

Unparalleled 421

Chapter 421: Battling Six Sage Rulers, Death Qi Pool, Heavenly Golden Tablets, Destroy Formation

Six Sage Rulers battled against Chu Kuangren!

The void rang as if it was about to be blown up. Destructive energies flooded the entire battlefield, turning everything within a hundred kilometers into a forbidden zone. Anyone who dared enter would surely be greeted with death!

Chu Kuangren was wielding two Emperor Weapons, his powers unparalleled and unstoppable. Each of his attacks packed was enough force to send the earth trembling. Even the Six Sage Rulers did not dare tread lightly around the battle.

Despite having teamed up, all the Sage Rulers could do for now was to be on the defensive side.

The power of Emperor Weapons was too formidable.

“Hmm?!”

Chu Kuangren stood in the air and suddenly let out an eek, to which he struck his halberd against the air, destroying an invisible surge of offensive energy.

“A formless attack. This must be the Ethereal Rapture’s Ethereal Enigma Realm. What an indefensible technique,” Chu Kuangren said.

Master Daoist Yun Tao stood firmly in the distance. His ethereal figure seemed ethereal and transcending. It was as if he would vanish on the spot at any time.

It was the Ethereal Rapture’s Emperor Technique, the Ethereal Enigma Realm!

“For an indefensible technique, you surely seem to counter it well.”

Master Daoist Yun Tao said softly. Nonetheless, he was a little surprised.

With his expertise of the Ethereal Enigma Realm, even a Sage Ruler would have trouble detecting his attack. Yet, not only did Chu Kuangren have the impeccable sense to detect its presence, but he was also able to defend himself with ease.

Was his Ethereal Enigma Realm losing its effectiveness?!

Master Daoist Yun Tao then hid from sight again. When the remaining Sage Rulers attacked Chu Kuangren once again, he launched his strikes too.

However, Chu Kuangren still managed to defend against all the attacks without exceptions.

It seemed like Chu Kuangren could see through his every move!

What was going on?!

Master Daoist Yun Tao was puzzled. No one had been capable of breaking his Ethereal Enigma Realm for countless years, yet his technique seemed like an absolute joke to Chu Kuangren.

How did Chu Kuangren do it?

Little did Master Daoist Yun Tao know that there was a thing called the Conjurer's Talent, which could drastically improve the sensitivity of one's spiritual thoughts. It was only through this method could Chu Kuangren detect every single attack with ease.

"Floating Death Qi Sludge!"

Suddenly, the Sacred Death Palace Lord screamed in the air.

Copious amounts of death qi released from his body, clouding the entire place with his Daoist Rhymes, that formed into a pool in the air.

Standing in the pool, Chu Kuangren felt an endless amount of death qi gush onto him as if to corrode his entire body.

"Hmph. Hilarious!"

With a soft grunt, Chu Kuangren channeled the ferocious qi from his Innate Ferocious Armor to shield him from the onslaught of the death qi.

Then, a violent burst of ferocious qi erupted into his surroundings.

The cloud of death qi instantly dissipated, and the pool — forged out of Death-based Daoist Rhymes — broke under the pressure before it exploded into pieces!

"Hiss, no doubt that's the power of Emperor Weapons."

The Sacred Death Palace Lord was in awe, his eyes burning with passion.

"Even though Chu Kuangren has remarkable abilities, shouldn't he be exhausted after such a long battle? How is he still wielding the Emperor Weapons?" the Acheron Manor Lord commented with a frown.

The other Sage Rulers agreed that something was off too.

Chu Kuangren had been battling them with his Emperor Weapons for quite some time now. Even the Sage Rulers did not think they could wield an Emperor Weapon for such a long duration, what more for someone who was not even a Sage.

Furthermore, he was wielding two Emperor Weapons!

It was unbelievable.

"Heh, do you want to find out how long I can last?"

Chu Kuangren gave a cold laugh. With the Emyrean Neptune's Trident Halberd in one hand, he unleashed a torrential force that was imbued with ferocious energy and blasted the Sage Rulers away.

Indeed, Chu Kuangren could not have wielded the Emperor Weapons for such a long time.

However, things were different this time.

Consuming the Yin Yang Soul Pill had drastically strengthened Chu Kuangren's soul energy, and with his foundations, his ability to wield the Emperor Weapons improved by leaps and bounds.

“We need to find a way to limit his movements.”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang said.

Then, he retrieved four stone tablets that were light-yellow in color and hurled them into the air. In the blink of an eye, a formidable aura manifested on the battlefield.

The stone tablets each positioned themselves at a corner and unleashed an oppressive aura, forming a mystical formation that ensnared Chu Kuangren within.

“Heavenly Golden Unifying Qi Formation!”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang commanded.

After that, four Great Sages leaped from behind.

Each of them stood before a stone tablet and channeled their entire spiritual energies into it. In an instant, the formation’s strength multiplied!

With such high oppression, even a Sage Ruler would have difficulties escaping the perimeter.

“Finger of Despair!”

“Eye of Acheron!”

“Avarice Palm!”

While Chu Kuangren was trapped, the Sage Rulers took the opportunity to attack.

Their finger strength, demonic ray, and palm strength each struck Chu Kuangren in succession, causing his Innate Ferocious Armor to tremble under pressure.

Although the Innate Ferocious Armor was rigid enough to withstand the Sage Rulers attacks, the resulting force still managed to hit Chu Kuangren’s body and rupture the bones and veins underneath.

“Hiss... this does hurt a little.”

Chu Kuangren sucked in a breath of cold air.

However, his Immortal Body’s remarkable recovery ability ensured that his broken bones and veins were quickly mended back to their original state.

Ever since Chu Kuangren began his cultivation journey, the Immortal Body had been one of his strongest wildcards.

This time was no different.

“Divine Ferocious Avatar!”

Chu Kuangren summoned the Divine Ferocious Avatar. With the help of the battle intent and ferocious qi on his Innate Ferocious Armor, the avatar smashed the four stone tablets in the perimeter.

Boom, boom, boom!

An incessant stream of explosions echoed throughout the realm.

The light that was beaming from the stone tablets began to fade.

The Great Sages who supported the stone tablets immediately vomited blood as their faces turned pale. Even so, none of them was willing to let go of their grip.

“Very well, let’s see how long all of you can keep this up!”

Chu Kuangren let out a mighty battle roar as a crimson flame manifested over his body, unleashing an explosion of a much more terrifying aura.

“It’s the Nine Deaths Blazing Blood Art!”

“Damn it. With this technique, his spiritual power will surely be off the roof. By then, he’ll be able to draw an even stronger power from the Emperor Weapons!”

The Sage Rulers grew concerned.

They immediately retaliated with their Emperor Techniques.

One strike, two strikes, three strikes...

Most people, including Sage Rulers, would have long perished under such attacks. Yet, not only did Chu Kuangren remain unscathed, but his energy was still growing strong.

“Damn it! What’s going on?!”

“Even with his Emperor Weapons, this is simply ridiculous!”

The Sage Rulers were in utter disbelief.

“Now watch me destroy your formation!”

Chu Kuangren drove his Nine Deaths Blazing Blood Art to its limit. As his Divine Ferocious Avatar unleashed a deafening battle roar, ferocious qi crashed violently into the stone tablets, and cracks began to form on its surfaces.

“The Heavenly Golden Tablets can no longer hold him!”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang gasped in shock.

The Heavenly Golden Tablet was one of the strongest sources of power in the Heavenly Golden Palace. Each tablet itself was considered a remarkable Sage Ruler Weapon. Combining four of them would form the Heavenly Golden Unifying Qi Formation, which yielded an insurmountable amount of power!

Such power could even hold a Sage Ruler captive, yet these tablets could not keep Chu Kuangren in place. What did that imply?

It implied that Chu Kuangren’s combat strength had surpassed that of a Sage Ruler!

With a bang, the Heavenly Golden Tablets shattered into pieces!

The terrifying shockwave blasted the Great Sages away. Three of them perished in the explosion while one of them managed to hold onto his life, barely, thanks to his defensive Sage Weapon.

“Gluttonous Devouring Technique!”

Activating the Gluttonous Devouring Technique, Chu Kuangren absorbed the Sage Ruler’s essence into his body as nourishment for his spiritual energies.

The crimson flame was still burning brightly on his body. With his pitch-black armor strapped to his body and a halberd gripped in one hand, Chu Kuangren was now reminiscent of the God of War.

“If you still have any tricks up your sleeves, now’s the time to show it!”

Chapter 422: The Boundary Emperors Appear, Chu Kuangren Cannot Be Killed, One-Half For Each Of Us

“If you still have any other tricks, now’s the time to show it!”

Chu Kuangren’s battle intent was now in full force. On the battlefield, he was now the epitome of a living God of War!

With a leap forward, the void and every single mountain in the vicinity trembled!

The six Sage Rulers’ faces immediately sank upon witnessing the shocking magnitude of his power.

The countless surrounding cultivators, who participated in this attack against the Black Heaven Sect, were horrified as well.

“What should we do now? Even the Sage Rulers can’t do anything about Chu Kuangren.”

“Has this operation failed?”

“Oh, dear...”

Graylord Sage, Solar Sage, Lunar Sage, and the other Sages were dead worried.

Half of their cultivators had perished within the Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation. If this operation failed and they could not annihilate the Black Heaven Sect, they would be doomed. Their cultivators would have died for nothing!

“Well, if you don’t have any other moves, then die!”

Chu Kuangren leaped forward, preparing to attack.

At that moment, his spiritual thought sensed something incoming.

As Chu Kuangren looked into the distance, he saw a ray of light shattering all the mountains in its path as it approached the battlefield.

The presence of a devastating aura encroached upon the land.

The ray of light was not the only surprise.

From another direction, the deafening roar of a tsunami echoed throughout the realm. It was as if it was charging toward the battlefield.

Two terrifying, distinct power sources were coming in from two different directions!

Their strengths shook the entire realm!

“Chu Kuangren, how foolish of you to think we have nothing left!” Sage Ruler Zhang Guang laughed heartily when he sensed the presence of the powers.

The Great Bottomless Chasm Dweller was smiling menacingly too. “The Forefathers are here. Chu Kuangren, prepare to die!”

The rest of the Sage Rulers were surprised too.

“Woah, the forefathers of the Heavenly Golden Imperial Palace and the Bottomless Chasm have arrived.”

“What a rare sight! I didn’t think they were invited to this battle.”

The sources of the golden light ray and the tsunami roar soon arrived, but they remained hidden in the beams of the golden and blue aurora of lights respectively.

“Greetings, Forefathers.”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang and the Great Bottomless Chasm Dweller bowed at the arrival of their forefathers.

The remaining Sage Rulers did not dare behave impolitely either.

“Greetings, seniors.”

The cultivator-army was shocked at the amount of respect the group of Sage Rulers granted to the newly arrived entities.

‘What in the heavens are those two entities?!’

That was everyone’s thought.

“Save the pleasantries.”

An elderly yet firm voice came from the golden light.

Then, the vague figure within the golden aurora looked to the blue aurora and said, “Brother Hai Ye, it’s been ten thousand years since we last met.”

“That’s right. I never would’ve thought our next reunion would be to rid a petty non-Sage pest. How ironic.”

From the blue aurora, the voice of a middle-aged man lamenting could be heard.

“Heh, this is no ordinary non-Sage. His talent is unprecedented, and he’s in possession of two Emperor Weapons. Not even a group of Sage Rulers could do him any harm.” The man within the golden aurora chuckled.

“So what if he’s unprecedented? Now that you and I are here, do you think he can still live?” The voice from the blue aurora spoke in a cold, menacing tone.

“Absolutely not.”

The newly arrived entities were exchanging a casual conversation, ignoring Chu Kuangren as if he was an insignificant pest that they could simply destroy at will.

The cultivators found their light-hearted attitudes surprising.

Six Sage Rulers could not keep Chu Kuangren under control, while the forefathers seemed to think of him as an insignificant inconvenience.

Chu Kuangren activated his Eye of Revelation and stared into the auroras.

“Oh, looks like we have two extremely old Boundary Emperors with us today.”

Apart from the Sage Rulers, every cultivator gasped in shock when the word ‘Boundary Emperor’ escaped Chu Kuangren’s mouth.

Boundary Emperors!

They were Boundary Emperors!

Who would have thought Boundary Emperors still existed in Firmament Stars?!

“Little brat, you managed to figure out our background. It looks like you’re not as simple as we thought,” the figure within the golden aurora said in surprise.

“Nevermind that, Brother Chang Kuang. Let’s just finish him off quickly. Besides, I have the Empyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd to bring home.”

“Then, the other Emperor Weapon is mine.”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said with excitement.

Evidently, the Emperor Weapons were items of huge appeal for the Boundary Emperors as well.

“Little brat, given a few more years, you may have ascended into the same realm as ours. Such a shame that you’ve gotten on the wrong side of so many people. It seems like you have no choice but to die now,” Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said.

Immediately, his surrounding spiritual power exploded, and a ray of palm qi broke out of the golden aurora. It packed a ravaging form of Daoist Rhyme.

The power of that palm technique alone far surpassed all of the Sage Rulers.

A singular vital force locked onto Chu Kuangren, closing all possible routes of escape. As such, Chu Kuangren had no choice but to go head-to-head with the attack.

Chu Kuangren waved his Empyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd, unleashing the torrential force of the entire ocean onto the incoming palm qi.

The explosion of the collision blasted Chu Kuangren away. Its violent energy shattered every bone within Chu Kuangren’s arms, which almost caused the Empyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd to fall out of his hand.

Even with the Innate Ferocious Armor, Chu Kuangren sustained significant injuries.

A Boundary Emperor's attack was not to be underestimated!

As soon as Chu Kuangren was attacked, his Immortal Body got into action, rapidly recovering his limbs and body back to their original state.

"Hmm? An undying ability?" Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang noticed the peculiar reaction in Chu Kuangren's body and was amused by it.

"There's no such thing as an immortal physique in this world."

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye said.

After that, he joined the action as well.

The surrounding Daoist Rhymes manifested into countless streams of water, forming a water sphere that entrapped Chu Kuangren within. The copious torrential force crushed every corner of Chu Kuangren's body.

In the blink of an eye, it seemed like Chu Kuangren's body was crushed into a chunk of meat paste. The overwhelming pain somehow caused Chu Kuangren to appear even more ferocious than before.

"This feeling is f*cking amazing!"

He roared as he activated the power of the Empyrean Neptune's Trident Halberd to its limit. Only then did Chu Kuangren manage to break the water sphere apart.

"His body is indeed strange."

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye was appalled.

Then, the Boundary Emperors each took their turns in attacking Chu Kuangren, causing his body to endure one wave of damage after another.

Each injury would typically kill the average person. However, Chu Kuangren managed to recover within a short period.

"Is this b*stard immortal?!"

A numb feeling spread across the Boundary Emperors' scalps.

The Sages were even more dumbfounded.

"So is that his true trump card? An Immortal Body that could not be destroyed even by a Boundary Emperor?!"

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang gulped.

"This is strange. Let me catch him and study his body."

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye said.

"I'm interested too," Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said and chuckled. If this research managed to yield some interesting findings, perhaps they could reap more benefits than any Emperor's Opportunity of Fortune could offer. After all, who did not wish to be immortal?

“Why not split him in half?”

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye said after a brief moment of silence.

“One-half for each of us? If we do as you say, I wonder if he’ll be able to survive this.”

When the Boundary Emperors were prepared to split Chu Kuangren into half, Chu Kuangren simply stood there, soaked in his blood. However, a grin appeared on his face as he peered upwards into the sky.

Chapter 423: My Trump Card Lies In The Sky, Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation, A Hundred Thousand Cultivators Grand Heavenly Tribulation Party

Chu Kuangren could not retaliate the Boundary Emperors’ attacks at all.

Not even when he had two Emperor Weapons with him.

No matter how strong his foundations were, his cultivation level was still below a Sage. There was only so much power he could draw from the Emperor Weapons. He was no match for the Boundary Emperors at all.

However, even in the face of such a hopeless situation, Chu Kuangren was laughing.

Every cultivator at the scene, including both the Boundary Emperors, was puzzled.

“Has this b*stard lost his mind?”

“Chu Kuangren can’t retaliate at the Boundary Emperors at all. Sure, he may have that weird immortal ability, but so what? It’s so easy for the Boundary Emperors to keep him under control.”

“Why is that b*stard laughing now?”

Everyone was confused.

Even the Sage Rulers felt that something was off.

“What’re you laughing about, little brat?”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang sounded a tad angry. To him, Chu Kuangren’s laughter was nothing but a gesture of provocation towards them.

For a person below a Sage, being defeated in the hands of two Boundary Emperors was supposed to be an honor. Alas, not only could they not kill Chu Kuangren, but he was even laughing away! It humiliated the Boundary Emperors.

“Heh, I just find it hilarious how you failed to kill me despite having ganged up on me and even bringing forth the Boundary Emperors! It’s even funnier how you’re so ignorant about the impending deaths that await you all!”

Everyone turned pale at that last statement.

Impending deaths?!

What did he mean?!

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang and the Craggy Ocean Tower Lord immediately sent a group of cultivators to scout the surroundings. Unfortunately, apart from the cloud mist in the sky, they found nothing that was suspicious.

“Chu Kuangren, there’s no use playing pretend anymore.”

“That’s right. With the Boundary Emperors here, it doesn’t matter how many tricks you have left. You’re no match for the Boundary Emperors.”

The Sage Rulers snorted loudly.

Despite that, Chu Kuangren laughed even more in response to their rebuttal. “Boundary Emperors? Even the Boundary Emperors will not be spared by what’s about to come!”

“Nonsense!”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang struck a palm out at Chu Kuangren.

The force instantly ruptured everything within Chu Kuangren’s body before it quickly recovered.

Chu Kuangren stood in his place with the Empyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd in his hand, and his aura was still as strong as before. He stared deadly into all of his opponents on the battlefield.

The cultivators somehow felt a deep sense of terror in them.

“I bet you must be guessing what my ultimate trump card is. Is it my Emperor Technique, or is it this Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation? Perhaps, it’s the two Emperor Weapons I have in my possession, or maybe even this Immortal Body?”

“But wrong. You’re all wrong!”

The cultivators’ fears grew stronger as Chu Kuangren eliminated each possibility of what his trump card could be. It felt like a massacre was soon about to take place.

Each of Chu Kuangren’s strategies was already enough to strike a deep sense of fear within the Sages.

Emperor Techniques, formations, Emperor Weapons...

These had caused more than enough troubles for even the Sage Rulers themselves.

However, Chu Kuangren now revealed that those were not his ultimate trump card after all. Chu Kuangren had yet to unleash his ultimate weapon!

Some of the cultivators found it difficult to believe.

Wielding the Empyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd, Chu Kuangren pointed it towards the sky, and the battle intent on his body surged. He laughed triumphantly and said, “My true trump card... lies in the sky!”

Chu Kuangren released a burst of domineering aura up into the sky, where the Astonishing Cloud of Seas disbursed.

What greeted the cultivators’ eyes was a sky full of multicolored rays of light.

Then, a mortifying aura descended upon the battlefield, marking every single cultivator present in the battle.

This included the Boundary Emperors!

The cultivators stared into the sky in disbelief.

All they saw was the colorful clouds converging in the sky, forming into a whirlpool-like phenomenon that spanned thousands of kilometers across!

As for the terrifying aura that encroached upon them... It was a Heavenly Dao Aura!

This was... a heavenly tribulation!

"It's a heavenly tribulation!"

"This is scary! Is this Chu Kuangren's heavenly tribulation?!"

"Since when did this heavenly tribulation appear? How were we oblivious to it?!"

Everyone was panicking.

Judging from the magnitude of the aura and those peculiar colors, it was no ordinary heavenly tribulation. It must be Chu Kuangren's heavenly tribulation!

The tribulation clouds spanned thousands of kilometers across and came in many colors.

However, they had never heard about such a form of heavenly tribulation!

What was going on?!

"It's the Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation!"

Compared to the average cultivators, the Sage Rulers of the unknown lands had read their fair share of Emperor Scriptures, so they were familiar with such a phenomenon.

"D*mn it. Why is there a Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation? Legend has it that such a heavenly tribulation has only appeared a couple of times in history. How could Chu Kuangren make such a heavenly tribulation happen?!" The Grand Bottomless Chasm Dweller was horrified.

A heavenly tribulation was a cultivator's test.

The stronger a cultivator, the more powerful his or her heavenly tribulation would be. Since ancient times, the Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation was the strongest there was for a cultivator to ascend into a Sage!

Cultivators who passed this deadly tribulation were some of the most feared cultivators in the history of Firmament Star, and they were destined to become an Emperor!

"Nevermind that it's a Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation, but this area of tribulation is far too wide! What kind of aura is this?!"

"D*mn it. The Heavenly Dao Aura has even locked onto us. Since when did we become the candidates for the heavenly tribulation as well?!"

The cultivators and Sage Rulers were panicking.

“It’s all because of the mega formation!”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang studied his surroundings and observed the dispersing mega formation.

“The mega formation previously hid the Heavenly Dao Aura from us. And since we’ve fought with this b*stard, we’re now recognized as the ascension candidates for this heavenly tribulation!”

“In other words, the heavenly tribulation has long appeared in its place. And everyone who’s fought with or attacked Chu Kuangren is now part of this ascension!”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang’s voice was already trembling uncontrollably as he spoke of that, let alone the rest of the cultivators.

All who had fought with or attacked Chu Kuangren were now part of the ascension?!

Gulp...

The Sage Rulers swallowed their saliva.

They looked around them only to descend further into fear.

How many people were there?

Several hundred thousands of cultivators!

Chu Kuangren had dragged hundreds of thousands of cultivators to ascend with him!

“No wonder the heavenly tribulation encompasses such a wide perimeter! Chu Kuangren has long planned it all, to use the mega formation to hide it from us and then battle all of us to include us in the ascension list! Crazy! He’s crazy! Can he survive the heavenly tribulation of a hundred thousand cultivators?!”

“That f*cker wants to take all of us down with him!”

The cultivators were mortified by Chu Kuangren’s insane strategy.

The more people participating in a heavenly tribulation, the stronger the test would be. Since ancient times, ascension candidates had always faced the tribulation alone in fear of invoking a devastating tribulation.

Chu Kuangren was an exception.

He had decided to enroll a hundred thousand other cultivators to ascend with him!

Such an event was unprecedented in history!

The cultivators glared at Chu Kuangren. Their eyes were burning with rage, hatred, shock, and an overwhelming sense of fear!

Chu Kuangren, who had just orchestrated the most shocking heavenly tribulation of all time, simply laughed at their reaction. “Whoever steps foot into the Black Heaven Sect today, be it Sage Rulers or Boundary Emperors... you’ve reached a point of no return!”

“Come, everyone! Let’s enjoy this grand heavenly tribulation party!”

Chapter 424: Terrifying Power of the Heavenly Tribulation, Converting The Tribulation Lightning Energy

“Everyone, enjoy this grand heavenly tribulation party!”

Chu Kuangren laughed while the sky let out a deafening grumble.

The tribulation lightning was already forming!

The terrifying lightning was forming in the center of the whirlpool, taking after the colors of the clouds and gliding across the sky like giant serpents.

Once the tribulation lightning amassed enough power, countless lightning would be released and spread throughout the tribulation perimeter.

The cultivators were trembling at the sight of the tribulation lightning.

“Quick, please think of something!”

“We must find a way to disrupt the tribulation lightning. Otherwise, we will all die here!”

The tribulation lightning was immensely powerful.

Just its aura alone struck a deep fear in all of the Sages’ souls.

Moreover, the longer it progressed, the more terrifying the tribulation would become!

“Kill Chu Kuangren! He’s the one who invoked the heavenly tribulation while we’re all just dragged into it! Once he’s dead, the heavenly tribulation will disappear!”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang said loudly.

Every cultivator was staring at Chu Kuangren with murderous intentions.

Chu Kuangren gestured for them to come forth with his finger. “Bring it on!”

On this day, only one side would walk out of the situation alive!

It was either Chu Kuangren or the hundred thousand cultivator-army that would make the Black Heaven Sect their burial grounds!

“Kill!”

“Kill Chu Kuangren!”

With death looming over their heads, the cultivators went insane.

They had even forgotten the fact that Chu Kuangren could not be killed by two Boundary Emperors. Hence, how could they possibly be capable of killing him?

The great army charged towards Chu Kuangren, each striking with different forms of attacks.

Chu Kuangren stood firmly and summoned the Divine Ferocious Avatar.

The avatar formed before Chu Kuangren and blocked all the attacks!

At that instance, a colorful ray of light descended from the sky. The ray of light contained an endless mysterious Daoist Rhymes, which transformed into a spherical forcefield that spanned thousands of kilometers across. It was... the Light of Heavenly Tribulation!

The heavenly tribulation had commenced!

“Acheron Manor Lord, is your Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield capable of blocking this heavenly tribulation?!” the Sacred Palace of Death Lord asked.

Only then did the crowd remember that the Acheron Manor Lord had previously mobilized the Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield. It had a wide area of effect, and it was also a Boundary Emperor Weapon.

The cultivators suddenly looked at the Acheron Manor Lord for any signs of hope.

“Let’s not cling onto false hope. The Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield is meant for sealing a perimeter, not defending it. It does nothing to the heavenly tribulation.”

The Acheron Manor Lord’s words shattered any remnants of hope left within the cultivators.

Boom!

Countless blasts rang out like the incessant firing of cannonballs.

Rays after rays of lightning came striking down like hailstorms.

How magnificent was a hundred thousand lightning striking within one area?!

Even the Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation could not conceal an event of that magnitude as powerful cultivators throughout the entire Firmament Star could sense it.

They all looked dumbfoundedly towards the direction of the Black Heaven Sect.

This was especially true for the spectators stationed nearer to the Black Heaven Sect, they saw colorful tribulation clouds that covered the sky and the countless different-colored lightning that had dyed the entire realm into a spectacular sight.

Most of them were forced to cover their ears at the incessant rumbling of the thunder.

Boom!

One of the Battle Monarchs was struck by the tribulation lightning. Before he could scream, he was already reduced to ashes.

Perhaps ascending into a Sage was his lifelong dream.

He probably would have worked incredibly hard in this Era of Great Dharma Emergence to stand a chance in becoming a Sage and go through his own ascension.

However, he was only a Battle Monarch at this point.

Yet, he already had the opportunity to experience what it was like to ascend. Alas, a lowly Battle Monarch like him was incapable of passing the tribulation.

The nameless Battle Monarch was not the only one who had perished. Countless other cultivators like him, too, now finally had the privilege to experience what ascension was like. Unfortunately, not many could survive.

Just the first cascade of lightning had wiped out ninety percent of the cultivator-army. Within Black Heaven Sect's perimeter, the tribulation lightning had formed myriads of craters with electrical charges still lingering within them.

The spectators outside the perimeter stared with their mouths agape. Having witnessed the sight, all they could feel was their body stiffening and their scalps tingling.

This was the force of nature!

The true power of the force of nature!

Near the border of the Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation floated an enormous Fairy boat that was protected by a formless shield.

It was the Illusive Mirage!

Onboard the Illusive Mirage were the cultivators of the Black Heaven Sect.

As they stared at the colorful tribulation clouds, they felt a mixed sense of shock and concern.

"I see, so this is the trump card the Sect Leader was talking about!"

Elder Ruyan murmured.

All along, Elder Ruyan had assumed the trump card to be the Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation. In fact, it was not surprising as well, considering how the mega formation's power had taken out most of the army's manpower.

Even so, the formation was not Chu Kuangren's ultimate weapon.

His trump card was the Heavenly Dao!

It was heavenly tribulation!

"Never in history has someone brought along a hundred thousand cultivators to ascend them. The Sect Leader is insane!"

The Black Heaven Second Forefather and Third Forefather were shocked, to say the least.

"Have you not gotten used to his insane methods?"

Immemorial Sage laughed bitterly.

"Can the Sect Leader withstand a heavenly tribulation of this magnitude?"

Nangong Huang and the disciples said, worried.

“Yes! Master can definitely pull this off!”

Lan Yu said determinedly.

“Indeed. In the past few years, Chu Kuangren had managed to pull off what many thought was impossible. This will not be an exception.”

Linglong took a deep breath as she stared ahead at the battlefield.

The only choice they had left was to have faith in Chu Kuangren.

The first wave of heavenly tribulation had taken out an overwhelming majority of the cultivator-army. Those who survived were mostly Sages and a few excellent Honorables.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren was also facing his first round of tribulation lightning.

Compared to others, Chu Kuangren was the main focus of the Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation. The tribulation lightning that would strike him was deadlier than the other cultivators’.

The lightning that struck down could easily destroy a Sage.

However, it was insignificant to Chu Kuangren.

With the wave of his halberd, the tribulation lightning was reduced into particles. As its lightning energy was dispersed into the surroundings, Chu Kuangren found a surprising revelation.

Was his Universal Cauldron Physique responding to the tribulation lightning?!

Could the tribulation lightning be a form of energy?!

Chu Kuangren pondered deeply.

However, the second wave of tribulation lightning soon arrived.

Compared to the previous wave, the second wave was stronger!

Boom!

As the lightning struck the cultivators, more than half of the Supreme Honorables perished, leaving the Sages as the only survivors in this tribulation. It was only the second wave.

The heavenly tribulation had nine rounds!

Each round would be far deadlier than the last!

Similarly, Chu Kuangren’s second tribulation lightning was significantly more destructive than the rest.

If the rest experienced the same magnitude of lightning in the second wave, Chu Kuangren’s tribulation lightning would have wiped out most of the Sages on the battlefield.

To test his hypothesis, Chu Kuangren did not destroy the tribulation lightning this time. Instead, he reduced the power of his Innate Ferocious Armor, allowing the lightning to flow into his limbs and body.

The Universal Cauldron Physique was activated!

To Chu Kuangren's delight, the Universal Cauldron Physique converted the tribulation lightning into pure energies before storing it within his body.

"What a surprising finding."

Chu Kuangren smirked.

At that instance, a magnificent palm qi stuck toward him.

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang had made his move.

Chapter 425: The Boundary Emperors Blocked The Tribulation Lightning, Giant Colorful Lightning Serpents

The Boundary Emperor's palm attack sent Chu Kuangren flying.

After flying for a hundred meters, Chu Kuangren held his own body steady and smiled faintly. "Instead of focusing on me, I suggest that you concentrate on the heavenly tribulation. The third round should be here at any moment."

His words were enough to make the Boundary Emperors feel uncertain.

Although Chu Kuangren could not observe their expressions clearly, they were obviously not enjoying their present circumstances. The Boundary Emperors were stuck with Chu Kuangren in this tricky situation that no one would have enjoyed.

"That brat has that weird immortal ability which makes killing him difficult. But the tribulation lightning that he needs to endure will be way more powerful than ours, so let's figure out a way to shield ourselves from the lightning first. Then, his tribulation lightning can take care of him!"

"I bet he won't survive a heavenly tribulation of such magnitude!"

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye snorted.

"That's right. We're Boundary Emperors, who are way stronger than him. His Emperor Weapons won't be able to save him from this heavenly tribulation!"

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said firmly.

The Sages were even worried now.

Indeed, the Boundary Emperors were capable of defending themselves from the tribulation lightning before Chu Kuangren would perish. However, the same could not be said for them!

What more for the ordinary Sages on the battlefield!

What about escaping?

They had been marked by the heavenly tribulation, so there was no way for them to escape!

"I beg you, Boundary Emperors. Please save us too!"

"If you save our lives, I swear to dedicate my entire life to your service!"

“Please, Boundary Emperors. Help us!”

The Sages no longer cared about dignity and began begging for help.

“Stand behind us.”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said after a brief moment of silence.

The cultivators hastily went behind them in delight.

Boom!

The third wave of tribulation lightning was here.

All Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang did was lift his hand and formed a light barrier.

The tribulation lightning struck on the barrier’s surface, creating one violent ripple after another. When tribulation lightning was gone, the Sages had managed to survive with the Boundary Emperors’ help.

“The Boundary Emperors are indeed formidable. They have powerful abilities!”

“If a Boundary Emperor exists in my orthodoxy, I need not worry so much about anything.”

“Hmph, now let’s see how Chu Kuangren’s going to die.”

The Sages breathed a sigh of relief.

They then turned to glare at Chu Kuangren with hatred.

Chu Kuangren remained indifferent to their provocation as he retained his usual composure. When the third tribulation lightning struck, he continued to absorb it with his bare flesh.

Universal Cauldron Physique, activated!

A huge amount of tribulation lightning energy was converted and stored as pure energy within his body.

However, what other people saw was the wretched scene of Chu Kuangren blasted away by the tribulation lightning and coughed out a mouthful of blood along his path.

The cultivators were delighted at Chu Kuangren’s apparent misfortune.

“Karma! This is the workings of karma!”

“Chu Kuangren, you’ve committed your fair share of sins. It looks like the heavens have responded by punishing you with such terrifying tribulation lightning!”

“Exactly!”

Rumble...

The fourth wave of tribulation lightning came, and then the fifth wave...

Each wave of tribulation lightning became progressively stronger.

When the sixth tribulation lightning came, Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang was beginning to feel overwhelmed. The lightning's power was soon equivalent to a Sage Ruler's power.

Since there were more than a hundred cultivators left, Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang had to shield a wave of tribulation lightning that was as strong as a hundred Sage Rulers' power!

"Brother Hai Ye, let's do this together!"

"Alright."

The Boundary Emperors joined forces, unleashing two surges of Daoist Rhymes to create two layers of shields before them.

As the tribulation lightning continuously struck on the shields, the energy it dispersed was so strong that it caused all the mountains in the vicinity to collapse!

The apocalyptic sight was worrying, to say the least.

Soon, the hundreds of tribulation lightning went away.

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang and Boundary Emperor Hai Ye had also removed the spiritual veil that masked their body, revealing their appearances for the first time.

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang was an elder in a light yellow robe, while Boundary Emperor Hai Ye looked like a middle-aged man with a horn protruding from his head.

The duo looked at the tribulation clouds with the utmost concern.

They could sense that the heavenly tribulation aura was growing to become more violent.

"If this goes on, I'm afraid we can't protect these Sages at the seventh wave anymore," Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said solemnly.

"Chu Kuangren must die in this wave."

The cultivators glared at Chu Kuangren in perturbation. If Chu Kuangren survived, it would mean that their deaths in the next wave of tribulation lightning were certain!

Without the help from the Boundary Emperors, they were defenseless against the next wave!

On the other hand, Chu Kuangren seemed to be in a miserable state at the moment.

His hair was loose while his body was still soaked in blood.

However, a closer inspection would reveal that not only was Chu Kuangren unafraid, but he was also staring at the tribulation clouds with excitement.

The previous waves of tribulation lightning had granted him an enormous amount of energy. Now, he was seventy percent confident that he could instantly ascend into the Supreme Sage Foundation Level!

Even then, he wanted more!

Rumble...

The sixth wave of tribulation lightning was here.

An endless amount of lightning energy amassed and formed an enormous colorful giant serpent that snapped its jaws as it charged ferociously towards Chu Kuangren!

“Die! Die for the sake of all of us!”

“Chu Kuangren, hurry up and die!”

The cultivators cursed at Chu Kuangren upon witnessing the formation of the giant serpent.

Boom!

With the burst of an explosion, the giant serpent fell onto Chu Kuangren’s body. The violent energy that resulted from the clash created a massive crater beneath Chu Kuangren.

The giant serpent’s attack had buried Chu Kuangren thousands of meters deep underground!

The destructive tribulation lightning energy split the earth, sending a massive vibration that spread ten thousand kilometers through the ground. It was appalling to see the whole prefecture shake.

“Was it a success?”

“Did Chu Kuangren finally die? With that amount of energy, his body would have been crushed into smithereens by the impact, and the lightning would have incinerated whatever was left of him! His Emperor Weapons won’t be able to save him this time.”

“He must have died...”

The Sages looked at each other. For once, they began to rejoice.

Then, the sky rumbled again.

The rumbling shattered all hopes the Sages had, and they descended into a state of utter helplessness.

The rumbling signified the commencement of the seventh wave of tribulation lightning!

Chu Kuangren was not dead!

“Why?! Why hasn’t Chu Kuangren died yet?!”

“F*ck! I don’t want to die!”

“Boundary Emperors, please save us from this situation!”

The Boundary Emperors looked up and were horrified to see dozens of colorful giant serpents emerging out of the clouds.

Each giant serpent was equivalent to an attack from a Boundary Emperor!

“I suggest that you say your prayers now.”

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang said coldly.

The Sages turned completely blank at the Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang’s suggestion.

"I don't want to die! No!"

No longer able to withstand the stress, a Great Sage dashed into the distance as if he had lost his mind. He wanted to escape the tribulation cloud's perimeter.

However, it was not long before he crashed into a colorful barrier.

It was the Light of Heavenly Tribulation!

It was a barrier erected to stop any ascension candidates from escaping.

Never had this barrier been broken before in history.

The Great Sage crazily unleashed his attacks on the barrier but to no avail!

As the seventh wave of tribulation lightning commenced, the colorful giant serpents began to glide across the sky, each searching for its victim to devour.

One by one, the Sages were soon turned into burned ashes under this power.

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang and Boundary Emperor Hai Ye unleashed their attacks and managed to survive the giant serpents that came for them.

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang and the others were forced into using their last resorts at the expense of their life force to defend against the lightning serpents.

When the seventh wave finally ended, the only remaining survivors were the Boundary Emperors, Sage Ruler Zhang Guang, Master Daoist Yun Tao, Acheron Manor Lord, Sacred Palace of Death Lord, and the Great Bottomless Chasm Dweller.

The Craggy Ocean Tower Lord's last resort was not enough. After the serpent's attack, all that was left of him was splattered chunks of meat.

All of the cultivators throughout Firmament Stars who were observing the battle were stunned into silence. In their minds were an indescribable shock.

Chapter 426: All Sage Rulers Have Fallen, The Boundary Emperors Were Heavily Wounded

The Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation was way too scary.

It was a heavenly tribulation that could birth a Sage but could easily annihilate even a Sage Ruler as well!

Such kind of heavenly tribulation was unprecedented in this era. Its power absolutely shocked everyone.

Boom!

A figure crawled out from the deep crater.

It was Chu Kuangren.

He stood upright, preparing to embrace his seventh heavenly tribulation.

He glanced at Boundary Emperor Zhang Guang and the others and flashed them a smile. "Heh, it's just a few of you left. What a bunch of weaklings."

“Chu Kuangren!”

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang and his group of people gritted hard on their teeth as they stared deep into Chu Kuangren’s eyes with hatred.

Still, none of these mattered.

If their stare could kill, Chu Kuangren would have already died a few times over.

Loud rumbles reverberated through the sky.

Chu Kuangren’s seventh heavenly tribulation had already formed. It had enough power to quake over half of the Firmament Star.

Two claws first emerged from that enormous multicolored whirlpool, and it was followed by a head, a neck, a body...

It was a Thunder Dragon!

A multicolored Thunder Dragon!

Just the Daoist Rhyme emitted from its body was enough to make the few Sage Rulers shudder in fear.

“Roar!”

The Thunder Dragon let out a vicious roar.

Its one roar crumbled numerous mountains. Then, boundless lightning energies released from its body, almost tearing the whole sky into two halves.

“Oh dear, this is only the seventh tribulation lightning. I still have the eighth and the ninth to go, but this is already so intense.”

Chu Kuangren mumbled while he stroked his chin.

No matter how much of a freak he was, he would not be given such intense heavenly tribulations in the first place. However, he did get several hundred thousand people involved in this ascension with him. That was why his heavenly tribulation was buffed to this unimaginable level.

With a roar, the malicious Thunder Dragon swooped down from the sky.

The dragon’s incredible poise almost crushed the entire land. Every cultivator who witnessed that scene even felt their souls shiver deep inside them.

“Bring it on!”

Chu Kuangren stood proudly while he cast the Gluttonous Devouring Technique.

The blood and flesh essences of those dead cultivators around him were absorbed into his body and converted into spiritual power. Then, Chu Kuangren activated the Nine Deaths Blazing Blood Art.

His spiritual power began to circulate frenziedly. Instead of using it to increase the defenses of his Innate Ferocious Armor, he used it to boost his Universal Cauldron Physique to the maximum power!

Boom!

The Thunder Dragon clashed with Chu Kuangren!

In that instant, an incredibly appalling absorption power erupted from Chu Kuangren's body as he absorbed the energy inside this Thunder Dragon into his body.

Chu Kuangren right now was like a giant cauldron that used spiritual power as fuel, smelting this terrifying Thunder Dragon in whole!

The stupendous amount of lightning energy was absorbed!

This scene flabbergasted everyone.

They could not tell what exactly was happening.

However, one thing is for sure — Chu Kuangren had one-upped this tribulation lightning!!

Looks of despair flashed across the Sage Rulers' faces.

Right after Chu Kuangren had defeated his seventh tribulation lightning, Sage Ruler Zhang Guang and the others' eighth tribulation lightning was already here.

It was the same menacing multicolored Thunder Dragon.

A total of seven Thunder Dragons hovered over the sky, dyeing the entire horizon into a colorful hue. Their terrifying and domineering auras emanated, encasing the whole realm in it.

The two Boundary Emperors looked disturbed by what they were seeing.

"Roar..."

"Roar..."

Seven roars were heard in succession before all seven dragons swooped down simultaneously!!

Sage Ruler Zhang Guang, Acheron Manor Lord, and the remaining Sage Rulers mustered every ounce of strength they had left, but they still could not beat what was coming at them. Upon the point of contact, all of them were reduced to ashes.

The two Boundary Emperors summoned their full power to block theirs off too. They each took out their Boundary Emperor Weapons and fought with the multicolored Thunder Dragons!

This was a battle with a Boundary Emperor power level, which was an extremely rare sight on the Firmament Star that everyone fixed their eyes on the scene.

The Boundary Emperor Daoist Rhymes erupted into two attacks. One was an earth-shattering fist strength and another an insurmountable torrent, and it both lambasted toward the Thunder Dragons.

Along with an explosion, white crack marks began to appear in the void.

That was a sign that the fabric of space was about to be torn apart.

In the end, the Thunder Dragons disappeared into nothingness.

Meanwhile, the two Boundary Emperors were hurled backward before they slumped onto the ground. They were covered in dirt, their faces were pale as paper, and their life energies were weak.

It seemed that this tribulation lightning had heavily wounded the Boundary Emperors as well!

However, that was not the end.

The tribulation clouds had not yet dissipated completely. Conversely, more and more terrifying energies were continually amassing.

A great half of Firmament Star's living beings were beginning to sense this domineering aura, and those with a stronger cultivation base quivered even more.

Chu Kuangren glanced at the gigantic multicolored whirlpool in the sky with a solemn look in his eyes. His eighth tribulation lightning was about to come!

Massive amounts of lightning energy had condensed inside the multicolored whirlpool, forming an enormous multicolored thunder sphere of nearly a hundred meters in diameter!

The thunder sphere slowly descended from the sky, and its tremendous domineering aura locked down on Chu Kuangren!

White cracks would appear in the space wherever it passed by!

When the two Boundary-Emperors saw this, their eyes widened!

There was no way to block this!!

If they were in Chu Kuangren's shoes, they would never be able to hold off this thunder sphere!

"Chu Kuangren has to die this time!"

"If he doesn't, his eighth tribulation lightning would be our ninth tribulation lightning. By then, both of us would surely die!"

Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang and Boundary-Emperor Hai Ye glanced at each other.

Then, to everyone's surprise, the two of them charged at their opponent together. They dragged on their wounded bodies and activated their spiritual powers, casting their Emperor Techniques toward Chu Kuangren.

"Heavenly Golden Sky-Shattering Palm!"

As soon as a palm attack struck out, the Heavenly Golden qi swirled violently and transformed into surges of palm qi which struck down from the skies. It blasted toward Chu Kuangren a second faster than the tribulation lightning.

"Heavenly Torrential Cascade!"

Boundary Emperor Hai Ye's Daoist Rhyme began to show its form. It was a black torrential force that surrounded Chu Kuangren, giving him no means of escape.

"Pfft!"

Chu Kuangren let out a scoff.

Although he was not a match for the two Boundary Emperors, he still would not sit idle and await his death.

The sea of clouds within a ten kilometers radius from them rolled about violently, and a vicious Cloud Dragon leaped out from the clouds. It was the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation's most powerful formation spirit!

This formation spirit had previously been slain by a Sage Ruler, but as long as the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation remained intact, this formation spirit would live on!

Since Chu Kuangren had harnessed the mega formation to conceal the heavenly tribulation's domineering aura earlier, he could not focus on summoning this Cloud Dragon.

Now, he need not conceal that anymore. Hence, with a flicker of his spiritual thought, the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation swiftly activated. The Cloud Dragon swooped out from the sky and raced towards that palm sign.

As Chu Kuangren utilized all his strength to operate the formation technique, this current Cloud Dragon was way more powerful than the one before. It was as powerful as a Boundary Emperor's attack.

With a loud burst, the palm strength disintegrated!

Even so, the Cloud Dragon energy did not subside, and it charged toward the two Boundary Emperors instead.

"Who knew that this guy could cast such a unique technique."

The two Boundary-Emperors' expressions changed slightly. If they were in their prime, they would not have felt any pressure when facing this Cloud Dragon.

However, considering their heavy injuries and the fact that they had cast their Emperor Techniques on Chu Kuangren earlier, they only had about ten to twenty percent of their power level left.

As such, they were knocked off their feet by the remnants of that Cloud Dragon energy!

Chu Kuangren did not follow up with any attacks.

He watched as that thunder sphere landed in front of him. As he harnessed the power of his Innate Ferocious Armor to the fullest, the Divine Ferocious Avatar condensed into existence!

The power of this thunder sphere was way too terrifying. He had to think of a way to nullify a part of it. Otherwise, his Universal Cauldron Physique would not be able to convert all of that.

Boom, boom, boom...

The Divine Ferocious Avatar began to throw out wild punches.

Punch after punch, the continuous barrage of attacks felt like a violent storm!

Tremendous fist energy landed on that thunder sphere, generating waves of ripples. Yet, no matter how strong this fist energy was, it could not negate much of that lightning energy.

Eventually, a huge portion of that thunder sphere suddenly fell!

Chu Kuangren's Divine Ferocious Avatar clashed with the thunder sphere in abrupt fashion. In less than a second, the avatar shattered!

Chapter 427: The Final Tribulation Lightning, Forcibly Breaking Through Cultivation Realms, Shocking The Three Realms

When the thunder sphere completely encompassed Chu Kuangren, that immense lightning energy was already battering frenziedly with his Innate Ferocious Armor.

This Emperor Armor was incredibly powerful, but that huge amount of lightning energy still managed to breach through this Emperor Armor and jolted Chu Kuangren's body.

At that instant, his body tore apart; in that instant, Chu Kuangren harnessed his Universal Cauldron Physique to its limit!

Although he had converted a massive amount of lightning energy, there was still a good portion of it that he did not manage to convert. As such, it ended up damaging Chu Kuangren's body.

The Immortal Body was activated!

His torn body began to heal rapidly!

While he was healing, he continued to absorb it. With the help of these two great God-tier Physiques, Chu Kuangren pulled through the eighth tribulation lightning!

"I'm left with the last one now!"

Chu Kuangren grinned.

His Sage ascension trial could be described as the toughest heavenly tribulation that history has ever seen. He was only left with one final tribulation lightning. After that, his ascension would be complete.

By then, he would instantly become a Sage, especially with the foundation levels that he had already accumulated.

He could even try to achieve the Supreme Sage Foundation Level in one go!

Boom!

Two more enormous thunder spheres emerged in the sky.

These were the two Boundary Emperors' ninth tribulation lightning!

"My two fellows, good riddance."

Chu Kuangren smiled at the two Boundary Emperors.

The thunder spheres came crashing down!

The two Boundary Emperors, who were already sapped of energy, stood no chance against such a terrifying magnitude of power. Even after they had defended themselves with all their might, they still ended up pulverized into nothing but ashes.

When the two Boundary Emperors had crestfallen, all the elites on Firmament Star felt their eyes twitch inadvertently. Just like that, two almighty Boundary-Emperors had been erased from existence.

This Chu Kuangren... was way too scary!!

With the fall of the Boundary Emperors, only Chu Kuangren was left at the scene.

The multicolored whirlpool ejected a beam of rainbow light, encasing Chu Kuangren inside it. Then, endless lightning energies surged down from the sky and hit his body like unending torrents.

This was the ninth tribulation lightning!

Chu Kuangren felt an incredibly horrifying pressure rain down on him. As such, the ground under his feet began to sink, forming a ten-kilometer-wide crater!

On top of that, with the beam of light as the center, cracks began to emerge. Like a spider web, it spread on the ground within a ten thousand kilometers radius.

“Bring it on!!”

Chu Kuangren growled as he raised his Innate Ferocious Armor to its limit to fend off the lightning energies. Those that he could not block off were absorbed by the Universal Cauldron Physique, and those that he could not absorb ended up destroying his body. However, with his Immortal Body to recover, he soldiered on and ground out valiantly with the tribulation lightning!

This tribulation lightning lasted way longer than any of the previous tribulation lightning. After some twenty minutes, it still had not ended. The tribulation lightning energy continued to surge down from the skies endlessly.

It looked like it would not cease until it had Chu Kuangren dead!

All the elites of Firmament Star had their eyes glued on this.

Today, they had already witnessed numerous miracles in Chu Kuangren’s hands!

Now, they just wanted to see if this guy could pull through this never-before-seen heavenly tribulation and claim the unprecedented title as the greatest elite of all time!!

Chu Kuangren endured the appalling lightning energy inside the beam of light,

His Universal Cauldron Physique had already been cast to its maximum potential. However, there was still about one-third of the lightning energy that could not be converted, which ended up destroying his body!

This one-third of lightning energy was incredibly scary. Even if he had the help of Boundary Emperor Chang Kuang and Boundary Emperor Hai Ye, they would not be able to pull through.

Relying on his Immortal Body, Chu Kuangren kept persisting and fighting.

Nonetheless...

He could clearly sense that the recovery speed of the Immortal Body was already struggling to keep up with the speed at which his body was being damaged!

His flesh and blood were continually torn apart, not into dried flesh chunks but minute charred debris!

If his whole body was turned into debris, with his third Immortal Body, chances were that he could really end up dead this time!!

Under such circumstances where he could lose his life, Chu Kuangren was not fearful. In fact, he felt inexplicably excited!

“Is this the adrenaline of racing against death?! How thrilling!”

Click...

Chu Kuangren’s knees suddenly fractured, causing both his legs to give way.

Right before he was about to kneel, he resisted it with all his might. He did not care if both his legs were about to be broken as he slowly straightened his back.

“Dear heavens, do you really want to see who can last longer?!”

“Bring it on then!!”

Chu Kuangren let out a low grumble. The Universal Cauldron Physique, which was initially absorbing lightning energy, began to refine the energy stored within his body instead!

At that instant, a colossal amount of energy was transformed into the purest of spiritual powers and infused into Chu Kuangren’s spiritual mound. With that, his cultivation base rapidly escalated.

He was forcing his way into breaking through realms before his ascension was completed!

How much energy was in the Universal Cauldron Physique?

Too much!

Demonic pus from the Demonic Hoarder Forefather, Hellfire, soul energies from several Sage Rulers and the Four Furies, tribulation lightning...

He even retrieved the dead body of the Nine-Headed Snakelet, the Serpent Deity, and the Boundary-Emperor. He placed all of that into the Avarice dimension to absorb all their blood and flesh essences.

Once these energies were converted into spiritual power and infused into his spiritual mound, Chu Kuangren’s cultivation base would advance into the Sage Realm!!

Inside the spiritual mound, the Six Great Supreme Foundation Levels radiated with a flash of dazzling brilliance.

A surge of Daoist Rhyme reverberated inside his spiritual mound, where a purple lotus that had nine petals began to morph and take shape.

Each one of its petals flowed with an extremely mysterious Daoist Rhyme.

This was the Sage Foundation Level, Heart of the Lotus Spiritual Mound!

Nine petals meant that it was a Ninth-Grade Supreme Sage Foundational Level.

Around the Lotus Heart, the remainder of the six types of Supreme Foundation Levels continuously emitted surges of divine light and Daoist Rhymes that resonated with the Lotus Heart.

Along with the formation of the nine-petalled Lotus Heart, the whole Firmament Star quivered. Huge amounts of purple haze arose from the horizons, spreading over tens of kilometers, and gushed toward Chu Kuangren's direction!

Every elite who witnessed this was baffled.

"T-this is the purple haze that shrouds the horizon!!"

"D*mn, this is a strange phenomenon that will only occur when a Supreme Sage is born. I reckon there are only less than a handful of Supreme Sages throughout the ages!"

"Good heavens..."

Firmament Star was not the only one.

High above Firmament Star, a similarly huge amount of purple haze billowing in the Nine Heavens as well. The purple haze lingered around the horizon as its auspicious energy spread to its surroundings.

All the ancient beings of the Nine Heavens were shocked.

"Purple haze that shrouds the horizon. A Supreme Sage has been born?!"

"Who is it? Who has become a Supreme Sage in this day and age? Don't tell me it's some overpowered freak from some orthodoxy?!"

"How long has it been? In this Endless Aeons, I can't believe another Supreme Sage has been born. This Era of Great Battles is getting more and more fascinating."

The ancient beings of the Nine Heavens searched the whole Nine Heavens, but they failed to locate the source of this strange phenomenon of purple haze that shrouds the horizon.

"If it's not here in the Nine Heavens, where can it be?"

"Can it be the Firmament Star? Come on. Even if someone has become a Supreme Sage in Firmament Star, its effects will not reach the Nine Heavens, no matter how powerful it is."

"It must have been hidden by someone then."

Meanwhile, down on Firmament Star.

Large amounts of purple haze had also arisen in the skies of the Underworld Demonic Realm. Since the start of the Endless Aeons, their skies had always been in a dark hue of red. Now that there was finally some change of color in their sky, the entire demonic realm was shocked!

"Purple haze that shrouds the horizon. A Supreme Sage has been born!"

"Our Underworld Demonic Realm has never produced a Supreme Sage even after so many years. Who would've expected one to emerge in this Era of Great Battles? Haha, god bless the demonic realm. Rejoice!!"

“Quick, go and look for this Supreme Sage...”

Like the Nine Heavens, everyone in the Underworld Demonic Realm scampered to look for the source of that purple haze, but their search did not yield any results.

One person becoming a Sage had managed to shock all three realms!

Chapter 428: Heavenly Punishment Seal, The End Of An Era

Within that beam of light, Chu Kuangren forced his way into breaking through his cultivation realm!

Inside his spiritual mound, that purple nine-petalled Lotus Heart was starting to solidify!

Right now, all the great ones in Firmament Star were watching this scene with bewilderment. A Supreme Sage is just too rare!

Even rarer than Emperors of Old!

Not many Emperors were Supreme Sages before they became Emperors.

If someone of a Supreme Sage’s caliber became an Emperor, he or she would surely be an unparalleled Emperor of the ages!

Chu Kuangren was still inside that heavenly tribulation’s beam of light, where the terrifying lightning energy continued to tear his body apart. However, with the rapid increase of his cultivation base, his Immortal body began to experience a transformation as well!

It was ascending from the third level to the fourth.

In this process, his Immortal Body had increased by multiple folds. It was already comparable to the destructive speed of the lightning.

“Ha! It seems that I’m the one with higher endurance.”

Chu Kuangren broke into a grin.

After a while, the heavenly tribulation’s beam of light slowly dissipated.

He had successfully ascended through the ninth tribulation lightning!

This moment made many of the great ones cheer.

“He did it. He freaking did it! I can’t believe this madman has really done it. He has ascended through such a powerful heavenly tribulation. Absolutely ridiculous.”

“Incredible...”

“An unprecedented Supreme Sage has been born.”

The tribulation lightning gradually receded.

The purple Lotus Heart inside Chu Kuangren’s body was close to solidifying its form, but at this moment, the Lotus Heart suddenly quivered...

“Eh?”

Upon sensing something amiss, Chu Kuangren stared into the sky.

Although the nine tribulation lightning had already ended, those widespread and grotesque multicolored tribulation clouds were still lingering in the skies with no signs of dissipating.

“What is this? Are there more tribulation lightning to come?!”

Chu Kuangren frowned.

It was not just him. The rest of the people were similarly surprised too.

“This can’t be. There are only nine tribulation lightning to a Sage’s ascension trial. This is an unchanged fact ever since the beginning of time. Why are these tribulation clouds still here?!”

“Unless... it’s a heavenly punishment!!”

As if they had realized something, some of the great ones suddenly exclaimed in terror.

A heavenly punishment.

It was something of a greater level to the heavenly tribulation.

Since the olden ages, heavenly punishment would only appear in the presence of anomalies that defied the laws of nature. However, the occasions of these kinds of anomalies were extremely rare...

Rumble...

A loud rumble echoed from the multicolored whirlpool in the sky.

A Heavenly Dao Aura that was even stronger than a heavenly tribulation spread in the sky, covering the entire Firmament Star. Countless living beings were now overwhelmed with fear.

“It really is the heavenly punishment!!”

Countless great ones, who were spectating the scene, were astonished.

The Nine Heavens and Underworld Demonic Realm had noticed something as well.

“Has there been an outlier in the realms which drew the heavenly punishment?”

“Could it be that Supreme Sage?”

“There is no way that breaking through the Sage Realm would draw a heavenly punishment. I think it’s something much more than just a Supreme Sage.”

“What kind of forbidden freak is attempting this ascension? I don’t think even those archaic ancient Emperors or immemorial beings would have this kind of endurance.”

“Isn’t this too outrageous...”

Firmament Star, Black Heaven Sect.

Chu Kuangren stared at the tribulation clouds in the sky. The terrifying domineering aura that encompassed the surroundings had already made the air damp and dense. He felt like he was in a swamp, and it was difficult for him to make any movement.

“Hold up. I think this is a bit too much for me.”

Chu Kuangren mumbled.

As if the Nine Colored Heavenly Tribulation was not enough, he was now given a heavenly punishment.

This d*mn heavens. How badly did the heavens want him dead?!

Just when Chu Kuangren was about to fight for his life, he saw several colorful chains drop down from the tribulation clouds in the sky!

Those colorful chains seemed like they were weaved from numerous runes. On it flowed a surge of mysterious Daoist Rhyme, as well as a Heavenly Dao Aura!

The chains strapped themselves around Chu Kuangren with lightning speed and turned into countless sparks which fused into his body.

In a split second, Chu Kuangren felt like the spiritual power and spiritual thought inside him had been locked in as he could not utilize them at all.

“The Heavenly Punishment Seal!”

“Who would’ve thought that it was the Heavenly Punishment Seal. Legends foretold that this seal could seal off a person’s entire cultivation base. Once bound by this seal, even an almighty Emperor would be nerfed into a defenseless normal folk.”

“Who knew that the heavenly punishment would restrict Chu Kuangren in this way? From today onward, he will be just like a normal person.”

“This is way too cruel. It might as well shock him to death and end his misery.”

Most of the great ones were able to make out the Heavenly Punishment Seal.

Some of them clapped their hands at his dismay, while some felt it was a shame.

High up in the sky, the multicolored tribulation cloud finally subsided after the Heavenly Punishment Seal had been delivered. Clarity was restored in both heaven and earth.

Nonetheless, the land filled with thousands of craters illustrated how much of a harrowing battle had taken place there.

Chu Kuangren probed the spiritual power inside his body and raised an eyebrow. He could feel the strips of colorful Heavenly Punishment chains surrounding his entire spiritual mound. The Six Great Foundation Levels and that incomplete purple Lotus Heart had all been restrained as well. He could not summon even the slightest bit of his spiritual power.

That strange phenomenon of purple haze that shrouded the horizon had also faded away the moment Chu Kuangren was cast with the Heavenly Punishment Seal.

All the great ones on the Firmament Star shook their heads with a sigh.

“This Chu Kuangren is indeed a freak. He has single-handedly wiped out the million-strong coalition army, including the two Boundary Emperors. What a shame that he couldn’t evade the heavenly punishment in the end!”

“Sigh. This guy has become such a freak that even nature could not tolerate him any longer.”

“From today onward, this world will have one less unparalleled sky-pride. But I think this is for the better. With this guy around, the other people would never get the chance to show their worth. This seal has come at the right time.”

There were also some great ones who wanted to seize this opportunity and end Chu Kuangren once and for all.

However, when the tribulation cloud dissipated, the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation was brought into operation once again. This mega formation was really very terrifying.

Without the cultivation base of a Boundary Emperor, not even Sage Rulers would dare trespass it.

In the end, the group of people had no choice but to put away their malicious intentions.

After all, if the Emperors of Old were not capable of breaking this Heavenly Punishment Seal, there was no way Chu Kuangren could.

They did not see the need to kill someone who was now a normal person. Venturing into the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation would be too big a risk to take for that.

The Nine Heavens and the Underworld Demonic Realm, too, had noticed the disappearance of that purple haze that shrouded the horizon. Each one of them could not help but feel sorry for the person.

“It seems that the Supreme Sage did not succeed in introducing himself to the world.”

“Has he been annulled by the heavenly punishment?”

“What a shame...”

The great ones merely expressed their sentiments at that moment, but after that, they stopped paying it any more heed.

Besides, they still had many things to attend to. In the Era of Great Battles, their utmost priority was to obtain the Emperor’s Opportunities of Fortune.

For this, they had already prepared to send their troops to the Firmament Star.

Meanwhile, on the Firmament Star, news of Chu Kuangren’s mighty feat of overcoming the million cultivator-army and two Boundary Emperors spread to every corner of the world. It brought utter astonishment to countless people.

News of him getting the Heavenly Punishment Seal naturally traveled as far as well.

The commotion this time was way too monumental.

“Chu Kuangren has gotten the Heavenly Punishment Seal? Haha, this is great news. He may not be dead, but from today onward, nobody is capable of competing with us anymore.”

“Lucky him. He got away with that one.”

“To drag several hundred thousand people into the ascension with him was an outrageous valiant act. Unfortunately, he still lost to the laws of nature.”

“The fact that he has been sealed means that the world is ours now!”

Many of the sky-prides who used to be overshadowed and humiliated by Chu Kuangren began to reveal their true character. They vowed to showcase their strengths in this Era of Great Battles.

It was as if Chu Kuangren’s Heavenly Punishment Seal was the end of an era.

Chapter 429: Gaining Insight From The Heavenly Punishment Seal, Rewards From The Battle

The Black Heaven Sect was once again protected by the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation. There could no longer be any outsiders who could spy on their every move in the sect. Thus, many of the people decided to leave the place.

“An era has ended.”

“His time has passed.”

Quite a few people shook their heads and sighed.

Throughout these years, Chu Kuangren had managed one too many miracles. Things especially held true this time with his unprecedented feat of dragging several hundred thousand people into his ascension trial. This made many people respect him and even revere him religiously.

Besides, his attractive appearance had bewitched countless female cultivators who became his loyal followers.

Hence, the fact that the Heavenly Punishment Seal had now made Chu Kuangren a normal folk brought heartbreak to many of his followers.

“Oh... my dear Chu Kuangren. Even if his heroics are gone, it still cannot be denied that he is truly the greatest of all time!!”

“His era may be over, but his legend will live on. His name will carry on into the new eras. He shall be known to every household for years to come.”

One of the cultivators lamented.

The crowd gradually disassembled. They could foretell that without Chu Kuangren’s domination, the sky-prides of this realm would become active once again.

The following era would belong to these sky-prides.

Meanwhile, for Chu Kuangren.

No matter how great of a legend he was, he had become the past.

...

Inside the Black Heaven Sect.

The Illusive Mirage docked in front of Chu Kuangren.

The people got down from the Illusive Mirage and quickly went up to Chu Kuangren. Many of them bore concerned looks on their faces when they saw the Heavenly Punishment Seal on him.

"Sect Leader, how are you feeling?" Elder Ruyan asked.

"I'm alright."

Chu Kuangren replied with a soft smile.

Upon hearing his response, Elder Ruyan felt very sympathetic toward him. "What do you mean you're alright? That is a Heavenly Punishment Seal!"

"Heh, it's just a seal. I'm still alive and breathing."

In truth, Chu Kuangren did care about the Heavenly Punishment Seal, but he believed that as long as he was still alive, there had to be a way to get rid of that seal.

Emperors of the Old could not do it.

However, it did not mean that Chu Kuangren could not too!

"Elder Ruyan, pass the word around that the Black Heaven Sect will remain secluded from the outside world for the time being. The Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation will continue operating as per usual," Chu Kuangren ordered.

Now that he had the Heavenly Punishment Seal on him, he would not be able to control the situation like he used to, should any powerful enemies were to attack them. The Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation would be their greatest insurance.

"Yes."

"Also, send people to clean up the mess from the battlefield. By my calculations, there should be some decent loot," Chu Kuangren said calmly. So many Sages, Sage Rulers, and even the two Boundary Emperors had perished there.

Hence, these people must have left behind numerous treasures.

"Alright."

Chu Kuangren left the rest of the matters for Elder Ruyan and the others to deal with.

He turned around and prepared to head back to the Towering Heavenly Palace.

Subconsciously, he attempted to utilize his spiritual power and turn his figure into a flash of light. However, the moment he stepped forward, it dawned on him that he could not do that anymore.

"Sigh, it does seem quite troublesome now."

He shook his head and sighed before he walked to the mountain exit.

When the other people saw that, a hint of concern and sorrow flashed in their eyes.

“Why are you guys standing there? Sect Leader has ordered all of you to clean up the battlefield, so stop staring at him like that.”

Elder Ruyan suppressed the concern she had for Chu Kuangren and shouted at the rest of them. Under her leadership, the Black Heaven Sect began to operate in an organized manner once again.

...

“Some real damage has been done.”

Chu Kuangren eyed the damaged surroundings of the Black Heaven Sect.

Although he had tried his best to spare the Black Heaven Sect from the battle repercussions, that final tribulation lightning was still so powerful that many parts of the Black Heaven Sect could not escape its destruction. Many buildings had collapsed into a pile of waste.

“Master, these will be rebuilt soon enough.”

Lan Yu commented beside him.

“Yes, as long as the people are still here, we’ll be good.”

Chu Kuangren nodded gently.

When he arrived at the Towering Heaven Palace, he realized that it did not sustain much damage. As such, Chu Kuangren need not have to worry about having no place to stay.

Once he entered the palace, he began looking into his body’s condition.

His subconsciousness entered his spiritual mound.

He could see that many colorful chains were interweaved inside his spiritual mound. Each one of them had huge amounts of mysterious Daoist Rhymes and runes flowing on them.

After a rough count, he counted a total of nine colorful chains.

This was the ninth-level Heavenly Punishment Seal!

It had sealed not only his spiritual power but his foundation levels, his physical body, and the Three Great Supreme Daoist Physiques as well.

Only his Immortal Body and the Universal Cauldron Physique could be used.

This could well be the key to help him break the seal.

“This Heavenly Punishment Seal seems like some sort of strange energy as well. The Universal Cauldron Physique might be able to convert it into energy, but with my spiritual power locked away, it would still take ages for me to break this seal. I wonder if there’s a way to speed up this process.”

Chu Kuangren started to ponder the options that he had right now.

His subconscious looked into the Heavenly Punishment Seal, and suddenly, his mind tingled. “This seal contains Daoist Rhymes and runes within it, and it seems like I can attempt to gain insight into it. If I can do that, it’ll undoubtedly help me a lot in breaking the seal.”

At the thought of that, Chu Kuangren calmed himself down and began to gain insights into this Heavenly Punishment Seal. He was fully immersed in its Daoist Rhymes.

Time passed very quickly.

Very soon, a whole day and night had passed.

Chu Kuangren opened his eyes. "This is too mysterious. Even Sage Rulers will find it extremely difficult to comprehend the Daoist Rhymes in this Heavenly Punishment Seal. With my cognizance, it took me a whole day only to get bits and pieces of it..."

How scary was Chu Kuangren's cognizance?

Complemented with his Meditational Clarity Trait, he could apprehend even Emperor Techniques with great speed. A full day's time should be enough for him to gain insights into two Emperor Techniques. Yet, his progress when gaining insight into this Heavenly Punishment Seal was like a drop in the ocean!

This illustrated how daunting this Heavenly Punishment Seal is.

No wonder even Emperors of Old had no means of unlocking it.

Nevertheless, Chu Kuangren realized that after a day's effort in trying to apprehend this Heavenly Punishment Seal's Daoist Rhyme, the Universal Cauldron started to show some progress. Even though the speed was still painfully slow, he saw a very tiny bit of improvement.

This proved Chu Kuangren's speculations right.

Gaining insight into the Heavenly Punishment Seal could help speed up its conversion in the Universal Cauldron Physique.

"But based on my current speed, I'm going to need up to a hundred years to gain the complete insight into this Heavenly Punishment Seal."

Chu Kuangren muttered under his breath.

Moreover, this was based on his capabilities. If it were anybody else, whether an Emperor or not, they would not be able to gain insight into it in ten thousand years.

"It's slow, but it's better than nothing."

Chu Kuangren chuckled as he shook his head.

It was fine.

Since his days of bloodshed were already well past him, it was time he lived a tranquil life and used this time to organize everything that he had learned thus far.

Chu Kuangren thought to himself.

The next day.

Black Heaven Sect, inside the Longevity Hall.

“We’ve salvaged fifty-six tattered Fairy boats, sixteen million kilograms of soulstones, seven thousand and six hundred bottles of elixirs, and four hundred and eighty-one Sage Weapons and Armors. This includes twenty-one Sage Ruler Weapons, as for Great Sage Weapons...”

Elder Ruyan was reporting to Chu Kuangren the list of items that they looted from the battlefield.

The eyes of the elders in Longevity Hall gleamed brighter and brighter.

They had gained such an immense reward this time!

Not accounting for the other items, but those several hundred pieces of Sage Weapons and Armors alone were something that the Black Heaven Sect could never have dreamed of!!

“Right. This is not too surprising.”

Chu Kuangren looked remarkably composed.

Without taking into account the six great unknown lands, the Thirty-Six Oceanic Islands from the Outer Seas alone had a huge number of Sages and a massive pile of Sage Weapons.

“These items, the Serpent Deity’s treasury that Sect Leader had brought back, and the Imperial Palace’s Opportunity of Fortune would be enough to sustain the Black Heaven Sect’s development for many years to come. I doubt we would ever need to worry about the lack of resources in the next few millennia.”

Elder Ruyan smiled and said.

Chapter 430: Missing A Madman, The Arrival Of Nine Heavens Sky-Prides

“Millenniums, you say?”

Chu Kuangren looked deep in thought. Then, he opened his mouth to speak. “No, just use them as fast as we can. We don’t have to be stingy about the resources. Please spend all these resources on our disciples, and try to finish them all up within a century or even a decade!”

Everyone gasped when they heard what Chu Kuangren said.

What?!

Finish up all the resources within a decade?!

This was way too outrageous!

“I understand that you have doubts over this, my dear elders, but you do know that with the Heavenly Punishment Seal, I’m just like any normal folk now. I need Nangong Huang and the others to grow as rapidly as they can. Hence, we shouldn’t be stingy on those resources.”

“Besides, all those disciples who chose to remain and fight along the Black Heaven Sect should be heavily prioritized in our training. Now is the best time for them to improve their cultivation, and the expenditure of resources must keep up to speed too.”

All of them immediately understood Chu Kuangren’s intentions after hearing what he said.

The Black Heaven Sect was no longer lacking in resources.

What they lacked were skilled cultivators!

Skilled cultivators who could take the world by storm!

Prior to this, this person was Chu Kuangren.

Now that he had the seal on him, his power had been significantly reduced. There was no other Chu Kuangren in this world, so the Black Heaven Sect must urgently cultivate a new generation of skilled cultivators. This would allow them to take better control of situations in the future and defend themselves against any enemies from the outside.

They could even have a go at this Era of Great Battles.

"We understand now." Elder Ruyan nodded before she looked back at Chu Kuangren with a concerned look in her eyes.

The rest of them reacted the same way.

They had already heard of the incredible terror that the Heavenly Punishment Seal brought. Any normal cultivator would feel extremely devastated when their spiritual power was stripped off like that and made them into normal folks.

Imagine what it felt like for an unparalleled sky-pride like Chu Kuangren.

From their perspective, Chu Kuangren must feel incredibly awful right now, yet he did not show any of that in front of them. Instead, he kept himself busy in dealing with the Black Heaven Sect's internal affairs.

He was a strong kid, and their hearts ached for him.

Chu Kuangren noticed the looks that they were giving him too, and he felt a little puzzled.

Hey, hey, hey. Why did everyone look like they were going to tear up?

Had he done something wrong?

"Cough. Let's stick with this for now. I shall leave the overall planning to all of you. Also, my elders, you're all Honorable and Honorable Supremes, so if you need any resources, please feel free to take any and use them."

Chu Kuangren said nonchalantly.

These elders all had chances at ascension. With all those resources that he had brought back, it should suffice for them to succeed in their respective ascensions.

By then, the Black Heaven Sect would have a few more Sages.

In today's tumultuous times, only by having a sufficient number of Sages could they refer to themselves as a strong force.

Those Honorable Supremes in the past had now become rather ordinary.

Chu Kuangren left Longevity Hall and went back to the Towering Heavenly Palace.

For the next few days, the Black Heaven Sect continued to operate in an organized manner. Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren remained in the Towering Heavenly Palace, attempting to gain insight into the Heavenly Punishment Seal.

In the outside world, things were changing at a fast pace as well.

...

There were some serious repercussions to the great battle at the Black Heaven Sect. The fall of six Sage Rulers and Boundary Emperors had made the six unknown lands suffer an unprecedented loss. Despite that, they did not have the courage to go back and seek revenge on Chu Kuangren.

Even though their enemy now had the Heavenly Punishment Seal, they still did not dare to.

That was because the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation was still there.

More importantly, no one knew whether Chu Kuangren had another trump card under his sleeves.

As long as this guy was still breathing, there was no one in this world who would dare to attack the Black Heaven Sect, no matter how ordinary of a person he had become.

Anyhow, the Black Heaven Sect remained hidden within the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation — away from the outside world.

From that day onward, the Black Heaven Sect was like a forbidden ground. They were unreachable and undetectable.

With Chu Kuangren gone, sky-prides of the Firmament Star sprung up like bamboo shoots after the spring rain. They were all competing to impress the world by showcasing all the strengths that they had.

Apart from that, following the reveal of the Heavenly Golden Palace and the rest of the five great unknown lands to the realm, the remaining unknown lands gradually introduced themselves to the world too.

The Firmament Star was ushering in a brand new era.

Approximately half a year later.

After the Qian Imperial Palace, the second Emperor's Opportunity of Fortune appeared in the realm. Countless sky-prides went forth to pursue it, but in the end, Heavenly Golden Palace's Xiao Lintian emerged as the victor.

It was just as the unknown lands had anticipated.

Since the Qian Imperial Palace, many great Emperors' Opportunities of Fortune emerged successively. All the sky-prides grabbed hold of this opportunity to make a name for themselves, rushing to catch up to the older generation of elites.

The Era of Great Battles ensued, and it became more exciting.

Despite that, some people had a feeling that something was missing.

“We’re missing a madman like Kuangren.”

Inside a random inn, a white-robed old man said sentimentally while sipping his wine. “There are indeed numerous sky-prides out there now. I’m loving all the buzz, but we’re lacking an extraordinary talent who can truly trump everyone in the world.”

Everyone else in the inn agreed with what he said.

Back then, when Chu Kuangren was still around, his sole brilliance outshone everyone else and grabbed everyone’s attention.

Now, all sky-prides had an open competition with each other, not giving each other any chance of one-upping themselves. This free-for-all competitiveness was healthy, but there was no dominating figure.

Although the scene was buzzing, it did not leave a lasting impression on the spectators.

In contrast, the Chu Kuangren back in the day had people hating on him, revering him, and fearing him. No matter hate, fear, or respect, no one would write off his capability. That was the guy who stole the limelight and defined a whole era.

It was not that the sky-prides nowadays were not good enough. They were just not as good, impressive, or unforgettable as Chu Kuangren once was.

“It’s truly the end of an era.”

One of the inn’s patrons said with great sentiment.

Just then, right outside the inn, a beam of light suddenly shot up into the sky.

An extremely strong spatial fluctuation was produced.

It captured everybody’s attention.

“What is that?”

“Could it be yet another Emperor’s Opportunity of Fortune?”

“It doesn’t look like it. There’s no Emperor’s Aura.”

“Can somebody tell me what that is?”

The crowd was quite taken aback by that.

Only that white-robed old man who was sitting at one inconspicuous corner knew what was up. He took a glance at the beam of light, and surprise flashed across his eyes. Then, he curled his lips and said, “Looks like the people from the heavens above can’t wait any longer too. They’ve descended to our mortal realm for a tour it seems.”

On top of a mountain on Firmament Star.

Suddenly, a beam of light jetted down from the skies, which generated an incredibly powerful spatial fluctuation. It shocked more than half of the cultivators on Firmament Star.

All the great one stared at that beam of light, seemingly anticipating something.

“My name is Xiao Jingchen. People of Heavenly Golden Palace, come meet me at once!!” A white-robed young man was seen stepping out of the beam of light. His commanding voice echoed throughout the entire place. The first thing he did was demand for the people of Heavenly Golden Palace.

Several flashes of light swooped across the scene.

These people were all elders from the Heavenly Golden Palace.

They looked at the white-robed young man, startled. “Xiao Jingchen... You’re that Xiao Jingchen, the first Heavenly Golden Imperial Physique of the Heavenly Golden Palace from tens of thousand years ago? Why are you here?!”

“Long story short, I’ve come from the Nine Heavens this time to pursue the Emperors’ Opportunities of Fortune on Firmament Star. I hope that all of you will give me a hand.”

Xiao Jingchen said indifferently.

The elders were all incredibly emotional when they heard what he said.

This guy was the Heavenly Golden Palace’s first ever Heavenly Golden Imperial Physique, the legend in their history books. In terms of raw power, he was definitely much stronger than his successor, Xiao Lintian.

“We will all give our best!”

“Very well. Go back and make the necessary preparations. It’s not just me. Those folks from the Nine Heavens will soon arrive as well.”

Xiao Jingchen said flatly, “I’ve been in a deep slumber for so long waiting for this day. This time, no one can stop me on my road to becoming an Emperor!”

Within a few months after Xiao Jingchen showed up, more beams of light descended from the skies. One after another, sky-prides with unfamiliar faces gradually showed up in the realm.

With that, the two words ‘Nine Heavens’ slowly began to grab the headlines.