatred toward Bai Zihan.

"BAI ZIHAN!"

Shen Liang roared at the top of his lungs.

"You and I are irreconcilable! I won't stop until I kill you!"

He spat the words out, glaring at Bai Zihan with pure venom.

"Hmph!"

Bai Zihan just smirked and mocked, "What can a cripple even do?"

His mocking words stabbed deeper than any sword, a brutal reminder about what has happened to Shen Liang.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 85: One Last Accusation[1,517 words]

Chapter 85: One Last Accusation

Bai Xueqing quietly watched everything after she was silenced by Bai Zihan.

She had only wanted to intervene because Shen Liang had helped her before, and also because she felt Bai Zihan was demanding too much for crimes that, in her eyes, weren't that severe.

She didn't expect Bai Zihan to react that way to her words, and now, she felt a bit guilty—because truth be told, she had also thought he was in the wrong... until he revealed his evidence.

The Bai Zihan before her felt different from the one she knew.

That same strange feeling had stirred back at the Bai Clan when she confronted him because of Shen Liang.

But back then, it was just because he seemed a bit more gutsy than she remembered.

Now, though? Bai Zihan's coldness and mercilessness... even the way he seemed to look down on her—it made her uneasy.

Yes, for the first time, she felt a trace of fear toward her younger brother, the one she'd always thought of as a lazy troublemaker.

And that fear only intensified when Bai Zihan mercilessly cut off Shen Liang's arm and stared him down without even blinking.

Even she couldn't help but look away at the moment he struck.

She hadn't thought he'd actually go through with it.

After all, though he was known for making trouble, Bai Zihan had never gone this far with anyone.

Hell, Bai Xueqing used to think he probably couldn't even kill a chicken—he always seemed that cowardly in her eyes.

He just used his status to stir up drama everywhere. Or at least, that's what she had believed.

But that perception had now been shattered, and Bai Zihan's brutal retaliation made that very clear.

Chu Ziyang also watched everything unfold, surprised that Bai Zihan didn't listen to the Sect Leader—and even more so when he went against Bai Xueqing.

After all, she knew Bai Zihan had always been obedient, even a bit scared of Bai Xueqing. He never argued with her before.

But this time, he didn't give her even a shred of face—he shut her down immediately with a few cold words.

And even Chu Ziyang couldn't help but notice Bai Zihan's gaze as he spoke to Bai Xueqing.

It was condescending, as if he couldn't be bothered to explain things to someone too dumb to understand.

And like he said... he took Shen Liang's arm—just like that. To the shock of everyone.

Chu Ziyang didn't dwell on it too much.

Sure, Bai Zihan had probably gone too far, acting without much thought for the consequences.

But in her mind, he was the victim here. And Shen Liang brought it on himself.

Well... another reason she felt nothing for Shen Liang's fate was probably because she disliked him to begin with.

Shen Liang was always so pretentious—always trying to play the righteous, noble senior.

Chu Ziyang found it irritating. Even more so because she knew Shen Liang was chasing Bai Xueqing, her best friend by pretending to be just helpful senior.

He was always finding some excuse to approach her. Bai Xueqing never seemed to find it suspicious, but how could Chu Ziyang not see it?

Still, Shen Liang had never crossed any lines, so she just tolerated his behavior and didn't say much.

But who would've thought Shen Liang would end up crushed by the very younger brother of the girl he was chasing?

It must've been devastating for him.

Not that he showed it.

"Hehehe... Good! Good! I hope you remember this, because I will never forget. Kakaka..."

Shen Liang started laughing hysterically—like he'd finally lost his mind.

And maybe he had.

After everything that happened, it wouldn't be surprising.

His laughter echoed madly through the Punishment Hall—high-pitched, cracked, unhinged.

His eyes were bloodshot, veins bulging like they could barely contain the madness surging through him.

The sheer humiliation—the disgrace of being crippled in front of everyone—had shattered something deep inside him.

Everyone could see it.

This wasn't the same proud, polished Shen Liang they once respected.

This was someone broken. Beyond repair.

And a broken genius? Was often more dangerous than a sane one.

"Do you think... you've won?"

Shen Liang spat, his voice trembling but thick with venom.

"You've humiliated me. Crippled me. Turned the entire sect into your stage. But I swear on my life—on the name of the Shen Clan—I'll make you crawl beneath my feet one day!"

Bai Zihan yawned.

"Are you done?"

He asked, wearing the expression of a man listening to a barking dog.

"If so, can someone take him away? He's too loud!"

Bai Zihan waved dismissively, clearly done with him.

As far as Bai Zihan was concerned, the matter was settled. There was no point wasting any more time on him.

Elder Shen, still lying crushed on the floor, glared daggers at Bai Zihan.

His chest heaved with fury and helplessness, but he still couldn't move.

He has to watch as one of the prospect of Shen Clan became cripple without being able to do anything.

Elder Yu, her face tight with restraint, signaled a few disciples to carry Shen Liang away.

As they approached, Shen Liang tried to struggle—but his body was no longer in a state to resist.

All he could do was snarl like a caged beast.

"Bai Zihan... you bastard... I'll tear you apart—!"

The disciples restraining them tightened their grip, even channeling their Qi to reinforce it.

Shen Liang looked like he wanted to struggle again, just like before—but this time, the disciples were prepared, unlike Elder Yu.

But instead, Shen Liang just... laughed.

"Bai Zihan, you don't even realize—your days of arrogance are over!"

Bai Zihan didn't even spare him a glance, as if he couldn't be bothered with him anymore.

Shen Liang gritted his teeth at Bai Zihan's attitude.

Always arrogant. Always looking down on him. Always getting away with everything!

That's the image Shen Liang had of Bai Zihan.

"Hahaha... Bai Zihan, you must think you've done a great job bringing an elder from your clan to back you up. But that's your biggest mistake!"

Shen Liang shouted loud enough for everyone to hear.

Most didn't understand why he said that.

But there was no need to think too hard about it.

Shen Liang turned toward Grand Elder Bai Ren with a smirk.

"You must be a high-ranking elder in the Bai Clan, right?"

He had come to that conclusion from how effortlessly Bai Ren had suppressed his uncle—someone who was powerful in his own right.

For someone to overpower him without lifting a finger, there was no doubt in Shen Liang's mind that Bai Zihan had brought someone important.

He just didn't realize it was the Grand Elder of Bai Clan.

"Do you know what Bai Zihan has done?"

Shen Liang asked coldly.

Grand Elder Bai Ren frowned at Shen Liang's tone and the question.

He didn't care for Shen Liang's attempt to sow discord or use him as a borrowed knife for revenge.

He didn't even bother asking what Bai Zihan had supposedly done.

Whatever it was, he figured it couldn't possibly be serious enough to warrant concern—not when Bai Zihan had just performed so brilliantly.

Even if it involved bending a few rules, Bai Ren was prepared to overlook it.

But Shen Liang continued, undeterred by being ignored—because he knew Bai Ren would be interested after hearing what he had to say.

"Bai Zihan taught your precious Earth-Grade Cultivation Technique to an outsider!"

Shen Liang's lips curled into a cold smile.

Everyone in the sect heard it, unless they were in closed-door cultivation like Bai Xueqing.

And everyone knew why Shen Liang brought it up.

In any sect, leaking a high-grade technique to an outsider—especially an Earth-Grade one—was one of the greatest betrayals possible.

No matter how fond the Bai Clan elders were of Bai Zihan, surely even they couldn't ignore this.

Grand Elder Bai Ren's eyes widened in surprise.

From the murmurs in the crowd, it was clear that this wasn't just a wild claim.

Whispers of this rumor had already been spreading among the disciples of the Heaven Sword Sect.

(Did Bai Zihan really do it?)

He considered it. Bai Zihan was always causing trouble. There were few days when some chaos wasn't tied to his name.

But even he wouldn't go so far as to teach an Earth-Grade technique to an outsider... would he?

Bai Ren looked at Bai Zihan, who remained calm—completely unfazed by Shen Liang's accusation.

He wasn't panicking, not even trying to defend himself.

He was looking at Shen Liang like he was an idiot.

It didn't seem like he cared about the accusation at all.

Grand Elder Bai Ren closed his eyes for a brief moment and then replied coldly:

"What our heir does is none of your concern."

His next words crushed any hope Shen Liang had of seeing Bai Zihan punished, stripped of his position, or thrown out of the clan.

"And why should I believe a liar like you? Don't take the Bai Clan for granted."

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 86: Closed Case! [1,361 words]

Chapter 86: Closed Case!

Shen Liang froze for a second.

Then he laughed.

No—he screeched.

A wild, cracked sound that echoed through the Punishment Hall and made several outer disciples flinch.

"HAHAHAHA! You're all insane! You... you old fool! Do you even hear yourself!?"

He thrashed against the disciples holding him, blood still dripping from the stump where his arm used to be.

"You're just going to let it go!? Just like that!? Because he's your damn heir!?"

He spat on the floor, frothing with fury, teeth bared.

"Fine! FINE! Let him do whatever the hell he wants! Let him bully fellow clan members, make enemies everywhere, teach your clan's secret techniques to outsiders—see where that gets you, you blind bastards!"

The disciples restraining him tried to keep him steady, but he kept twisting, snapping his head toward Grand Elder Bai Ren with wild, red eyes.

"You think he's the future of your Bai Clan? Him!? You're all fools! The Bai Clan will burn to ashes with that lunatic in charge!"

His voice cracked, shrill with spite.

"And I'll be there when it happens! I'll laugh over your graves! All of you!"

"Drag him away," Tian Yuheng ordered. He didn't want Shen Liang to trigger Grand Elder Bai Ren—who knew what he would do if truly angered?

He wouldn't be able to stop him, even with the help of all the elders present. Better to remove the one provoking him before it was too late.

"Before he embarrasses himself even more."

The disciples didn't hesitate. They yanked Shen Liang away, silencing him mid-scream.

He still tried to struggle, still muttered curses and promises of vengeance, but his voice grew fainter as they hauled him out of the Punishment Hall like a sack of trash.

Silence settled again.

The Sect Leader stepped forward.

He looked... tired.

He pinched the bridge of his nose between two fingers and let out a long, slow sigh that practically echoed louder than Shen Liang's rants.

"...I swear," he muttered, eyes closed.

"One morning. Just one peaceful morning. Is that so much to ask?"

He opened his eyes and glanced around the Punishment Hall—at the broken tiles, the splatters of blood, the ruined pride of the Shen Clan hanging like a ghost in the air.

He looked at Bai Zihan.

Then Elder Shen, still lying broken in the corner like someone had stepped on his spine.

"...This case is closed," the Sect Leader finally said, voice steady despite the twitch in his brow.

"Bai Zihan acted with reason and provided evidence. Shen Liang and Mei Rulan will be punished by the sect for his crimes and insubordination."

He turned, already walking away.

"And as for everything else—" he muttered under his breath, but loud enough for some to hear—"—someone better prepare three days' worth of tea and scrolls. Because the damn paperwork for this is going to kill me."

After all, he still had to investigate Elder Shen, whose work was likely filled with corruption.

And then there was the matter of explaining this to both the Bai and Shen Clans.

There was also the possibility of war with the Shen Clan, though unlikely, given Shen Liang was clearly at fault.

But if they wanted to be stupid, they could try.

More likely, they'd pick a fight with the Bai Clan rather than the Heaven Sword Sect.

In either case, the Shen Clan had no chance of victory.

"...Elder Bai, do you have a moment? If you want to discuss this further, we can—"

Tian Yuheng asked politely.

Bai Ren gave him a faint, almost courteous smile and shook his head.

"Unfortunately, I have my own matters to attend to."

The Sect Leader didn't ask what those matters were.

After everything that had just happened, and with Shen Liang's parting accusation still hanging in the air, it didn't take a genius to guess what Bai Ren was planning to do next.

He was going to talk to Bai Zihan.

Not publicly, of course.

He hadn't addressed the accusation directly, brushing it off with disdain to protect his clan's face in front of the sect.

But in private? That was another story.

And if that accusation turned out to be true...

He didn't even want to think about what a pissed-off Grand Elder from the Bai Clan might do.

He sighed again.

"Of course. I understand," he said, though his tone hinted at mild exasperation.

As he walked away, he thought.

(Bai Tianheng owes me big time for this one.)

Dealing with his brat and then the Grand Elder—yeah, this was a major favor. Both of them were like ticking time bombs.

The Sect Leader's lips curled into a dry smile.

(You better believe it. I'm writing up the debt the moment I finish all this work.)

Bai Ren stood still for a moment, hands clasped behind his back, gaze sweeping over the lingering crowd.

Most had already begun to disperse, but many stole glances at him—and more notably, at Bai Zihan.

He turned and walked slowly toward the boy in question.

His eyes—deep, unreadable—rested on Bai Zihan's calm expression.

They would speak soon.

And what came next would depend entirely on the answers he received.

He stopped a few steps away from Bai Zihan, his hands still folded neatly behind his back, his voice calm and almost casual.

"Zihan'er," he said, tone polite but distant, "why don't we head to your courtyard for a bit? It's been a while. We should... catch up."

There was a faint smile on his face. The kind that didn't quite reach his eyes.

Bai Zihan didn't blink.

He met the old man's gaze head-on, the corner of his mouth twitching in something between amusement and resignation.

('Catch up,' huh?)

If Bai Ren truly believed there was anything between them worth reminiscing about, he'd kept it well-hidden for the last decade.

They weren't enemies—not openly.

But close enough to catch up?

No.

Their relationship had always been defined by distance and scrutiny.

And Bai Zihan had no illusions about why Bai Ren wanted to talk now.

Still, he gave a light nod, face calm, tone perfectly courteous.

"Of course, Grand Elder. Please, follow me."

As he began walking beside Bai Ren, he didn't bother with small talk. Bai Ren didn't either.

This wasn't a reunion.

This was an interrogation with good manners.

Behind him, a quiet set of footsteps followed—three pairs, to be exact.

Bai Zihan didn't need to turn around to know who they were.

Bai Xueqing walked with her arms folded, her face unreadable.

Her gaze had been fixed on him the moment the Punishment Hall emptied, and she hadn't said a word since.

Chu Ziyang trailed just behind her, jaw tight, glancing between Bai Zihan and Bai Ren with subtle concern.

She wasn't stupid—she knew this wasn't just a family stroll.

And then there was Lin Xuan.

The kid looked... nervous.

No—more than nervous. He looked guilty.

Like a child caught playing with fire who suddenly realized someone else might be the one getting burned.

His eyes kept flicking toward Bai Zihan's back, then down at the ground, then toward Bai Ren's imposing figure.

(Lin Xuan thinks this is his fault.)

Of course he did.

He believed he'd learned a Bai Clan secret technique—stolen it, even. Shen Liang had practically screamed it at the sky.

And now Bai Zihan was being 'invited for tea' by the Bai Clan's Grand Elder.

Lin Xuan probably thought he'd just gotten the one person who helped him executed.

Bai Zihan almost laughed.

Instead, he spoke without looking back.

"Stop frowning so hard, Lin Xuan. You'll wrinkle early."

The words were light, joking even, but they cut through the tension like a blade.

Lin Xuan flinched.

"I-I wasn't— I mean, Young Master Bai, if it's because of—"

Bai Zihan raised a hand behind him, silencing him with a flick of his fingers.

"You're not that important," he said dryly. "Don't flatter yourself."

He didn't say it cruelly—just bluntly. Like someone swatting a mosquito of guilt before it bit deeper.

Lin Xuan looked like he'd swallowed something sour, but he fell silent and nodded.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 87: More Than Just Rumors[1,044 words]

Chapter 87: More Than Just Rumors

The distance between Bai Zihan's courtyard and the Punishment Hall was quite far, and even with their carriages, it took a while for the group to arrive.

On the way, no one spoke. Each person was lost in their own thoughts.

Finally, they disembarked when they reached Bai Zihan's courtyard.

Lin Xuan immediately slipped into servant mode and began preparing tea for the guests.

In Bai Zihan's small room, the Grand Elder, Bai Zihan, Bai Xueqing, and Chu Ziyang sat together, waiting for the right moment to speak.

"Ahem! Zihan'er, you did well handling this matter. I'll speak to your father and arrange a suitable reward for you," Bai Ren said.

He didn't want to start the conversation with something unpleasant and decided to lead with praise.

"Grand Elder, there's no need to be polite. Ask what you need to and clear your worries," Bai Zihan replied.

Grand Elder Bai Ren had helped him greatly, and Bai Zihan appreciated it. But this was as far as his courtesy went.

Bai Xueqing shot Bai Zihan a glare but kept quiet. She'd already been silenced once and didn't want to push her luck.

She thought it was rude for Bai Zihan to act this way toward the Grand Elder, especially when he'd clearly helped him.

"Then let's get straight to the point," Bai Ren said.

"Did you really teach our clan's cultivation technique to an outsider?"

This time, his tone was much more serious. After all, this was a grave matter for the clan.

"Not really," Bai Zihan answered nonchalantly.

He wasn't worried—after all, he hadn't done anything worthy of punishment.

"Really?"

Bai Ren clearly wasn't convinced.

"Then why did that brat from the Shen Clan say you did? And why did so many others seem to believe it?"

"Haha... It's because when I was recruiting a servant, I guaranteed him an Earth-Grade cultivation technique and a bunch of benefits," Bai Zihan replied.

"And they just believed it?"

Bai Ren was starting to question the intelligence of Heaven Sword Sect disciples if they were that gullible.

He was certain it was a lie—no one would make such a promise, especially for a servant. Maybe for a genius, but even giving a Profound-Grade Cultivation Technique would be going too far without knowing their loyalty.

"You didn't really teach him an Earth-Grade technique, did you?"

"I'm a man of my word. Of course I taught him."

"Of course you didn't... Wait, what?"

Bai Ren blinked. He'd expected Bai Zihan to say it was just an empty promise to lure the servant in. Instead, Bai Zihan openly admitted it.

"Zihan, do you have any idea what you've done?"

Bai Ren frowned. If it were anyone else, he'd have already crippled their cultivation.

The only reason he hadn't was because this was Bai Zihan—the clan heir—and he still valued him.

"Bai Zihan, did you really?"

Chu Ziyang asked, eyes wide in disbelief. She'd heard the rumors but dismissed them.

Rumors had been flying around for a while, especially after the Assessment Test.

Not to mention, with Shen Liang actively spreading them, there was always someone talking about Bai Zihan.

But she thought that even Bai Zihan wouldn't go that far, right?

She hadn't even been taught an Earth-Grade cultivation technique—only a high-level Profound-Grade one from the Chu Clan.

But now Bai Zihan was saying he gave one to a servant?

And he admitted it, leaving no room for doubt.

Bai Xueqing, who would normally be the first to punch Bai Zihan in the face, just sat there quietly.

It seemed his earlier actions had really shaken her. She wasn't treating him like before.

"Zihan, who is this person? Is he the only one you taught?"

Bai Ren asked but his eyes were on Lin Xuan.

There is only one person acting like a servant here and there was no need to contemplate on who that person who learned the Cultivation Technique was.

He still didn't want to punish Bai Zihan. He'd rather just eliminate the one who received the technique and pretend it never happened.

"Relax," Bai Zihan said, "I know what you're worried about. But I didn't teach our Bai Clan's cultivation technique to anyone."

"But you just said—"

"I said I taught him an Earth-Grade technique. I never said it was the Bai Clan's technique."

Everyone—including Lin Xuan—paused, confused.

What did he mean?

No one had even considered that Bai Zihan might have access to an Earth-Grade technique that didn't come from the Bai Clan.

After all, even powerful clans didn't always have one.

Seeing their dumbfounded expressions, Bai Zihan sighed. They still didn't get it.

"Sheesh! Don't act like there is only one Earth-Grade Cultivation Technique in the world. Lin Xuan, show them how you cultivate," Bai Zihan said.

Better to show than explain.

Lin Xuan hesitated. Showing a cultivation technique in front of them? That was practically asking to get killed.

But he didn't question Bai Zihan. He was probably the only person Lin Xuan trusted, and he wasn't about to doubt him now.

He activated the Star Breathing Technique under their watchful eyes.

The Qi in the atmosphere surged toward Lin Xuan like a tide, and anyone could tell—it was powerful. Probably even stronger than the Bai Clan's Azure Dragon Breathing Technique.

"This..."

Bai Ren muttered. He could tell it was an Earth-Grade cultivation technique, just not the Azure Dragon Breathing Technique.

But that didn't make it any less shocking.

"You gave him this technique?"

Bai Ren asked, still in disbelief.

Bai Zihan just casually nodded, like it was no big deal.

The three of them—Bai Ren, Chu Ziyan, and Bai Xueqing—stared at him like he was insane.

Where the hell had he gotten such a powerful technique?

And more importantly, why the hell would he give it to a servant?

People wouldn't even give something like that to their best friend, let alone some random guy.

"So now that you've confirmed I didn't teach our clan's technique to anyone... Are we done here?"

Bai Zihan asked, already sounding impatient.

Truth was, he'd been getting a flood of System notifications and was expecting some juicy rewards.

All he had to do now... was get rid of these unwanted guests.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 88: You Gave What to a Servant?! [1,079 words]

Chapter 88: You Gave What to a Servant?!

There was a moment of silence as the three of them tried to comprehend what was happening, while Lin Xuan was just confused.

He had always thought that the cultivation technique he was using was exclusive to the Bai Clan, and believed he would be crippled or even killed by their elders if they found out.

"Zihan'er, where did you obtain this technique?"

Bai Ren asked curiously.

Such a technique—who would have thought it would be with Bai Zihan?

Moreover, Bai Zihan had never explored the outside world and mostly stayed at the Bai Clan's estate. So where did he get this?

"I don't really remember. I've had it for as long as I can remember,"

Bai Zihan replied.

How could he explain that he redeemed this from the System Store?

These people didn't even know what a System was, much less believe in something they couldn't see.

Besides, the System was his biggest secret—and in this lifetime, he wasn't going to reveal it to anyone.

Once again, Bai Ren and the others were dumbfounded by Bai Zihan's answer.

They felt like they were being treated like idiots if Bai Zihan thought he could fool them with such a dumb excuse.

But Bai Ren didn't press him. To him, it didn't matter where Bai Zihan had gotten the technique—this was still great news.

"Zihan'er, can I look at this technique?"

Bai Ren asked politely.

Bai Zihan didn't think much of it. In fact, he didn't value it highly enough to hesitate.

"Lin Xuan, show him!"

Bai Zihan instructed casually.

Lin Xuan nodded, took out the cultivation manual, and handed it to Bai Ren.

Bai Ren accepted the manual carefully, his fingers slightly trembling as he opened it.

The moment his eyes scanned the first few pages, his pupils contracted.

Even someone at his level could sense the mystery and profundity within the technique.

What shocked him even more was that the cultivation technique worked best when practiced at night under the stars.

That meant that—even under suboptimal conditions—the Star Breathing Technique was already comparable to the Azure Dragon Breathing Technique.

"...This isn't just some ordinary Earth-Grade technique," Bai Ren muttered under his breath.

"It's at the very peak... almost worthy of being called Heaven-Grade."

Chu Ziyang and Bai Xueqing both stiffened.

Heaven-Grade?

They had only ever heard of such techniques in legends—passed down by ancient sects, buried in ruins, or created by peerless sages who stood above the heavens.

There was no one who possessed one in the Desolate Heaven Empire.

That meant this cultivation technique was among the best there was.

And Bai Zihan had just given it to a servant?

Well, Chu Ziyan at least was aware that Lin Xuan was more than just a servant—unlike Bai Xueqing, who still had no idea what had happened recently in the sect.

Bai Ren, meanwhile, was still reading. After several minutes, he finally closed the manual and sighed.

"Zihan'er... I don't know where you got this, but this technique is extremely powerful. You must treasure it dearly."

Bai Zihan just scoffed.

If this was something to be treasured, then what about his actual Heaven-Grade cultivation technique?

"But why did you teach something so precious to someone like him?"

Bai Ren asked, staring at Lin Xuan.

Lin Xuan was nervous, but he didn't flinch under Bai Ren's gaze—which honestly surprised the old man.

(Hoho! Would you look at that?)

Bai Ren thought, seeing Lin Xuan stand tall and face him head-on. At the very least, the kid wasn't showing fear or backing away.

That made Bai Ren believe there was something special about Lin Xuan—something that made Bai Zihan treat him differently.

"Someone like him?"

Bai Zihan echoed, his tone sharp.

"Perhaps Grand Elder hasn't heard yet?"

"Heard what?"

Bai Ren was clearly confused.

"Tsk! What is the Bai Clan even doing? Such big news, and they don't even have a clue?"

Bai Zihan clicked his tongue in irritation.

He figured this ignorance will probably be one of the reasons for their demise.

Bai Xueqing's ex-fiancée must've caused quite a stir, and yet the Bai Clan remained blissfully unaware.

Then again, if most of them were like Bai Xueqing—just cultivating in seclusion all day—maybe he shouldn't be surprised.

Bai Zihan thought that it was about time that he sent someone to check on that supposed protagonist.

He also recalled the Bai Clan members at the sect who had been avoiding him ever since he arrived.

Grand Elder Bai Ren looked more and more confused as Bai Zihan kept cursing the clan without giving any proper context.

"Grand Elder, allow me to explain!"

Seeing that Bai Zihan probably had no intention of doing so—and was just going to keep roasting the Bai Clan—Chu Ziyan stepped in.

She explained Lin Xuan's incredible performance during the Heaven Sword Sect's assessment test and how he was revealed to have a Heaven-Grade Dao Resonance.

"Heaven-Grade Dao Resonance..."

(No wonder Zihan was pissed. That's a huge deal, and the Bai Clan had no clue. I'll need to teach that brat Tianheng a lesson for this kind of oversight...)

Though the Bai Clan's ignorance was partly due to the Heaven Sword Sect's tight information control—they didn't want anyone trying to poach Lin Xuan.

Of course, even they couldn't block everything. Some clans already knew and had tried to recruit Lin Xuan in recent months.

Lin Xuan had rejected them all, obviously.

Bai Zihan was likely the only Bai Clan Member present at the assessment test—and maybe even the entire Heaven Sword Sect—who could've passed the message along.

Everyone else was either out of the sect or hiding in seclusion, probably just to avoid him.

In a way, it was also his fault that the Bai Clan hadn't heard a thing about what was happening in the Heaven Sword Sect.

"Haha... such great talent. Young man, you have a bright future ahead of you!"

Bai Ren said, smiling.

He wasn't just impressed by Lin Xuan's talent—he was also beginning to understand why Bai Zihan had done what he did.

"Thank you for the praise, Grand Elder!"

Lin Xuan responded politely.

Bai Ren nodded in joy.

It seemed that Bai Zihan had planned everything carefully, even if he didn't understand how the boy had known about Lin Xuan's potential before the test.

But that didn't matter.

What mattered was that the Bai Clan now had a top genius on their side.

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 89: Two Heaven's Chosen[1,145 words]

Chapter 89: Two Heaven's Chosen

Then, slowly, Bai Ren turned to Lin Xuan.

"Lin Xuan, was it?"

He asked seriously.

"Would you be willing to become part of the Bai Clan?"

Lin Xuan blinked, surprised by the question. He hesitated for a moment before shaking his head.

"I... I don't want to join the Bai Clan," he said slowly but firmly. "I only want to serve Young Master Zihan."

His voice was calm but resolute.

But Bai Ren didn't seem offended. Instead, he laughed.

"Hahaha! Good! Loyalty is a virtue this clan could use more of."

He nodded approvingly and added, "Since that's the case, there's no need to force anything. As far as I'm concerned, anyone who serves Zihan'er is part of our Bai Clan. I'll inform the clan to send cultivation resources directly for your use. Pills, spirit stones, weapons—whatever you need."

Lin Xuan was stunned.

"T-That's too much, I—"

"Accept it," Bai Zihan interrupted with a casual wave of his hand.

"This much won't even put a dent in our treasury."

His tone was flat, but there was a sharpness behind it—like he was speaking less to Lin Xuan and more to everyone else in the room.

Bai Ren chuckled again, clearly pleased.

"Hahaha! This is truly heaven's blessing. The Bai Clan has gained the only Heaven-Grade Dao Resonance genius in the entire sect!"

But Bai Zihan, leaning lazily on the side, casually refuted, "That's not true!"

The smile on Bai Ren's face faltered.

"What do you mean?"

"There's another," Bai Zihan said, his voice calm but absolute.

Bai Ren looked shocked.

After all, it was already extremely rare to have even one Heaven-Grade Dao Resonance genius in a generation.

But there was another one?

"Who?"

Bai Ren asked. If there was another and they could recruit them too, he felt the Bai Clan would truly become unstoppable.

"Bai Xinyue!"

The entire room went silent.

Bai Ren's pupils shrank.

Bai Xinyue!

The former genius of the Bai Clan, once thought to have even greater talent than Bai Xueqing.

With her, Bai Ren had believed that their Bai Clan would rise further and become the strongest in the Desolate Heaven Empire.

However, that didn't happen—she was expelled.

This was also one of the reasons why he had disliked Bai Zihan.

Not only because Bai Zihan was the reason she was expelled and had her Dao Bone stolen, but also because he himself couldn't even awaken the talent she had—even after receiving her Dao Bone.

"Impossible... She was exiled! Her Dao Bone was taken. She—"

"She has regained her former talent, perhaps even become more talented," Bai Zihan cut in coldly.

A strange tension entered the air. Even Chu Ziyan, who had vaguely heard of Bai Xinyue, looked uneasy.

She'd heard about Bai Xinyue and knew there was some unresolved tension between the Bai Clan and her—specifically her fiancé and Bai Xinyue.

She also knew about Bai Zihan's visit to Bai Xinyue, though it didn't seem like anything had happened between them.

Chu Ziyan just continued to observe, wanting to know what exactly had happened between one hailed as a genius and one once hailed as a waste.

The only reason she couldn't come to a conclusion was because even after Bai Zihan got Bai Xinyue's Dao Bone, he remained trash.

Otherwise, if he had risen and Bai Xinyue was expelled, anyone could tell that Bai Zihan must have taken something from her.

But because Bai Zihan remained trash, it was nearly impossible to know what really transpired between them.

Bai Zihan let out a small, mocking laugh.

"She's truly been waiting to take revenge on me."

Bai Ren felt a chill down his spine. It looks like Bai Zihan was scheming something against Bai Xinyue.

Grand Elder Bai Ren was full of regret about Bai Xinyue. Regret because he was still in seclusion when Bai Xinyue was expelled, otherwise he would have stopped it.

If he had been present, perhaps things wouldn't have turned out the way they had.

And they would have had two Heaven-Grade Dao Resonance geniuses in their clan.

Perhaps they still could mend that?

Well, he looked at Bai Zihan and realized that it would be impossible.

There was no way Bai Zihan would apologize and humiliate himself for what he had done.

Though if one were to blame, it should be his mother.

Even so, Bai Ren felt that Bai Xinyue was still a Bai Clan Member—at least their blood ran in her veins—and he didn't want her to fight her family.

Of course, he knew that was a lot to ask after what she has suffered.

If it had been before, Bai Ren wouldn't have hesitated to abandon Bai Zihan for Bai Xinyue, but it was different now.

Bai Zihan had shown himself capable and cunning, even possessing powerful Earth-Grade cultivation methods from who-knows-where.

Even if Bai Xinyue was truly talented, it now seemed impossible for her to take revenge.

Rather, he was worried about the opposite.

Would Bai Xinyue fall at Bai Zihan's hands?

"Don't worry! I've decided I won't do anything to Bai Xinyue," Bai Zihan declared, as if he could read Bai Ren's mind—much to his embarrassment.

If it were yesterday, Bai Ren might have laughed at the idea of Bai Zihan sparing Bai Xinyue, who had regained her talent—but today was different.

With his schemes and mercilessness, Bai Ren couldn't rule out the possibility that, if Bai Zihan wanted, he could take her out.

After all, in terms of strength, even Shen Liang was stronger than Bai Xinyue—but didn't he end up crippled by Bai Zihan?

Moreover, Bai Zihan couldn't be blamed. Everything could be said to be justifiable.

Although the truth was far different from what Bai Ren thought.

Spare Bai Xinyue?

Bai Zihan didn't dare take on Heaven's Chosen, even if he had equal strength.

He knew that when on the verge of death, these Heaven's Chosen would start pulling out one trump card after another—and if they didn't have one?

By sheer luck, they'd survive and return stronger to take his life.

So, until he was absolutely certain, he had no intention of doing anything to a Heaven's Chosen.

But Bai Ren didn't know that, and thought that Bai Zihan truly didn't hate her—and had no reason to go after her.

Even if Bai Xinyue showed aggression, perhaps Bai Zihan understood her anger?

Not likely—but Grand Elder Bai Ren wanted to believe it, and wanted to imagine a future where she would be back where she belonged.

"If you want to and can, you can bring her back to the clan as well. I can talk with my mothers to not harm her either."

Bai Zihan said, showing that he didn't hold any grudge against Bai Xinyue—even if she came seeking revenge.

"Good! It's better for families to stick together!"

Turns Out, I'm In A Villain Clan! - Chapter 90: A Dao Bone Beyond Imagination[1,087 words]

Chapter 90: A Dao Bone Beyond Imagination

Bai Ren wanted to take in Bai Xinyue, and the only problem would have been if Bai Zihan had any issue with it.

The conflict between them wasn't just some childish fight and could very well end up splitting the clan.

After all, there are many who oppose Bai Zihan, and Bai Xinyue would be the perfect figurehead if she were brought back.

If there were conflicts between the two, there was no way to stop the formation of two factions in the Bai Clan.

It could become a big headache in the future.

But Bai Zihan said that it was okay.

At least, it didn't seem like Bai Zihan wanted to take Bai Xinyue's life or anything.

It would be better if Bai Zihan take the initiative to even apologize for the past and make up with Bai Xinyue though it is not likely to happen.

"I know that it is a problem that my mother and I have. Don't worry, no matter what she plans, I don't have any plan to do anything to her."

Bai Ren smiled.

He thought that he had misunderstood Bai Zihan, who he thought of as a troublemaker and someone who can't take responsibility, not being able to resist even the smallest provocation.

But it seems like he was quite kind, at least to their own clan members, which Bai Ren really appreciated.

One should always be strong toward their enemies and kind to their own.

Bai Ren felt that Bai Zihan truly showed the quality of a true Clan Leader.

"Then we should do that. I will convince everyone to do their best to get Bai Xinyue back to the clan."

Bai Ren said.

"Then are we done? Can you all go back?"

Bai Zihan asked.

"Haha... Looks like Zihan'er can't wait to cultivate. Good! That is how the Bai Clan's heir should be."

(Whatever makes you happy, old man!)

Bai Zihan thought.

With that, Grand Elder Bai Ren disappeared.

Well, there were too many things that he had to do, and the priority was definitely to please Bai Xinyue and bring her back to Bai Clan.

Bai Xueqing and Chu Ziyang were still there. And, of course, Lin Xuan would be there.

Until Bai Zihan had gone to cultivate, Lin Xuan would be there to make sure everything was comfortable for him.

As his residence was quite close, it didn't take much time to reach his courtyard from Bai Zihan's.

Bai Xueqing looked surprised after all the conversation between Bai Ren and Bai Zihan.

It seems like she indeed lives under a rock and lacks too much information.

She reflected on this behavior of hers.

Chu Ziyan, on the other hand, looked hesitant unlike her usual self.

"Ammm... Bai Zihan!"

Chu Ziyan suddenly said.

Bai Zihan's eyes furrowed and wondered what was wrong with Chu Ziyan.

"Can I learn the Star Breathing Technique?"

She asked.

This question surprised Bai Zihan.

It wouldn't have been if the person who asked was Bai Xueqing, who is strangely obsessed with cultivation from very young age.

"I thought you didn't really care about cultivation?"

Bai Zihan answered.

"Well, not that cultivation is everything, it is good to be strong, no? Things become a lot easier when you are powerful!"

Chu Ziyan continued.

"Why? You give it to Lin Xuan but can't give it to your wife?"

Chu Ziyan said with a tease.

"Tsk! Don't go around calling yourself my wife," Bai Zihan said in an irritated tone.

"Darling! Darling! Please!?"

Chu Ziyan said with pleading eyes and voice.

Even Bai Xueqing looked disgusted by Chu Ziyan's act.

She never thought that one day she would see her best friend act this way—and that too toward her younger brother.

This was too much for her.

"Okay, okay! Learn it if you want. Lin Xuan can show you."

Bai Zihan said.

"Really? Thank you, darling!"

Chu Ziyan said happily as she acted like she wanted to kiss Bai Zihan, making him flinch and dodge her.

"Eww... Disgusting. Ziyan, stop it!"

Bai Xueqing wasn't sure whether Chu Ziyan was just teasing Bai Zihan or not. But this was too much for her to handle.

Seeing her best friend being lovey-dovey with her younger brother? There can't be a more disgusting feeling than this.

"Hehe... What's wrong? Jealous of our relationship?"

Chu Ziyan asked.

Bai Xueqing just rolled her eyes.

Chu Ziyan also stopped joking and said seriously.

"Really, thank you. I owe you a big favor."

Chu Ziyan thanked Bai Zihan.

Bai Zihan didn't think much about it and even shooed her away.

Not wanting to disturb him any further, Bai Xueqing and Chu Ziyan left the place, followed by Lin Xuan after Bai Zihan said he would be cultivating in seclusion.

"Haaa... Finally!"

Bai Zihan muttered as he finally got alone time.

["System!"]

The System interface opened, and he directly went to the reward section without any waste of time.

[Unclaimed Rewards Available]

Defeated Shen Liang: 2000 points
Defeated Mei Rulan: 1000 points

...

There were many rewards which were mainly System's points for defeating various parties involved in Shen Liang's scheme.

Although a bit disappointed that it was all System Points, it had accumulated over 15,000 points, so he didn't have any complaints.

There was also a big reward for totally destroying Shen Liang's scheme and overturning it.

That was a 10x Cultivation Speed Card (30 Days).

It was like he had gotten ten of the 10x Cultivation Speed Card (3 Days), which was a very good reward.

Perhaps with this, breaking through to the Golden Core realm was a possibility?

But more than that, there was a huge reward for defeating Elder Shen.

The reward is a Dao Bone. Yes, Dao Bone!

And not just any Dao Bone But Supreme Dao Bone!

Supreme Dao Bone – A Dao Bone of Top quality, offering unparalleled cultivation speed, near-invincible combat power, and the potential to attain the highest realms of cultivation.

Grants the ability to absorb Qi and comprehend Daoist laws at an insane rate, far surpassing ordinary geniuses.

Bai Zihan's brows lifted ever so slightly.

Even he, someone already used to the broken nature of the System, found this set of rewards a little absurd.

"Supreme Dao Bone? This... this is ridiculous!"

Dao Bones were already legendary, but this one? It was on an entirely different level.

Anyone could become a Top cultivator with a cheat-like power of this Dao Bone.

And now, it was his.