

Chaotic 141

Chapter 141: Where is He?

Now that the Tianxiong clan had renounced their search for Jian Chen, they all immediately started to retreat from the Magical Beast Mountain Range. At the sight of the firework, they all started to move out quickly.

However, Jian Chen didn't plan on letting the Tianxiong clan off that easily. Although, there wasn't much he could do against Tianxiong Lie, against those Great Saints and Saint Masters, he could easily make do with them. Although the Magical Beast Mountain Range usually made it difficult to find other mercenaries, the Tianxiong clan mercenaries were all wearing white and had the Tianxiong emblem on their robes, so finding them was an easy task.

Occasionally, the sounds of battle could be heard in the mountain range. Even as the Tianxiong clan members retreated, many groups still came across Jian Chen and were killed. He had accumulated months of rich experience after living in the Magical Beast Mountain Range and could appear and disappear like a ghost with the help of the complicated terrain. His surprise attacks caused his enemies to be unable to defend themselves. Even the times when Jian Chen was discovered by mercenaries, Jian Chen still surprised and killed them in the end with a single strike.

Even if Jian Chen was encircled by the experts of the Tianxiong clan, he could rely on his superior speed to escape into the forest without a trace. This had pained the Tianxiong clan greatly since none of them could chase him. Even the Middle Saint Masters were unable to come up with a way to chase him.

In half a day, all of the Tianxiong clan had finally gathered together. Seeing that only 100 people remained, Tianxiong Lie was very depressed. In the beginning, they had entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range with half a thousand mercenaries, he didn't think that in just a few days time, they would lose over 400 members. To the Tianxiong clan, this was a serious loss.

A serious glint of murderous intent radiated from Tianxiong Lie for a split second as his desire to kill Jian Chen had reached unprecedented levels. Not only did he kill his Kang Er, but he had even caused a tremendous amount of damage to the Tianxiong clan. Right now Tianxiong Lie wanted to do nothing more than devour Jian Chen's flesh and drink his blood.

Seeing the gloomy face on Tianxiong Lie, every mercenary in the vicinity felt a tightness in their throats. No one dared to say a word in case they invoked the wrath of Tianxiong Lie. At this moment, no one dared to say anything that could possibly offend him.

"Let's go!" Tianxiong Lie waved his hand with a gloomy face. As he led them away from the area, he knew that after experiencing such a loss, it would be very hard to say that the Tianxiong Clan was still the number 1 clan in Wake City.

The remaining Tianxiong mercenaries walked through the forest without any magical beasts daring to attack them. However, an air of depression emanated from this group, they were clearly listless, and their spirits were low.

Behind them was a leather wearing figure that was closely following them nimbly through the trees. He moved in a way that the nearby tall grass barely moved at all, and even though he was no more than 50

meters away from the Tianxiong group, the Tianxiong clan members did not notice him and continued to walk onward. Because of the loud sounds they were making, they were unable to hear the even more minute sounds that their follower was creating.

The person behind them was very cautious, using the tall grass to conceal his movements, he quickly followed closeby. In a few seconds, he was within 20 meters without being noticed yet.

At that moment, the bright and shiny glint of a sword appeared in the man's hands. Still hidden by the grass, the man disappeared into a blur and flew behind the back most mercenary of the Tianxiong clan.

Crossing over the 20 meters dividing him and the group of mercenaries, the man's sword glinted as it swished through the air and stabbed at the very last person in the group.

The sword flashed several times as it moved at inconceivable speeds, stabbing through the necks of 5 mercenaries.

Without stopping there, his silver sword became a blur once more as he stabbed at the throats of another 3 people in a split second.

"Everyone be careful, that man's here!"

Just as those 8 mercenaries were killed in a lightning fast speed, one mercenary finally came to the realization that they were under attack and yelled out a warning for everyone.

Upon hearing the warning, every mercenary pulled out their Saint Weapon and stared around themselves. However, just as the first man spoke, the assailant had already retreated back into the foliage just as quickly as he appeared.

"Stay still, don't even think about escaping!"

A roar boomed from behind as Tianxiong Lie leaped forward with his axe in hand. Chasing after the man, the other 20 Saint Masters then followed suit.

Seeing Tianxiong Lie and the other Saint Masters chase after the man, the remaining Tianxiong clan members let out a breath of relief. Their previously nervous expressions laxed by a large amount as well. For the past few days, they had been terrorized by this man who had killed many of their strong brothers. It was with good reason that they were afraid of him, wondering just when it would be their turn to be the ones on the ground by his hands.

Suddenly, just as they let out a sigh in relief, the tall grass split open as a silver sword flew out from it in a brilliant show of light.

"Pch!" "Pch!"

Two mercenaries then fell to the ground with their throats stabbed through.

This sudden movement had disturbed many men, the moment they saw this, each and every mercenary there had turned pale with fright, "Everyone be careful, he's here!"

Before the man could finish talking, a leather wearing man came out from the dense foliage with his sword at the ready to stab into the nearest person.

The remaining Tianxiong clan members all held their Saint Weapons up, since they held the advantage with numbers, they all started to spread out in a ring to entrap the invading person inside.

Even after being encircled, the leather wearing person didn't have a frantic expression on his face. Holding his sword in his right hand, he continued to defend himself against the attacks that came at him from every direction. His speed was so fast, it caused his attackers to be speechless, but these men were only at the Great Saint level, so when it was his turn to attack, they saw little to no opportunity to dodge.

Following the continuous string of collisions, the leather wearing man lashed out with his sword, stabbing into the throats of 5 different mercenaries with a hazy glow of Sword Qi following his sword.

After killing those 5 mercenaries, the man didn't continue fighting, instead he opted to run from the encirclement. Entering the foliage, he disappeared without a trace as the remaining mercenaries were powerless to stop him.

Not too long after his escape, an earth attributed Saint Force flew into the area as Tianxiong Lie returned with the other Saint Masters. Looking around the area, all he could see was the corpses on the ground without any signs of their assailant.

"Where is he?!" Tianxiong Lie roared furiously as he asked the mercenaries there.

Chapter 142: Tianxiong Clan's Heavy Losses

"He ran out over there!" A person pointed to where the man ran off to.

Hearing that, Tianxiong Lie turned his glare over to where a mercenary pointed. At this moment, the tall grass was shaking slightly, because someone had only just recently passed through, there remained a clear trace of someone's trail.

Tianxiong Lie returned his gaze over to the dead bodies on the floor with a gloomy face. In the brief moment he was gone, another 15 people had died. He was afraid that if things continued on like this, he wouldn't even have 50 people by the time he left the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With such heavy losses, there would be no way for the Tianxiong clan to recover from this.

The 20 Saint Masters that had followed Tianxiong Lie stood behind him silently. Looking at the dozen dead bodies on the ground, every single one of them had a face that was unprecedentedly serious.

"Continue onward!" Tianxiong Lie ordered. After these past few days, he knew in his heart that in the complicated terrain of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he was completely unable to kill the youth that killed his son Kang Er. If things continued on like this, then his army would be utterly destroyed.

"For now, the current formation will be changed. Every 5 Saint Masters will spread out in one group for each of the four directions, and the Great Saints will be in the middle. Maintain this formation while moving forward." Tianxiong Lie spoke. For a youth that wasn't on his level to reduce him to such a state was an unwashable disgrace.

Soon after, the Tianxiong clan followed Tianxiong Lie's change in formation and continued to journey through the mountain range. Now that they had been attacked by surprise once, everyone was

extremely vigilant of their surroundings, their eyes constantly swept around their surroundings wary of suffering from another surprise attack.

Tianxiong Lie stood in the center of the formation with his inner Saint Force constantly on the move inside his body. He just needed for the youth to appear once more, no matter what the position, Tianxiong Lie would be able to respond quickly.

Tianxiong Lie's eyes swept the area in front of him as his ears trembled as he strained them to listen for any closeby movements.

"As long as you appear, even if there is a heavy cost, I will kill you." Tianxiong Lie resolved.

The group walked through the dense forest slowly. In regards to this killer after them, they didn't dare to move too quickly in case they made noise that would mask over the minute sounds of their stalker.

Just as the Tianxiong clan was about to step over the boundary where the tall grass stopped, the figure of a person darted out from the grass, and in a split second, he had stabbed through the hearts and throats of a few mercenaries.

"Don't even think about running away this time!"

Just as that mysterious figure had stabbed into the throats of a few mercenaries, an angry snarl came from the middle of the formation. Tianxiong Lie's gigantic earth attributed axe flew out at him following the figures movements.

At the same time, the Saint Masters in the group immediately leapt forward with their Saint Weapons ready to slash at their foe.

That man had no desire to fight with everyone. Reclaiming his Saint Weapon into his body, he darted out of the group and then out of sight into the tall grass once more.

"You all stay here, I will chase after him." Tianxiong Lie roared before dashing into the tall grass after the man.

This area of grass was tall enough to completely conceal a person within its expanse, and that leather wearing person was moving through the grass with a nimble and quick speed. Very rarely did he make a sloppy mistake, and he maintained that fast speed without making the tiniest of sounds as if his body was gliding instead of running. Not a single bit of weight had touched the ground as he ran, it was like he was using the grass for support instead of the ground.

"You won't escape this time! If I don't kill you today, then I will never be able to remove this hatred from my heart!" Tianxiong Lie chased after the man. His speed had already reached the very pinnacle of his limits as the earth Saint Force flew off like smoke from his legs. With his legs constantly stamping across the ground, he was no slower than the man he was chasing.

The leather wearing man began to constantly change directions, and so too did Tianxiong Lie who was following closely behind in the tall grass yet he was unable to keep his eyes on the figure in front. Every so often he would have to jump into the air,

At this moment, a fierce gale blew through the tall grass, creating a crashing sound throughout the area and causing Tianxiong Lie who was chasing after the man to pale. Stamping off of the ground, he leaped

into the air and examined the ground below only to become dejected. He had lost sight of the man's traces.

"This damnable wind didn't come early or late, instead, it came right on time so that I lost sight of that man!"

Examining his surroundings, Tianxiong Lie had a face full of resentment, and couldn't help but curse out in anger. Afterward, he leaped into the air once more unwilling to give up. Looking down, he tried to find traces of the man, but he could not because of the gale that was still continuing to blow, causing all of the tall grass to constantly sway in the wind and making tracking impossible.

"I definitely won't let you go, if you're a man, then leave behind your name!" Tianxiong Lie roared up at the sky. His voice scattered through the air, causing echos to be heard from far away.

Not too long after, a clear laughter could be heard.

"Hahaha, this one is called Jian Chen. Tianxiong clan, one day I will make another visit, so until that day comes, I hope the clan leader will not worry about me."

"Jian Chen. Good, good, good! I, Tianxiong Lie swear that even if you escape to the ends of the earth, I will find you! You won't ever escape!" Tianxiong Lie roared.

This time, there was no response.

Tianxiong Lie couldn't reply anymore, and instead continued to lead the remaining Tianxiong clan members out of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Very quickly they walked away from the grassy areas, and because of that, they no longer came across any surprise attacks.

Returning to Wake City, Tianxiong Lie immediately traveled to the Mercenary Union and placed a high bounty on Jian Chen of ten thousand purple coins for the capture of him alive with his details posted under.

Right afterward, the entire Wake City exploded with activity once more. Ten thousand purple coins. Such an expensive bounty was a never before seen event in Wake City history, and a price this high was rare to see in the entire Tian Yuan Continent. To add onto that, the Mercenary Union had bumped up the mission grade to A Rank, making it a special mission. It wasn't restricted to just mercenaries, as this mission was then sent out to the following nations neighboring the Blue Wind Kingdom.

Right at this moment, Jian Chen wasn't aware that the warrant for his capture had been put up with such a high price once more. Right now, he was still in the Magical Beast Mountain Range washing his body.

"My current strength should be around the Peak Great Saint tier already. These next few days, I should hunt for a few magical beasts in the mountain range and make a breakthrough into the Saint Master level. This way, if I come across Tianxiong Lie in the future, I won't be considered a weak opponent to him." Jian Chen thought to himself as he quickly made plans for the future.

Chapter 143: Tortoise Beast

“Ai!” Suddenly, Jian Chen let out a sound of surprise from the water edge. After he had washed away the sweat and filth, he stared at his body, only to discover that his skin had surprisingly turned a deep shade of red, completely unlike his usual skin color.

“What’s going on here, how did my body turn red?” Jian Chen cried out in astonishment with his eyebrows raised. After thinking about it for some time, his face relaxed and he broke out into a smile. Muttering to himself excitedly, he said, “This is what the books said would happen; this situation means that the anti venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake has completely fused with my bloodstream. I didn’t think that it would fuse together in only a month’s time, nor did I think that the anti venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake coursing through my body would make such a change. If my body continues to refine the Thousand Immunity, then it will eventually gain the ability to reproduce the anti venom on its own, and by then, I will have truly perfected the Thousand Immunity.”

“Once I perfect the Thousand Immunity, all of the blood that my body makes will naturally contain the anti venom. So I don’t need to worry about my body losing any blood with anti venom anymore.”

Jian Chen carefully inspected his body just in case there was any other changes to it other than his skin becoming a red color. However, there were no other changes; everything else was exactly the same as before.

Jian Chen leapt out of the river to where his crude leather clothes were, and began to change into them. Since he had decided to cultivate in the Magical Beast Mountain Range until he broke through to Saint Master level, Jian Chen didn’t want to switch out of his simple clothing. He hadn’t had enough time to buy a new set of spare clothes during his last return to Wake City from the mountain range, since he was unwilling to fill his Space Belt with countless amounts of clothes that would just be wasted out here. Because of the complicated terrain and all of its thistles and thorns, any clothes worn here would be quickly ruined. Even if he did bring several sets of clothes, he wouldn’t want change into them just for that reason.

Jian Chen continued on deeper into the mountain range where the Class 3 Magical Beasts roamed, staying there for a few days.

As the next couple of days passed, Jian Chen continued on as usual. In the daytime, he would look for the traces of magical beasts and kill them. At night, he would use the monster cores to cultivate. However, because he hadn’t prepared any repellent herbs for mosquitos and other poisonous insects, every night was a night of torment for him as they harassed Jian Chen. It was a good thing that Jian Chen had the primary step of the Thousand Immunity down, so he didn’t have to worry about the poisonous bites of the insects. Plus, because he could control light Saint Force, the remaining swelling or other injuries he did sustain were immediately treated, and disappeared without a trace.

During the past few days, Jian Chen had already reached the Peak Great Saint level. Adding onto the fact that he had been fighting Class 3 Magical Beasts every day, his originally exquisite swordplay became even more perfect from this refinement. As his strength grew, the power of his physical body also gradually increased. Although it was still far from reaching invulnerability, it undoubtedly provided him an extremely durable body that could fully utilize his nimble swordplay. After all, if he wanted to increase his speed, the toll on his body would be extremely high. If his body’s resilience wasn’t enough, a simple fist that used all his strength would most likely cause his arm to throb in pain, as if blood wasn’t

flowing through it. If he ceaselessly maintained his lightning-fast swordplay, the greatest merit it would provide would be in his cultivation of the profound Azulet Sword Law, especially for its first layer of techniques, "Refined Body". It would not only help strengthen every cell in Jian Chen's body, it would also make his body softer and yet still possess an exceedingly strong toughness.

Under these various conditions, Jian Chen's weaknesses were worked in a way that improved and helped condition Jian Chen's sword strokes to be even harder to dodge.

After becoming a Great Saint, killing Class 3 Magical Beasts was a great deal easier than before. Nearly 40 magical beasts died from Jian Chen's hands every day.

Right now somewhere in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, Jian Chen and another gigantic Class 3 Magical Beast were fighting. The magical beast was the size of several cattle, and its entire body was covered with fine scales as a layer of defense.

Jian Chen's body was like a speed demon as he continued to run in circles around the magical beast. The Light Wind Sword in his hand was like a sharp silver ray of light as it continuously struck against the scales of the magical beast. The density and toughness of the scales on the magical beast were extraordinary, so even if Jian Chen really wanted to break through them, he would have a hard time doing so. In addition, the magical beast was humongous. Even if the Light Wind Sword did pierce through the beast's body, the blade would not harm the beast in the slightest, unless fatal.

Just as the magical beast started to shake, Jian Chen saw his chance. In a flash of lightning, he stabbed at the throat of the magical beast and pierced straight through it.

Unfortunately, after Jian Chen stabbed through its throat, the magical beast still did not die. Letting out a destitute roar, it began to charge at Jian Chen with a ferocity even more intense than before.

"This tortoise magical beast is at the peak of a Class 3 Magical Beast level. It is even about to reach the Class 4 Magical Beast level; no wonder its vitality is this strong. It seems that if I want to take care of this quickly, I will have to take action from within his body. Otherwise, unless I behead it will be very difficult to kill." Jian Chen muttered as he looked at the magical beast in front of him. Not only was the magical beast strong in terms of defense, but its vitality was extraordinary as well. Even after Jian Chen had stabbed into its throat, it still didn't die; rather, the matter had infuriated it further.

While Jian Chen and this tortoise magical beast were battling, a group of mercenaries came into the battlefield. There were 20 men in that group with faces so filled with mud, that aside from their ages, no other distinguishing traits were visible. About half of them were wearing leather skinned clothing while the other half had clothes that were in extremely poor conditions. Two of the mercenaries were even wrapped up completely in bandages; their blood could easily be seen bleeding underneath the wrappings, signifying that they were heavily wounded.

The moment this group of mercenaries saw the tortoise magical beast fight with Jian Chen right in front of their eyes, they immediately let out a surprised shout.

"That seems to be Jian Chen!"

Chapter 144: Black Leopard Mercenaries

Hearing this, the entire group of mercenaries became startled and looked over at Jian Chen with careful eyes.

“A medium sized build around the age of 20 years old. Wields a slender sized silver long sword with rapid speeds while being nimble. Captain, this man resembles the one on the bounty posters put up by the Tianxiong clan in the Mercenary Union. In my opinion, this is definitely Jian Chen.” A leather hide wearing mercenary said next to another mercenary whose clothes were still intact.

“That’s right, captain, I’m absolutely sure this person is Jian Chen. The Tianxiong clan has put out a ten thousand purple coin reward for the capture of Jian Chen. If we can capture him, then those ten thousand purple coins will be ours.” Another shriveled mercenary spoke.

Another man spoke out softly, “I can see that this Jian Chen won’t be so easy to handle. Do you guys not see how he is single handedly fighting against that Class 3 Magical Beast?”

“What are you afraid of? No matter how awesome he is, he is only one person while we are many. Don’t tell me you’re afraid of a single person. If word of this spreads out, then our Black Leopard Mercenaries will have no face left to preserve in Wake City.” Another leather hide wearing mercenary said with a muffled voice.

“What he’s saying is right. Even if he’s amazing, he’s still only one person. Could it be that our Black Leopard Mercenaries are afraid of a single 20 year old kid?”

At that moment, a calm looking person opened his mouth, “Okay, everyone stop arguing. Listen to the captain’s opinion.” After he had finished speaking, everyone had stopped talking and turned to look at the person who was at the front of the group. Out of everyone in the mercenary group, only he could be considered to have clothes that were in perfect condition.

He was the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries was very tall at the height of 2.5 meters and had a sturdy build. The hair on his head was cut to a short length on his large face, but it was rather ordinary to look at, and one would have trouble remembering the details of him if asked. He was wearing black robes that only had a few scratches from the thistle and thorns of the forest.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries stared closely at the battle between Jian Chen and the tortoise magical beast with a look of hesitancy. After a few moments of unwavering emotions reflected across his eyes, he finally came to a conclusion. “No matter how amazing he is, he still 20 years old after all, he can’t be a match for the entire group of ours. Besides, there is only one Class 3 Magical Beast fighting against him. Let’s wait for the beast to consume all of his Saint Force and deal him some damage before we immediately capture Jian Chen and bring him to the Tianxiong clan for that ten thousand purple coin prize.”

“What a marvelous decision, captain. This matter is over then, our group will definitely flourish. Ten thousand purple coins, ah, even after splitting it, this will be enough for our entire lifetime.” One person sighed happily.

“After this is over, I will definitely go to Romance City and have lady Yun Xiu serve me for a few days.” Another mercenary laughed.

“Hehe, Jie Li, every time that brothel from Romance City is mentioned, you begin to drool. It’s a shame you have never had the money to enjoy its pleasures. Wait until this is over, then you will be able to take that Yun Xiu back home as your wife without any problems.” A man with a beard had laughed.

Hearing that, the previous mercenary laughed and then stared at Jian Chen almost as if he were staring at a mountain of gold.

“Ao!”

At that moment, a blood curdling roar came from far away. The mercenaries looked at the origin only to see Jian Chen had stabbed into the tortoise’s throat. There was a strong amount of Sword Qi that not only stabbed into its throat, but straight into its body with an explosive entrance before impacting against its inner organs.

The tortoise continued to shriek as its gigantic body froze up and slowly crashed into the ground with a resounding boom.

“Forward!”

Just as the tortoise magical beast fell to the ground, the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries lead his group toward Jian Chen with the rest of the mercenaries following straight behind.

The expression on Jian Chen’s face didn’t change at all. Slowly pulling out his Light Wind Sword from the throat of the tortoise magical beast, he walked to the belly of the beast as if nothing were happening and with a flash of a large amount of Sword Qi, he thrust his sword deep into its stomach. Immediately, a large wound appeared on the belly as Jian Chen stabbed deep within. A bloodstained item then flowed out with the blood before rolling to a stop in front of him.

Jian Chen crouched down to the bloody earth and wiped the blood off the item revealing it to be a small crystal, it was the tortoise’s monster core.

Seeing how Jian Chen hadn’t even spared them a glance as if he held the Black Leopard Mercenaries in disdain, the mercenary group suddenly felt gloomy.

The leader of the mercenary group looked at Jian Chen and spoke, “Jian Chen, I cannot determine your age, but you look very calm, especially in a moment like this where you should feel frantic instead.”

Jian Chen calmly stored the monster core into his Space Belt before raising his head up to look at the Black Leopard Mercenaries to say calmly, “Who are you? How do you know my name?”

Hearing that answer, the Black Leopard Mercenaries leader revealed a small cold smile, “We are the Black Leopard mercenaries. As for how we know your name, hehe, that’s simple. Your name is of well renown in Wake City especially, everyone knows who you are.”

Jian Chen scowled slightly, “Speak, what is your goal then.”

“Our goal is simple, now if you will kindly go with us.”

Even before Jian Chen could speak, another mercenary had spoke up.

“That’s right, we only wish for you to come with us. Now be an obedient youngster, and our Black Leopard Mercenaries won’t treat you too badly.” A shriveled mercenary laughed.

Jian Chen revealed a cold smile, “This one isn’t sure where you want to go.”

“Where else? Of course we go back to Wake City.” A man said with a muffled voice.

Hearing that city name, Jian Chen immediately guessed that this had to do with the Tianxiong clan.

“And if I don’t go back with you?” Jian Chen looked at the 20 mercenaries with a calm voice. No matter what angle they looked at him, not a single trace of fear could be seen on it.

Hearing this, the members of the Black Leopard Mercenaries began to laugh as one of the taller mercenaries took out his Saint Weapon, it was a 3 meter long spear.

“If you don’t come back with us, then we will have to take you in by force. Jian Chen, I presume you wouldn’t want to feel any suffering.” The captain of the Black Leopard Mercenaries said.

After hearing their leader, every other mercenary began to take out their own Saint Weapons, causing the air to fluctuate with the Saint Force as they stalked toward Jian Chen.

Chapter 145: Yet Another Profit

“Jian Chen, I’ll give you one last chance; come with us obediently and quietly, or we’ll take you in by force. If you make us show our hand, then a beating will be hard to avoid.” The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries gave a level stare at Jian Chen, who didn’t say a single word.

Jian Chen then chuckled and revealed a smile full of disdain as he spoke, “With only your Peak Saint Master strength, you don’t have the qualifications to speak of such things to me. Today, we shall see if you will be able to capture me, or if each and every single one of you will die by my hand, one by one.” As he spoke, a hazy glow of Sword Qi began to circulate around his Light Wind Sword. Immediately afterward, Jian Chen’s figure blurred as he moved toward the mercenary group. In an instant, he reappeared right in front of the weakest looking mercenary, and swung his sword with a stunning speed.

“You’re looking for death!”

“Brat, you’re too arrogant!”

Just as Jian Chen began to move, the other members of the Black Leopard Mercenaries all cried out in anger as they charged at him.

“Pch! Pch! Pch.....”

The instant they took one step forward, Jian Chen stabbed into the throats of three mercenaries with lightning quick speed. Since Jian Chen’s attack was so sudden, those of the Primary Great Saint level didn’t have any time to react at all. Thus, the Light Wind Sword pierced into their throats and ended their lives.

Without any hesitation, Jian Chen pulled out his sword and began to fight with the surrounding Black Leopard Mercenaries in an intense battle. Although they held the advantage in numbers, the number of enemies that were consistently trying to hit Jian Chen numbered only around 7. The rest surrounded

Jian Chen so that he would have no way to escape. At the same time, they would be able to jump in at any time to provide assistance if needed.

Among the 7 mercenaries that were fighting Jian Chen, there were 5 Saint Masters and 2 Great Saints. The people of the Black Leopard Mercenaries weren't stupid, they knew that a person capable of incurring the wrath of the Tianxiong clan couldn't possibly be weak. Thus, the 5 Saint Masters attacked him at the same time.

Jian Chen, however, was handling the 5 Saint Masters and the 2 Great Saints with ease. Previously, when he only had the strength of a Middle Great Saint, he had already dared to face the many Saint Master experts of the Tianxiong clan. Obviously, now that his strength had already improved to the Peak Great Saint level, he'd have no problem fighting these mercenaries. He was now only one step away from reaching Saint Master level.

Although the increase in level from Middle to Peak Great Saint was a small one in name, Jian Chen's strength had multiplied greatly during this period. Now that he had Peak Great Saint powers, the simultaneous attacks from the 5 Saint Masters wasn't as difficult to deal with as his previous experience in Wake City.

Jian Chen's sword was unparalleled in speed, striking out in all directions as an offense and defense at the unbelievably fast speed of light. The Light Wind Sword continued to collide with the other Saint Weapons, causing metallic clanging sounds to screech out. After each collision, the strong amount of Saint Force from the weapons would diffuse through the area, causing dust and smoke to pervade the air.

Jian Chen's sword began to speed up even more as it blocked the other Saint Weapons. It then flashed out like silver lightning, piercing two of the Great Saint's throats.

"Charlie!"

"Cheng Buping!"

Seeing two people die in front of them, the Black Leopard Mercenaries let out painful cries at the loss of their 2 Great Saints. Those who had a great relationship with the ones who had just died immediately roared in anger as they charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen dodged out of the circle the Saint Masters had put up and began to fight intensely with the Great Saints. After a few flashes of his sword, more mercenaries had their throats and hearts pierced, and died as well.

"You dare to kill the members of our Black Leopard Mercenaries? You're courting death, Jian Chen!" The leader of the Black Leopard grew furious after seeing so many people die by the hands of Jian Chen, and he rushed toward to stab Jian Chen with his long spear.

Almost as if he had eyes on the back of his head, Jian Chen suddenly turned around and thrust his long sword out.

"Ding!"

The sound of steel meeting steel rang out as the silver Light Wind Sword and the long spear clashed with each other in mid air. As the two came into contact, Jian Chen didn't take a single step back; instead, he stepped past the spear toward the captain, and with a flash of his blade, the Light Wind Sword stabbed into the throat of the leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries. With a squelch, the tip of the bloody sword appeared on the other side of the man's throat.

The leader of the Black Leopard Mercenaries grew stiff as he stared at the sword in his throat with disbelief. His pupils rolled around furiously as he stared at Jian Chen and spoke with difficulty, "H...how could I...I...how could I...die by your...hand?"

"Captain!"

"Captain!"

"Captain Kargil!"

Seeing their leader stabbed through his throat, the expressions of all the mercenaries changed. After standing there in a daze for a while, they all began to shout in alarm.

"He has killed Captain Kargil! My brothers, let's avenge the captain's death..."

"Avenge Captain Kargil..."

"Everyone forward, kill this Jian Chen!"

The mercenaries suddenly became motivated once more as they charged at Jian Chen.

"How reckless!" Jian Chen sneered as he pulled out his sword. The blade flashed as he charged towards the foremost people, instantly penetrating a few more throats.

Jian Chen's figure nimbly flashed through the crowd as he stabbed out at the people with wild abandonment. The mercenaries fighting against him fell one by one as they faced up against Jian Chen's superbly fast sword. Those who had the strength of a Great Saint didn't have the ability to defend themselves. Even the Saint Masters weren't able to hold up for very long.

In a short moment, another 10 mercenaries had died at Jian Chen's sword, leaving behind 2 Saint Masters and 4 Great Saints.

The 6 people had already lost their wills to fight. They exchanged mutual looks with each other, knowing that continuing on this road would end with death. The only road left to take was to run. With this thought, the 6 mercenaries immediately spread out in 4 directions without any hesitation in an effort to escape Jian Chen.

Jian Chen sneered. His gaze swept across the area, eventually landing on a Great Saint mercenary. His body flickered slightly as he chased after the Great Saint with extreme speed. As for the other 5 mercenaries, Jian Chen took no heed of them.

That Great Saint who had been trying to escape from Jian Chen's pursuit was blocked off by him in the blink of an eye.

“You! What are you going to do?!” Seeing Jian Chen appear right in front of him, the mercenary’s face grew pale as he began to shake and timidly pulled out his Saint Weapon.

The Light Wind Sword disappeared from Jian Chen’s hand as he crossed both arms across his chest. Staring at the mercenary who was close to his age, he said indifferently, “Do you wish to live?”

“Of course!” That mercenary replied almost instantaneously. But the question then registered in his mind, and his expression grew hopeful as he asked incredulously, “Could it be you’re willing to let me go?”

“Letting you go won’t make much of a difference to me, and killing you will have no meaning either. As long as you cooperate with me and tell me what I need to know, then I will let you go.”

Hearing Jian Chen, the mercenary revealed a joyful expression. “Okay, as long as you let me go, I will definitely tell you all I know without hiding a single thing.”

Jian Chen nodded his head and said, “Let me ask you, what method is the Tianxiong clan using to deal with me, and how did your group recognize me?”

Without hesitation, the mercenary immediately replied, “The Tianxiong Clan used the Mercenary Union to place a ten thousand purple coin bounty on you. At the same time, they publicized some of your traits. That’s why we immediately recognized you as the person that the Tianxiong clan had placed a high bounty of based on your fight with the Tortoise Beast.”

Jian Chen frowned. The Tianxiong clan placing such a high bounty on his capture was something far out of his expectations.

After some hesitation, Jian Chen’s eyes brightened as he smiled darkly, “I can let you go now, but you must do one task for me.”

“What task? As long as I, Shu Kelin can find a way, I will definitely do it.” That mercenary vowed in an exceptionally resolute tone, most likely in hopes of Jian Chen believing him.

“When you return to Wake City, I want you to spread the news everywhere that I am in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. I want everyone to know that I am here, do you understand?” Jian Chen stared firmly at him.

“Understood, I understand,” Although he didn’t know what Jian Chen was up to, this mercenary still immediately replied to him without asking questions. He was afraid that if he made Jian Chen angry, his life would be forfeit.

Jian Chen thought for another second before continuing, “Also, tell them that I am seriously injured, got it?”

“Got it, got it. Don’t worry, I will definitely tell everyone what you want to be said.” The mercenary hurriedly replied.

Jian Chen nodded his head and waved his hand, “You can go.”

Almost as if that man had received an amnesty, he immediately began to run as fast as he could away from the area. Based on his appearance, it seemed as if he was afraid that Jian Chen would change his mind and take his life in the end.

Jian Chen looked at the dozens of corpses on the ground and took their Space Belts. Walking over to a clean area, he began to take inventory of the things in each Space Belt. In the end, there was over 100 monster cores, several dozen purple coins, 300 gold coins and a few other essentials.

Chapter 146: Breakthrough Into a Saint Master

Jian Chen looked through all of the monster cores the Black Leopard Mercenaries had. Among the 100 monster cores, a great amount of them were Class 3 Monster Cores and the rest were Class 2 Monster Cores. Just seeing the amount of monster cores painstakingly collected was proof of how long the mercenaries had stayed in the mountain range.

It was a shame that because of their greed, many of them had lost their lives by Jian Chen's hands, and their bountiful harvest of monster cores was taken from them for Jian Chen to use. Their rewards for their painstaking labor had been taken by someone else.

Jian Chen happily stored the 100 monster cores into his own Space Belt. Although he could personally get 20 or 30 monster cores in a single day, these 100 monster cores were not a small amount. With this amount, he would be able to sustain his cultivation for a few days.

"I hope that mercenary has accomplished the task I gave him. Ten thousand purple coins as a bounty, isn't a small amount at all. I'm willing to bet many mercenaries will be tempted by it." Jian Chen muttered to himself before revealing an expectant smile. "I hope there are enough monster cores in their bags, this will be a great source of profit. The wage for avarice is death. Since they are trying to deal with me as a result of being unable to resist temptation, they can't blame me for being merciless." As he spoke, a flash of murderous intent radiated from Jian Chen.

"For the next two days, I should work hard to improve my strength. Otherwise, if I come across a strong group, even though they may not be able to seize me, dealing with them will be quite difficult. Moreover, I still need to be able to defend myself from Peak Great Saint Masters. With my current strength, going against Peak Saint Masters isn't a problem, but if I come across a Peak Great Saint Master, that could potentially be dangerous. If it doesn't go well, I might have to run away."

"While Wake City is only a Class 3 City with a few Great Saint Masters, that doesn't mean there are none to be seen. Just like the rarity of phoenix feathers and unicorn horns, nobody can guarantee that there wouldn't be any Great Saint Masters would come at me as a result of being unable to turn down the temptation of ten thousand purple coins. It seems that I need to quickly breakthrough into the Saint Master level so that if I were to fight against Great Saint Master experts, I would still have a chance."

After he made his plans, Jian Chen decided to not kill any more magical beasts and instead walked over to the side of a hill, where there was plenty of vegetation growing through the cracks of a steep rock face.

Jian Chen walked up to the wall and gently pushed away the tall grass to reveal a hole. This cavern had been discovered by Jian Chen 2 days ago.

Taking out a few materials from his Space Belt, he fashioned a torch and walked straight into the cavern. The passageway was very narrow; only one person would be able to walk over the uneven surfaces. Traces of handprints and footprints could be seen all over the place, showing that this cavern had been artificially expanded.

Following the curved, 30 meter long pathway, Jian Chen finally reached the end of the cavern. The circumference of the dead end was around 10 meters, and it had a height of 3 meters. The ground was very flat, and a stone table and bench sat nearby.

Two days before, when he had just discovered the cavern, Jian Chen had already known that others had stayed in this cavern for quite a while. However, a thick layer of dust covered the ground, clearly indicating that it had been ages since a person had last come here.

After inspecting the cavern and confirming the security of it, Jian Chen stuck his torch onto the wall and sat down in the central point of the dead end while taking out a few Class 2 Monster Cores to cultivate. He was definitely safer in this hidden cavern compared to the open outside mountain range, and it allowed Jian Chen to freely enter a state of cultivation as he pleased.

After hunting for a few days in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he had amassed a large amount of monster cores. Adding onto the hundreds of monster cores he had gained from the Black Leopard Mercenaries, the amount of monster cores in Jian Chen's possession was enough for him to cultivate for one full month. Jian Chen wasn't at all worried about a shortage of monster cores.

The energy within the monster cores became absorbed into Jian Chen's body at alarming speeds. The powerful energy gathered around his body, and was already gradually condensing into an extremely weak light. Because of the azure and violet glows within his dantian, Jian Chen's cultivation rate had improved a hundred times over, but at the same time, the two glows robbed him of his cultivation. Jian Chen would only see a small part of what he absorbed and cultivated. Despite this, his cultivation speed was still a bit faster than before.

Within Jian Chen's dantian, the strong Saint Force began to form the hazy shape of a "sword"; although very blurry, it actually looked very similar to his Light Wind Sword to the point where even the handle of the sword could be more or less distinguished. As Jian Chen continued to absorb the stream of energy within the monster cores, the sword within his dantian began to condense with Saint Force slowly as it expanded outwards.

"According to this speed, I will soon be able to breakthrough into the Saint Master level. I estimate that it should take me from ten days to half a month. But still, that won't do, that is too slow." Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows in thought. Because of his dantian, all of the energy from the monster cores was being robbed from him, causing him to feel a bit dissatisfied.

"Let's see if I can take that energy back." Suddenly, Jian Chen's heart shook as he began to concentrate on stealing the energy back from the two glows in his dantian. However, the speed in which the azure and violet glow was absorbing the energy was far too fast. Even when using all of his strength, he was only able to take back a small amount of energy.

Despite this result, Jian Chen was still extremely satisfied. With this small amount of energy, his cultivation speed had improved by a good ten or twenty percent. If he were to continue with this speed, it wouldn't take him more than a few days to make the breakthrough.

In the cavern, Jian Chen was in a deep state of cultivation, but outside of the Magical Beast Mountain Range in Wake City, the entire city was in an uproar.

When the news had escaped from the mercenary's mouth, no one knew whether or not it was genuine, but it had still caused every single mercenary to give it some thought.

This person had a bounty placed on him for ten thousand purple coins. Although he was in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, he was alone and badly injured, so his strength would be sharply declining.

This piece of unconfirmable news had made many mercenaries travel to the Magical Beast Mountain Range in hopes to confirm it. They had to make sure since it was ten thousand purple coins, and since the target was only a young man who was barely 20 years old, this was a simple task in the eyes of many people. The only trouble they would have would be to locate him.

With a mission that had a target like this, there weren't many people that could resist the temptation of ten thousand purple coins. Despite many people telling them that the target this time was not weak at all and had even caused the Tianxiong clan to take a heavy loss, these mercenaries still had no fear.

After a few days of Jian Chen staying in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, many cities around Wake City had already heard the news of Jian Chen being seriously injured. Many mercenaries had already begun to rush towards Wake City in huge numbers.

Seeing the situation swell up like this, a few of the lone mercenaries who had confidence in their strength and luck looked toward the Magical Beast Mountain Range. To them, they would take advantage of this situation for their own advantage.

In a flash, 7 days had passed. In the caverns of the Magical Beast Mountain range, Jian Chen was sitting with his legs crossed on the ground while he cultivated. The torch on the wall had long since been extinguished, causing it to be completely pitch dark to the point of not being able to see his hands in front of his face.

These past few days, Jian Chen had been in a cultivational state for almost the entire time. With the continuous increase in his inner Saint Force, Jian Chen could clearly feel that his strength was improving by leaps and bounds. While he had cultivated, he didn't move a single inch, aside from the times he needed to change the monster cores in his hand. Although, once he swapped the monster cores, he would go straight back to cultivating.

Jian Chen hadn't eaten a single meal or took a sip of water while cultivating. He had sunk into such a deep meditational state that he had almost felt no hunger or thirst.

In those days, a third of the monster cores in Jian Chen's Space Belt had already been used up. Surrounding him was the dust left behind by the spent monster cores piled up in a fine layer, especially on his crossed legs.

Chapter 147: Identity Revealed

At that moment, a wave of intense energy pulsed out from Jian Chen's body. At this hour, his cultivation speed had gone up by another noticeable amount, yet the energy from within the Monster Cores was pouring out like stampeding horses. It was already too much for Jian Chen to handle, and so the energy floated in the air around him, looking like a dense white cloud of fog. In the cavern, this fog was extremely noticeable as it floated about him. In fact, Jian Chen's body had begun to light up with the fog surrounding him, making his body stand out in the dark cavern.

At the same time, all of his pores expanded to a larger size almost as if they were the mouths of thirsty children. The white mist like fog around Jian Chen then began to be swallowed into his body to be used as an energy source, consumed for Jian Chen's cultivation.

As the pores on Jian Chen's body began to swallow the energy around him, he began to also feel a slightly painful sensation within his body. It was almost as if he had multiple insects crawling around his body and taking bites. With such an annoying and irritating sensation like this, any person would feel it deep within their hearts.

As Jian Chen sat on the ground of the cavern with a peaceful look, he looked like a monk deep in meditation. Despite his peaceful demeanor, he could still feel the pain within his body. However, if one were to look at him, they would not be able to tell he was experiencing any pain. Meanwhile, within his body the energy that was absorbed through his pores was gathering within his dantian where it was then absorbed by the sword within it.

As the Saint Weapon absorbed the energy, it began to slowly change in a way that the shape of the sword grew more distinguished. All of the energy it had accumulated had added itself to its strength, and with each second the energy was absorbed, the Saint Weapon grew in length and size.

Right now, Jian Chen was already at the threshold of breaking through into a Saint Master.

This show continued on for 4 more hours until the monster core in Jian Chen's hand started to flicker. Immediately, Jian Chen took out a few Class 3 Monster Cores and began to cultivate again.

Time slowly but silently went by, and not too long after, half of the day had been spent. Within the darkness of the cavern, the hazy figure of Jian Chen could be seen cultivating while the white, fog-like energy grew even more condensed, to the point where it was lighting up like moonlight.

At that moment, an intense amount of energy flew out from Jian Chen and reverberated all over the cavern. The energy grew more and more intense as it eventually evolved into a squall that roared throughout the cavern. The dust kicked up everywhere and was scattered by the squall of energy.

All of the dust surrounding Jian Chen had been blown in every direction as the white fog swirled around frantically, before finally entering Jian Chen's body. In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had completely absorbed it all at a pace that was far faster than his original speed. With his current strength, he had finally made the breakthrough from a Great Saint to a Saint Master.

Just as Jian Chen had made his breakthrough into the next level, the two glows within his dantian had suddenly stopped stealing the energy from Jian Chen.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes from his sitting position when all of a sudden a weak, mysterious glow came out from his eyes. Although it was weak, in the darkness of the cavern, it was very noticeable.

Feeling that the Saint Force within his body was incomparably stronger than it was before, Jian Chen let loose an excited smile. Immediately, he brought out his Light Wind Sword to his hand which emitted a weak glow of light from its blade that dispersed the nearby darkness.

An amazing glow gleamed within Jian Chen's eyes as in the next moment, a large amount of silver light was released from the blade as a strong amount of Sword Qi appeared. Lunging forward, the Light Wind Sword was thrust through the air as a small amount of Sword Qi separated itself from the sword and shot toward the cavern walls with amazing speed.

Within the dark cavern, that silver glow of Sword Qi shot out like lightning towards the cavern wall without a sound. The moment it struck against the wall, the Sword Qi disappeared, but not before leaving behind a hole from its impact.

Jian Chen's body wavered slightly as he flew toward the wall like a demon possessed and struck out with his sword.

"Pch!"

Following the loud sound, the cliff that was stabbed by the Light Wind Sword seemed almost as weak as tofu. The entire blade of the Light Wind Sword had completely inserted itself into the wall and only the handle could be seen.

The moment the Light Wind Sword had stabbed into the wall, Jian Chen hadn't felt the slightest amount of obstructions from the momentum, making him feel as if the wall was a piece of beancurd instead of a stone wall. Although Jian Chen could easily stab into a stone wall in the past, it was not as easy as it was now.

Slowly pulling out his sword, Jian Chen's heart was filled with confidence. If he were to go against Tianxiong Lie, although he might not win against him, he would at least be able to put up a good fight.

Now that his strength was at the Saint Master level, Jian Chen was no longer worried if he were to come across a group of mercenaries. Even if there was a Great Saint Master within their ranks, he would at least be able to run away if need be.

Recollecting his Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen dusted himself off from all the dust and ignited the fire once more, basking in the glow of the fire instead of the darkness for once.

When Jian Chen exited from the cavern, 5 days had already passed. The intense sun was floating high in the sky, indicating that it was noon.

Jian Chen calmly looked around himself before setting off in a random direction.

"I hope that mercenary from the Black Leopard Mercenaries did not let me down." Walking into the tall grass infested forest, Jian Chen muttered to himself. Now that he was a Saint Master, his fighting strength was much higher, and within Wake City, there would definitely be very few people that could contend with him.

Jian Chen began to idly stroll through the Magical Beast Mountain Range. In this part of the mountain range, Class 2 and 3 Magical Beasts often strolled through the area. In the past, Jian Chen had to be careful as he walked through this area, but now, as long as he didn't come across another monster on

the same level as the Golden Striped Silver Snake, even if it was a Class 3 Magical Beast, he wouldn't have to worry.

Just then, Jian Chen's ears trembled as he heard the soft sound of chatter from the direction in front of him. Jian Chen's line of sight was obstructed due to the extremely dense vegetation and couldn't see who was talking beyond the trees.

"Harry, we've been searching this area for days and circled around the Magical Beast Mountain Range many times already. And yet we've still haven't come across anyone that looks like Jian Chen. Do you think Jian Chen is still here? What if he already escaped without a trace?"

"Fiji, you can stop your complaining. The Magical Beast Mountain Range is huge with wild grass everywhere. Searching for a single person in this place is difficult, surely you understand that. Besides, the reports say that Jian Chen is heavily injured. Even if he wanted to run, he wouldn't be able to go far. I'm not even sure if he's currently hiding somewhere trying to heal

"That's right, I'm sure that Jian Chen's hiding somewhere with heavy wounds not daring to come out."

"But it's still so troublesome. Many people have already entered the mountain range, and if Jian Chen wasn't in a secret hiding spot, he would have long since been discovered by a group of people or even eaten by a magical beast."

"There's some truth to that, but we better slowly look for now. Even if we don't find him, we'll be able to kill a few magical beasts and take their monster cores to cultivate with."

As soon as that last line was spoken, the group pushed past some tall grass and walked out onto the road where they could see Jian Chen clearly in front of them.

They could see Jian Chen wearing animal leather and his face hidden by the accumulated filth of his time on the mountain range.

The moment they saw Jian Chen, the mercenaries looked blankly at him. At the same time, Jian Chen took in the group in front of him; there was a total of 7 or 8 people in front of him with their ages looking to be around 30 years old. Their faces had traces of sweat and filth and their clothes were in a tattered condition, showing that they had been staying in the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few days at the very least.

One of the mercenaries walked forward to speak to Jian Chen, "Fellow friend, judging from your appearance, I presume you've been at the Magical Beast Mountain Range for quite some time now."

Jian Chen's face revealed a smile as he replied, "That's right, I've been here on this mountain range for quite a few days."

"Then I'm not sure if this friend has heard about the most recent news from Wake City." The man asked Jian Chen as he looked at him.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a thoughtful look to him, "This one is not sure if you are talking about the one named Jian Chen."

"Correct, it is indeed about him. It would appear that this friend has indeed come into this Magical Beast Mountain Range looking for Jian Chen. Judging by your appearances, I presume you've been in the

mountain range for longer than we have. But perhaps, do you know any news about Jian Chen?" The mercenary said.

"News about Jian Chen..." Jian Chen's smile grew strange as he nodded. "You've asked the right person. Indeed, I know the whereabouts of Jian Chen."

"What! You know where Jian Chen is?!"

Hearing this, the entire group of mercenaries were startled. Due to the words from this mercenary, everyone adopted a joyous expression on their faces. This was what they had wanted to hear, but they hadn't expected to hear it from this animal hide-wearing mercenary. They didn't think that this question they had thrown out casually would be answered in such a way.

"Fellow friend, where might Jian Chen be this one asks." A mercenary asked impatiently. To him, Jian Chen was like a mountain of gold, and so he didn't bother to think if he had the strength to fight him.

Jian Chen was still smiling as he slowly said, "Not even far away, but right in front of your eyes!" Jian Chen looked at them with a curious stare.

"Seeing so many mercenaries trying to find me, it would seem that the ten thousand purple coin bounty from the Tianxiong clan has enticed many people." Jian Chen thought to himself.

"Not far away, but right in front of our eyes!" Hearing Jian Chen, the mercenaries all repeated what he said under their breaths in thought. Very quickly the mercenaries came to a realization as they snapped their heads at him and stared in disbelief, "What?! You're Jian Chen?!"

Chapter 148: Spare Us!

As the mercenaries cried out, their eyes landed on Jian Chen with shock written all over their faces.

Not a single one of them had thought that after looking everywhere in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they would coincidentally come across him. What was more amusing was just how exactly they came across Jian Chen.

Another mercenary laughed bitterly as he stared at Jian Chen, "I say fellow brother, you shouldn't joke around in such a manner just in case some idiot believes what you say and drags you off to the Tianxiong clan for the bounty."

Hearing that mercenary, the other mercenaries saw the light and began to force a smile as well. The words Jian Chen had said had truly shocked them.

"Fellow friend, right now Jian Chen's name is infamous around this area, it would be best for you if you refrain from joking around like that again or else you risk having trouble come looking for you." A mercenary said. Not a single one of them believed that this animal hide wearing person was the Jian Chen they were looking for.

Jian Chen laughed and said, "Then what would you need to believe that I'm Jian Chen?"

"According to what we know, Jian Chen's Saint Weapon is a thin longsword and is quite young. Around the age of 20 to be exact. His speed is quite fast as is his sword strokes to the point where even a few

Saint Master experts aren't able to dodge them. It was said that because these Saint Masters weren't able to dodge his sword that they died by Jian Chen's hands." A mercenary said.

A silver sword appeared in Jian Chen's hands—it was his Light Wind Sword. Laughing, Jian Chen said, "Take a look, the sword Jian Chen uses, is it this one?"

Hearing this, the mercenaries looked at the Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hands with a curious look.

"Ai! Look! This sword here has some resemblance."

"That's right, it's quite similar, almost exactly the same."

Right away, two mercenaries couldn't help but cry out. Hearing those two, the rest of the mercenaries began to grow serious as they looked at Jian Chen, their attitudes toward him slowly changing.

"You really are Jian Chen." A mercenary stared at the dust filled face of Jian Chen. As the way things were now, these mercenaries had all come to the conclusion that this person in front of them was the person they had been painstakingly looking for.

Jian Chen laughed as he said, "That's right, I am Jian Chen. The Jian Chen that has been chased by the Tianxiong clan. Right now, I stand here waiting to see if you can capture and take me back to Wake City for the bounty."

Hearing that, the mercenaries began to laugh out loud as they looked at each other before one of the mercenaries cried out, "My brothers, surround him!"

With that command, a mercenary rushed toward Jian Chen while the rest of the mercenaries hesitated for a moment before charging along with him. Surrounding Jian Chen in a circle.

Just as Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword, both of his hands rested against his chest as he looked at the mercenaries surrounding him. With disdain, he said, "It would appear that many people were tempted by the ten thousand purple coin bounty, but I didn't think that even Great Saints would come to capture me as well. Could it be that you didn't hear about how many Saint Masters died by my hand, or do you think your strength surpasses those of the Saint Masters?"

The mercenaries all looked at Jian Chen with some hesitation as they listened to him, but one of the mercenaries cried out, "Jian Chen, you can stop pretending to be brave. Right now, everyone knows that you are heavily injured, so your strength is nowhere near the same level as it was. It would be best for you if you were to come with us obediently, otherwise, don't blame us for being impolite. By that point, don't say that we bullied you."

Jian Chen shook his head helplessly as he muttered, "It seems that the money has really addled your brains to the point where you don't even care for your own lives. Forget it, I don't feel like speaking with you anymore." Jian Chen then stopped talking before his body shook slightly before appearing instantly right in front of a closeby mercenary. Making a fist with his right hand, he slammed it into the nose of that mercenary without any fancy movements.

"Ah!" The mercenary cried out in agony as he held his nose in pain. Blood began to slowly drip down from it, and before long the entire bottom part of his face was covered with blood. Jian Chen's fist had broken his nose.

After breaking that mercenary's nose, Jian Chen didn't stop there. Immediately kicking at his stomach, the man was sent flying back 5 meters.

Immediately after, Jian Chen's body disappeared and reappeared right in front of another mercenary with a great amount of Saint Force circling his leg. With that leg, he lashed out at the chest of the mercenary.

"Bang!" came the collision. The mercenary didn't have any time to react before being sent flying into the air with blood flying out from his mouth.

"Jian Chen, what a lowly person you are for using a sneak attack! Everyone forward, take him!"

After Jian Chen had attacked those 2 mercenaries, the rest of the mercenaries were brought back to awareness and flew at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons ready to slash.

Jian Chen nimbly dodged the attacks and dashed forward and with his fists at the ready, he attacked a few of the mercenaries at a rapid pace, causing an endless stream of sounds to be heard.

Now that Jian Chen was a Saint Master, he could easily take care of those at the Great Saint level without using his Light Wind Sword.

Every sword user thought their swords to be extremely important, and many viewed the sword to be akin to their second life. Jian Chen was no exception. Looking at these mercenaries in front of him, if he were to use his sword to kill these mercenaries, it would be like killing a chicken with a cow cleaver.

Despite Jian Chen utilizing the art of Chinese boxing, these mercenaries were still powerless to respond. Within a few breaths, they had fallen to the ground with bloody noses and swollen faces.

Jian Chen clapped his hands together as he looked at the pained mercenaries on the ground and laughed, "Do you still believe you can take me in to get that reward?"

"Lord Jian Chen, please spare us, spare us please. We...we were possessed and seduced to the point of foolishness by the thought of the reward. You must be generous, please spare us this time." A mercenary crawled from the ground and began to bow his head to Jian Chen while pleading in a loud voice.

Chapter 149: Meeting the Zhou Mercenaries Once More

Seeing the mercenary continuously bow his head, Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows. These types of people were the ones he couldn't stand the most.

"Fiji, what are you doing, hurry up and get up! You're throwing away our face, even if we die, that will be it, what use is there to fear?" Seeing that mercenary continue to bow his head down at Jian Chen, one of the other mercenaries couldn't help but curse at him.

"Fiji, you cowardly bastard, in my entire life I have never seen such a brother like you."

The mercenary called Fiji who was kneeling had caused the rest of his mercenaries friends to look on at him with an extreme amount of disdain.

Jian Chen looked at the mercenaries who were shouting at Fiji with some admiration. For those who clung to their lives so cowardly like Fiji, Jian Chen held them in contempt the most.

“Do you have something to say still?” Jian Chen ignored the one who was bowing his head and looked at the other mercenaries.

Hearing that, the mercenaries looked at each other with a sorrowful look of regret. They clearly knew that they were under Jian Chen’s mercy, but it was most likely that they would stay within the Magical Beast Mountain Range forever without being able to see tomorrow’s sun.

“Whether you kill us or cut our flesh, do what you wish, there is nothing more to say.” A stubborn mercenary said firmly. Jian Chen had brought them to heel by using his fists and legs alone, this type of strength had caused them all to consider running away, but they clearly knew within their hearts that running away would have practically no chance of success.

“I’ll give you all one chance to live. Hand over all of your Class 2 Monster cores, and you may go. Otherwise, you will all die here. Pick now, I will wait for your decision.” Jian Chen said gently.

Faced with that decision, none of the mercenaries hesitated at all. Immediately nodding their heads, they all obediently took out every single Class 2 Monster Core from within their Space Belt and piled them all together neatly. Although they were all very reluctant to part with them, they weren’t stupid and knew that this wasn’t the time to be stingy.

Jian Chen swept his gaze over the pile where there weren’t even over 10 Class 2 Monster Cores. “Now hand over the monster cores.”

Obediently, one of the mercenaries scooped up the monster cores from the ground and placed them all within Jian Chen’s hand. Once Jian Chen took the monster cores in his hands, he waved them away, “Go on then, I’m feeling generous today. I may be letting you go, but if we meet each other again in the same situation, don’t expect it to be the same.”

The mercenaries didn’t bother to stay around and ran with their tails between their legs. Seeing the mercenaries disappear into the forest, Jian Chen smiled as he stored away the Class 2 Monster Cores within his Space Belt. Kneading his fists, he muttered to himself, “I don’t know how long it has been since I’ve used my fists to attack people. Although it feels a little weird, it’s not all that bad.”

“For these mercenaries, killing Class 2 Magical Beasts for their monster cores is not an easy task. I’ve taught them a lesson, but since this is their only source of Class 2 Monster Cores, this will definitely not be the last time I will see them. Sooner or later, many more people will come by this way; haha, I don’t know how many people there will be, but with a prize of ten thousand purple coins, I hope that even stronger people come. Otherwise, my plan will progress too slowly.”

“With this type of good opportunity, I will definitely profit as much as I can. Since all those who are trying to find me are enemies, I won’t need stay my hand. The weak are food for the strong, this is the absolute rule of this world.”

Jian Chen’s face slowly revealed a look of expectation; because of his cultivation, his monster core consumption rate was dozens of times or maybe a hundred times more than others. He had no other

choice but try to earn more monster cores because of the glows in his dantian. He had been forced to give up using the World Essence to cultivate and now only relied on the monster cores instead.

Not too long after the mercenaries had left, they immediately spread the news of Jian Chen's whereabouts. Soon enough, Jian Chen's position in the Magical Beast Mountain Range was well known by everyone. Quickly, every single mercenary and other parties of power began to rush over to try and overtake him.

At this moment, Jian Chen was sitting in the area with no intentions of leaving. Sitting on a tree 30 meters away, he was completely concealed by the tree leaves with barely any parts of his body being visible between the gaps in the leaves. In this situation, it was very difficult to see him.

Not too long after, a group of 40 mercenaries slowly walked into the area near where Jian Chen was sitting. All of them were wearing steel helmets with full body armor while being armed to the teeth. Not a single one of them looked to be in disarray, and instead looked to be very well trained.

The moment Jian Chen saw these mercenaries through the gaps in the leaves, the name of a single mercenary group flashed through his brain. Immediately, a flash of killing intent could be seen in his eyes as his face grew serious.

"Crash!" A sound came from within the leaves as Jian Chen leaped down from the tree top.

"What person...."

"Be careful, someone came down from the trees..."

Just as Jian Chen flew down from the treetops, the armored mercenaries below began to shout as each one of them pulled out a Saint Weapon at the ready to fight.

Jian Chen's feet kicked off the tree, causing him to fly 20 meters forward before finally landing nimbly on the ground right in front of the mercenaries.

"Who are you?!"

The front most armored mercenary stepped toward Jian Chen yelling for him to identify himself.

Jian Chen's solemn face looked through the group with a careful eye. It was a shame that he saw no familiar figures within the group, "You are the Zhou Mercenaries." Jian Chen said, it was no question.

"That's right, we are the Zhou Mercenaries. Who are you, and why do you block our path?" The mercenary who was at the front slowly demanded.

The Zhou Mercenaries weren't weak, and could be considered to be within the top 5 mercenary groups within Wake City. Adding onto their affiliation with the Zhou Clan in Wake City, it had given them plenty of arrogance.

Once he had confirmed their identities, a large amount of killing intent emerged from Jian Chen in waves of energy. Without anymore words, Jian Chen took out his Light Wind Sword and began to charge at the Zhou Mercenaries.

The last time Jian Chen had met the Zhou Mercenaries, they had come across a Class 5 cub in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Although the original members of that Zhou Mercenary group weren't here, they had cost the Flame Mercenaries their lives and caused them to lose the Class 5 cub. Plus, while running away from the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King, if it weren't for that member of the Zhou Mercenaries who threw the cub at Captain Kendall, the Golden Fur Tiger King wouldn't have chased after the Flame Mercenaries. So the entire destruction of the Flame Mercenaries and the death of everyone in it could all be blamed on the Zhou Mercenaries.

Chapter 150: Extermination

Jian Chen quickly closed the 10 meters between him and the Zhou Mercenaries. With his Light Wind Sword, he thrust it toward the front most mercenary's throat in hopes to kill him. In a flash, the sword had found itself right in front of his throat.

Seeing the sword come at him with incomparably fast speeds, the leader's face underwent a drastic change as he realized that he wasn't able to react in time to block with his own Saint Weapon. Hastily, he twisted the entire top half of his body to dodge this fatal sword strike and without hesitation, he retreated backward in order to gain some distance from Jian Chen.

Even after Jian Chen's attack had failed to land, his face did not waver at all. Continuing onward, he dashed forward toward the other Zhou Mercenaries ahead of him and lashed out with his Light Wind Sword and stabbed 4 Great Saints through their throats in a flash. Their armor was of no use as Jian Chen had speared through the steel metal as if it were tofu.

To make a long story short, in the instant that the four mercenaries were killed, the other Zhou Mercenaries hadn't even had time to react. From the moment Jian Chen had moved his hand to the moment the 4 mercenaries had been killed, the other mercenaries didn't even have time to breath.

"Stay your hand!" The first mercenary that had dodged Jian Chen's blade cried out. After seeing how fast Jian Chen had struck out, he had realized how strong he was. He would not be an easy opponent, so at this current moment, there was no way the Zhou Mercenaries would want to fight against this person without reason.

However, Jian Chen had turned a deaf ear toward him, the Zhou Mercenaries were already on the top of his to kill list. His Light Wind Sword flashed continuously as it wreaked havoc on his surroundings, his blade almost resembling the death god's scythe that reaped the lives of the Zhou Mercenaries without mercy.

The Great Saints of the Zhou Mercenaries simply had no chance to defend themselves. They weren't able to catch sight of the blade and thus were stabbed straight through the throat. Even the Saint Masters among the Zhou Mercenaries could only defend themselves against a few strikes before Jian Chen claimed their lives with his Light Wind Sword as well. Jian Chen's strength against Saint Masters was far stronger than it was before his breakthrough now. These Saint Master experts would no longer have the ability to harm Jian Chen, and just touching his clothes would already be a difficult task.

Jian Chen's figure constantly flickered as he traveled in between mercenaries almost as if he were creating doppelgangers of himself. As he paid attention to his surroundings, each strike toward his body

was carefully predicted and dodged. While he was able to injure the enemies around him, his enemies weren't able to do the same to him.

Jian Chen's attacks were incomparably sharp beyond anyone's imagination. In the midst of 40 mercenaries, Jian Chen had already stabbed and killed 20 mercenaries within the span of a few seconds, some of which were Saint Masters.

Seeing how Jian Chen didn't even expend much energy after killing 20 mercenaries so quickly, the leader of the Zhou Mercenaries had felt an icy cold fear within his heart. Hidden behind his stone cold helmet was his pale face. In his mind he had felt a great deal of puzzlement; he didn't know just when the Zhou Mercenaries had offended such a strong person, but without even saying a single word, this person had attacked the Zhou Mercenaries ruthlessly.

The leader was unable to keep calm and think about what to do, but his brain had quickly come to a conclusion. Immediately turning around, he made a decision to run away.

He knew in his heart that he was completely powerless against the great display of strength shown by Jian Chen. Even if he were to stay behind, he wouldn't make much of a difference and would only die there. So if death were to be the case here, he would rather take the chance and run away.

Before he could even run 20 meters away, the figure of a person quickly appeared right behind him with an extreme amount of speed. In the blink of an eye the person had already caught up with him as the silver glint of a sword left behind a brilliant glow of light as it arced toward the escaping figure.

The leader of the Zhou Mercenaries was a Peak Saint Master, so the moment he felt an extraordinary amount of Sword Qi, he immediately ducked onto the ground and rolled away without looking backward. The moment both of his hands hit the ground, he pushed himself back up onto his feet as a long spear simultaneously appeared in his hand. With a large amount of Saint Force encompassing the spear, he stabbed toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen swayed slightly instead of dodging away and kept charging towards the leader once more. His arm shook as the Light Wind Sword covered the entire area with its bright glow, causing everyone who looked at it to be dazzled at this seemingly unreal experience.

Against a sword whose light seemed to encompass the entire sky, the Peak Saint Master expert didn't know what he should do to protect himself. In that moment of hesitation, the silver blade of Jian Chen reappeared from within the glow and stabbed straight through his throat.

"Bang!" Jian Chen kicked at the leader's chest, causing him to fly far backward. Holding onto his bloody Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen ran toward the remaining Zhou Mercenaries in an effort to kill them. Jian Chen had no intention of letting a single member leave this place alive.

"Captain Chen Yunlong has died..."

"Captain Chen Yunlong was killed..."

"Captain Chen Yunlong has already been killed, everybody run..."

The death of their captain had caused every mercenary to feel an extreme amount of fear within their hearts as everyone began to lose their fighting spirit. Against Jian Chen who seemed like a god of death, their courage was almost nonexistent. Throwing away their helmets, they began trying to escape.

After Jian Chen had killed some of the members, the remaining few had all started to run away with all their strength in every possible direction. Although Jian Chen wasn't slow, killing every single mercenary in this case wouldn't be an easy task.

"Hmph, you Zhou Mercenaries won't leave this place alive." Jian Chen's eyes had a glow of killing intent behind them as he instantly began to pour out Sword Qi in tremendous waves from his sword. Immediately, the Light Wind Sword separated from Jian Chen's hand as it flew out with tremendous speed. Transforming into a silver ray of light, it began to fly toward the closest mercenary in an attempt to kill him.

At this moment, Jian Chen didn't care about keeping his Soul Sword a secret, he just wanted the entire Zhou Mercenaries to be destroyed.

The Light Wind Sword shot through the air like a silver streak of light throughout the area as it stabbed through the throats of all the mercenaries who were trying to escape. In a matter of seconds the remaining 10 mercenaries had all fallen to the ground dead.