

Chaotic 111

Chapter 111: Peaceful at Last

Just as Jian Chen entered the house, he saw Captain Kendall sitting with the other members eating breakfast. On the table was a huge steaming plate of beef.

“Jian Chen, come and eat! Today we shall be hunting, so you need to eat your fill so that you can be full of energy when you’re fighting against the magical beasts.” Kendall motioned for Jian Chen to sit down next to him at the long table.

Hu Po tore a piece of beef off and began to chew it, “That’s right, today we must eat until our stomachs are full. If we come across a strong magical beast, if we can’t kill it, we can at least run away.”

Kendall looked at Hu Po with a disapproving look, “Hu Po, do you really want us to come across a magical beast we cannot defeat? If we come across a Class 4 Magical Beast that specializes in speed, then the lives of our group will be forfeited to the Magic Beast Mountain Range.”

“Kendall, I’m not just full of hot air. We have to take this seriously I know. While Class 4 Magical Beasts scare me, we aren’t going to the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, so we won’t be seeing any Class 4 Magical Beasts there.” Hu Po said.

Sitting down on the table, Jian Chen took a piece of beef and chewed it with his mouth, “Uncle Kendall, what Hu Po said isn’t wrong. Class 4 Magical Beasts are generally within the depths of the mountain range, as long as we don’t go too far in, then we won’t see any.” Jian Chen had spent a decent amount of time there, so he was familiar with the environment there.

“Something like that can’t be guaranteed.” Kendall’s face grew serious as he looked around the table, “Even though we’re only going to be around the outskirts of the mountain range, no one should drop their guard. While the majority of Class 4 Magical Beasts reside in the depths of the mountain range, there are still a few exceptions. A few bored Class 4 Magical Beasts could chase a few weaker ones to the outskirts of the mountain range. Something like this can happen, on the Tian Yuan Continent, this is not a rare occurrence, it has happened many times before.”

Jian Chen nodded his head at this. He agreed with Captain Kendall’s words because he had read many times in books that strong magical beasts would occasionally come out of their usual place as a result of boredom. However, this didn’t happen enough for it to be extremely probable. In Jian Chen’s time in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had never met a Class 4 Magical Beast while on the outskirts of the mountain range, and even Class 3 Magical Beasts were rare there.

“This piece of information is something we all know, and while we haven’t yet come across such an event, some others have. Alright, Kendall, stop talking about it, it makes everyone’s heart feel heavy. If we really come across such an event, then it’ll be our bad luck. Lets just eat for now and then hit the road.” The next one to speak was the one who wasn’t that much younger than Captain Kendall, as well as being one of the strongest mercenaries in the group—Deere. With the strength of a Peak Great Saint, he was already close to becoming a Saint Master.

The moment Deere spoke, everyone became calm once more and resumed eating from the plate of beef. In a flash, the platter of beef had quickly been wiped clean, leaving behind only bits and pieces.

After the food was finished, everyone immediately set out on the road. Within their group of 10, only Jian Chen was riding on horseback while everyone else walked on foot.

“Jian Chen, when we get to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, what will you do about your horse? You can’t possibly bring the horse in there.” Kendall asked Jian Chen.

Hearing Kendall, Jian Chen began to laugh as he patted the white mane of his horse. “There’s still 20 kilometers until we arrive at the mountain range. When we get there, I’ll let the horse go.”

Xiao Dao immediately bounded forward when he heard what Jian Chen said and cried out, “That can’t be, Jian Chen! Could it be you want to let the horse go free? You’re wasting such a large amount of money.”

Jian Chen could only laugh and say, “If I’m letting it go, then why not let it have its freedom? On such a large continent, whether or not it can survive, it’ll be up to its luck.” Horses were the most common of animals on the continent as well as the most inferior and abundant type of transportation. Wild animals were also able to absorb the World Essence and eat a few treasures to become magical beasts. Even these horses had the ability to become one. Jian Chen had once read that 100 years ago, there was a horse with the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast, however, its potential was limited and its innate ability was lacking. Advancing in strength for them was a difficult path as well as a long one.

Even though most of the people were walking on foot, the journey was progressing quickly. After two hours of traveling, everyone had finally reached the foot of the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Seeing the verdant plant life in front of him, Jian Chen disembarked from his horse and headed into the forest along with the group. The white horse stayed behind, but Jian Chen knew that after a while, it would leave by itself.

“From here on out, be careful everyone. Although the forests here have more wild animals than magical beasts, that doesn’t mean we can drop our guards.” Captain Kendall looked at everyone solemnly before continuing to say, “Deere, Hu Po and I will walk in front of the group, Zhou Da Kai, Zhou Xiao Kai and Chang Ning Feng will walk behind the group. The rest will be in between us six.”

After that, the group maintained the position ordered by Kendall and moved onward. On the road, although many wild animals had attacked them, their strength was incomparable to the Class 1 Magical Beasts who were also not a threat to their group.

After 6 hours, the Flame Mercenaries finally reached the other side of the forest and entered the outskirts of the Magical Beast Mountain Range where the Class 1 Magical Beasts resided.

Captain Kendall who was walking ahead of the group twisted his head back and said to everyone, “Everyone prepare yourself to fight! From here on out, Class 1 and 2 Magical Beasts will be roaming around.”

However even before Captain Kendall had warned everyone, everyone but Jian Chen had already long since prepared themselves for battle and stared around themselves intensely.

The group continued to walk into the outskirts of the mountain range, but after walking for 4 hours, they had not seen a single Magical Beast.

Within the group, Jian Chen continued to walk with his eyes flickering with indifference. With each step he took, he was already aware of every finite detail of the magical beast's activity around them. However, whenever a magical beast was hiding in the tall bushes 10 meters away from them, they would retreat. Not a single one would dare attack them, leaving Jian Chen to be perplexed beyond belief on why they were doing that.

"Could it be that the magical beasts have realized the strength of our group and don't want to die?" Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together as he thought to himself. When he had been in the Magical Beast Mountain Range before, he had never come across such behavior.

Unable to take it anymore, Jian Chen asked, "Uncle Kendall, do you not feel as if something is wrong?"

Jian Chen's question had been heard by the sensitive ears of everyone in the group. The entire group turned around to look at him as Kendall asked, "Jian Chen, what exactly is wrong here?"

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before saying, "This place is where Class 1 Magical Beasts roam about, so why is it we have not come across a single one yet?"

Upon hearing this, everyone let loose a relieved breath of air. They had thought that Jian Chen actually had something in mind that was related to an unfavorable event.

Kendall laughed and said, "Jian Chen, this is actually very common. Although this is the roaming grounds for Class 1 Magical Beasts, but the Magical Beast Mountain Range is vast, and this is only just one of the many roads. Not coming across a magical beast isn't rare, every single time we've entered here in the past it has been like this."

Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together even more, in his heart, he knew that this wasn't how it was supposed to be.

"Captain Kendall, could it be that you've never come across a Class 1 Magical Beast yet?" Jian Chen asked.

"It's not that, we just merely don't see one often. The majority of the beasts that appear are Class 2 and 3. Of course, there are times where we don't see a single Class 1 Magical Beast at all." He answered Jian Chen's questions patiently.

"Captain Kendall, then on average, how many Monster Cores do you usually get?" Jian Chen asked.

"Not too few," Captain Kendall thought about it before saying, "On average, we can get 4 or 5 Class 2 Monster Cores in a single day, and maybe 6 or 7 if our luck is good. Class 3 Monster Cores will be less since Class 3 Magical Beasts don't roam around here as often. So the chances of seeing one are slim, and since Class 3 Magical Beasts are hard to kill as well, it'll be difficult for us to avoid any injuries. For that reason, if we come across any Class 3 Magical Beast, we try not to provoke it."

Kendall paused for a moment before saying, "When Deere makes a breakthrough to a Saint Master, then with our combined strength, it will be easy to kill a Class 3 Magical Beast. However, until Deere becomes a Saint Master, we need to do our best and avoid Class 3 Magical Beasts. Although Class 3 Monster Cores sell for a higher price than Class 2 Monster Cores, I don't wish to see any casualties. If we get a little bit more money in exchange for our lives, what use would that be?"

Chapter 112: Fighting the Black Tiger

Hearing Captain Kendall, Jian Chen nodded his head in approval. His impression of Kendall had once more grown, the evil in Kendall's heart was no more than Jian Chen's own in his previous life. With a selfless attitude like that, no person would refuse to lay down their lives for such a captain. Most importantly, with the captain's strength of a Primary Saint Master, although he couldn't kill a Class 3 Magical Beast by himself, he could at least give Class 2 Magical Beasts a hard time. It was a shame that he didn't fight Class 2 Magical Beasts by himself, if he did his profits would be much higher. To join with Saints and Great Saints to hunt and kill magical beasts, although the profit distribution was merit based, his own profits would still be many times smaller than going solo. In fact, the difference would be so huge that it wouldn't even be half the amount of what he could get by himself.

With hearing just this bit, Jian Chen truly admired Captain Kendall. However, when it came to Captain Kendall and the amount of profit they earned in the Magical Beast Forest in the past, he was shocked into silence. With the captain being of the Saint Master level and 5 other members being Great Saints, it was truly a pathetic amount of monster cores that they earned. Jian Chen just couldn't believe it, when he had gone solo within the Magical Beast Mountain Range, in the span of a day, he had collected at least 20 Class 2 Magical Beast Cores. Even Class 3 Monster Cores had numbered around a dozen. Compared to what the Flame Mercenaries got, the difference between the two truly could not be compared.

At that moment, Jian Chen's ear trembled slightly as he turned his head to look at the tall grass nearby. Inside, he could sense the movement of a magical beast moving about from 10 meters away. However, this magical beast was barely making any movements, so even Captain Kendall wasn't able to detect its presence.

The magical beast paused for a moment, as if it were hesitating before it decided if it wanted to attack the group Jian Chen was in. In the end, it silently retreated.

Sensing the magical beast's retreat, Jian Chen's mind was filled with doubt.

"What's happening? Could it be that the magical beasts have recognized the strength of our group and realized that its own strength was only enough to send itself to its death?" Jian Chen wondered, but as he thought about that, another question came into his mind. With the magical beast being so low in strength, how could it possibly have the knowledge to make such a decision?

When Jian Chen had traveled to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, no matter if it was a Class 1 or 2 Magical Beast, or even a Class 3 Magical Beast, they would scurry out of their hiding spots to attack him. Even if they were in a hidden area, they would try to make a sneak attack, making this situation a lot more different than what Jian Chen was expecting.

"Just what is going on, could it be our group has too many people in it? That could be why the magical beasts aren't attacking." Jian Chen looked backward with a doubtful look. On this single road, he had only seen the traces of a single magical beast.

At that moment, a black blur came rushing out of the tall grass toward Captain Kendall who was at the front of the group.

Everyone had already prepared themselves for this situation. So the moment the black blur came into view, it had already been spotted by Kendall and Deere. Looking at the incoming target, Kendall laughed and cried out, "One finally came!". A large axe sharp enough to cut the air around it appeared in his hand. With a fluid motion, the axe was swung in a downward motion toward the black blur.

When Kendall had begun to attack, Deere stood behind him with his broadsword out and ready to swing.

"Ding!"

Kendall's axe and the black blur made contact in midair, creating a large explosion of sound. The black blur came to a grinding halt as the axe was sent recoiling backward.

The black blur flew backwards into the air for five meters before landing back down on the ground. The moment it touched the ground, every single member of the group got to see what had just attacked them. It was a tiger whose mane was completely black. Both paws had many sharpened claws, while some of them had even looked to be stained with blood.

"Brothers, surround it!" Kendall called out before grabbing his axe to once more attack the black tiger. Hu Po, Chang Ning Feng and the two Zhou twins encircled the black tiger in all four directions in order to prevent it from getting away. Deere, who had the power of a Great Saint, entered the circular ring and began to fight it with Kendall.

This Black Tiger was only a Class 2 Magical Beast, and with a Saint Master and a Peak Great Saint fighting it, this Black Tiger didn't have a chance of surviving. In a flash, the Black Tiger's body was filled with wounds as blood flowed freely from it. As a result, its normally black body was dyed red.

Jian Chen, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan stood and watched the battle from afar. While the magical beast had a natural superiority in instincts, this was only a Class 2 Magical Beast that was no match for a Great Saint. So for this battle, Xiao Dao and the other two Saints were unable to intervene without fear of risking a serious injury.

Watching Kendall and Deere fight it out, Xiao Dao was very eager to join in on the fight. Observing the two fight with the Black Tiger, Xiao Dao looked as if he had wanted nothing more than to reincarnate into Kendall and fight against the Black Tiger for a countless number of rounds.

"I have to work hard and cultivate so that I can become a Saint Master quickly. This way, I can hunt and kill Class 2 Magical Beasts by myself." Xiao Dao remarked as he bit his lips in determination.

Hearing this, Yun Xuan who was standing by his side laughed and said, "Xiao Dao, your strength right now should be at the Middle Saint so its still far in the future until you become a Saint Master. With your cultivation talent, you should be around 40 years old before you become a Saint Master, if not older."

"Forty years old, so what? Didn't Captain become a Saint Master at that age? Either way, I'll eventually reach the Saint Master level." Xiao Dao replied in a slightly dissatisfied tone. With a yearning expression reflected in his gaze, he muttered, "Wait until I gain the strength of a Saint Master. Then I can adventure around Magical Beast Mountain Range alone, and fight the magical beasts at close quarters, one-on-one. It will be an impressive sight."

Seeing Xiao Dao's expression of yearning, Yun Xuan grudgingly shook his head and inwardly whispered to himself, "Are Saint Masters that amazing? All they do is bully Class 2 Magical Beasts. You think that a Saint Master's strength is enough for them to rampage around Magical Beast Mountain Range without fear?" Yun Xuan turned around to look at Jian Chen as he said, "Hey, Jian Chen, how many times have you entered Magical Beast Mountain Range? You're so small; could it be that it's only your first time?"

Jian Chen indifferently replied, "This should be my second time." Although Jian Chen had entered the forest at Kargath Academy and killed magical beasts there in the past, that experience couldn't possibly count formally. In addition, the magical beasts there had been raised by the academy, so Jian Chen simply ignored that experience..

Yun Xuan's eyes lit up. He immediately showed interest and impatiently asked, "Then how many people were with you when you first entered? How powerful were they? Did you have any experts as formidable as Kendall?"

Jian Chen turned around to eye Yun Xuan. After hesitating for a bit, he said, "The first time I entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range, I was alone. However..."

Before Jian Chen had even finished speaking, he was interrupted by Yun Xuan, "What, you entered Magical Beast Mountain Range alone your first time? Wow, Jian Chen, I really look up to you."

Jian Chen bitterly smiled and replied, "Yun Xuan, there's no need to speak so loudly. When I had entered Magical Beast Mountain Range alone my first trip, I had only wandered around the surrounding areas."

Yun Xuan looked at Jian Chen with an expression of admiration and said, "Jian Chen, I really respect you, especially your courage. You are really bold; could it be that you didn't know that even the surrounding areas of Magical Beast Mountain Range are extremely dangerous? Encountering a Class 1 Magical Beast is fine; if you can't beat it, there's still a chance to flee. But if you meet a Class 2 Magical Beast, then your young life would be finished on the spot." Yun Xuan patted his chest and he said with a trace of lingering fear, "However, a youngster like you was extremely fortunate to not have met such magical beasts. Otherwise, you most likely would've been doomed."

"That's right, Jian Chen. From now, you mustn't come to the Magical Beast Mountain Range alone. Although our journey so far has been very tranquil, you definitely cannot underestimate the Magical Beast Forest just because of that." Xiao Dao said solemnly, his expression serious.

Jian Chen bitterly smiled at the two's words and replied, "Alright, I understand. For now, let's just go back to watching Captain's fight with Black Tiger. Watching this scene is really beneficial for you guys. You can at least learn some battle patterns; they would be pretty useful later on."

Kabolds stood by Jian Chen's side, his shocked gaze locked onto Jian Chen. He surveyed Jian Chen's body up and down a few times, and his eyes flashed brightly with an expression of indefinite bewilderment. However, he didn't say a word, and quietly stood there, motionless and silent.

Hearing Jian Chen's words, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan really did stop talking, and returned their attention to the fight and concentrated on what was happening in front of them.

Kendall and Deere continued to fight the Black Tiger for about the same amount of time it took for a cup of tea to be made. While the entire body of the Black Tiger was filled with wounds and blood, the

combatants had finally brought out the true extent of the tiger's ferocity. With its life on the line, the Black Tiger's strength didn't falter at all and began to dodge the moves of the humans nimbly. With each dodge, it tried to strike back at Kendall and Deere.

Chapter 113: A Reveal of Strength

"Ha!" Kendall shouted. The large axe made of his Saint Force swung behind him in a motion to chop off the head of the Black Tiger.

The Black Tiger dodged the battle axe by leaping into the air toward Kendall. Extending its jaws, the Black Tiger prepared to bite down onto him.

Immediately bringing back the battle axe, Kendall brought his Saint Weapon up to defend himself, allowing the Black Tiger to make contact with that instead. The sharp fangs of the Black Tiger made contact with the hardened weapon with a crunching sound. The force of the impact was so strong that Kendall couldn't help but stagger back a few steps as trail marks were left on the ground.

Not too long after, the paws of the Black Tiger landed on the ground. Before Kendall could regain his composure, the sharp claws of the tiger slashed at Kendall's chest.

Kendall became alarmed at the speed of the claws. With his axe being bitten and held down by the tiger, it was useless in this case. At this crucial moment, Kendall sucked in a deep breath and readied his body. At the same time, the Black Tiger's sharp claws slashed across his chest with a cold ripping sound as his clothes were ripped apart. Along with his clothes, Kendall's blood splattered into the air as the claws made contact.

This time, although Captain Kendall had taken the claws to his chest head on since there wasn't enough time to dodge, it was only a superficial wound. He had been worried that the claws would have brought out a larger amount of damage, but this didn't seem to be the case.

Just as the Black Tiger raked its claws across Kendall's chest, a large broadsword chopped down onto the tiger's back with a ferocious amount of force. As the sword met the tiger's back, a large wound could be seen, but thanks to the resilience of the tiger, the wound was only the size of a palm in length.

As he watched the fight with the Black Tiger, Jian Chen shook his head helplessly. In his eyes, whether it was Kendall or Deere, neither of the two had shown their superiority with their weapons. Just looking at how they held the weapon, it was almost as if they didn't know how to use them. They had swung wildly without any sort of form or discipline.

It was Deere who had annoyed Jian Chen the most. Every single weapon had its own characteristics and special pattern of attack. Deere didn't know how to use a sword at all, so the sword in his hand wasn't able to show off its true power. Deere had even unexpectedly at times used the sword like a knife and recklessly chopped at his enemy.

As the battle continued, Captain Kendall and Deere had accumulated a few tiny wounds. At the same time, the Black Tiger suddenly faced the skies and released a roar that shook the heavens, destroying the silent atmosphere of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Right after the shout, the Black Tiger suddenly released another few strikes before dodging both fighters and turning around to run away.

"Careful, it wants to run."

“Block it, for the love of everything don’t let it run away!”

Standing where the Black Tiger was attempting to run away to was Chang Ning Feng. Seeing the incoming magical beast, the glint in his eyes never stopped as he brought out his sword in front of him. With a large amount of Saint Force focused into his sword, he stabbed at the Black Tiger. At such a crucial moment like this, he had to make sure he focused everything on this one strike in order to avoid a long and drawn out battle.

While Chang Ning Feng moved to initiate combat, the other mercenaries weren’t idle. Kendall and Deere quickly ran forward to attack the Black Tiger from behind.

“Hou!” The Black Tiger emitted another deep growl as it lashed out with its claws once more. Its front paws smashed into Chang Ning Feng’s sword, causing it to shake from the strong force. Afterward, the Black Tiger opened its mouth wide and snapped at Chang Ning Feng.

Chang Ning Feng retreated backward while his sword went up ready to parry. Instead, he stabbed at the incoming bite.

“Ding!”

Although the sword did not penetrate the Black Tiger’s mouth, it had swiped against the fangs of the beast as it reared its head backward. Biting down on the sword, the tiger had prevented Chang Ning Feng from pulling his sword out and fighting with it.

“Bastard, go die!”

At this moment, a loud sound came from behind the Black Tiger. It was Captain Kendall who had quickly approached it from behind with his large axe raised high into the air, emitting a loud sound as it chopped down onto the tiger’s back. At the same time, Deere and a few other Saints began to approach the tiger from Chang Ning Feng’s side and tried to obstruct the Black Tiger.

The Black Tiger released its hold on the sword as it turned to face Captain Kendall behind it with his axe raised. Dodging his axe swiftly, the Black Tiger did not manage to come out unscathed as the axe clipped its body and cut away a patch of fur.

“Aooo!”

The Black Tiger let out a pain filled roar as it turned around and sped off in the opposite direction. However just as it began to run, Jian Chen and the others saw that it was heading toward them, leaving them no choice but to take part in the fight.

Seeing the direction the Black Tiger was going, Xiao Dao and Yun Xuan’s face changed drastically as they cried out in shock and turned toward the side to escape from it. Kabolds was the first to avoid the Black Tiger with an extremely fast speed, running far away. Soon, it was only Jian Chen who stood his ground by himself without a single trace of fear on his face.

“Jian Chen, dodge quickly!” Kendall yelled out before dashing forward in an attempt to block off the Black Tiger from its path. However even with his Saint Master strength, his speed wasn’t enough to catch up with the Class 2 Magical Beast.

Seeing Jian Chen block its path, the Black Tiger's eyes grew crimson as it released another roar. Quickly afterward, it increased its speed toward Jian Chen.

Seeing how Jian Chen stood his ground without any consideration of moving, the members of the Flame Mercenaries could only cry out in regret as they watched the scene unfold before them.

In regards to Jian Chen's strength, everyone had only thought that he had the strength of a Saint. If a Great Saint had difficulties fighting this Black Tiger, then a Saint would definitely have no chance of resisting it. Even though the Black Tiger had already sustained plenty of wounds, the serious state it was in had aroused its ferocious nature. Its fighting strength hadn't taken a decrease in intensity, instead, it had only grown stronger.

Seeing the Black Tiger pounce toward him, Jian Chen's previously dull expression suddenly flashed with a cold light. His two fingers wide and 1.33 meter long silver Light Wind Sword abruptly appeared in his right hand. The only thing that could be seen was a silver light flashing in front of the Black Tiger. At the same time, Jian Chen's body also whirled around, leaning toward the side, about one step away from where he had previously been standing.

"Peng!"

The Black Tiger's enormous and cumbersome body heavily fell to the ground where Jian Chen originally had stood. Its body showed no signs of movement at all. The next instant, crimson blood began to rush out of the Black Tiger's neck, and gradually pour over the uneven ground, spreading in all directions.

Just as he was swiftly charging forward, Captain Kendall's advancement was abruptly halted. He stared blankly at the Black Tiger that was now motionless on the ground. Kendall quietly stood in his tracks as he looked at Jian Chen, who stood there with an unchanged expression. Kendall's eyes were filled with astonishment and incredulity; he had just seen an unimaginably fast, blurred figure of a sword flash before the Black Tiger's eyes at an insane speed. Right after, the Black Tiger had collapsed to the ground, completely still.

Captain Kendall's gaze finally fell onto the two fingers wide silver sword in Jian Chen's hand. He noticed that there wasn't a single trace of blood dirtying the glossy and dazzling blade. Yet it was because of this that Kendall felt even more shocked. In the short instant he looked at Jian Chen, his gaze changed countless times: from doubt to amazement, from disbelief to shock, the emotions flickering through his eyes one after another.

At that moment, the remaining five Saints finally rushed over. They hadn't yet discovered that the Black Tiger was already dead. The five of them charged forward and surrounded the Black Tiger, and they immediately began to strike toward the Black Tiger's body with their Saint Weapons in their hands.

"This magical beast has already died. Everyone, there's no need to fight it anymore."

Just as the five mercenaries were about to pierce the Black Tiger's body, Captain Kendall's slightly trembling voice rang out.

Hearing this, the five Great Saints all had blank looks on their faces. The Saint that had just struck downward had also forcibly stopped his movement midair. Immediately afterward, the five people's gazes all shifted in unison to the Black Tiger's body that had fallen before them, closely inspecting it.

Only now did the five people clearly see that there was fresh blood violently spurting out of the Black Tiger's neck. The Black Tiger's red eyes that had originally held a fierce and terrible glint had now become spiritless voids.

"Strange, how did this Black Tiger die? Wasn't it jumping around healthy and alive just a second ago? How did it suddenly die?" Hu Po asked in confusion.

Hearing this, the remaining four Great Saints all glanced at each other with doubtful expressions.

Captain Kendall stared long and hard at Jian Chen and said, "This Black Tiger was killed by Jian Chen."

"What, Jian Chen killed it? Captain, are you serious?" Hearing Captain Kendall's words, Xiao Dao jumped up, and one could tell from his expression that he wasn't quite convinced.

Xiao Dao wasn't the only one having difficulty accepting this; everyone in the Raging Flames Mercenary Group had expressions of disbelief on their faces after hearing those words.

Chapter 114: Zhou Mercenaries

Everyone in the Flame mercenaries had thought that Jian Chen's strength was of the Saint level. Even his mercenary badge had declared him to be a D ranked mercenary, and the most important factor was that Jian Chen was so young as well. On the Tian Yuan Continent, if a 20 year old was able to become a Saint, then their strength was bright and their potential was unimaginable. For a seemingly 20 year old like Jian Chen who was capable of killing a Class 2 Magical Beast, even if it was injured, no one in the proximity would have been able to believe it if they hadn't seen it. However, aside from Captain Kendall, no one saw the faint hazy outline of the sword, or how Jian Chen had killed the Black Tiger.

Kendall's eyes wavered on the slender sword of Jian Chen's for a moment before growing calm once more and laughed, "If you guys don't believe it, then go ask Jian Chen yourself." There was a smile on his face as he said this, but how could he not be happy? There was one more expert in his group now.

Xiao Dao was the first to give in. Running up to Jian Chen while looking at him from up to down, his eyes finally settled onto the blood free Light Wind Sword, "Jian Chen, please tell me honestly, did you kill the Black Tiger?"

Seeing the look of disbelief on Xiao Dao's face, Jian Chen nodded his head and said, "That's correct, I killed it." From the very beginning, Jian Chen hadn't planned on hiding his strength with lies, so he was very straightforward and honest with Xiao Dao.

"Wow, no way!" Xiao Dao's eyes widened in surprise. In disbelief, Xiao Dao looked at the calm Jian Chen and spoke, "This fierce Class 2 Magical Beast was really killed by you? How did you do that and how come I didn't see how you did it?"

Hearing Xiao Dao ask these questions, everyone but Kendall stared at Jian Chen attentively. Whatever method Jian Chen had used to kill the Class 2 Magical Beast, it was natural for them all to be curious. To them, all they saw was Jian Chen suddenly move to the side while using his thin and slender sword in a strange way to kill the Black Tiger, but none of them had figured out how or what method was used.

In the midst of everyone, there was only one person who looked at Jian Chen differently. It was Kabolds who stared at Jian Chen in a way that looked as if to say to himself, "It was as just as I thought"

Jian Chen let a grim smile take hold of his lips as he raised his Light Wind Sword. "I used my Saint Weapon to kill the beast, if you guys didn't see it, it's because my movements were too fast to catch."

Hearing what Jian Chen said, Captain Kendall thought back to the flash of silver he had just seen and couldn't help but be afraid. This was because he had no choice but to admit that Jian Chen's sword was just far too quick and he could only see the faint afterimage of the sword. At this moment, Captain Kendall couldn't help but think, if he were to battle an opponent who possessed such speed, would he be able to dodge their attacks?

Chang Ning Feng looked at the corpse of the Black Tiger below and kicked it. The body of the Black Tiger flipped over by his kick before he bent down to grab the Black Tiger's head to reveal the cut on its neck

As everyone saw the fatal blow on the Black Tiger's neck, even Captain Kendall couldn't help but take in a sharp breath because the wound was way too deep. Just looking at the neck one could see that two thirds of it had been completely cut off. Only one third of the skin was attached to the rest of the body making it seem as if the head of the Black Tiger was about to snap off at any moment.

What was even more unimaginable was that the Black Tiger had clearly leapt toward him so fast that it looked as if it was gliding. For Jian Chen to accurately deliver a fatal blow to its throat, this was an act of skill no one else in the group could match.

Deere took in a deep breath of air to calm his beating heart as he looked at Jian Chen. With a smile, he said, "Jian Chen, before we had only thought that you were a Saint, but it seems like your strength was far beyond our imagination. You really did keep us in the dark."

Hu Po walked on over to Jian Chen and extended his hand onto Jian Chen's shoulder, "Jian Chen, you are far too mean! Be honest with me. How strong are you? You can't be even more amazing than our captain, right?"

Hearing what Hu Po said, Jian Chen could only laugh helplessly, "Brother Hu Po, I'm nowhere as amazing as you say. My strength isn't too far away from yours, I am a Middle Great Saint."

"That's not right, how could a Middle Great Saint kill a Class 2 Magical Beast so easily?" Hu Po said with surprise, but instead of asking Jian Chen, he turned around to talk to everyone else, "First, let's take care of the body of the Black Tiger before we continue talking about this."

Even as they obeyed Hu Po's command, everyone was still doubtful. However, they didn't say anything and started to prepare the Black Tiger.

"This Black Tiger was quite amazing. Even though it had the strength of a Class 2 Magical Beast, it was faster than a Class 3 Magical Beast. After taking the Monster Core, put the rest of the body within a Space Belt so we can sell it for a great amount of money." Kendall said.

On the Tian Yuan Continent, with regards to the type of meat consumed, other than regular beef, most of them came from magical beasts. Magical Beast meat was not only tender, but it even smelled good too. Another good benefit was that eating it would also help reinforce the body, thus Magical Beast meat were considered a hot selling item. When it came to high leveled magical beasts, the supply could never meet the demand.

Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword back into his body and watched as the mercenaries stored away the body of the Black Tiger. He didn't care that it was a Class 2 Magical Beast since he could easily kill a Class 3 Magical Beast at any time. In the hands of Jian Chen, the magical beasts had no way of escaping. The Flame Mercenaries were different, they had only 1 Saint Master, even with their strengths combined, they couldn't be compared to Jian Chen. Killing a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast had been difficult for them, and if it weren't for the fact that Jian Chen had blocked the Black Tiger, they wouldn't have been able to catch up to it. These magical beasts could be said to be like fish in water; different from humans, their movements wouldn't be restricted by the lush forest environment.

Jian Chen's ears trembled once more and he turned his head to the side. As his eyes landed on top of a few bushes that started to shake violently, a group of 20 mercenaries wearing steel helmets and full body armor walked into their line of sight.

Just as the fully armed mercenaries walked into their sights, everyone in the Flame Mercenaries immediately stopped what they were doing and watched the 20 mercenaries with a tense expression.

The leader of the 20 mercenaries looked at the Flame Mercenaries with a cold glare and then at the halfway stored Black Tiger. With a wave of his hands, he barked out, "Onward!", commanding the rest of the mercenaries to walk past the Flame Mercenaries without looking back before finally melting out of sight. In the group's eyes, the Flame Mercenaries weren't even worth a glance.

"Those were the Zhou Mercenaries, I didn't think we'd come across them here." After the iron clad mercenaries left, Hu Po let out a breath of air.

"Brother Hu Po, are the Zhou Mercenaries that well known?" Jian Chen asked.

Hu Po nodded his head in response, "While the Zhou Mercenaries aren't considered the strongest in Wake City, the residents of Wake City will say that the Zhou Mercenaries are for sure within the top 10. Their group has around 50 people with their leader at the Peak Saint Master level. Under his direct command are 6 Middle Saint Masters with around 20 Great Saints. Their strength is so enormous that our Flame Mercenaries definitely cannot provoke them. Plus, the Zhou Mercenaries have the backing of one of the strongest clans in Wake City – the Zhou Clan. With this, there aren't many in Wake City that could challenge them."

"Oh!" Jian Chen looked to where the Zhou Mercenaries disappeared to, their image not disappearing from his mind.

"Jian Chen, if you come across such a person or group in the Magical Beast Mountain Range in the future, please be careful. The Magical Beast Mountain Range is a common place for people to be killed over their items; there are even some people who are mercenaries, but their actions place them on the same level as a bandit." Kendall warned Jian Chen with a serious and grave face.

Seeing how serious Kendall was, Jian Chen nodded his head, "I'll be careful."

After that, the Black Tiger's corpse had been properly stored within a Space Belt. "Right now we are in an area where Class 2 Magical Beasts roam, any deeper and Class 3 Magical Beasts will be found. So for our sake, let's start to wander around here."

Soon after, Kendall and Deere began to address their wounds which were thankfully not very deep and wouldn't affect their fighting strength by too much. With a little preparation, the two were ready to get back on the road while staying vigilant of their surroundings.

After traveling a short distance, Jian Chen had detected the footprints of another magical beast, but this time it was just like the magical beast before the Black Tiger. This magical beast was using the cover of the forest to hide 10 meters away from the mercenaries before silently retreating.

Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together as he tried to understand just what was happening. On the road, aside from killing that one Class 2 Magical Beast Black Tiger, he had detected the presence of at least 10 different magical beasts, but none of them had been like the Black Tiger and attacked them.

"Could it be that it's because there are too many people that the magical beasts are afraid to attack us?" Jian Chen asked himself. However, this thought was immediately dismissed for it made no sense at all.

Chapter 115: A Generous Profit

Jian Chen stared at the mercenaries walking in front of him when a flash of realization came, "Of course, it's intimidation! This has to be due to the murderous air we're emitting." Jian Chen's eyes sparkled as he came to this realization. After seeing so many magical beasts retreat without a fight from this group, it had, after all, been because the entire group was releasing an intimidating amount of killing intent into the air around them.

Although the magical beasts lacked wisdom, they were born with superior genetics that granted them formidable instincts. The moment they sensed an opponent they wouldn't be able to beat their primal instincts would urge them to immediately cower and run away.

Thinking about this, Jian Chen opened his mouth, "One moment please, everyone suppress your killing intent. Otherwise, we'll just continue about this path without seeing another magical beast."

Kendall turned his head in the manner of a fox as he asked, "Jian Chen, is that useful?"

"Whether it's useful or not will be known after everyone tries it for themselves." Jian Chen didn't want to bother to explain.

Hearing what Jian Chen had said, Kabolds began to think to himself for a moment as the glint in his eye grew brighter and brighter. "Everyone should believe in Jian Chen for now, these past few times we entered the Magical Beast Forest we would always come across only a few Class 1 Magical Beasts. I had always found this to be strange, but until now, I hadn't an answer for it, so we can't outrule what Jian Chen has said here."

"So even Kabolds would say something like this, then let's follow Jian Chen's suggestion," said the elder of the Zhou twins.

Kabolds had only the strength of a Saint, but he was extremely smart. His past suggestions had been of great benefit to the Flame Mercenaries before, so everyone would readily agree with what he said.

After a while, everyone had slowly started to suppress their killing intent to the point where not even a small amount could be felt leaking out.

Just as everyone finished suppressing their killing intent, they barely traveled 3 kilometers, before a Class 1 Magical Beast appeared. This made every single member of the Flame Mercenaries happy at the new change of events. Although a Class 1 Monster Core was worth less than a Class 2 Monster Core, killing a Class 1 Magical Beast was an easy task. As long as there were Class 1 Magical Beasts, the road ahead of them would be filled with generous profit.

“Haha, so we finally came across a Class 1 Magical Beast. Captain Kendall, please allow me, Kabolds and Yun Xuan to deal with this one.” Xiao Dao cried out in joy as a small dagger appeared in his hand. Striking at the magical beast, Kabolds and Yun Xuan followed behind quickly.

Seeing the small knife in Xiao Dao’s hand, Jian Chen shook his head in exasperation. No wonder he was called Xiao Dao, it was because his Saint Weapon had been a tiny blade. Turning his gaze over to Kabolds and Yun Xuan, both wielded a two-handed sword.

TL Note: Xiao Dao means small knife

Xiao Dao and the other two began to engage the Class 1 Magical Beast in an intense fight since their strengths weren’t all that different from the magical beast. After a while of the three fighting it at such a dangerously close distance, the cooperation of the three mercenaries finally killed the magical beast.

None of the Great Saints like Jian Chen had any desire to join in on the fight since all of them had fully believed that the three Saints would be able to take care of the Class 1 Magical Beast.

Continuing onward, the group couldn’t walk for long without coming across a few Class 1 and even some Class 2 Magical Beasts. But this type of outcome had proved to everyone how Jian Chen’s theory was true.

By nightfall, the group had found a place to rest in and prepared a big campfire. While eating the meat from a magical beast for dinner, they had begun to tidy up the profits they had earned today.

Sitting in front of the campfire was Captain Kendall who watched the flames flicker and dance with a smile as a pile of monster cores sat next to him.

“Everyone, right now let’s talk about today’s harvest.” Kendall laughed as he looked around himself.

“Today, we earned a total of 20 monster cores; 7 Class 2 Monster Cores and 13 Class 1 Monster Cores, making our profits exceed far more than in the past.” At the last few words, Kendall had practically yelled it out, making it clear that he was beyond excited.

“Haha, we have to thank Jian Chen for this. If it weren’t for his advice, we wouldn’t have come across even a single Class 1 Magical Beast.” Hu Po laughed as he took a drink of his wine.

Chang Ning Feng laughed as well, “Hu Po is right, brother Jian Chen’s contributions for today’s profit cannot go unnoticed. From the 7 Class 2 Magical Beasts, Jian Chen had killed 3 of them by himself! Brother Jian Chen, come! Take a drink!” Chang Ning Feng held out his wine gourd towards him.

Jian Chen took the gourd from Chang Ning Feng and took a drink joyously. “Don’t say things like this, when we talk about contributions, everyone in this group had contributed. What can be said for sure however is that this time’s trip in the Magical Beast Mountain Range has given the group a profit never seen before.”

“Haha, that’s correct. With an expert like brother Jian Chen here, our Flame Mercenaries has gotten a harvest far richer than anything else.” Kendall spoke merrily. “Seeing this pile of monster cores here makes me feel as if I am one step closer to my dream.”

“Captain, what is your dream?” Xiao Dao asked curiously.

“My dream is for our Flame Mercenaries to be the number one mercenary group on the Tian Yuan Continent!” Captain Kendall roared happily as he said, “This is my biggest dream!”

Hearing this, everyone began to laugh with him.

“The number one mercenary group on the Tian Yuan Continent, Kendall, your dream will be impossible to accomplish.” Hu Po slapped Kendall on his back in a joking way.

“That’s right, what Hu Po said is right. Kendall, your dream is like something from a fantasy. Following what you say, then I desire to be the strongest expert in the Tian Yuan Continent.” Deere laughed.

“Hahaha, the number one expert on the continent, you dream highly...”

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Jian Chen sat by the fire and smiled as he watched everyone gossip among themselves. Every so often, he would laugh with everyone, and at this moment within his heart, he was completely content for the first time in a long time. Although everyone was joking around with each other, but with each word they spoke to one another revealed the deep bonds of friendships between them all and even infected Jian Chen with it.

After the food was eaten and the wine exhausted, everyone began to sprinkle some powder around themselves and the campsite to prevent their Qi from escaping and being detected by the surrounding magical beasts. Then, they extinguished the camp fire and dug into their tents to rest for the night.

Jian Chen carelessly reclined within his own tent as he thought about a few things from the day. Right now in his hand were 2 Class 4 Monster Cores, but those were the only monster cores he had left. Even if he wanted to cultivate, he had no desire to use the Class 4 Monster Cores. When he would become a Saint Master, then he would use the Class 4 Monster Cores to cultivate.

“It looks like tomorrow I should encourage Captain Kendall to go hunting for Class 3 Magical Beasts. If I can’t get at least 3 Class 3 Monster Cores every day, then I won’t be able to cultivate.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

“With my strength, I should be able to kill any Class 3 Magical Beasts with ease, and with Captain Kendall and the group’s cooperation, then that means at least 2 Class 3 Magical Beasts can be fought simultaneously. As long as we don’t bump into 4 Class 3 Magical Beasts at the same time, then there won’t be any danger.”

“En, the Flame Mercenaries should probably be able to stay in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a month or so. Since the group is quite decent, I should try my best to help procure some monster cores for them during this time. A month after, I’ll leave the group and put all my efforts in strengthening myself. I’ll treat this month as a break, after all, the anti-venom genes within my body from the Silver Striped Golden Snake haven’t fully been incorporated into my bloodstream yet. While waiting for this, I

need to focus on not sustaining any injuries otherwise the blood with the anti-venom genes will flow away. If I can prevent that, then my bloodstream will have a constant source of anti-venom genes flowing through it, granting me the Thousand Immunity. By that point, I'll never be able to be poisoned by anyone else as long as it doesn't reach the levels of a Silver Striped Golden Snake in toxicity. "

Jian Chen lay back onto the ground of his tent as countless thoughts went through his head. Only after some time did he begin to calm himself and listen to his surroundings. After confirming it was safe, he began to sit cross-legged and absorb the World Essence in the air to cultivate.

Despite the fact that absorbing the World Essence would only give him 1% of what he should normally get, Jian Chen had no desire to sleep or give up any chance to increase his own strength.

Chapter 116: Magical Horned Boar

The morning came as the sky grew brighter. Jian Chen who was cultivating the World Essence finally opened his eyes. Feeling his internal Saint Force stay the same size instead of growing, Jian Chen could only sigh. Although his current cultivation rate for the World Essence was far faster than before, whenever he cultivated, the World Essence had practically been devoured by the two glows in his dantian. So his true cultivation rate could practically be ignored.

Walking out of his tent, Jian Chen stood in the fresh morning atmosphere with his head raised up high to look at the tree branches overhead. In this morning hour, the air was filled with mist and it was quite dim out as the sun was still rising from the east.

Hearing the faint snoring sounds coming from the other tents, Jian Chen shook his head in disappointment. With his strong sense of hearing, Jian Chen could detect that every single mercenary was fast asleep, and not a single one of them were cultivating.

"Ai, how lazy. How do they think they could increase their strength? On the road of cultivation, while talent is very important, hard work is just as important as talent. Even if a man has the talent, if he does not work hard to cultivate, then his achievements will be no better than a man with no talent but is hardworking." Jian Chen thought to himself.

After walking into the forest to get a tree branch, Jian Chen restarted the fire and fashioned out a simple grill to cook a few pieces of magical beast meat.

Perhaps it was the outside movement that had awoken Kendall but his head popped out from his tent to stare at Jian Chen who was roasting meat, "Jian Chen, why is it you're up so early?" He laughed.

Without even turning around in response, Jian Chen said, "The sky is getting bright, so its no longer that early."

Captain Kendall looked up at the brightening sky and laughed. Without saying anything, he walked out from his tent and sat down next to Jian Chen by the fire.

Just as Captain Kendall walked out of his tent, the other members of the group were awakened by the noise as well. Walking out of their tents, they proceeded to pack up and store everything into their Space Belts as they began to gather around the campfire. Even Hu Po approached the campfire with a gourd of wine as he continued to drink from it.

Seeing everyone up and at the campfire, Jian Chen looked at Kendall and said, "Captain Kendall, what do you plan to do next for our course of action?"

"The next thing we should do is to stay around this area for a while and continue to hunt down Class 1 and 2 Magical Beasts. Let's continue this for a few days at the Magical Beast Mountain Range so that we can build up a nice amount of profit before leaving." Kendall said plainly.

Hearing this, Jian Chen went silent for a moment before opening his mouth to ask, "Captain Kendall, I have a suggestion, would you please listen to it?"

Kendall's eyes lingered on Jian Chen as he laughed and said, "Jian Chen, whatever suggestion you have, say it. There's no need to think twice about what you're about to say. Although you've joined our Flame Mercenaries only recently, everyone here is still your brother, so whatever you say won't be taken as an insult."

"I suggest that we go a bit deeper, and directly kill Class 3 Magical Beasts." Jian Chen levelly looked at Kendall.

"What, kill Class 3 Magical Beasts? Jian Chen, you've gone crazy. A peak level Class 2 Magical Beast was already so difficult to kill, let alone a Class 3 Magical Beast." Xiao Dao exclaimed in shock. Although the Flame Mercenaries now had the middle Great Saint, Jian Chen, in Xiao Dao's eyes, killing a Class 3 Magical Beast with this amount of power was still difficult.

Hearing Jian Chen's proposal, everyone's eyebrows furrowed together. The Flame Mercenaries had 1 Primary Saint Master and 6 Great Saints, but the Magical Beast had an innate superiority over the humans who were of the same strength level of them. If a person didn't have a Battle Skill or an attribute, then it would be practically impossible to kill a Magical Beast on the same level of strength as them. Even if they could, the price they would have to pay for doing so would be tremendous. On this Magical Beast Mountain Range where Class 3 Magical Beast roamed, if the Flame Mercenaries were to come across a Primary Class 3 Magical Beast, then they would be able to kill it with some difficulty. However, if they were to come across a Peak Class 3 Magical Beast, then they would be have no chance at all.

After killing a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast, Captain Kendall and Chang Ning Feng had been injured. If it weren't for Jian Chen's intervention, then it wouldn't have been possible for them to capture and kill the Magical Beast.

So for that reason, Jian Chen's suggestion to kill a Class 3 magical Beast to the Flame Mercenaries was an attempt of suicide.

Kabolds looked at Jian Chen with a curious glint in his eye, "Jian Chen, to think that you are suggesting to go kill a Class 3 Magical Beast, then I presume that you have the ability to kill a Class 3 magical Beast?"

Hearing Kabolds, Jian Chen hesitated for a second before nodding his head. "As long as we don't come across 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts, I can safely say we won't be in mortal danger."

Everyone's eyes widened in astonishment. Doubt and disbelief clouded their eyes as they stared at Jian Chen.

“Jian Chen, so what you’re saying is that as long as we don’t come across 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts at the same time, then we won’t be in any danger at all.” Kendall said with a deep breath. If what Jian Chen said was true, then Kendall would want to bring Jian Chen with him to go kill some Class 3 Magical Beasts. After all, Class 3 Magical Beasts had a body and a Monster Core that were far more valuable than a Class 2 Magical Beast.

“Jian Chen, do you really have enough strength to kill a Class 3 Magical Beast?” Deere asked to clarify. Although Jian Chen had killed a Peak Class 2 Magical Beast, but the Black Tiger had already been injured, so its strength was far different than a Class 3 Magical Beast a in perfect condition.

“That’s right, Jian Chen, something like this can’t be randomly said and tried, otherwise you might throw away your life in the attempt.” Chang Ning Feng said with worry.

Jian Chen smiled at everyone, despite everyone’s reaction to this suggestion, Jian Chen wasn’t unhappy with them. After all, killing a Class 3 Magical Beast was a task far too difficult for the Flame Mercenaries. Regardless of whether they were careful or not, they would still sustain a few injuries.

“Everyone should believe me this time, if we really cannot beat a Class 3 Magical Beast, then we at least have enough strength to run away.” Jian Chen said with firm conviction.

Hearing this, everyone’s eyes gathered at the figure of Captain Kendall. Regarding such an important decision like this, it would be for the best for Captain Kendall to make the final decision.

Kendall took in a deep breath of air as he stared at Jian Chen. Seeing how Jian Chen seemed to have complete faith in himself, Kendall bit his lips and finally made a decision. “Then how about this, we’ll believe in what he says this time. Jian Chen, if you truly do believe yourself, then I’ll let you lead the group for a while. Whatever we do will be up to you to guide us, does anyone have any problems?” Kendall said to everyone else.

“I’ve no problems!”

“No problems here!”

“I don’t have any problems here either!”

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Kendall’s decision had quickly convinced everyone else without anyone having a disagreement. Jian Chen’s face had a big smile on it as he said, “Then, since everyone has confidence in me, I will definitely make sure not to disappoint anyone. Let me plan a few things then.” Jian Chen’s voice stopped for a moment before saying, “Let me walk in the front while everyone else take the same positions. If we come across a Class 3 Magical Beast, then let me up first while everyone else surrounds it to prevent any other attacks. If any other magical beasts come, then you guys should attack those, but remember to take care of your own life, as long as you can stall the other magical beasts from attacking me, that’ll be enough.”

When they heard Jian Chen’s plan, everyone looked at each other with a dubious look. They had felt extremely curious about this plan, to have a Middle Great Saint fight against a Class 3 Magical Beast by himself? This sort of plan was kind of unpleasant to hear since they all took a Class 3 Magical Beast seriously.

After eating breakfast, everyone finished packing up their things and headed for the deeper parts of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. This time however, the formation of the group was slightly different with Jian Chen walking by himself 10 meters ahead of the group who retained their original positions. Not a single member of the group emitted any murderous intent while traveling, causing some Class 1 Magical Beasts to be attracted to them. However, since they wanted to continue on their journey quickly, they didn't let Xiao Dao or the other Saints fight the magical beasts. Instead, the Class 1 Magical Beasts were given to the Great Saints to kill.

As the group continued to walk into the forest, the terrain grew more and more nasty as swamps greeted their eyes in every direction. All sorts of toxic plants and insects also came into their field of view, and sometimes, a man eating magical beast would come out of nowhere.

On the road, everyone was very attentive to their surroundings. While listening to the sounds underneath their feet, they were also cautiously looking around themselves. At this point, a few Class 2 Magical Beasts had attacked them, but they continued onward. The amount of Class 1 Magical Beasts began to lessen while they encountered a Class 2 Magical Beast every so often.

At that moment, the leading Jian Chen's ears twitched, and then he suddenly stopped in his tracks, raising a hand to signal the Flame Mercenaries behind him to stop as well.

Seeing Jian Chen's movement, everyone in the mercenary group had stopped as well and nervously looked carefully at their surroundings. Although Jian Chen had repeated time after time that as long as 3 Class 3 Magical Beasts didn't attack them at the same time, then they would be in no danger at all, everyone was still extremely nervous. After all, they were up against a Class 3 Magical Beast this time instead of the normal Class 2 Magical Beasts. Although there was only one class apart from each other, the difference in strength between a Class 2 and a Class 3 Magical Beast was vast.

At that moment, the cry of a wild beast rang out from ahead of them. The grass around them violently swayed as a great, 2 meter tall magical beast appeared in the people's line of vision. This magical beast looked like a wild boar. It had a long nose, and the only thing different from a wild boar was the fact that it had fierce, inch-long, snow white teeth protruding from the corners of its mouth. It also had a single horn sprouting from its forehead.

Captain Kendall surveyed the magical beast in front of them. His expression turned grave as he said, "Magical Horned Boar! Jian Chen, be careful. That's a Class 3 Magical Horned Boar."

Jian Chen nodded his head as he stared impassively at the Magical Horned Boar. The silver glow of his Light Wind Sword gradually appeared in his right hand as it was enveloped by a hazy glow of light that covered the entire blade.

"We'll act as we had originally planned. Let me deal with this magical beast, you guys just keep yourselves safe." As soon as he said this, Jian Chen raised his sword and swiftly charged at the Magical Horned Boar.

Chapter 117: Fighting Strength That Causes Others to Quake in Fear

The Flame Mercenaries' eyes grew wide as they all watched Jian Chen charge at the Magical Horned Boar alone. Their gazes were all locked onto Jian Chen's figure that appeared neither tall nor sturdy. Everyone wanted to witness exactly how Jian Chen was going to kill the Class 3 Magical Horned Boar.

Captain Kendall had a serious expression on his face as he sent a powerful Saint Force rushing out from his right hand. A wide axe gradually materialized in his hands, which he grasped tightly as his fierce eyes stared unblinkingly at Jian Chen's frail looking body. As soon as Jian Chen was unable to resist the Class 3 Magical Beast's attacks, he'd charge to the front lines without any hesitation to save Jian Chen. Among this group, he was most likely the only person that could contend against the Magical Horned Boar, albeit with difficulty.

Jian Chen was like a monster as he whipped up fine winds with his swift charge toward the Magical Horned Boar in front of him. The Light Wind Sword in his hand became a silver glow, as if turning into a slim and spectacular flash of lightning that pierced toward the Magical Horned Boar's throat.

Seeing the silver light, the corners of the Magical Horned Boar's eyes flashed with a fierce glow, faintly expressing a dull look of concentration. It gave a low roar, and its heavy body quickly retreated. At the same time, it tried to turn its entire upper body to the side as it attempted to evade Jian Chen's sword coming at its throat.

Although the Magical Horned Boar had already tried its hardest to evade, its enormous body was really too cumbersome. In addition, speed was originally the Magical Horned Boar's weakness. There was no way it could dodge Jian Chen's blade that was as fast as lightning.

"Pu!"

The Light Wind Sword pierced deeply into the Magical Horned Boar's throat, instantly severing its life force. Immediately afterward, the Magical Horned Boar's entire body suddenly grew rigid. Its pair of large eyes gradually lost their feeling, and before it could even give a miserable cry, its entire body fell to the ground with a bang.

Jian Chen pulled out the bloody sword from the Magical Horned Boar's throat. As he casually moved it, all of the blood on the Light Wind Sword began to gradually flow downward. It slowly gathered at the point's end, before finally dripping onto the ground, drop by drop.

Absorbing the Light Wind Sword back into his body, Jian Chen revealed a satisfied smile on his face. After he had broke through to become a Middle Great Saint, his fighting strength was far better than when he was a Primary Great Saint. No matter if it was the speed of his Light Wind Sword or the strength of the Sword Qi around, both had become even stronger than before. Right now killing a Class 3 Magical Beast was nothing more than a simple task.

Looking at the Class 3 Magical Horned Boar lying on the ground, Jian Chen indifferently said, "Captain Kendall, I'll leave this Class 3 Magical Beast carcass for you to handle."

Not a single sound could be heard from behind Jian Chen in response to his words. Sensing that there was something odd, Jian Chen turned around, only to see that all of the Flame Mercenaries were currently looking at the Magical Horned Boar on the ground blankly with round eyes. All of them had astonished looks of disbelief.

Seeing everyone's brilliant expression, Jian Chen shook his head with a bitter smile. To the Flame Mercenaries, a Class 3 Magical Beast was something far beyond their strength. They couldn't kill it in one blow, and if they were hit with one blow, then that would be the end for them. To the mercenaries

whose strength was weaker than a Class 3 Magical Beast, this display of strength shocked them to their core.

The people were in a shocked daze for quite a while. Captain Kendall was the first to regain his senses. He exhaled deeply to slowly suppress his shock, and he looked at Jian Chen with a complicated look as he said, "Jian Chen, your strength is too abnormal. Even a Class 3 Magical Beast was utterly unable to stand up against you; you were able to kill it as easy as pie. This is a Class 3 Magical Beast you know."

Soon afterward, everyone was gradually brought back to their senses as they looked at Jian Chen with a complicated look of shock and disbelief.

Chang Ning Feng let loose a long breath of air and said, "Ai, your strength is unbelievable. This was a Class 3 Magical Beast, but I'm having trouble thinking that this was nothing more than a Class 1 Magical Beast from how well you handled it."

Hearing this, everyone simultaneously nodded their heads as Deere said, "Jian Chen, is your strength really at Middle Great Saint? Seeing how easily you killed this Class 3 magical Beast, I'm having a hard time believing you're not at the Great Saint Master level yet." Deere looked at Jian Chen with a complex stare mixed in with a look of envy. After all, Jian Chen was much younger than him, so who wouldn't be envious of his strength?

Kabolds hesitated for a bit before opening his mouth to say, "Jian Chen, could it be that what you used just now was a high level battle skill? I was completely unable to tell when exactly your sword had pierced the Magical Horned Boar's throat."

"That's right, I didn't see it clearly. Actually, I couldn't even see a hint of a shadow." Hu Po added in an extremely depressed tone.

Hearing this, Jian Chen smiled and said, "It can't really be said to be a battle skill. My swordplay is just on the faster side."

"It was so fast that we couldn't even see it clearly. That speed is a bit too terrifying." Deere said in a low voice.

Kendall walked up to the body of the Magical Horned Boar and said, "Okay, let's not talk about this for now. Everyone come help me take care of the body."

Soon after, everyone walked up to the body of the Magical Horned Boar as Xiao Dao took out his Saint Weapon which was a small dagger. Fiercely cutting into the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, he attempted to extract the Monster Core, however, the moment he had stabbed into the boar's stomach, the blade was only capable of making a small finger sized hole in it.

Although the defense of the Magical Horned Boar wasn't all that outstanding, it was still a Class 3 magical Beast. Their leathery skin was still well known, so with Xiao Dao's Saint level strength, if he wanted to cut into the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, he would have to expend a great amount of effort in order to make a larger cut through the skin.

Seeing how Xiao Dao could only cut a small finger sized hole in the stomach of the Magical Horned Boar, Deere shook his head and walked up beside Xiao Dao. "Xiao Dao, let me give it a try." A great amount of Saint Force was concentrated around his right arm as a two handed sword appeared in his palm.

“The leather skin of this Class 3 Magical Beast is quite tough, I’ve learned a lot today.” Xiao Dao cursed as he obediently stood aside for Deere.

Soon after, Deere used his two handed sword to cut open the belly of the boar and then extracting the bloody Class 3 Monster Core from within. Wiping it clean of blood, he walked up to Jian Chen and Kendall with some hesitation before offering it up to Jian Chen. “Brother Jian Chen, this Class 3 Magical Horned Boar was killed by you, so therefore, the monster core should go to you...”

Not waiting for Deere to finish his sentence, Jian Chen cut him off saying, “Uncle Deere, in accordance to the group rules, this monster core should be given to Captain Kendall to decide, and in the end everyone will give their agreement.”

“This, this probably isn’t the best thing to do.” Deere looked hesitant.

“There’s nothing wrong with that, Uncle Deere, bring the monster core to Captain Kendall to decide.” Jian Chen said firmly without any room for Deere to argue against.

“Fine then.” Deere had no choice but to hand the monster core over to Captain Kendall.

Kendall gazed deeply at Jian Chen, but did not shirk away. Instead, he reached his hand out to accept the Class 3 Monster Core and said, “In that case, I’ll take care of this monster core for now. Once we leave Magical Beast Mountain Range, I’ll distribute all the profits based on contribution.”

Afterward, the group of people allocated one person’s Space Belt to store the Magical Horned Boar’s carcass, and then they continued their journey. A Class 3 Magical Beast’s body could be sold for quite a bit of money, so the Flame Mercenaries obviously wouldn’t let this opportunity slip past them.

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Time quickly passed. Unknowingly, the group had already stayed in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for 10 days. These 10 days, were definitely the happiest and most enjoyable moments for the Flame Mercenaries. That was because during this period, aside from the first day, the remaining days were filled with Jian Chen taking the lead to hunt Class 3 Magical Beasts in the mountain range. Because Jian Chen’s actual combat strength had long surpassed a Saint Master’s, he had absolutely no difficulty killing the Class 3 Magical Beasts. Moreover, ever since his strength had reached the mid Great Saint level, Jian Chen hadn’t once received an injury from fighting a Class 3 Magical Beast at close range.

During this period of time, the Flame Mercenaries had long since stopped wondering about how strange the powerful strength Jian Chen displayed was. As Jian Chen revealed more and more of his strength, his position in the Flame Mercenary Group continued to rise. Right now, almost everyone, including Captain Kendall, either held extreme respect for him, or was incomparably polite. This was because in 10 days, Jian Chen had brought about a great amount of profit for the Flame Mercenaries. In these past few days, Jian Chen had killed over 100 Class 3 Magical Beasts by himself and 300 Class 2 Magical Beasts while the Flame Mercenaries did not kill as many by themselves. They had simply stood behind Jian Chen as he killed the magical beasts and extracted the monster cores from the magical beast’s corpses. Despite this, no one in the group had complained about the unfairness, instead, they thought of this to be quite joyful. To them, this was as simple as picking up money.

By nightfall, the full moon was suspended overhead in the night sky and illuminated the land below in its white glow. Within one of the larger areas of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, a large bonfire lit up the night as the embers from the fire flickered and danced into the sky.

10 people wearing the fur of magical beasts sat around the bonfire, these relaxed figures were the Flame Mercenaries.

“These past days we have harvested 125 Class 3 Monster Cores, 364 Class 2 Monster Cores, and not even 30 Class 1 Monster Cores. Other than that, we also have a few Class 3 Magical Beast corpses.” Kendall proclaimed as he examined the items the group had taken.

Hearing Kendall’s exclamation, everyone let loose an extremely happy smile. Because of this type of harvest, everyone was extremely satisfied. However, everyone knew that if they didn’t have the help of Jian Chen, they wouldn’t even have a single Class 3 Monster Core. After all, killing one Class 3 Magical Beast was already too difficult for them, and killing even half the amount of Class 2 Magical Beasts would have been impossible to do by themselves.

Chapter 118: Class 5 Cub

“After 10 days of constant hunting, I’m sure everyone is tired. Plus, the rations we have in our Space Belts are definitely almost all gone, so tomorrow morning, let’s go back to Wake City and rest there. Does anyone else object?” Kendall asked.

Everyone looked at Jian Chen as Deere asked, “Jian Chen, why don’t you make this decision?”

Jian Chen poked at the campfire with a tree branch and said absentmindedly, “Captain Kendall’s decision is the best, I have no disagreements.”

Captain Kendall hesitated for a moment before looking back at everyone else, “Since brother Jian Chen has no disagreements, then tomorrow morning we shall leave the Magical Beast Mountain Range and rest up for a few days in Wake City. Brother Jian Chen had fought Class 3 Magical Beasts continuously, so I am sure even he is tired by now.” For the first time, Captain Kendall’s voice held some hesitation in it. Class 3 Magical Beasts were something the Flame Mercenaries had always wanted to provoke in order to test their own strength. These past few days of following Jian Chen’s lead, they had picked up many Class 3 Magical Beast corpses and strengthened themselves. This type of situation had given the Flame Mercenaries an incomparably matchless amount of happiness. If their conditions allowed it, then everyone would have loved to stay around the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few more days.

However, they knew in their hearts that while Jian Chen had suffered virtually no injuries after fighting battle after battle against Class 3 Magical Beasts, he had to be exhausted. Jian Chen needed to rest and readjust his body.

“When we return, the very first thing we have to do is to handle the corpses of the Magical Beast. The longer they stay in the Space Belts the faster they’ll go stale which will bring down the price.” Xia Dao poked at his Space Belt as he spoke.

Following Xiao Dao’s action, the others subconsciously reached out to touch their Space Belts as well. Right now, each of them had 1-2, and some even had 3-4 smaller Class 3 Magical Beast carcasses stored

within them. In addition, the items originally inside their Space Belts had all been transferred to Captain Kendall. After all, none of their family properties were worth much anyways.

At that moment, a savory scent wafted into the air from the campfire, it was the smell of the pieces of the Magical Beast meat being cooked to a golden color as the tender fat began to drip down slowly due to caramelization. The fat continued to drip down to the floor causing everyone to hear it.

Smelling the dense aroma let loose everyone's appetites. Some people's stomachs even began to growl loudly.

Suddenly, Jian Chen's ears twitched. He abruptly turned around to look behind him. The moment he looked back, he saw that a petite, animal-like body shot toward him from the distance, as fast as lightning. Jian Chen's vision blurred for a mere second, but that was enough time for the petite figure to approach him.

"Everyone be careful!" Jian Chen cried out. Unable to have enough time to identify what type of magical beast this was. Both of his hands slapped onto the ground as he leapt up from his sitting posture on the floor. Flying in midair, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword instantaneously appeared within Jian Chen's right hand.

The rest of the Flame Mercenaries weren't slow to react either. As soon as they heard Jian Chen's cry, all of the people had stood up from their spots, and materialized their Spirit Weapons, cautiously surveying their surroundings.

Jian Chen's body rolled through the air until he landed 3 meters away on the ground. His eyes stared at the campfire and then at the small beast right next to it.

The little beast looked quite adorable. It had pure gold fur which shone under the fire's illumination, practically radiating a mist of light. Its eyes were locked onto the barbeque cooking over the fire, which was currently emitting an extremely savory aroma. It continuously licked its lips with its small tongue to wet them, as its front claws eagerly shifted on the ground where it stood. It looked like it was extremely impatient.

Seeing that the small beast in front of him wasn't even 0.33m long, Jian Chen immediately let loose a breath. Based on the small beast's appearance, it was evident that it had been enticed by the magical beast meat's delicious aroma.

"Jian Chen, just what happened exactly?" Kendall's voice rang out. The moment he had heard Jian Chen's voice, he had immediately went on guard as he observed what was happening around him, but whatever was happening he didn't notice.

Jian Chen bitterly smiled, "Nothing really. It was just that, that thing suddenly ran out." Jian Chen extended his finger to point at the little beast currently standing in front of the fire.

Hearing this, everyone looked at the direction Jian Chen pointed at. It was only at that moment that they realized there was a small beast there.

"That's...." A few people exchanged surprised glances.

Kendall walked forward a few steps as he investigated the area and then at the small beast there before revealing a thinking expression. "It looks like this is the cub of a Magical Beast. Jian Chen, do you think you can figure out where this cub came from or what type of magical beast it is?"

Jian Chen unhurriedly approached the little beast, and slowly crouched down to survey the little beast. The beast wasn't the least bit afraid of the strangers surrounding it; it didn't even bother to glance at them. Its eyes were instead completely locked onto the cooking meat. It might have been because it wasn't scared of people, or it might've been because it was still young, but it did not seem afraid at all.

Seeing the little beast in such a state, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile. He reached a hand out to grab one of the meat skewers, and ripped off a piece of the golden, cooked meat. He then waved it in front of the beast's nose, letting it smell it a bit more.

"Aooo!" "Aooo!" "Aooo!"

The little beast's eyes were now tightly locked onto the piece of meat that Jian Chen had ripped off, and it began to stamp its four hooves impatiently. Finally, its entire body stood up, and it continued to cry out 'Ao ao!' as saliva fell from the corners of its mouth.

Seeing how much the little beast wanted to eat the piece of meat. Jian Chen stopped enticing it, and directly placed the meat into its mouth. The little beast immediately extended its two front claws to tightly hug the piece of meat. Then it directly placed it into its mouth to wolf it down, completely unafraid of how hot it was.

Jian Chen extended his hand to turn the cub. At this moment he was sizing it up, and the cub hadn't yet realized that it was being looked at by a few other people. It continued to stuff the pieces of magical beast meat in its mouth.

Looking at the cub, Jian Chen's face gradually grew brighter as an excited smile appeared on it.

"Jian Chen, have you figured out what type of magical beast this is or where it's from?" Chang Ning Feng asked as he watched the reactions on Jian Chen's face.

Jian Chen slowly put down the cub as he said excitedly, "If I'm not wrong about my information, then this should be the cub of the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King."

"What, the cub of a Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King? Jian Chen, are you sure you aren't mistaken?" Kabolds covered his mouth in surprise, his tone unable to hide his astonishment. Everyone else had similar expressions of shock and disbelief as well.

The cub of the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King; although it wasn't too strong, this type of magical beast still had a plethora of superior innate advantages. When it becomes an adult, it would have the strength of an Earth Saint Master without any obstructions. It could even be said that it was smooth sailing for it while having a large amount of room to improve unlike regular magical beasts. After its adulthood, there was still an endless road of cultivation to be had so it could slowly improve its strength, but whether or not it could cultivate long enough to become a Class 5 Magical Beast, that could not be said for sure.

Jian Chen sized up the little beast that was currently eating with relish, and said, "I shouldn't be wrong." Jian Chen had already read quite a few books about magical beasts back at Kargath Academy's library. Thus, Jian Chen knew majority of the magical beast types in Tian Yun Continent. The most eye-catching

thing on a Golden Fur Tiger King was its pure golden fur, as well as the symbol for “King” being imprinted onto it. It was for this reason that Jian Chen could say for sure what type of beast this was.

TL Note: 王 is the symbol for King

The Flame Mercenaries all inhaled sharply. Currently, all of their hearts were uncontrollably racing. Although a Class 5 Magical Beast cub’s strength was far from an actual Class 5, as well as the fact that it would still take quite a while for it to reach adulthood, its value was far more than an adult Class 5 Magical Beast.

This was because an adult Class 5 Magical Beast already possessed basic intelligence, and would rather die than become a human’s pet or mount. That’s why taming an adult magical beast was incomparably difficult. However, a young magical beast was different; because it had yet to mature, taming it was extremely easy. Moreover, it was much easier to foster a relationship with one. If one started taming a Class 5 Magical Beast while it was still a cub, it would not only have the strength of any other Class 5 Magical Beast when it reached adulthood, it would also continue to grow, and could reach Class 6. There was even a possibility that it could become a Class 7 Magical Beast.

The most important thing was that during this time, the bonds between the cub and its tamer would be very deep. This way, there would be no need to expend as much effort to get a strong magical beast that would be extremely loyal to its master and would never betray him. So for that reason, the cub of a Class 5 Magical Beast would be priceless in the market. If the cub of a Class 5 Magical Beast were to appear, then there would be many strong parties that would try to fight over it.

“I hadn’t thought that we’d actually discover a Class 5 Magical Beast cub. Moreover, it was a cub that approached us by itself. Our luck is really amazing.” Xiao Dao said in excitement.

“Haha, if we sell this Class 5 Magical Beast cub, I wonder how much money we can get.” Hu Po said in a tone that was just as excited. He looked at the Golden Fur Tiger King cub as if it were a mountain of glittering gold.

Kabolds’ face grew even more excited for a moment before turning serious. “It doesn’t matter whether or not if we can sell it for a higher price, if we can capture it for sure, then in our future, we won’t ever need to come back to the Magical Beast Mountain Range and hunt for money. Right now, the only problem is that the parents of this cub are somewhere, if we were to come across them somehow, then we would definitely not make it out alive. After all a Class 5 Magical Beast is far beyond our capabilities.” Kabolds’ gaze became more concentrated as he surveyed his surroundings before saying, “The most important question is, how are we are going to transport the cub?”

Chapter 119: Fighting Over the Cub

Hearing Kabolds’ words the smile on everyone’s faces slowly dissipated. What he had said wasn’t false; if they were to try and take the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King, they would encounter a multitude of trouble. Even if they didn’t come across the parents of this cub, bringing it back to Wake City would still be a tremendously difficult task. After all, a cub was a living animal; it could not go into the space within a Space Belt without dying, since the inside of the belt was uninhabitable. Thus, they would have to transport it from the outside. But since the road would have many groups of people, the news of a Golden Fur Tiger King cub would quickly spread about. By that point, many strong factions would come

and try to provoke the Flame Mercenaries. With their current strength, this would be something they wouldn't be able to fend off.

"Hahahaha, if you don't have the power to carry the cub of the Golden Fur Tiger King out, then why don't you just hand it over to us?"

At that moment, a loud shout with unconcealed joy was heard. The dark figure of a person came into view, as well as a whole group of people accompanying him. They quickly surrounded the Flame Mercenaries. There were 20 people in total, with each of them wearing a steel helmet and metal armor. Many of the mercenaries were wearing broken armor, while some of them had blood dripping from them. Just one look at them was enough for people to tell that they had just been in a fight.

Seeing such a large crowd of people come out of nowhere, everyone in the Flame Mercenaries suddenly grew unsightly expressions. But the moment they saw the little emblems on their chests, their faces immediately lost all color. Even Kendall was deathly pale as he spoke, "So it's the Zhou Mercenaries." His voice trembled with each syllable.

"Hahahaha, you have quite the eyesight to recognize us. Hand over the Tiger Cub to us nice and easy; you already know the consequences if you don't." The leader spoke with a cold gaze directed at each person in front of him in disdain. However, as he looked at the still eating Tiger Cub, an unconcealed happiness could be seen in his eyes.

No one in the Flame Mercenaries said a thing as their faces continued to lose color rapidly.

Jian Chen swept his eyes over each individual Zhou Mercenary. With his power, he could already determine how strong each mercenary roughly was. In his eyes, aside from the two Saint Masters, everyone else was a Great Saint. Those two Saint Masters, however, were still higher than Captain Kendall, and was probably at least Middle Saint Master level.

Jian Chen slowly let loose a small breath of air as he looked around himself. With his strength, as long as there wasn't a Great Saint master, there wouldn't be a problem.

"Aooo!" "Aooooo!"

By this point, the cub had already finished eating all of the magical beast meat given to it, and was now hungrily staring at the still grilling pieces over the bonfire. It began to cry out nonstop for the meat in hunger, completely unaware of the danger that was looming around it.

Jian Chen slowly crouched down and took the cub into his chest. At the same time, each and every member of the Zhou Mercenaries glared at Jian Chen with a cold look, emitting murderous intent.

"Kid, hand over the cub to me now. Otherwise, you'll be dying here and now." The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries shouted at Jian Chen.

Hearing this, Jian Chen returned their stares back at them without a hint of anger in them. Instead, he began to smile and said, "Even if we hand over the cub to you, you won't let us go because you're afraid that we'll spread news of the cub, and bring about unavoidable trouble onto you. Moreover, the trouble stirred would be quite major."

The leader sneered as he stared at Jian Chen. "You're quite intelligent, but there are times that the smarter a person is, the sooner they die. And so sometimes, a man doesn't want to be intelligent. Being stupid would allow them to live a little longer." As he spoke, a great amount of Saint Force was being concentrated within his right arm, quickly forming a long sword.

The leader pointed the tip of the sword at Jian Chen and said coldly, "Kid, I'll give you one last chance. Hand over the cub obediently, otherwise, I swear I'll make you die a wretched death." The man growled as the other Zhou Mercenaries began to take out their own Saint Weapons and surrounded Jian Chen to suppress him with their intimidation.

At the same time, the Flame Mercenaries had decided not to be outdone, and started to materialize their own Saint Weapons. They were extremely grave as they internally understood that even if they handed over the cub to the Zhou Mercenaries, they would still be killed. If it was the other way around, they would have done the same thing, and not let the Zhou Mercenaries go. So if they were to die, they wanted to take down a Zhou Mercenary along with them. Even if they couldn't, the Zhou Mercenaries definitely wouldn't escape from this without a few casualties.

Seeing the reactions of everyone in the Flame Mercenaries, the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries sneered with disdain before looking back to Jian Chen and saying, "Kid, no more kidding around. If you hand over the cub to me, I'll spare your lives." Right now, the cub was in Jian Chen's arms. Seeing how Jian Chen had no intentions of letting it go, the man was afraid that if he were to act rashly, Jian Chen would kill the cub.

Jian Chen evidently knew why the man was hesitating and couldn't help but laugh. His left hand held the howling cub while his right hand patted the shaggy fur on top of its head. "You wanted this cub so badly, so why aren't you coming to get it? Could it be you have the guts to say you want it, but not the guts to take it?"

The cold stare intensified onto Jian Chen as the man's face froze impassively. In his heart he had felt a strange premonition. Jian Chen's reaction was completely abnormal, letting him feel a bit uneasy.

"You! Bring me that cub!" The leader called out to a nearby mercenary.

"Yes!" The mercenary didn't hesitate at all as he walked toward Jian Chen carefully as if to test and see what Jian Chen would do.

When the mercenary cautiously walked up to Jian Chen, Jian Chen unexpectedly didn't show any signs of movement. Instead, he simply stood there with an unchanging smile. Despite this, the mercenary still didn't dare to let his guard down. He slowly reached his hand out to carefully grab at the cub in Jian Chen's hands.

At the same time, every mercenary in the Zhou Mercenaries clenched their Saint Weapons tightly. Even the leader was growing tenser by the second as he looked at Jian Chen.

In a flash, the mercenary had succeeded in taking the cub despite the struggle it had put up. From beginning to end, the mercenary had been extremely wary of any sudden attacks by Jian Chen.

At that moment, Jian Chen's eyes grew cold as the Light Wind Sword appeared in his right hand. Transforming into a silver ray of light, it flashed towards the mercenary's throat like

silver lightning.

Although the mercenary was attentively guarding against Jian Chen, the sword strike was far too fast for him to dodge. The moment the flash of silver lightning had passed, the man had only felt a small pain in his throat. And right under his eyes, the image of a silver sword had abruptly appeared. In the next second, the mercenary choked and wordlessly screamed in agony as he fell to the ground. As for the Class 5 cub, it had flown through the air fallen down onto the ground while howling loudly.

Jian Chen's sword was so fast that even if the mercenary had forewarning about blocking against this sword, he would've failed. Jian Chen's sword was far too fast for the other man to dodge what was almost second nature for Jian Chen to aim for.

The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries looked a bit at loss as he watched Jian Chen pierce the throat of the mercenary with an incredulous look on his face. He was secretly astonished at how fast the sword was traveling. Even with his Peak Saint Master strength, he had only seen the faint image of the sword, and was utterly incapable of seeing it clearly.

In a short moment, the leader regained his thoughts as he squashed the astonishment within his heart. "Everyone, forward. Slaughter without mercy, but do not harm the cub!" He commanded as he raised his sword with his armored hand. With an ear piercing whistle, his weapon slashed downward at Jian Chen's head.

Within the Zhou Mercenaries, the only other Saint Master expert had pulled out his sword and mimicked the leader's action by trying to cut down Jian Chen. From his initial strike, the two Saint Masters had already realized that Jian Chen wouldn't be an easy opponent to fight against, so the two Zhou Mercenaries of the Saint Master level silently agreed to kill Jian Chen first.

On the other side, the Flame Mercenaries began to fight with the other members of the Zhou Mercenaries, embroiling the place into the flames of war. Although the Flame Mercenaries didn't scatter apart, they gathered around in a circle and had the three Saints like Xiao Dao protected within. In this type of battle, the Saints like Xiao Dao would have no chance to battle, and would only die a vain death if they tried. The 5 Great Saints and the Primary Saint Master Kendall formed the outside circle, and were prepared to fight any of the Zhou Mercenaries to the death.

However, because of the difference in strength between the two sides, the fight didn't last long. The Flame Mercenaries were already at a clear disadvantage and were already being pressured by the Zhou Mercenaries, to the point of being able to only defend.

With his sword in hand, Jian Chen's imposing manner drastically changed. His demeanor was like a sharp sword that had just been unsheathed, giving the people around him the sensation of being shown off to. In an instant, the sword suddenly grew colder, and somehow seemed to become sharper. To the enemies of the same rank, it was almost as if the sword was robbing them of their courage.

Chapter 120: The Shocking Arrival of the Tiger King

Jian Chen simply had no desire to make contact with the sword of the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries. Narrowly dodging the giant sword of the leader, Jian Chen's sword disappeared into a blur of silver light once more as Jian Chen stabbed at the leader.

Although Jian Chen's fighting ability was no weaker than a Saint Master, that was only because of his fighting strength. The Saint Force within his body was still weaker than the one within a Saint Master by quite the amount. So if Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword were to make contact with the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries, then Jian Chen would be the one at a disadvantage here, making collisions between the two an unwise choice.

Jian Chen's strongest advantage was his fast swordplay which would allow him to beat anyone within his strength level before they could even react to it. Even for those who were a grade higher than him in strength, they would only be able to see the faint and blurry images of the sword. With his Profound Steps, Jian Chen would even be able to fight against anyone higher than himself provided they weren't a Wind Attributed Saint.

Against a Saint Force that was stronger than his own, unless it was absolutely necessary, Jian Chen did not want to take any risks and end up facing against his weak point.

Seeing Jian Chen use such an inconceivable speed to attack his throat, the leader's face became extremely serious as his Saint Force began to frantically circulate within his body. With his body in a peak state of fitness, the man's body turned around and then leapt to the side in order to narrowly dodge Jian Chen's otherwise fatal sword.

Although Jian Chen had been fast in his movements, the Peak Saint Master strength leader had only been forced to dodge to the side. Although, at the same time, looking at the shoulder plate of the man, Jian Chen could see the white scar traces from where the Light Wind Sword had grazed by.

With a turn of his wrist, the Light Wind Sword had suddenly moved in a way that made it look like a tiny snake under the skillful hand of Jian Chen. As the sword swished through the air, it pursued the nearby figure of the man who had only just recently dodged the sword.

The leader's face had never been so serious. Although he could feel that Jian Chen's strength was nowhere near his own, the speed of Jian Chen's sword was far beyond what he could do. He could only dodge the sword narrowly, and with the sword relentlessly pursuing his throat, if he were to make a small mistake, then the possibility that he would lose his life was very high.

Without hesitation, the leader brought his giant sword up to block the the sword aimed at his throat. The moment he had brought the sword up to his neck, the Light Wind Sword had already brushed against it. Although the Light Wind Sword had failed to pierce into the leader's body, the Sword Qi that was coiling around the blade had made the leader extremely terrified. Secretly thinking to himself, "What a sharp Sword Qi! What type of method did this kid use to cultivate, could it be that he used a Battle Skill?" Just thinking about the term Battle Skill had inadvertently fired up the man's spirits and he couldn't help but think to spare Jian Chen. He thought that he could wrest away the Battle Skill from Jian Chen. Since Battle Skills were indeed very precious within the Tian Yuan Continent and that it helped ones cultivation improve by leaps and bounds. Even though he was one of the highest ranked member of the Zhou Mercenaries in Wake City, he didn't have a Battle Skill and neither did the Great Saint Masters in the group.

As his mind wandered about this topic, a fierce crisis was about to overturn him. Seeing that the silver white light was rapidly getting bigger within his eyesight, he realized that this next sword stroke was two or three times faster than the last two strikes. In an instant, the silver sword had evaded his own great

sword and arrived at his throat. A small ray of light could be seen as the sharp point of the sword flashed from within the glare.

The leader was terrified beyond belief. In the moment he had reacted, there was only a foot separating him and the Sword Qi enveloped blade but the sword had traveled this distance within a flash. Even though the leader had the strength of a Peak Saint Master, there would be no time for him to dodge it.

Just as the Light Wind Sword was about to pierce into the leader's throat, an ear piercing sound was heard as another sword came in from the side. Abruptly knocking against the Light Wind Sword, it altered the trajectory of it so that it would go past the leader's neck without harm.

The sudden appearance of this sword was caused by the second Saint Master of the Zhou Mercenaries.

Even after knocking the Light Wind Sword out of the way, that man didn't stop there. He immediately attacked Jian Chen fiercely while the leader cried out, "Kasa, for you to not pay attention at a time like this, did you want to die you bastard?"

Although that man was yelling at him, the leader wasn't angry at all. Instead he felt his neck with his own hand as his face grew pale and his forehead started to drip with sweat. This was because when he felt his neck where his leather armor was, there was a gap revealing where the sword had gone through. If it were not for the intervention of another person, then having a simple cut on his leather armor would have been the least of his worries.

At this moment, Jian Chen had already struck back at the second Saint Master. This man only had Middle Saint Master strength and was weaker than the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries by a small margin. In the few rounds Jian Chen had exchanged with the other Saint Master, he was slowly pushing back the other Saint Master.

"Kasa, why are you just standing there foolishly? Come quickly and help me, this kid's sword is far too fast for me to continue blocking any longer! Goddamnit, how is his speed this fast?" Looking at the still dazed leader, the mercenary that was fighting Jian Chen cursed out loud at him. Fighting Jian Chen was like fighting against the storming rain and winds itself, and with each series of sword strokes Jian Chen had swung, the more difficult it was getting to defend against. Even his leather armor was starting to have traces of Jian Chen's sword running across it despite the extraordinary resilience of the leather. He was afraid that very soon, his body wouldn't have an area without a wound running across it.

Hearing his friend curse at him, the leader's eyes narrowed as the Saint Force within his Saint Weapon pulsed tremendously. Raising his arm, he immediately dashed forward to slash down on Jian Chen.

As the sword dropped down, a small amount of Sword Qi flickered as it flew toward Jian Chen.

Sparing a sideways glance at Kasa, Jian Chen swayed slightly to the side and dodged the Sword Qi filled blade. The sword continued onwards to smash into a large tree with a resounding boom, allowing everyone to hear and see a large gash being revealed on the trunk.

Afterwards, another ear piercing shriek was heard as the two Saint Masters were already ready to strike once more, their Saint Weapons filling the air with their Saint Force.

Jian Chen's eyes grew cold as he stared unflinchingly at the two incoming blades. The Light Wind Sword began to release an even denser amount of Sword Qi that seemed to cover the entire sky as the sword made contact with the other two swords.

"Ding ding ding..."

The metallic sounds of swords rang out in the forest as in that moment, Jian Chen had swung out 18 times with his sword, each one accurately hitting the other blades.

Each one of the 18 strikes hit the great swords right on the blade fiercely, causing the blade to shake with a strong vibration with every hit. When the amount of strikes had hit 18, the amount of energy transmitted into the other swords was far too much for the Zhou Mercenaries to handle. Immediately, both of the mercenaries' right arms went numb, especially the place between their thumb and forefinger.

Feeling the extreme amount of numbness in their arms, the two mercenaries looked at each other in shock. At this moment, the two of them had secretly wanted to flee, although they knew that Jian Chen's strength wasn't on par with them, Jian Chen was showing off a fighting strength that was frightening the both of them. His strength was hard to defend against, and against his lightning fast speed, they both had to push their concentration to the extreme or risk seeing each other at the Yellow River. If they were not careful, then their deaths here would be for certain.

"Captain Kasa, the cub is already in our possession."

The two Saint Masters turned around to hear who had just spoken, only to see an armored mercenary with the struggling cub in his hands. Its claws waved about in midair as it howled unceasingly. While it was a cute sight, it was also quite a pathetic one.

Seeing this, the two mercenaries had a joyous smile on their faces, but then at the same time, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword flashed toward the leader's throat once more. This time, Kasa was neither on guard nor able to dodge in time, and the other Saint Master was in no position to save him like last time. The Sword Qi enhanced sword slashed through Kasa's leather armor and pierced straight into his throat.

"Kasa!" The other mercenary reached out in shock, but at the moment he saw his leader's throat pierced through, his eyes bulged out of his eye sockets as he roared. A large amount of Saint Force began to condense within his Saint Weapon as he slashed at Jian Chen with it.

Jian Chen didn't even bother to spare him a glance as he stamped off the ground. The force propelled him forward like an artillery shell as he rocketed toward the mercenary with the struggling cub.

Seeing the Peak Saint Master Captain Kasa be killed, the mercenary's eyes bulged as he couldn't believe that such a strong expert would be killed so easily. However the mercenary wasn't that stupid and immediately threw the cub at the remaining Saint Master that was fighting against Jian Chen.

"Captain Cross, catch!"

The cub flew into the air in a wild arc before landing perfectly within the arms of the last remaining Saint Master.

Seeing the Class 5 cub within his hand, Captain Cross' previously murderous face suddenly calmed down as he hesitated before saying, "Everyone move out from here."

"Houuuu!"

As Cross spoke, the deep growl of a tiger suddenly came loudly from the depths of the forest. Coming through the pitch darkness, the twenty something people there all froze as they realized what they had just heard.