

Chaotic 151

Chapter 151: This One is Honored

The Light Wind Sword nimbly flew through the air as if it had a mind of its own before returning to Jian Chen's hand once more.

Jian Chen held out his arm to catch the Light Wind Sword as it flashed toward him in a silver ray of light. It was already dripping with blood, but the tip of its blade could still be seen gleaming.

Just as the Light Wind Sword returned to his hand, the blood on the blade of the sword, almost as if it was alive, began to concentrate at the sword's tip. Drop by drop it fell onto the dusty ground below as the previously bloody Light Wind Sword became clear once more. The seemingly mirror like metal reflected light off of the blade and radiated a hazy white glow of silver light. The forest was basked within its glow and would have dazzled the eyes of anyone that saw it.

Sweeping his eyes over the mercenaries, he used his Light Wind Sword to poke at the bodies before taking their Space Belts away. Carrying the Space Belts, he walked on over to a clean area to sit down.

As he walked over, he continued to pick up the Space Belts of the dead Zhou Mercenaries, and in a short moment, he had accumulated a small pile of Space Belts.

After he had collected every single Space Belt and piled them together, Jian Chen absorbed the Light Wind Sword back into his body. One by one, Jian Chen began to inspect the items within the Space Belts for the money and monster cores and letting it stack up into a single pile.

In a few moments, the 40 Space Belts had been inspected and by Jian Chen's side, there was a small pile of monster cores and money. There were a total of 300 monster cores; most of them were Class 2 Monster Cores with a Class 3 Monster Core for every 10 Class 2 Monster Cores. But there wasn't a single Class 4 Monster Core to be seen.

Half of the stack of coins in the pile were copper and silver coins with the golden coins taking up a small amount of it to make a total of 500 coins between the three. There were around 50 purple coins, and in total, the cumulative amount of wealth from this pile would be equal to around 70 purple coins.

Disliking the poor sum of money, Jian Chen stored both the monster cores and money into his own Space Belt. Leaving behind the dead bodies of the Zhou Mercenaries along with their Space Belts, Jian Chen left the area. Everything that remained in their Space Belts was just useless junk, as every single valuable had been taken by Jian Chen.

Jian Chen didn't go too far, and instead hid himself on top of a large tree. He knew that there were mercenaries trying to find him so that they could take him back to the Tianxiong Clan for the reward. However, because the Magical Beast Mountain Range was so large and the terrain within so complicated, even if they were to have men every 100 meters, it would still be hard to find him. The amount of time it would take to find another group of mercenaries would be too pitiful if he were to wait elsewhere.

On the mountain range, every single mercenary was still trying to get to this area. The Zhou Mercenaries were the first group that had reached this place.

Not too long after, from his hiding spot, Jian Chen spotted yet another group of mercenaries coming in his direction. This group only had 10 people, a vastly different amount than the previous Zhou Mercenaries' numbers. However, Jian Chen could sense that this group was filled with Saint Masters. Their group strength wasn't weaker than the Zhou Mercenaries at all.

Just as the group of mercenaries walked under the tree Jian Chen was hiding in, he suddenly jumped down from his perch. Landing gently on the ground, he suddenly sped toward the group with the Light Wind Sword in his hand as he stabbed forward with a tremendous amount of Sword Qi flowing from his blade.

The 10 mercenaries had immediately reacted when Jian Chen had started his movement, but Jian Chen's speed was much faster than their reaction speed and he had already closed the gap between them. With his Light Wind Sword, he thrust it out in a great streak of light as it stabbed into the right shoulder of one of the mercenaries.

At the same time, every single one of the mercenaries had already pulled out their Saint Weapons as they snarled in anger. The mercenaries in the back began to run forward in hopes of trapping Jian Chen within a circle.

Jian Chen pulled out his sword from the man's right shoulder and immediately put himself into a defensive position as the Saint Masters all slashed down at him. Like a silver viper, the Light Wind Sword flashed forward toward another mercenary.

The targeted mercenary hastily brought up his sword to block the strike, but with the Light Wind Sword being so fast, his defenses were quickly overwhelmed, and he was ultimately stabbed through the right shoulder.

"You're seeking death!"

Seeing one of their own take damage, every other mercenary became furious as even more Saint Force entered their Saint Weapons. Without mercy they continued their pursuit toward Jian Chen with their Saint Weapon.

Jian Chen flew back 10 meters in a nimble manner, causing the sword strikes to hit nothing but air. The other remaining Saint Weapons crashed into the floor, causing a large crater to form.

Jian Chen's right hand held his sword as the tip of it pointed downward toward the ground while his eyes stared at the mercenaries.

"To dare attack us so underhandedly, you must be tired of living you bastard."

A big sturdy person cursed as he lifted his gigantic two handed sword up to swing down at Jian Chen.

"Bantu!" Before that man could take a step forward, another middle aged man came up to block him.

The one named Bantu stared angrily at the one blocking him, "Mu Jian! Don't you block me, did you not see that bastard injure Hadow and Erik?"

The one named Mu Jian shook his head as he ignored Bantu to look at Jian Chen, "Fellow friend, I don't know what reason you might have suddenly attack us."

“You are here to find and capture the one called Jian Chen.” Jian Chen said.

Hearing this, the one named Mu Jian looked at the Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen’s hands. As if he realized something, his face underwent a huge change as he cried out, “Could you be Jian Chen then?”

“That’s right, I am Jian Chen!” Jian Chen smiled, but it was an otherworldly type of smile.

Hearing that, the 10 mercenaries looked at each other with an excited look on their faces. They didn’t think that they would be able to find Jian Chen, but to find him here, if they were able to capture him, then the ten thousand purple coins reward would be theirs. However, instead of a happy look on Mu Jian’s face, there was only an expression of concentration.

“So you’re Jian Chen, this is too...”

“Stop talking!”

Just as one mercenary was about to burst out into a smile and say something, Mu Jian had immediately cut him off. Glaring at him, Mu Jian turned back to Jian Chen and cupped his hands together, “I did not think honored one here would be the honored Jian Chen known for his military prowess, this one here is named Mu Jian. To be able to see the elegant and honored Jian Chen, this is truly a blessing enough for three lifetimes.”

Chapter 152: Indecision

Jian Chen laughed and spoke, “You praise me too much, honored Mu Jian truly praises me too much. I suppose your group of men entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range to find me as well.”

“That’s correct, we came to capture you.” The one Mu Jian was holding back had spoken out loud.

Hearing the man speak, Mu Jian’s face changed before staring angrily at the man behind him. On the man’s face was a look of confusion and did not understand what was happening.

Mu Jian cupped his hands together as he faced Jian Chen once more and laughed. “Honored Jian Chen, this one and my friends did indeed enter the Magical Beast Mountain Range, but it was to watch the excitement. We never had the idea of trying to capture the honored Jian Chen, I hope that you won’t misunderstand us.”

“Misunderstand!” Jian Chen couldn’t help but laugh, “If I didn’t hear incorrectly, then I just heard your friend over there say your group wanted to capture me. For this reason, how could I not misunderstand you?”

Hearing this, Mu Jian had an embarrassed look on his face. When they entered the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they really did want to capture Jian Chen. Although they had heard about Jian Chen’s strength and how so many Saint Masters had died by Jian Chen’s hands, they had thought it was a rumor. Every man had always mistrusted rumors, and Mu Jian and his group was no different.

But the moment Mu Jian had personally seen Jian Chen’s strength, he could see that none of his companions could be an opponent for Jian Chen. Even if they had the superiority in numbers, that didn’t mean a guaranteed capture of Jian Chen without them taking on heavy losses as well. He was also truly aware that if Jian Chen had been serious in taking the lives of his companions, they would have long since been lying down on the ground. Because of that, Mu Jian had already given up on thinking about

trying to capture Jian Chen. At this very moment, he didn't want to enter a conflict with Jian Chen, otherwise, they would take on heavy losses.

Seeing the silent Mu Jian, Jian Chen spoke up once more, "I don't wish to kill the innocent randomly. If you hand over all of the monster cores within your Space Belts, then you can purchase your life back. If you don't however, then don't blame me for being merciless." Suddenly, a glint of murderous intent made it to Jian Chen's eyes.

Hearing this, every single one of the mercenaries revealed an angry yet disdainful expression. Among the 10, no one except for Mu Jian had that clear expression of understanding.

"Jian Chen, you're a despicable person that only knows how to use dirty tricks, what qualifications do you have to say something like that? Come and eat uncle's sword!"

Jian Chen's words had angered many of the people there, and immediately, the sturdy man behind Mu Jian had brought out his giant sword in anger as he charged at Jian Chen.

"Hold up!" Mu Jian tried to block the man without caring for the anger in his eyes. Turning around to look at Jian Chen, he spoke, "Jian Chen, we became enemies by accident, could it be you're still going to force us in this way?"

Jian Chen began to laugh coldly, "I already told you. Leave behind your monster cores, and you may go. Otherwise, I won't stay my hand." He paused for a moment before he said, "However, if you make a move against me and suffer casualties, don't blame me."

Jian Chen's words had left no room for argument, causing Mu Jian to feel extremely gloomy as he said, "It's just as they said, everything must be given up without a word. Honored Jian Chen, you're being too excessive." One's Space Belt was filled with the monster cores that they had risked their own lives to attain from killing magical beasts and accumulated after a long period of time. Mu Jian knew that if he were to fight with Jian Chen, then there would definitely be a loss, but at the same time, giving all of his hard earned monster cores to Jian Chen was an impossible thing.

"Mu Jian, what are you doing spouting bullsh*t with him? Hurry up and capture him, he wants to take all of our monster cores by himself, what a huge joke that is!" A golden haired man spoke with a huge amount of disdain.

"Jian Chen, although you've injured 2 of our brothers, that was only because you had attacked us from behind. There's 10 of us, so that doesn't mean someone like you could be an opponent of ours. At the very most, the end result would be both sides taking on heavy injuries, but that won't be much damage to our side. On the other hand, if you take on heavy injuries, that would make things very disadvantageous for you, after all, there's many people crawling about in the Magical Beast Mountain Range who are here to capture you. To us, this isn't anything to worry about, but to you, this is a struggle between life and death, so asking for us to hand over our monster cores to you is an impossible task." The one who spoke was a sturdy person, clearly, he knew that Jian Chen's strength wasn't all that weak either.

Jian Chen's eye flashed with a cold glare as he raised his Light Wind Sword. "So it's like that, all that's left to do is fight then." He said as he charged toward the 10 people.

Mu Jian didn't say anything more and held his sword. Charging with the other mercenaries, everyone prepared to fight Jian Chen.

All 10 of these people had the strength of a Saint Master, and in the past, if Jian Chen were to fight against these 10 Saint Masters, he would be at a huge disadvantage. But right now, his strength was well over the level of the surrounding Saint Masters and he could handle them with ease.

Using the Profound Steps to defend himself against the attacks from the Saint Masters and retaliating, both the mercenaries and Jian Chen were evenly matched. Despite the disadvantage Jian Chen had for being alone, not too long later, the mercenaries were slowly losing their advantage. A good amount of times the mercenaries had almost been pierced straight through their necks by Jian Chen, but they would also dodge to the side at the most crucial moment. However, they had already been stabbed multiple times by Jian Chen's sword.

Jian Chen was like a demon possessed as he flashed throughout the crowd. Each time he disappeared and reappeared, he would attack from almost every direction with the Light Wind Sword that emitted a strong amount of Sword Qi.

The Light Wind Sword danced as it flew through the air. The sounds of it traveling through the air could be heard clearly as it concentrated its attack in one straight line.

"Pch!"

The Light Wind Sword's tip sharpened by the Sword Qi stabbed into the joint of a mercenary's right arm. At the same time, the Light Wind Sword bore straight through his body, causing the arm to lose all functionality.

That man began to shriek out in agony as the sword in his hand disappeared into thin air. His right arm had been completely skewered, causing him to lose any fighting strength he had since he could no longer hold a weapon.

"Bang!" Jian Chen's kicked the man firmly in the abdomen, causing him to fly backward. Swaying his body to the side, he dodged another strike that came at him. At the same time, he lashed out with his sword at the man, causing him to panic. Immediately taking advantage of the hasty parry, Jian Chen immediately stabbed him through the right shoulder.

Chapter 153: Meeting Another Great Saint Master

The injury to the right shoulder had impacted the man's ability to swing his sword. The man who was struck through the shoulder had felt an injury so grave that it was beyond anything he had ever felt. Because of the Sword Qi enhanced sword tip, when the Light Wind Sword stabbed through his right shoulder, his entire right arm had lost functionality as well as fighting ability.

The injured members could only helplessly retreat while Jian Chen advanced forward to fight the other mercenaries.

The sounds of Saint Weapon clashing against Saint Weapon could be heard constantly as the Saint Force from everyone mixed in with everyone else's. The Saint Force had even reached a point where the nearby grass was flattened while the dirt from the ground flew up in one giant dust cloud, covering everyone's figure.

“Ah...”

“Ah...”

Every so often the miserable sounds of pain could be heard as yet another person was kicked into the air. Each figure was soaked with blood and had injuries all over their bodies. Not too long later, the previously 10 mercenaries had been reduced down to a small handful.

Jian Chen’s figure had been constantly slashing at his opponents in a fierce manner, but there was not even a single wound to be seen anywhere on his body. Blocking the downward slash of a sword, Jian Chen’s Light Wind Sword streaked forward and stabbed into the right shoulder of another mercenary.

“I don’t wish to slaughter the innocent, so I’ll give you one last chance to go. If you remain stubborn like this, then don’t blame me anymore.” Jian Chen called out without any emotion, but it could be seen that there was a killing intent within his eyes. He had been very lenient until now, but because they were so stubborn, he had no choice but to kill them.

This was a very common thing on the Tian Yuan Continent, so Jian Chen didn’t think he was at fault. After all, this world obeyed the primal laws of the jungle, and so the strong held all of the power. The weak would never have any say in this world.

If any mercenary were to come into the Magical Beast Mountain Range, they were there just to capture Jian Chen and bring him back to the Tianxiong clan for the bounty, and these 10 mercenaries in front of him were no different. If it weren’t for the fact that Jian Chen was stronger than them, these mercenaries wouldn’t have been so unwilling to fight him at first.

Hearing this, the one called Mu Jian revealed the struggle he was having within his mind as he looked at his heavily injured and weakened mercenaries. Biting his lip, he finally yelled out, “Stop!”

Mu Jian didn’t have a weak amount of prestige among this group of mercenaries. The moment he had spoken, every single mercenary had immediately jumped backward and looked with fear at Jian Chen and his slender Light Wind Sword. His sword was so fast that it had caused even them to be extremely afraid. During their battle with Jian Chen, there were many times that the Light Wind Sword had almost struck them, only to be saved by their nearby comrades at the very last moment.

Mu Jian continued to look at Jian Chen with a complicated look, but seeing the amount of blood that was leaking down from his Light Wind Sword, he suddenly became dejected and said helplessly, “Everyone take out your monster cores. Honored Jian Chen has already been merciful toward us, if we don’t follow his demands this time, then simple injuries won’t be the end of our problems.”

This time, none of the mercenaries had any thoughts of disagreeing. With a dejected look on their faces, they silently began to pull out all of their remaining monster cores from their Space Belts and piled them up on the ground.

After that short exchange, they all knew that even with 10 people, they were not enough to be classified as an opponent for this youth. With his extremely fast sword strokes and ability to defend so quickly, they simply had no way of attacking or resisting.

These 10 Saint Masters had many monster cores on them. Although they didn’t have many Class 3 Monster Cores, they still had plenty of Class 2 Monster Cores.

“Jian Chen, this is all of the monster cores we have, that means we can go now, correct?” Mu Jian spoke with an ugly expression.

Jian Chen looked at the pile of monster cores on the ground with an involuntary smile on his face. “If you had just given the monster cores earlier, then all of this could have been avoided. That’s fine, although I, Jian Chen, cannot call myself a gentleman, I am a man who keeps his promises. You can go.”

Mu Jian spared one last look at the small pile of monster cores on the ground, a look of reluctance. With a helpless sigh, Mu Jian and his friends could only leave this place behind. Although the pile of monster cores wasn’t a lot relatively speaking, it was all the Saint Masters had.

“Remember, I don’t wish to see you come and face me again, otherwise, I will definitely not be as merciful. You would best do to leave the Magical Beast Mountain Range immediately.”

As the 10 mercenaries walked away, Jian Chen had called out to them before they could get too far.

Hearing this, Mu Jian had stopped for only a second, but he didn’t say anything. Quickly after, he disappeared into the forest.

Jian Chen recollected his Light Wind Sword and calmly walked toward the pile of monster cores. Bending down to store all of it into his personal Space Belt, he had counted that there were around 200 monster cores. A good amount of the cores were Class 2, but there were around 20 Class 3 Monster Cores.

Just as Jian Chen had finished cleaning up all of the monster cores, he slowly straightened his back and gave a cold smile. “Fellow friend, you’ve been here for some time and seen quite enough. Isn’t it time for you to come out?”

“Hahahaha...”

Just as Jian Chen finished talking, a loud voice came out from the forest. Afterward, a gray shadow flew out from within and landed 20 meters away from where Jian Chen stood.

The person who came was rather old, his age was around 50 to 60 years old. His face was rather red as he looked at Jian Chen with a lively expression. Judging by how disorderly his silver hair was, the man was rather unconventional with his looks. He wore a gray robe and was taller than Jian Chen by a large amount, and even though he was standing on the ground with no unusual posture, Jian Chen could feel an indomitable pressure enshrouding him.

Seeing this elder, Jian Chen couldn’t help but heighten his guard as his face grew more serious. Staring deeply at the elder, he spoke 3 words, “Great Saint Master!”

The elder laughed, “Little baby, I didn’t think you’d be able to tell this old man’s strength. Not bad, not bad. Truly not bad. It would appear you have some strength, it is no wonder that old bastard Tianxiong Lie wasn’t able to capture you.”

Chapter 154: Killing A Great Saint Master (Part One)

Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath; although he had long since guessed that the chances of a Great Saint Master coming after him for the ten thousand purple coins were quite large, he didn’t think it’d be so soon. There was no fear within Jian Chen’s heart, although he couldn’t say for sure that he could win

against a Great Saint Master expert, he had confidence that he could at least fight against one to some degree.

At the same time, Jian Chen was also secretly rejoicing. He was rejoicing his foresight that had told him to first cultivate until he was a Saint Master. If he hadn't, then if he were to come across a Great Saint Master, he would have no choice but to try and escape.

Against this elderly Great Saint Master, Jian Chen had felt a huge amount of pressure. Quickly, he had calmed himself down and stared at the elder with a barely calm expression. "Dear elder, could it be that you were also enticed by the ten thousand purple coins for my capture?"

"The baby asks a question he already knows the answer to. This old one won't spare any talk with you. Come along with me quietly, or I'll do it myself. You must have realized by now that I am not like the previous 10 Saint Masters you just fought." The elder casually looked at Jian Chen, but he did not see Jian Chen as an opponent.

Jian Chen let out a sneer as the Light Wind Sword reappeared within his right hand. As he grasped the hilt of the sword, the tip dragged against the ground as he spoke, "Waiting to be captured and delivered was never my style. Dear elder, this one thanks you for your smart idea." Suddenly, Jian Chen disappeared into a blur with only the smallest of traces of his figure as he flew toward the elder. In a split second, the 20 meter gap between the two was quickly closed as the Light Wind Sword began to emit a strong amount of Sword Qi and stabbed at the elder's throat.

The careless expression on the elder's face was gone in an instant and was replaced by a serious one. His palm began to envelop with a strong amount of Saint Force before condensing into a foot long dagger. In the elder's hands, it shone coldly as it greeted the Light Wind Sword's approach.

The Light Wind Sword and the elder's dagger collided against each other with a large sound. Immediately a large wave of Saint Force emerged in waves from the impact and spread out in a circle around them in a manner that was noticeable to the naked eye. As it rippled away from the two fighters, the surrounding grass was immediately flattened as the wave of Saint Force rippled over it. It had even kicked up a dust cloud from the ground and immediately caused visibility to be lowered.

A slight hum could be heard from Jian Chen's throat as he was forced to fly back a few meters. For every step, a deep imprint could be seen in the dirt.

"The strength of a Great Saint Master is indeed very strong. I didn't think that even after making a break through to the Saint Master level, there would still be such a wide gap between the two." Jian Chen muttered. With this current exchange with the elder, it was Jian Chen who had been at a disadvantage. After all, in a battle of strength with Saint Force, how could Jian Chen who was only at the Saint Master stage contend against the elder who was at the Great Saint Master.

Yet, Jian Chen was also secretly delighted. After making contact with the elder, he had realized just how wide that gap in strength was, and how close he was to the elder's level, making him quite happy.

On the other side, the elder's face grew even more serious as he looked at Jian Chen and spoke solemnly, "The baby here seems to be quite complicated. It seems that if this old one wants to capture you, then this old one better put in more effort."

Jian Chen's face carried a cold smile, "Even if you do everything you can, you won't be able to capture me."

The elder laughed with a chilling smile, "The baby knows how to talk big, then allow this old one to observe and see just how strong you are."

After he had finished speaking, the elder's dagger exploded with Saint Force. Following that explosion of energy, the elder suddenly disappeared and then abruptly reappeared right in front of Jian Chen with his dagger ready to pierce through Jian Chen's heart.

Because the elder was a Great Saint Master, Jian Chen didn't dare lower his concentration. The Saint Force within his body began to circulate and gather around the Light Wind Sword within his right hand. Forming a white haze of Sword Qi over the blade, Jian Chen swung his sword at the incoming dagger.

Suddenly, another explosion of energy could be seen as the shockwave was sent throughout the area. The dirt on the ground was sent flying into the air as the clash of Saint Force immediately pressed against the ground. Countless plants were uprooted and sent into the air.

In one strike, Jian Chen was once again sent flying back a few steps while the elder was once again unaffected and instead chased after the retreating Jian Chen with his dagger aimed at Jian Chen's heart.

Jian Chen's body shifted to the side, causing the dagger to harmlessly slice past his clothes. After, the Light Wind Sword's Sword Qi enshrouded the elder within and in a split second, he had lashed out 10 times with each sword stroke aimed at various parts of the elder's body.

The elder brought back his dagger and brandished it in front of him, defending himself against the various strikes.

"Ding ding ding ding..."

The sounds of the weapons clashing together could be heard as the Light Wind Sword and dagger continuously hit each other in a split second.

Suddenly, the elder retreated fiercely as the robe he was wearing was no longer in a completely intact state. On his chests there were a few scars that were leaking blood. From the other parts of his robes, a few strands and patches were already falling down to the ground. Even on top of his head, a few strands of his hair could be seen drifting in the wind after being cut.

Right in front of him, Jian Chen did not look to be in a better state. Although there wasn't any injuries on his body, his face was a morbidly pale shade.

Seeing how his clothes had been ripped apart in such a manner, the elder looked at Jian Chen with a calculating look, "You really can't see a favor when it comes, don't blame me when I don't show mercy then."

Jian Chen only laughed, "Many Saint Masters have died by my sword, but never could I claim to have killed a Great Saint Master with my Light Wind Sword. Today, you shall be the first."

"How arrogant!" The elder snarled as he sped toward Jian Chen without any further words to be said.

Chapter 155: Killing a Great Saint Master (Two)

Without any fear, Jian Chen charged forward with his Light Wind Sword and once more clashed fiercely with the elder.

This time, Jian Chen had used his entire strength and Profound Steps to clash against the elder. Using his Light Wind Sword to stab at the elder continuously, he simultaneously dodged each and every strike from his opponent. From the beginning of this new round, he had avoided clashing his weapon with the elder's, and it was only when it was impossible to dodge that he used his sword to defend.

The Elder's control over his dagger was superb, and it was almost as if he had reached the absolute pinnacle with his weapon. Almost as if each strike was an act of perfection, the dagger always flew straight toward Jian Chen's heart.

The two fighters traveled back and forth throughout the area, their movements had kicked up a strong breeze. Already, the breeze was starting to become a strong gale that threatened to uproot the surrounding grass and send it flying into the air.

The two continued to go at each other, but under the fine control of Jian Chen, his own Saint Weapon had rarely crashed against the elder's dagger. With each passing moment, the elder was getting more and more depressed, he was feeling a deep pit of anger within himself. His strength was clearly higher than that of his opponent, but because his opponent had the slight advantage in speed and also boasted a superior reaction time, there were plenty of times when the elder was unable to find a solution to do anything. There were also many times where even with his Saint Master strength, the terrifyingly fast speed of the sword had left the elder at a critical junction between life and death.

"Little baby, you call yourself a male yet you fight an elderly person without hesitation to such a degree. Just what point is there to that?" The elder barked out with anger as he couldn't handle this battle any longer.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a small smile on his face, "To try to get an easy and short merit, this was an unwise choice, do you think I am that foolish?"

The elder was temporarily stunned without saying a word. A flash of killing intent quickly passed through his eyes as he quickly leaped toward Jian Chen once more with his dagger ready to kill him.

Knowing that the elder no longer had any idea of letting him live, Jian Chen's eyes flashed with a tint of coldness before increasing his speed by a notch. The amount of Sword Qi in the air intensified and looked as if the entire area was covered within its shroud which made it almost impossible for the two to find each other.

With the increased amount of strength on Jian Chen's part, the amount of pressure on the elder was increased many times over. Despite being a Great Saint Master with a good amount of speed, he was unable to match Jian Chen in almost any aspect and was constantly put in a state of panic.

"Whoosh!"

At the same time, a Sword Qi sharpened blade came out of the mist abruptly. The elder simply had no time to react and so the sharp sword immediately cut through his right arm at the wrist.

The pain from losing his right hand caused the elder to be stunned. Yet while he was stunned, the Light Wind Sword had quickly flashed toward the elder's figure.

The elder quickly held his dagger in his other hand in front of him to act as a form of defense as he tried to retreat backward.

Suddenly, before he could get far, the elder came to a screeching halt as a bloody sword stabbed straight through his throat and protruded underneath his chin.

He didn't know how or when Jian Chen had gotten behind him only that his Light Wind Sword had already stabbed straight through his throat, landing a killing blow.

The elder's dazed eyes viewed the sword in his throat with a look of pure disbelief. He was utterly confused on how Jian Chen could sneak behind him without him noticing.

Yet, the questions the elder had would never be answered as his body slowly locked up and fell to the ground. Both of his eyes grew wide and clouded over as a sign of death.

Jian Chen pulled out his sword with a breath of air escaping from his lips. Fighting this Great Saint Master had cost him a large amount of his energy, and after this fight, he was starting to breathe heavily.

Absorbing his Light Wind Sword into his body once more, he looked at the elderly figure on the floor. With a small sigh, he muttered, "To have dozens of years of cultivation destroyed in a single day, ai, there was no need for that. If only you didn't have greed seduce your heart into attacking me, you wouldn't have ended up like that." With that said, Jian Chen bent over to pick up the Space Belt on the elder and began to take out every item from within.

The amount of monster cores within the elder's Space Belt didn't number more than the amount Jian Chen had; only having around 50 monster cores in total. However, the lowest ranked monster core was a Class 2 Monster Core, there was not a single Class 1 Monster Core in sight. Over half were Class 2 Monster Cores and 20 Class 3 Monster Cores. There was also a single Class 4 Monster Core. Aside from the monster cores, Jian Chen also counted around 70 purple coins worth of money.

After storing the monster cores and purple coins within his Space Belt, Jian Chen turned over the Space Belt within his hand once more before realizing there was a piece of white fur within it.

This piece of white fur was about the size of his palm. It was soft to touch and seemed extremely cozy to hold; there was also a warm sensation to it.

"This piece of fur..." Jian Chen stared at the fur in his hand with some shock. Immediately throwing the Space Belt to the ground, he dove into his own Space Ring from within his Space Belt and took out a red embroidered pouch.

This red pouch was the memento and family heirloom of the Bi Clan that was handed down to him from his mother Bi Yuntian.

Jian Chen's fingers nimbly opened up the pouch to take out the piece of white fur from within. His hands began to shake as he unfolded the piece of fur, only to see that the one from within the red pouch was also the size of his palm.

As Jian Chen compared the two pieces of fur closely, his eyes widened more and more in shock. That was because these two pieces of fur were almost identical, even the texture of the fur was the same.

From the looks of things, it was almost as if the two pieces of fur came from one single piece that was cut into multiple parts.

“This is...” Jian Chen’s eyes looked back to the elder’s resting body once more as his heart began to beat. The piece of fur from within the red pouch was the family heirloom of the Bi Clan. To this day, the heirloom must have been well over 100 years old, and although he didn’t know what use this piece of fur was for, the antiquity and price for it was clearly self evident. To be treasured by the Bi Clan whose accumulated strength had been wiped out in a single night, it was simple to see that this piece of fur would surely have a high price. At this moment, to unexpectedly find an identical piece of fur from this Great Saint Master of an elder, Jian Chen couldn’t help but wonder who this elder was.

Chapter 156: Fearsome Reputation and Profit

“Why did this elder have this piece of fur on him, just who was he?” Jian Chen held the piece of fur in his hand as he contemplated this question.

“Perhaps he gained this piece of fur by coincidence. However, just what secret is this piece of fur hiding?” Jian Chen muttered under his breath. He had accidentally found this piece of fur from the elder and thus had been tempted by this strange and curious new find.

“Could this be a type of treasure map with some sort of amazing martial arts written on it?” Jian Chen pondered. Based on his previous experience from his past life, he quickly conjured up a few speculations. However, this piece of fur didn’t have a single trace of impurity to it. There were absolutely no connections to be drawn to it; it appeared to be unrelated to a treasure map or any sort of unique martial art.

Many times in the past did Jian Chen take out the piece of fur to study it. Under his eyes and hands, the fur was strong and flexible, and no matter how much strength he used, not a single strand of fur could be pulled from it. It wasn’t like a normal piece of fur, so if there was a secret hidden within the fur, Jian Chen was utterly clueless.

“Forget it, it’s best to forget about this for now. There’ll be another time in the future for me to find out the secrets of this mysterious piece of fur.” Pushing his curiosity away, Jian Chen placed the piece of fur back into the red pouch along with the piece from the elder back into his Space Ring. The Space Ring was then placed back into his Space Belt as well. Since Jian Chen wasn’t able to figure out the mystery behind the pieces of fur, he didn’t want to expend any additional mental energy to stay in such a place to find out more about it.

Soon after the elder’s Space Belt was rummaged through once more. Finally, with one last look, Jian Chen didn’t find any other valuable treasure, so he tossed it aside. Dusting his hands, Jian Chen left the area without another look back.

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After another few days, Jian Chen continued to find and capture any mercenary group that came across him. The amount of monster cores on him could be said to number up to a high amount, and whenever he saw a group of mercenaries he found interesting, he would let them go. For those who weren’t pleasing to talk to, he would kill them. In those few days, the amount of mercenaries killed by Jian Chen couldn’t be counted, and the amount of bodies that littered the Magical Beast Mountain Range was

enormous. The scent of blood and death wafted throughout the mountain range, almost as if the scent of blood covered the entire area like an ocean.

It went without saying that many people were tempted by the ten thousand purple coin reward by the Tianxiong clan. This time, there were many Saint Master experts within the mountain range along with a few strong Great Saint Masters. Excluding the dagger wielding elder Jian Chen had first met, there were another 4 Great Saint Masters that he had come across. There were even 2 Great Saint Masters that had come across Jian Chen along with 30 Great Saints and Saint Master experts.

That particular battle was extremely fierce. In the end, Jian Chen had expended a herculean amount of strength in order to kill those 2 Great Saint Masters, and many of the other Great Saints and Saint Masters were killed off by Jian Chen. Jian Chen paid for the battle by having various wounds inflicted onto his body, and when a good amount of mercenaries had fled from him, Jian Chen was powerless to chase after them.

Since Jian Chen could use the light Saint Force in the same way a Radiant Saint Master could. He wasn't afraid of any injury, and so the numerous injuries on his body were healed without a single trace in less than two hours.

Although the battle was extremely fierce, Jian Chen had gained an equally abundant reward. The two Great Saint Masters had a total of a hundred monster cores. There were very few Class 2 Monster Cores and a very large amount of Class 3 Monster Cores. There had even been two Class 4 Monster Cores stashed within.

Although the amount of monster cores he had collected from the two Great Saint Masters was a large quantity, the Great Saint and Saint Master mercenaries accompanying the two only had a total of 30 monster cores. They must have belonged to the same mercenary group and given the majority of their monster cores to the 2 Great Saint Masters.

Another Great Saint Masters he encountered didn't have any Class 4 Monster Cores, but he did have a decent amount of Class 3 Monster Cores. In comparison to the first encounter, there was only twenty Class 3 Monster Cores and thirty Class 2 Monster Cores. The last Great Saint Master he met was extremely wretched. Jian Chen had only been able to collect five Class 3 Monster Cores and a single Class 2 Monster Core. Although he was a Great Saint Master, he might as well be considered an experienced Saint Master.

Now after Jian Chen's breakthrough to the Saint Master level, his fighting ability had been enhanced. Against a Great Saint Master expert, he already had the capabilities to kill them; as long as he didn't come across a Peak Great Saint Master or one with an attributed Saint Force, Jian Chen wouldn't need to fear the consequences of fighting against one. After these few days of killing mercenaries, aside from the two Great Saint Masters who had inflicted many injuries on him, Jian Chen hadn't been too heavily injured against anyone else.

After this indiscriminate massacre, Jian Chen's fearful name had spread far and wide to even beyond the mountain range where many mercenaries had started to spread the news even farther away. By this point, Wake City wasn't the only area that had knowledge of Jian Chen, even the surrounding cities knew of Jian Chen's terrifying name.

Hearing the rumors flying about, many mercenaries still traveled from afar to the Magical Beast Mountain Range. Many mercenaries that wanted to capture Jian Chen gradually renounced their efforts. Every day many cowardly mercenaries could be seen retreating from the mountain range and abandoning the hunt.

Despite having many mercenaries retreat from the mountain range, there were still many stronger mercenary groups that stayed within the area. After the weaker mercenaries left, there weren't many people left in comparison to when the hunt had begun, but all of the remaining members were of the Saint Master level at the very least.

After a large amount of mercenaries had left the Magical Beast Mountain Range, the area had become peaceful once more compared to the chaotic atmosphere when everyone had wanted to capture Jian Chen. Even the mercenaries that were originally there to hunt and kill magical beasts for their monster cores were driven out from the area to avoid any trouble.

Now that there were even less people than before, Jian Chen took the initiative instead of staying passive to find the remaining mercenaries. Regarding those mercenaries he found, he still used the same philosophy he always had. If they were to hand over their monster cores, then he would let them go without any harm without exception, but for those too stubborn to listen and still wanted to capture him, Jian Chen would kill them without exception.

Within the cloudless sky, the fierce sun loomed overhead with its brilliant rays of light stabbing into the earth below almost as if it were putting a golden colored carpet over it. Because of the recent summer weather, the sun had been unbearably hot.

In the lush forests of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, it was almost like an isolated piece of the world. There were trees in every direction of the forest that blotted out the sun and its light. Every so often, the tree leaves would sway in the wind along with the tall grass underneath.

While the outside area was hot, the forest within the Magical Beast Mountain Range was rather cool.

Somewhere within the mountain range, 10 mercenaries sat in a circle with a bonfire in the center. Spiked on top of the fire were a few pieces of magical beast meat that slowly caramelized and dripped their juices into the fire below with the occasional sizzling sound.

Although these 10 mercenaries were sitting down, their height and stature weren't hidden at all. Each one of them wore a thin layer of animal leather that had a few scratches from the thorns and thistles of the forest.

"Captain, there's been many mercenaries that have left the mountain range with not many people left. At the same time, Jian Chen's strength has far surpassed our expectations; just a few days ago I heard that a few Great Saint Masters died by his hands as well. I think it would be for the best that we give up on this mission." One of the mercenaries said.

Chapter 157: Should We?

Just as this one mercenary finished talking, another spoke up, "That's right, Captain. Although we haven't come across Jian Chen yet, on the road we've already seen over 100 corpses. After a closer look, most of them appear to be close friends within Wake City who are all above the Saint Master level. If

Jian Chen can kill a group of Saint Master experts, then his own strength should be that of a Great Saint Master at the very least. Even if we were to face off against him, it's not guaranteed that we'll capture him without any losses or serious casualties. I'm afraid that even our complete destruction might be a possible outcome."

Hearing that mercenary, the other 10 mercenaries couldn't help but have serious expressions on their faces. This new-found information had sent their heads into a whirl as they realized that if they wanted to capture Jian Chen alive with their Middle Saint Master strength, they would need more effort than they had thought. After all, with their formation, they were capable of going up against a Great Saint Master and the news given to them by the Tianxiong clan explicitly said that Jian Chen had only Great Saint strength. At the very best he would be at the Saint Master level, so at the very beginning, they hadn't bothered to take Jian Chen seriously.

However, now that they had been wandering within the Magical Beast Mountain Range for a few days, news of Jian Chen's amazing prowess had reached their ears about how multiple Great Saint Masters had died by his hand. Although they didn't believe these rumors at first, after seeing corpses litter the ground wherever they went had shaken their confidence.

Right now, these 10 mercenaries were in an awkward position where it was difficult to call off the hunt. They wanted to capture Jian Chen, but at the same time, they worried about going against him. They wanted to retreat from the mountain range, but they were also unwilling to give up the ten thousand purple coin reward that had so enticingly tempted their hearts.

"Captain, we should give up this mission. The fact that we've seen so many bodies on our paths is proof of Jian Chen's might. If we were to come across Jian Chen even with our numbers, we would still not be considered his opponent and would undoubtedly have many people die by his hands." A scarred middle aged man spoke with fear prevalent in his eyes.

"I second Yun Zhibing's suggestion. Captain, while ten thousand purple coins isn't a small amount by any means, but it can't be spent if we're dead. If we die here, there isn't any point to money or enjoying any other worldly pleasure." Another tanned person spoke.

Hearing these mercenaries speak up, a mercenary with a knife wound slowly nodded his head and said, "Fine then, let us get off of this mountain range."

With that announcement, every other mercenary let out a breath of air in relief as the tense expressions on their faces loosened up a bit.

"It's a shame that you cannot walk in the night!"

Suddenly, a moment after the mercenaries were happily rejoicing, another voice was heard.

The new arrival of the voice had caused every mercenary to stiffen.

"Who's there, come out!" The scarred mercenary called out as he stood up. At the same time, the other 10 mercenaries slowly stood up as well staring cautiously at the dangerous area around them.

Suddenly, a leather wearing person slowly came walking out from behind the trees. This person had long black hair with a piece of tall grass keeping it in place. There were stains all over his skin as he walked forward, but no one could distinguish who he was.

The 10 mercenaries collectively looked at this animal hide wearing person as the knife scarred mercenary yelled out, "Who are you?!"

The animal hide wearing person began to smile with the shadows of the night still covering the rest of his facial features, but the smile could be seen clearly, "I'm the person you're looking for."

Bewildered, not a single mercenary could react to this announcement besides having their faces pale abruptly.

"You...you...could you be that Jian Chen?" A man stuttered out. There was an expression of utter panic that had overtaken his face.

The animal hide wearing person nodded his head slowly with a smile, "That's right, I am Jian Chen."

There was a miraculous expression on the mercenaries face as they looked at Jian Chen who stared right back at them. None of them had thought that the person they had been looking for all this time would suddenly appear right in front of them just as they had decided to retreat from the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

If Jian Chen appeared a few days ago, these 10 mercenaries would have been overjoyed to see him and wouldn't have any hesitation. But now...

At this moment, there was a wave of agony that smashed into their hearts.

"Hand over all of the monster cores in your possession and you may leave. Otherwise, you will die here. I'll give you a few moments to consider your options." Jian Chen spoke out. His tone was unnaturally calm, but when these mercenaries heard him speak, their hearts all grew heavy.

The 10 mercenaries looked at each other as the leader spoke up, "Honored Jian Chen, the moment you opened your mouth, you wanted us to give up our monster cores, isn't that too much? After all, these monster cores were earned after so much hard work and risking our lives in order to get even just one more monster core." He said with an unwillingness. Right after hearing the rumors of Jian Chen killing multiple Great Saint Master experts, the leader had given up on seeing Jian Chen as an enemy.

Jian Chen laughed, "I don't care for that. Your time is up now, if you don't hand over your monster cores, then don't blame me for what happens next."

Hearing this, the 10 mercenaries all grew unhappy. The leader hesitated for merely a moment before striding forward, "Honored Jian Chen, if you can defeat me within 5 moves, then I will hand over our monster cores. Otherwise, we will just end up in a complete stalemate."

Jian Chen's eyes flashed dangerously for a moment as he looked at the leader. "Fine, I'll defeat you in 5 moves then." In an instant, an intense amount of Saint Force appeared within his hand as a silver sword materialized.

"Everyone move back!" The middle aged man waved his own Saint Weapon, ready to slash at Jian Chen with the might of his two handed sword.

Chapter 158: Three Moves

Seeing Jian Chen and their leader brandishing their weapons, the other mercenaries began to move back to watch the two fight.

The scarred mercenary clenched onto his Saint Weapon as he stared firmly at Jian Chen. His face was unnaturally serious, whether or not he would be able to keep his monster cores, would be determined by this battle.

Although it was impossible for a Great Saint Master to defeat a Peak Saint Master in 5 moves, Jian Chen's agreement to this duel had refreshed the mercenary's courage. With no hesitation in his step, he was motivated to try and accomplish the task. For this middle aged man, the amount of pressure on him was tremendous.

Alas, there was still a small amount of worry within his heart. With Jian Chen's simple agreement to this duel, would he try and eliminate him given an opportunity? Knowing this possibility, he still didn't dare to voice out his thoughts. He would just have to try it. While it was true he wanted to save his monster cores, he also wanted to test out Jian Chen's strength. Seeing how young he was, he didn't know how he could be as strong as the rumors said, just how could someone who was barely over 20 years old kill a Great Saint Master expert?

The leader's face hardened into a serious expression while Jian Chen smiled and extended his hand, "Come!"

Sparing any politeness, the Saint Force around the mercenary's great sword exploded with intensity as he charged toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's body disappeared into a blur as he rushed toward the man with his Light Wind Sword ready to stab at him in a brilliant gleam of silver light.

Seeing Jian Chen's sword disappear, the mercenary's pupils contracted in surprise as he suddenly whipped his great sword down to where he thought the Light Wind Sword would appear.

"Ding!"

The sound of steel striking against steel could be heard as the two Saint Weapons were entangled together in a fierce stalemate. A wave of Saint Force exploded out from the swords and swept over the area like a galestorm.

Just as the Saint Weapons collided with each other, the mercenary's face began to change as his eyes widened in shock. The seemingly slender and thin sword contained such a disproportionate amount of Saint Force, causing his giant sword to tremble and his arms to go numb.

"To end up in a deadlock against me with such a slim one handed sword, it would appear the rumors were not as empty as I thought." The mercenary muttered under his breath.

Just as the mercenary was thinking to himself, the second strike was already coming at a faster pace than the first one.

Becoming even more serious than before, the mercenary was barely given enough time to react to Jian Chen's sword. Trying to resist the numb sensation within his arms, he raised his sword horizontally to block the Light Wind Sword.

The moment the Light Wind Sword stabbed into the greatsword, an incredible amount of power was transmitted through the sword into the mercenary behind it who was forced a few steps back. As for the sword in his hands, it had started to tremble and shake under the pressure.

“You’ve already lost!”

Just as the mercenary finally regained his stability, another voice came from behind. Whipping around, the man’s face grew pale and sweat began to gather on his forehead as he saw what was behind him.

Pointing right behind him was an amazingly thin sword that was only centimeters away from his body. The tip of that sword was already pointing straight at his throat.

The man’s face grew sluggish as he looked at the sword threatening to pierce his throat in disbelief. There was just simply no words he could say.

At this sudden reveal, the other 10 mercenaries behind the two fighters also looked on in disbelief. Their eyes revealed a sluggish look as they saw the sword calmly pointing at their leader’s neck. Not a single of them had anything to say.

“This is the third move, you’ve lost!”

Taking back the Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen looked at the mercenary with a calm face.

Three moves! Jian Chen had only used three moves to defeat a Peak Saint Master!

The leader quickly looked at Jian Chen with a fearful face. Swallowing, his voice began to stutter as he said, “Wh...what a fa..fast sword...”

Jian Chen gave a faint laugh, “You should know what to do right about now.”

The fear in the leader’s eyes quickly calmed down as he looked at Jian Chen. Although Jian Chen was completely covered by filth, the mercenary could see how young Jian Chen really was.

The man absorbed his sword back into his body and cupped his hands together, “I thank honored one for his mercy.” Then turning to walk back to the other mercenaries, he spoke out in a low voice, “Everyone take out all your monster cores.”

Hearing this, the mercenaries all hesitated for a moment before accepting this outcome. The ten pulled the monster cores within their Space Belt one by one.

After watching their leader fight with Jian Chen, they understood that he only wanted their monster cores. Not killing them was already a huge favor granted to them, and if they didn’t hand over the monster cores, with Jian Chen’s strength, their entire mercenary group would be slaughtered. If their own leader who was the strongest of them all couldn’t even withstand 5 moves from Jian Chen, then they had no chance.

The scarred mercenary took out a bag from within his Space Belt and began to place all of the monster cores he had in that bag. Then without any command from Jian Chen, he immediately began to take the other mercenaries monster cores and collected them into the bag. In the end, he presented the bag to Jian Chen with a lingering gaze and said, “In that bag are all the monster cores we have.”

This bag of monster cores had around 100 inside. Around half of them were Class 3 Monster Cores and the rest were Class 2 Monster Cores with barely any Class 1 Monster Cores.

Jian Chen took the bag into his own hands into his Space belt and said, "I, Jian Chen, abide by my promises. You are free to go."

Without any further words, the scarred mercenary led the other mercenaries away from the area.

Seeing the group disappear into the horizon, Jian Chen let out a breath of air. Leaning carelessly against a tree next to him, he muttered, "These past few days have been so repetitive. However, despite it being so tiring, I've earned quite a lot. The amount of monster cores I've earned should be enough to last my cultivation needs for a very long time. Ai, I don't even know if I should thank the Tianxiong Clan or hate them."

After taking a small break, Jian Chen stood back up and said, "Right now there's practically no one left in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With such a huge area to search, I'm far too lazy to look in each zone. Forget it, I've already got enough monster cores. I'll let the rest go and cultivate my strength in the meantime. Otherwise, if I were to come across multiple Great Saint Masters at once, I doubt I'll be an opponent for them."

Chapter 159: A Breakthrough in Strength

Afterward, Jian Chen found a river based on his memories, and washed away all the filth on his body. He then took out and then put on a new set of clothes from his Space Belt.

He had been wearing crude clothes put together from animal skins for quite a long time, so when he put on soft, cloth clothing, a comfortable feeling instantly spread throughout his body. Jian Chen seemed to revel in the warm feeling the cloth gave off as he smoothed it over his body. In that instant, his mental state that had been so tightly wound the past few days finally relaxed.

After that, Jian Chen killed a magical beast in the forest and tore off a large and fatty hind leg. He then found a dry spot on the ground to build a fire and began to slowly roast the meat.

After filling his empty stomach, Jian Chen began to count the profits from the past few days. When Jian Chen took out all of the monster cores in his Space Belt and placed them on the ground, they formed a pile that was around 1 meter high. Such a large amount of monster cores gathered together began to glow, as the hidden surges of power within each of them began to resonate with each other. Seeing this, Jian Chen's heart began to race.

Roughly calculating, Jian Chen concluded that this pile had at least 2000 monster cores. As for the exact number, it would be impossible to guess an accurate value without carefully flipping through them. After all, the power of a monster core was not related to any other factors.

Looking at the plentiful monster cores, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile in excitement. The rewards from the past few days were really abundant, to the point where it was hard to believe. Such a large amount of monster cores was enough for Jian Chen to cultivate for quite a while.

With an excited mood, Jian Chen took out the three Space Belts and threw them to the side. These few Space Belts had all been specifically taken from those mercenaries in preparation for this future occasion. Soon after, Jian Chen began to separate the monster cores from each other.

After 4 hours, Jian Chen had finally organized the large mass of various monster cores. There were now 3 piles in front of him; one each for Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3.

“There are a total of around 700 Class 1 Monster Cores, 900 Class 2 Monster Cores, and 600 Class 3 Monster Cores. I hadn’t imagined that I’d gain about 2300 monster cores these past few days. Haha, this is really much better than I anticipated. It seems I must really thank the Tianxiong clan. I must thank them for the great opportunity they gave me.” Jian Chen laughed to himself when he saw all of the monster cores.

Jian Chen then placed each group of monster cores into a different Space Belt. He then returned to the cave that he had been living in for a while. After covering up the entrance, he resumed cultivating.

The cave was so dark that he couldn’t even see his own hand. Jian Chen sat there cross-legged, like an unmoving sculpture. If it weren’t for the faint sound of him breathing, people might’ve really mistaken him for a living statue.

As Jian Chen continued to absorb the energy from within the monster cores, the Saint Force within him was constantly growing stronger.

After becoming a Saint Master, the demand required for cultivation not only increased, but Jian Chen’s absorption speed had also doubled. Before becoming a Great Saint, he needed to consume three Class 3 Monster Cores in a single night, which meant that he consumed almost 10 Class 3 Monster Cores for a day of cultivating without stopping. Now that his absorption speed was faster, the amount of monster cores that Jian Chen would need to absorb in a night was 6-7. Based on this, he’d end up consuming around 20 Class 3 Monster Cores in a day.

Although the amount of Class 3 Monster Cores he had to consume was a frightening number, Jian Chen wasn’t concerned at all about a lack of monster cores. Not only did he have hundreds of Class 3 Monster Cores in his Space Belt, he was also in the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He could enter the deeper regions and kill Class 4 Magical Beasts any time he wanted to. Class 4 Monster Cores contained enormous amounts of energy, and far surpassed that of Class 3 Monster Cores.

In the outside world, Jian Chen’s name, as well as everything he had done in the Magical Beast Mountain Range, was currently being spread everywhere. As this was happening, Jian Chen was sitting cross-legged within the dark cave, diligently raising his strength.

Time quickly passed. In the blink of an eye, a year had already passed. Within this year, the commotion that Jian Chen had caused in the outside world had gradually settled. Wake City had long since recovered to its original ways. There wasn’t that big of a difference between now and a year ago. The only difference was that the Wake City’s Tianxiong clan had died out.

Deep within the Magical Beast Mountain Range, there were no signs of people. Class 4 Magical Beasts roamed about the area as they pleased, and it wasn’t an area that anyone could just walk around. In this area, one could go for half a month without seeing any trace of a human; this was an extremely common occurrence. This moment, a green-black mist was slowly rising nearby. The scent of roasted meat was blown through the air by the breeze, gradually diffusing it in all directions.

The figure of a cotton wearing youth could be seen sitting cross-legged with a bonfire right in front of him that burned brightly as a piece of magical beast meat was cooked over the flames.

This youth looked no older than 20 years old with his long hair tied together into a ponytail with a piece of grass. This youth was exceedingly handsome with flawless facial features along with a delicate yet roguelike look. On his calm face was a face full of charm that could practically kill any woman in the world.

This youth, was Jian Chen.

In this one year, Jian Chen hadn't left the Magical Beast Mountain Range at all. After one year of using the monster cores from the mercenaries, there were practically no more Class 3 Monster Cores left. Only the Class 1 and 2 Monster Cores remained. In that one year, all of the Class 3 Monster cores were completely exhausted, and so Jian Chen could only use the Class 4 Monster Cores. Soon enough, even the Class 4 Monster Cores were used up, causing Jian Chen to go to the depths of the mountain range to hunt and kill Class 4 Magical Beasts before continuing to cultivate.

Time and time again, Jian Chen had continued to cultivate using the monster cores for one whole year. Jian Chen had long since left the Primary Saint Master level and reached the Peak Saint Master level. His strength had reached a point where even killing a Class 4 Magical Beast was of no problem at all.

"One year has past, how quickly time goes by. It seems that I should head out and stroll around now and stabilize my strength. Ai, after using the monster cores to cultivate, only a tiny residual of chaotic nature from the monster cores energy was left." Jian Chen muttered to himself in front of the campfire.

After eating his fill, Jian Chen extinguished the fire before heading out from the depths of the Magical Beast Mountain Range. He had already planned on leaving the mountain range long ago, so he had prepared a few Class 4 Monster Cores to cultivate with later.

The Class 4 Magical Beasts rarely roamed around the heart of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, so it was generally more peaceful than the outside layers since Class 4 Magical Beasts were also not as common as Class 1 or 2 Magical Beasts. In this case, coming across a Class 4 Magical Beast was not an easy task, and finding a Class 3 Magical Beast would be even easier.

"Hou!"

Just as Jian Chen walked out of the forest carefully, suddenly, a large sound exploded out from behind him. Staring in the direction in which his ear was vibrating, Jian Chen noticed that the ground he was standing on was beginning to tremble slightly as well.

Chapter 160: Appearance of a Class 5 Magical Beast

Jian Chen instantly grew serious as he heard the abrupt heaven shaking roar. Looking in the direction of the yell, he thought to himself, "For a simple roar to have such an intense effect, this must be a Peak Class 4 Magical Beast." Just as Jian Chen had this thought, a terrifyingly strong wave of energy made its way over to him. This wave of energy was so strong that it could be seen by the naked eye as it spread throughout the air and caused havoc. Many of the ancient tall trees were slowly drawn toward the source of energy as it overwhelmed anything in the sky.

Jian Chen grew even more solemn as he felt this extreme change in atmosphere. He was originally shocked by the wave of energy coming at him, but now he was stunned and couldn't help but say, "With this power, it might as well be a Class 5 Magical Beast."

The spread of the wave of energy was exceedingly fast. In a split second it had reached where Jian Chen stood, but in that moment, the energy had begun to wane in power before becoming nothing more than a strong whistle through his ears as it passed. Jian Chen's clothes were blown slightly along with his long black hair which began to drift in the wind.

The angry roar of the magical beast continued to be heard throughout the area with an explosive sound. The wave of energy simultaneously continued to wreak havoc on the ground by shaking it.

Jian Chen's face grew serious as he heard two different roars. His eyes revealed a small amount of surprise as he muttered, "It seems that there's 2 Class 5 Magical Beasts fighting each other." Jian Chen then immediately ran in the direction of the roars.

Following the aftermath of the damage from the energy wave, Jian Chen quickly traveled toward where the fight was taking place.

500 meters ahead of Jian Chen were two Class 5 Magical Beasts fighting intensely against each other. Each and every time they clashed, a strong wave of energy surged out in all directions. Even the ground had started to be filled with holes as the two magical beasts fought each other, the craters being a few meters deep. Nearby trees were uprooted and thrown about and some were even sent flying far into the sky with the tall grass becoming nothing more than a fine powder.

Hiding 500 meters away to avoid being spotted by the two Class 5 Magical Beasts, Jian Chen stood in a bush and watched the beasts fight with an attentive eye.

Although the two magical beasts were moving at rapid speeds, Jian Chen could clearly see the minute details of their fight. Between the two magical beasts fighting, one had a color as dark as the night and a body the same size of a cow. However, on the back of its shoulders was a pair of equally dark wings.

On the other side was a tiny but snowy white dog like magical beast. Although the two magical beasts were completely different sizes, the intensity in which they were fighting at was the same.

"Hou!"

"Hou!"

The angry snarls continuously flowed from their mouths like a bullet of energy that rippled through the air. As soon as the roars left the magical beasts' mouths, the air shook with the vibrations and caused every other sound in the area to be drowned out.

"This is truly the strength of a Class 5 Magical Beast!" Jian Chen remarked as he observed the two magical beasts battle. His entire body stood firmly in place despite the ground shaking beneath him. He was however, afraid of gaining the attention of the two magical beasts and inviting unwanted trouble.

Despite Jian Chen's current strength of a Peak Saint Master and being unafraid of any Peak Class 4 Magical Beast, Jian Chen was not completely confident that he could run away from the two Class 5 Magical Beasts after this display of strength.

Although a Class 5 Magical Beast only had a single level difference with a Class 4 magical Beast, in between this gap was like the gap separating the heavens and the earth.

The two magical beasts continued to fight for over half the day before their snarls finally began to weaken. By this point in time, the two had scars and wounds all over their bodies and were barely capable of standing up. Their bellies were moving up and down as they tried to breathe in a frantic manner.

Seeing such a miserable scene, Jian Chen couldn't help but think to himself, "Judging by this, both sides are already at a disadvantageous stalemate. They don't even have the energy to stand and are completely exhausted." Jian Chen suddenly felt a surge of confidence. Even the blood within him seemed to boil in anticipation as his heart began to palpitate.

Jian Chen lay on the ground with a small look of hesitation adorning his face. Debating furiously with himself, he finally came to a conclusion. Biting his lip, he stood up onto the ground and quickly made it over to where the magical beasts were.

"Hou!"

The two magical beasts finally realized that Jian Chen was rapidly approaching and so they let out one more angry roar. Their eyes flashed dangerously at Jian Chen but other than that, they couldn't do anything else.

Just as he got within a hundred meters of the two, Jian Chen suddenly stopped as his face grew unnaturally serious. Even though the magical beasts in front of him were injured, that didn't make Jian Chen any less cautious.

Slowly walking forward, Jian Chen advanced one step at a time towards the two Class 5 Magical Beasts. At the same time, the Light Wind Sword appeared within his hand with a hazy glow surrounding the blade as if swallowing it.

"Hou!"

Class 5 Magical Beasts all had a good amount of intelligence; they had long since realized what Jian Chen was trying to do. With another threatening roar at Jian Chen, they warned him to not get any closer.

Jian Chen paid no heed to the angry roars of the magical beasts and carefully approached closer and closer to them. At the same time, Jian Chen had wanted to charge at the magical beasts to kill them, but for the sake of his own health, he had to be more cautious. After all, these were Class 5 Magical Beasts, not Class 4 Magical Beasts.