

Chaotic 251

Chapter 251: A Storm Approaches

The stream of people continued on for three days before slowly weakening in number. By now, Jian Chen's name had once more made its rounds around Wake City. Now that he was residing within the Kai clan, they had quickly replaced the Tianxiong clan as the number one clan in Wake City. After all, they had a person with the strength of an Earth Saint Master who had command over a few Great Saint Masters. Without a doubt this person was the patron saint of the Kai clan, and within Wake City, he was an existence without parallel, no one that would dare offend him.

At the same time, after Yun Li had arranged some things, every single street and alleyway was filled with announcements regarding news about Kendall that rewarded information with a prize reward that left everyone speechless. If one had a clue that could be verified, then they would be awarded ten purple coins, and if the right person was found, then a prize of a hundred purple coins would be awarded.

A single gold coin was already enough to feed a family of three for a month's worth of time. A purple coin was equal to a hundred gold coins, and if a single verified hint could be offered for ten purple coins, then many of the residents and mercenaries of Wake City would definitely be tempted. Immediately, the entire Wake City went into an uproar because of this prize reward. Ten purple coins was an extravagant sum to many of the ordinary families and weaker mercenaries.

Within a luxurious restaurant of Wake City, a few middle aged men sat together at a table.

"How arrogant is the one called Jian Chen, to refuse to see everyone of us? All he did was pick up the opportunity to kill the Class 5 Magical Beasts by the Earth Saint Masters, just how is that amazing?" One of the men spoke indignantly.

"That's right. For a twenty year old youth with good fortune, he is very arrogant." Another man spoke out with disdain in his voice.

After hearing the two men talk, another purple robed man spoke out softly, "Forget it. If a youth that young has a strength on a level like ours, then he has the right to be arrogant. His talent is unordinary; we should just report this to our clan. An individual like this would definitely be a prime person for our clan to rope in, and if he were to join our clan, then we would surely gain huge merits for it."

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Within a mansion in Wake City, a few well dressed mercenaries gathered in one place in a meeting room.

"I've just heard that two of the Class 5 Monster Cores are in Jian Chen's possession. Da Hei, hurry up and report this back to the Xia clan." A middle aged man commanded.

"Captain, why don't we just purchase the monster core and then hand it over to the Xia clan. That way, we can afford any terrifying matters." A sturdy man asked.

The captain in front of him shook his head, "That won't do. A Class 5 Monster Core, let's not talk about if we have the funds to buy it, but Jian Chen might not even want to sell it. Furthermore, the strength he has shown has far surpassed ours, meaning he is far out of our control. The best method right now is to

send word of such a profit to the Xia Clan since only they would have enough strength to contest the Class 5 Monster Core.”

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In a normal looking restaurant, a simple sack clothed man was quickly writing a letter, “Xiao Shan!”

The moment he cried out, a youth around the age of twenty years quickly came and greeted the first man respectfully, “Second uncle, what have you called me here for?”

The man handed over the letter to the youth and spoke seriously, “Xiao Shan, take this letter and the other apprentices back to the inner sect and deliver it to the sect leader.”

“Yes, second uncle!” The youth took the letter and immediately left.

After the youth had left the room, the man let out a breath of air. “A Class 5 Monster Core is certainly too attractive of an object. What a shame that this youth named Jian Chen is too strong and only the sect leader can handle him. Otherwise, my chances of becoming an Earth Saint Master would go up drastically if I obtained that Class 5 Monster Core.”

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. Within the mansion, Jian Chen let out a sigh as he waved his hand in dejection.

Seeing Jian Chen’s expression, commander Duo Li immediately grew aware of what that meant, “Take them all away.” He commanded.

“Yes!” The soldiers standing by the side replied and immediately took out the men kneeling there.

“Hey hold on, our money, where’s our reward? How could you do this, we’ve offered you information, and yet you kick us out without rewarding us...”

Their words fell on deaf ears as commander Duo Li tried to reassure Jian Chen. “Brother Jian Chen, don’t feel discouraged. The people you wish to find are undoubtedly in Wake City still, stay determined.”

“I’d hope so. Commander Duo Li, I will be heading back first then.” With that, Jian Chen immediately left the mansion. For the past few days, many people had entered the mansion with news of the whereabouts of Kendall’s family, but everyone had tried to be deceitful and told a bunch of nonsense without a single trace of truth.

For a few days, this pattern continued with Jian Chen’s mood growing darker and darker. Could Kendall’s family have all already left Wake City? Perhaps they moved to another city. Unfortunately, with the Tian Yuan Continent being so vast and only having a tiny amount of information, it was like trying to find a needle within a haystack. There was such a huge ocean of unnamed people, this would be difficult for Jian Chen.

After returning to the Kai clan, Jian Chen immediately walked back to the tiny courtyard.

“Captain, the soldiers from the lord’s mansion have brought over the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King’s corpse. Right now it’s just right over there, what does the captain wish to do with it?” Kai Er spoke out from the side.

The moment he heard the Golden Fur Tiger King mentioned, Jian Chen stopped where he stood. "Strip the corpse of the skin and clean it before setting it on the meat racks. Today our brothers will all be able to taste what the Class 5 Golden Fur Tiger King tastes like!"

Kai Er's face lit up with joy at Jian Chen's words. The meat of a Class 5 Magical Beast was a great boon to those of the Great Saint Master level. Not only would it improve one's Saint Force, it would also strengthen the body to a degree far beyond than that of before. Within the small region that was Wake City, while there were numerous amount of magical beast corpses, a Class 5 Magical Beast corpse was rare and very expensive. Thousands of gold coins wouldn't be enough to buy one in any market, and so very few men were able to enjoy the delicacy that was Magical Beast meat.

"Captain, do you truly wish to do this?" Kai Er asked, unable to believe his ears.

Jian Chen nodded his head and spoke fiercely, "That's right. Hurry up and have some men prepare it, tonight we shall dine on the meat of the Golden Fur Tiger King."

"Yes, captain!" Kai Er was barely able to contain his joy. A Class 5 Magical Beast corpse could only be sought after with thousands of purple coins. He hadn't thought that Jian Chen would use something so expensive for everyone to enjoy. Delighted, Kai Er couldn't believe his luck in deciding to follow the right person while at the same time his respect for Jian Chen skyrocketed.

On that night, the entire Kai clan's inhabitants celebrated with great joy. In the middle of the courtyard, the burning meat of the Golden Fur Tiger King could be seen as plenty of bandaged men all whisper among each other excitedly. Occasionally, they would burst out into laughter with great big smiles on their faces. Each one of them kept their eyes focused on the slowly spinning body of the Golden Fur Tiger King with drool just about to drop from their mouths.

That night, Yun Li and commander Duo Li had also been personally invited to join the Kai clan in enjoying the meat of the Golden Fur Tiger King.

This night, the Kai clan would not be able to sleep a wink as they feasted on the meat and drank the blood as if it were wine. Under the candle light, around two hundred people were happily cheering and eating with pleasant smiles on their faces.

During that night, most of the men there became drunk and it wasn't until seven or eight in the morning that they finally slunk back to their beds to sleep.

After that night had passed, the Flame Mercenary members now had a new level of respect for Jian Chen.

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By early morning, several days had passed since the magical beast wave in Wake City. The entire city was essentially back to normal with people coming in and out of the city in an endless stream. From the looks of everyone's faces, each one of them didn't have any sort of worry. The only remnants of the magical beast wave was the bloody ground in the distance, along with the craters left by the Magical Crystal Cannons.

Suddenly, a group of brightly colored men came riding through the gates on horses. Among the group, there was a single carriage being led by four Class 3 Magical Beasts bred for the express purpose of

running. As their group made it through the streets, a large banner could be seen drifting in the wind with the “Xia” symbol on it.

When the Wake City guards saw the “Xia” symbol written on the banner, their faces all grew shocked before immediately commanding the soldiers to immediately move out of the way for them.

“Jia!” “Jia!”

The group of riders didn’t slow down at all and instead rode on deeper within Wake City, leaving behind a trail of dust. On the road, many people watched them travel with a silent chatter between themselves.

“Who are these people that can be so overbearing? For them to ride into the city while urging their horses to go even faster. The soldiers didn’t dare to stop them either...”

“I saw that four Class 3 Magical beasts were pulling their carriage. That isn’t something any normal person could afford, I wonder just who those people are.

“Didn’t you see the “Xia” symbol? That’s the Xia clansmen. From this, I bet that one of the major figures of the Xia clan has come to Wake City...”

Chapter 252: Xia Clan

As soon as the Xia clan’s carriage disappeared from sight, the commanding soldier called out to another soldier, “Go and inform the lord, the Xia Clan has arrived in Wake City!”

“Yes!” The soldier immediately got on a horse after receiving the order and headed to the mansion.

The Xia clan’s group of people continued to travel within Wake City before finally arriving in front of the Kai clan’s courtyard. Two youths dismounted from their horses before walking up to the gates. One of them then called out to the guards, “Have your leader of the Kai clan come out straight away!” This man spoke with arrogance and eyes that looked down on everyone.

Despite the disgusting attitude of this man, the guards of the Kai clan didn’t dare to offend the group. They knew in their hearts that this group had a considerable amount of influence after seeing the formation in front of them and so one of the guards immediately replied, “Please wait one moment, I will go inform the leader.”

The youth didn’t have any plans to wait however and immediately lifted his foot to step toward the gates. But before he could cross into the courtyard, the second guard blocked his path and spoke impassively, “Sire, we’ve already gone to notify the leader, please wait one moment.”

Upon hearing this, the youth’s face instantly changed. He stared at the guard blocking him and roared angrily, “Who are you to stand in my way, get the f*ck away!”

The youth’s outrage caused the guard’s face to change. Looking at the carriage behind, the guard clearly didn’t know who the Xia clan was or what area they were from, but from the banners on the carriage, the guard knew that this group of people was not someone he could afford to offend.

“Honored one, our Kai clan has some rules in place. Without the approval of the elders, I cannot allow you in, please don’t make this any more difficult for this one.”

The youth snorted, "A little watchdog dares to block my path, you are seeking death." The youth immediately lifted his hand in disdain to slap the man across the face with a heavy palm strike.

The guard had already long since prepared himself for this and blocked the slap with his arm.

"How impudent! To go against the Xia clan, you must be tired of living!" The second youth roared as he slammed his leg against the guard's stomach.

The guard doubled up in pain as his face began to turn pale from the kick. The two youths didn't plan on stopping there. Once more, the two youths immediately lashed out to kick the guard in the head.

"Bang!"

The guard immediately flew through the gates and rolled over the ground with his head dripping with blood before falling unconscious.

"Hmph, a mere watchdog of a tiny clan dared to block our Xia clan? That is a crime even death cannot absolve." One of the youths looked at the bloody guard with contempt.

"Hmph, who dares cause such a disturbance to our Kai clan and even hit one of our guards?" An angry shout came from within the courtyard as Kai Er and a few other men walked forward.

"Who are you?" One of the youths stared at Kai Er with disdain.

"Hmph, I am Kai Er, clan leader of the Kai clan. Who are you two?" Kai Er sneered.

"So you're the clan leader, we are from the Xia clan!" The youth laughed.

"The Xia clan!" Immediately, Kai Er's face changed before asking, "Which Xia clan?"

"Clan leader, are your eyes blind? Could there possibly be a second Xia clan anywhere within a thousand miles from us?" The youth spoke arrogantly.

As they spoke, the men who came along with Kai Er to the front suddenly saw the banners drifting in the wind and immediately grew serious at the sight.

Kai Er cupped his hands together in a respectful greeting, "So you are from the Xia clan, how impolite of me." If the Xia clan were to come by the Kai clan a week ago, then Kai Er would have definitely been extremely respectful. At this moment, he was no longer afraid of them since the Kai clan of today was no longer the same Kai clan from before.

"Clan leader, hurry up and pay your respects to our young lord." The youth sneered,

Hearing this, Kai Er looked toward the carriage and cupped his hands together, "Kai Er of the Kai clan respectfully greets the young lord of the Xia clan, what purpose might the young lord have with our Kai clan."

Seeing how Kai Er was so casual, the guards to the carriage looked at him with their eyes narrowed. Despite how impassive Kai Er was to their lord, they didn't say anything.

"Kai Er, I've heard there is a youth named Jian Chen in your Kai clan, is this true?" A youth spoke out from within the carriage.

“That’s right.” Kai Er didn’t deny it.

“Go and call out Jian Chen, I have some matters to speak to him with.” The youth spoke.

Hearing this, Kai Er’s eyebrows furrowed together as he couldn’t help but feel angry at this command. Right now, Jian Chen was his leader, and a powerful one at that. Although the Kai clan had a considerable amount of power, Kai Er didn’t believe that Jian Chen’s mysterious identity was weaker than the Kai clan. So when the youth within the carriage told him to call out Jian Chen, Kai Er couldn’t help but feel dissatisfied by this.

Kai Er’s smile didn’t quite reach his eyes as he spoke, “Lord Xia, I will go report to captain Jian Chen, but whether or not he decides to see you is not something I can guarantee.”

“Shameful!”

“How impudent!”

When Kai Er spoke, the men guarding the carriage couldn’t help but cry out, “The identity of our young lord is something that even the city lord of Wake City has to be respectful, this Jian Chen is a mere mercenary, something vastly different than our young lord! There is no need to report to him, have him come out here right away!”

“An significant blade of grass dare make the young lord of the Xia clan wait? Hmph, how audacious!”

“Call out this Jian Chen immediately and don’t waste our time! You risk incurring our wrath if this continues any longer!”

Another horseman cried out in anger.

At these indignant cries, Kai Er’s face began to grow dark.

“Go and have some men bring out Jian Chen.” The young lord called from within.

“Yes, my lord.” Immediately a few men dismounted from their horses and headed within the courtyard.

“Halt! This is the domain of the Kai clan, without the clan leader’s consent, no one can simply walk in!” At this moment, a loud voice called from within the courtyard. Turning everyone, everyone could see Duo Kang, Charcas, and Qingfeng all walk toward the gates slowly.

Chapter 253: The Might of a Battle Skill

One of the three Great Saint Masters, Duo Kang immediately laughed, “Young lord of the Xia clan, please wait one moment, we’ve already notified captain Jian Chen.”

“Hmph, I did not think that there would be men in this tiny city that would dare to force our Xia clan to wait. Uncle Liu, teach these men how different the heavens are to the earth!” The youth within the chariot commanded.

One of the men sitting on top of the Class 2 Magical Beast leaped off of his mount with his eyes flashing dangerously. In mid air, he flew ten meters to where Kai Er was and lashed out with a kick at his head.

Kai Er sneered before condensing Saint Force within his hands before meeting each kick from the man with his Saint Force enhanced hands.

“Bang bang bang....”

Following a muffled sound, Kai Er and the middle aged man exchanged a series of blows before the man finally landed on the ground. Kai Er’s feet couldn’t help but be forced back a bit as his hands started to redden. The middle aged man on the other hand was still as composed as ever.

They were both experts of the Great Saint Master level. The difference was, this middle aged man was already at the Peak Great Saint Master realm which was higher than Kai Er’s level by a good amount.

When the middle aged man landed on the ground, he laughed, “How insignificant you are. To dare place our Xia clan on the same level as your Kai clan. Today will be the day I teach you a lesson.” Immediately, a blue colored Saint Force began to form in his right hand before forming a long and slender blue whip. To the observant ones, they would be able to see water like ripples gleam across the whip’s surface.

“Water attribute Saint Force!”

Seeing the long whip within the man’s hands, all four of the Great Saint Masters were shocked. Saint Force with an attribute was extremely rare in Wake City, but this man unexpectedly had a water Saint Force.

The man brandished the whip and allowed it to snap back in the air for a crisp “Pa!” sound before flying straight toward Kai Er. The moment when the whip flew at Kai Er, the blue light from the whip immediately spread out and confused everyone who was watching as it masked the trajectory of the whip’s path.

Against a peak Great Saint Master, Kai Er didn’t dare to underestimate him and so he immediately brought out his own Saint Weapon to clash against the whip.

The whip was unnaturally soft, and so the moment the two weapons hit, the whip coiled around the sword like a viper before going taut.

Immediately feeling the change in control of his Saint Weapon, Kai Er immediately gave a big shout as a surge of Saint Force rippled out from his sword and slashed down onto the whip wielder.

The middle aged man sneered as he pulled on his whip. The whip immediately went from a soft form into one of rigid steel that restricted Kai Er’s sword in midair.

Tugging on his sword, Kai Er was unfortunately unable to force his sword to move thanks to the immovable whip around his sword.

With his Saint Weapon unable to be swung or moved, Kai Er was forced into a position where he couldn’t do anything.

“Hmph! How savage the Xia clan are.” Duo Kang sneered from the side before immediately swinging down onto the whip with his Saint Weapon.

The middle aged man sneered in disdain before retrieving his whip with a simple hand gesture. In an instant, the whip flew away from where Duo Kang had swung down on.

This time, the man didn't take advantage of Duo Kang's sword to swing his whip around it. Instead, the whip became an extremely strong weapon of steel and smashed against the lateral side of Duo Kang's sword.

"Clang!"

Following the sounds of metal hitting metal, Duo Kang's sword was immediately knocked away. Even a sudden attack on him had been quickly nullified by the whip.

Duo Kang's expression grew dark before quickly before looking to Charcas and Qingfeng, "He's quite strong, come help!" With the man from the Xia clan having a water attribute Saint Force as well as being a Peak Great Saint Master, his strength was not something Duo Kang could face on his own.

Qingfeng and Charcas didn't hesitate and immediately brought out their own Saint Weapons to charge at the man. Charcas' Saint Weapon was a sword that was extremely large. With each swing, a large ear piercing sound could be heard. Qingfeng's weapon was a three meter long spear that left a streak of white light as it moved through the air. Its movements were like a coiling dragon as well as a viper, unpredictable: its path would change with each strike.

The middle aged man's strength was extremely strong and so even against three Great Saint Masters, he wasn't at a disadvantage at all. With the whip being so flexible and him being an expert, his whip skill was at the pinnacle of mastery. The whip was capable of being soft and flexible yet at the same time becoming as strong as rigid metal that couldn't be defended against.

The whip and the Saint Weapons of the three Great Saint Masters continued to clash in an endless stream of blows as the sounds of battle rang through the courtyard.

Within the Kai clan, more and more members of the Flame Mercenaries slowly came to the front to hear what the sound was. The moment they saw that Duo Kang and the other Great Saint Masters were fighting, each one of them pulled out their own Saint Weapons and prepared to fight as well.

At this moment, two shadowy figures shot past the Flame Mercenaries to where the other Great Saint Masters were. The two of them didn't waste any time and immediately joined with Duo Kang and the others to fight against the middle aged man from the Xia clan. After all, seeing them fight meant there was no need for any words to be said.

"Haha, I didn't think the Kai clan would be hiding so many experts. five Great Saint Masters, this is truly a strong force within Wake City." The young lord of the Xia clan spoke slowly.

"My lord, you might know this but, each one of the five Great Saint Masters in front of us once led their own strong mercenary group. Once Jian Chen appeared, each one of them dissolved their mercenary groups and became one with the Flame Mercenaries. Furthermore, the leader of this Flame Mercenaries is Jian Chen. I've also heard that the Kai clan and the Dohre clan have also joined with the Flame Mercenaries" A youth spoke out respectfully to the one inside the carriage.

"Oh, is that right? Ha, it seems the one named Jian Chen is quite a complex person. I've heard he is only twenty years old; a youth with this much strength is surely someone I can praise." The young lord within the chariot laughed.

Within the Kai courtyard, the middle aged man from the Xia clan was feeling pressure now that he was fighting against five Great Saint Masters. His face was extremely serious now. He was no longer the calm and composed person he was before. Despite being a water attributed Peak Great Saint Master with top notch strength, fighting against five Great Saint Masters was still very difficult. With three Middle Great Saint Masters and two barely Peak Great Saint Masters, this was enough to give him an extremely challenging time.

Kai Er stood off to the side and watched the battle continue. Because of how these five Great Saint Masters all had experience fighting with each other, they were able to fight seamlessly in coordination. If he were to join in the fight however, he would break apart the understanding of the group and how they fought.

The six people continued to fight for some time, pushing the middle aged man into a disadvantageous situation. Then at that moment, the middle aged man's eyes flashed dangerously as he roared, "Let me show you how dangerous my battle skill then, Water Stream!" A strong amount of his water Saint Force immediately flowed around him as his whip began to move about crazily. Around him, numerous blue colored whips formed and filled the sky before flying toward the five Great Saint Masters.

Duo Kang and the other four all shouted angrily as their inner Saint Force pulsed out of them to form on the outside of their bodies. Immediately, the stream of water crashed into the five's defenses. While their Saint Force pulsed violently upon contact, the good thing was that despite the strength of the battle skill, the defenses of the Great Saint Master were enough to defend against it.

"Mountain Carrying Torrent!" The man shouted once more as the whip in his hand rippled once more before striking at Duo Kang and the others in the pattern of a viper.

The five weren't afraid at all and struck at the whip simultaneously.

While the whip looked small at first, it then suddenly transformed into the size of a huge mountain. The moment the five Great Saint Master's Saint Weapons clashed against it, a loud vibration was sent back through their arms and numbed them so much that they felt as if their bones were about to shatter. Their Saint Weapons couldn't help but fall to the ground as they all fell back a few steps.

The whip didn't falter in the least and struck them all in the chest firmly.

"Pa!"

Following the large sound, Duo Kang and the other four's shirts were all instantly destroyed. Blood flew through the air as their heavy bodies flew along with it before falling to the ground five meters away. With difficulty then, each person tried to crawl back up from the ground.

Originally, victory had been in sight for the five Great Saint Masters, but with this battle skill, the situation had changed. From this it could be seen that the power of a battle skill was truly terrifying.

The middle aged man sneered at the floored men. "To be able to force me to use my battle skill, you should all be proud of this achievement until you die. Today I will break apart your legs to vent my anger." The middle age man lifted his whip and was about to lash out when another voice called out to him immediately.

"Halt!" The voice was filled with such anger that it was almost a roar.

Hearing the, the middle age man couldn't help but stop his hand before turning to look only to see a youth around the age of twenty wearing a cheap white robe. His hair only reached his shoulders and despite the clothes looking so simple, the youth himself was rather handsome. His skin was as white as a sheep's wool, making it hard to believe that this skin color, that'd make any woman jealous, actually belonged to a man. His delicate facial features matched each other flawlessly. It was to the point where people suspected that his face was the killer of all the girls in the world.

Jian Chen had cultivated the Azulet Sword Law since his birth and so practically every cell within his body was strengthened. Not once had he ever tried to alter his body and had allowed nature to run its course instead. Therefore, no matter whether it was his body or his appearances, the Azulet Sword Law was the cause. From the beginning it had developed him perfectly so that even his appearance would become handsome looking. As he grew older, he had also continued to train his body and strengthened it, causing his appearances to follow suit.

"Who are you!" The middle-aged man from the Xia clan sternly asked as he glared sharply at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's expression was overcast as he said, "I'm the one you're looking for, Jian Chen." He didn't conceal the intense killing intent reflected in his eyes.

Chapter 254: Provoking the Xia Clan

Hearing this, the middle aged man looked at Jian Chen to size him up, "So you're Jian Chen. It would appear the rumors are true, you don't look like you're over the age of twenty five."

Jian Chen looked at the five injured Great Saint Masters on the ground before turning back to the middle aged man with a dark expression, "Xia clansmen, what matter did you really have with me."

Jian Chen's attitude had made the middle aged man's eyebrows furrow together before snorting, "Jian Chen, the young lord of our Xia clan wanted to see you, hurry up and greet the young lord."

At this moment, the carriage doors flipped open as an expensively dressed youth slowly walked down from within. The youth was thin in physique and was around twenty eight years old. His appearance was rather grand and he himself was quite handsome. In his hand, an expensive looking fan could be seen as he elegantly fanned himself.

"My lord!"

"My lord!"

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This youth was clearly a high holding position within the Xia clan. The very moment he revealed his face every single guard there immediately paid their respects.

Without looking any other way, the youth walked into the courtyard with a few strong looking men following him from behind. Their eyes glared fiercely as they scanned the place in order to safely protect the young charge in front of them from any danger.

The youth's eyes fell onto Jian Chen as the intensity in his eyes flared up at the sight of Jian Chen's handsome face. Smiling, he spoke, "So you are Jian Chen? You are unexpectedly quite handsome looking."

Jian Chen looked at the young lord of the Xia clan for a moment before looking at the men around him. He could tell their strengths automatically; three Great Saint Masters, five Peak Saint Masters, and the water Saint Force Peak Great Saint Master that could fight the five Great Saint Masters. This was surely a very strong force of power that could not be easily matched in Wake City.

Jian Chen sneered, "Lord Xia, explain your purpose for coming."

Laughing, the young lord said, "So you are a man who gets to the point. Good, I won't beat around the bush and get straight to the problem then." With this, the young lord stopped speaking for a moment before resuming with a serious expression, "Jian Chen, I know you have two Class 5 Monster Cores, I have come here today to buy those two monster cores from you."

"Apologies, but I am not selling the monster cores!" Jian Chen spoke with no hesitation at all.

The young lord had already anticipated this outcome however and continued, "Jian Chen, those Class 5 Monster Cores will only bring you trouble if you continue to keep them. You are risking your life, and even as a mercenary captain, those Great Saint Masters under you are not enough to guard the monster cores. Even an Earth Saint Master would be attracted to take a Class 5 Monster Core; you wouldn't have the ability to stop them if they tried. So it would be in your best interest to sell them to me. This way, not only will you make a nice sum of money, but you will also be one problem shorter."

"My apologies, but I've said already that I am not selling the monster cores." Jian Chen's voice grew colder with this repetition.

The young lord's eyes frosted over for a moment before smiling, "Jian Chen, I will give you three days to think it over. On the third day, I will come back. Of course, don't even think about running away in that time. If you do, then we will take this as a provocation of our good will. And after that, you will be aware of the consequences." With that, the Xia clan's young lord turned around to leave.

Seeing the young lord about to leave, Jian Chen's eyes flashed coldly before shouting, "Halt!"

The young lord turned around with a smile as he stared at Jian Chen, "What's wrong, have you changed your mind?"

Jian Chen looked at the five injured men at his side before pointing at the middle aged man, "The rest of you can go, but you will stay behind!"

Hearing this, the young lord's expression changed as did the middle aged man who looked at him in shock.

"Jian Chen, just what is the meaning of this?" The young lord had already sensed the ill intent of Jian Chen who's face continued to grow darker. Within Wake City, there had never been someone who dared to provoke the Xia clan's authority.

Jian Chen's face revealed a cold smile, "You truly do treat this area as if it was your backyard. You come whenever you want, and you leave whenever you wish. After injuring my men, don't even think about leaving today."

"Pa!" The folding fan in the lord's hand snapped shut as he lost his previously calm demeanor. "Impudence! You should remember just who you are speaking to, Jian Chen."

The young lord's words fell on deaf ears as Jian Chen continued to stare dangerously at the man who had injured his five Great Saint Masters.

The middle aged man looked at him in amusement as he couldn't help but break out into a smile. Despite hearing that Jian Chen's strength was quite strong, Jian Chen was still very young therefore he couldn't be that strong. Also, the middle aged man had full confidence in his strength, so he hadn't placed Jian Chen within his eye at all.

"Jian Chen, could it be that you wish to punish me? But, how do you plan on doing that?" The man smiled with disdain.

"Death!" Immediately, a strong amount of killing intent flooded Jian Chen's face. When it came to those who wronged him first, Jian Chen had no mercy. If he hadn't shown up at the time he did, then the five Great Saint Masters would have suffered from even more serious wounds. Even then, in front of all the Flame Mercenaries, he had to be unyielding to everyone else. If he were not, then it would affect his leadership. That was because while his Flame Mercenaries were not considered weak, there were still people who were hell bent on overtaking him.

"Jian Chen, you are courting death!" Both the middle aged man and the young lord cried out in anger. Their faces grew ugly to look at as they looked at Jian Chen with a killing intent.

Jian Chen's words made it seem as if the Xia clan were of no importance to him. Something like this was unbearable to endure by the young lord.

At that moment, every single member of the Flame Mercenaries looked at Jian Chen. Many of them had secretly approving of this manner and had been moved by his words as well. Many of the mercenaries had been under Duo Kang's group previously, so while on the surface there had been some ups and downs between the group and Duo Kang, they were still best friends until the ends of their time. They were brothers between brothers, otherwise, they would not have followed him into the Flame Mercenaries. With Duo Kang injured, they couldn't help but feel indignation within their hearts, but with the enemy being so strong, they weren't able to do anything. Thus all of their hopes to fight back had been placed on Jian Chen's shoulders.

The middle aged man laughed angrily before placing his hands across his chest. "Good! Very good, Jian Chen! You truly do have a courageous spirit that should be praised. But your words are something that are quite difficult to say. Careful you don't bring disgrace upon yourself now. So if you wish to kill me, then make your move, let me see just how true those rumors truly are."

"Hmph, uncle Liu, it would appear that we no longer need to buy those Class 5 Monster Cores from Jian Chen."

"That is true, young lord. This means we can save a good amount of money now." The one named uncle Liu began to laugh. The blue colored whip appeared in his right hand once more before snapping in midair with a single snap of his wrist, letting out a fierce cracking sound.

Jian Chen's lips curled into a cold smile. Despite going up against a water Saint Force expert, he still didn't see such a person as his opponent. With a swaying motion, Jian Chen's figure immediately disappeared and left behind a faint phantom image of himself. Quickly he flew toward the middle aged man while simultaneously bringing out his Light Wind Sword to stab at the middle aged man's throat.

The Light Wind Sword became a streak of silver light that flew at the middle aged man so fast that by the time the man could react, it had already reached within a foot of his throat.

For the sake of his brothers within the Flame Mercenaries, this victory had to be a clear cut one, so Jian Chen didn't hesitate to use more power than before.

"How quick he is!" The middle aged man grew startled as his mocking expression quickly became a serious one. Quickly, he had realized that Jian Chen wouldn't be as easy to deal with as he thought.

The middle aged man burst backward and brandished his whip so that it flew at Jian Chen like a viper. In mid air, it began to coil around the Light Wind Sword as it flew to stab at him.

He had underestimated the Light Wind Sword's speed; just as the whip was about to coil around the sword, the Light Wind Sword's speed instantly increased several times over and instantly flew faster.

Against such a fast sword, the middle aged man wasn't able to dodge or defend himself in time. So in the end, the Light Wind Sword had pierced into the man's throat with a terrifying amount of speed.

Despite the man having water Saint Force which granted him a superiority in some areas, but to Jian Chen, this advantage was no advantage at all. Even though the man had a battle skill, there was no time to use it .

The middle aged man stared rigidly at Jian Chen in utter disbelief. Even with his entire strength, he had been completely unable to dodge the sword.

"Uncle Liu..." The young lord's face slackened as he looked on in disbelief. He had a good understanding of his uncle's strength, and within the clan, uncle Liu was ranked third. Aside from an Earth Saint Master, there was not a single person that could fight and win against his uncle Liu. Even with that, Jian Chen had been able to kill him in a single stroke. This type of result was simply not one he could take.

"Protect the young lord!"

With the middle aged man killed, every single guard of the Xia clan immediately grew vigilant. They quickly grabbed the young lord and retreated from the Kai clan with a hard look at Jian Chen and took precautions in case Jian Chen wanted to strike to kill again.

"I've said it before, this area is not the courtyard of the Xia clan. In here, you simply cannot come as you want and leave as you wish. Men, surround them!" Jian Chen commanded.

"Yes, captain!"

The brothers of the Flame Mercenaries immediately obeyed the command instantly barricading the gate to prevent the Xia clan from leaving.

"Jian Chen, what are you doing?" The young lord of the Xia clan went white as he roared in false bravado. Jian Chen's reveal of strength had made the young lord feel an intense amount of fear in his heart.

Chapter 255: Power

“Lord Xia, how brazen you are. After hurting my brothers, did you really think you could leave this area safely?” Jian Chen had a smile that didn’t quite reach his eyes as his voice grew colder.

“You’ve already killed uncle Liu, what more do you want?” The young lord looked at the hundred men surrounding him with a look of fear on his face. “My father is the representative of the Xia clan, Jian Chen, if you kill me, then my Xia clan will definitely do their best to kill you!”

“Do you really think I am afraid? You should have already known; If I am willing to kill a Xia clansmen, then I am not afraid of offending your Xia clan.” Jian Chen was not afraid of the Xia clan’s might at all and so his words were spoken with ease.

“You...” The young lord was deathly pale and had a great amount of remorse in his heart. If he had known that Jian Chen would be this difficult to deal with, then he wouldn’t have dared come in the first place.

At this moment, Kai Er walked up to where Jian Chen was. “Captain, the Xia clan is very strong and this is the son of the leader of the clan. If he were to die here, then the Xia clan would go berserk.”

“Is the Xia clan truly so strong?” Jian Chen asked, this was the only question that mattered to him.

Kai Er spoke once more, “There are ten Great Saint Masters within the Xia clan, and the leader of the clan himself is rumored to have made a breakthrough to become an Earth Saint Master. Not only that, but he also has mastery over his water Saint Force as well as some strong Battle Skills.

Jian Chen nodded his head. From the young lord’s arrogant air and words, he had already guessed that the Xia clan had the backing of an Earth Saint Master, but what was more important was just how many Earth Saint Masters there were.

Jian Chen looked at the young lord, “Young lord, do you truly wish to leave from this place safely?” Although Jian Chen’s words suggested that he was willing to let the Xia clan go, his attitude was still an unyielding one, causing the young lord to be confused. If he were to have another stroke of bad luck, then he would definitely not be able to leave the area alive.

After uncle Liu had been killed in a single blow, the young lord of the Xia clan understood that Jian Chen’s strength was enough for him to not fear the Xia clan.

“Jian Chen, our Xia clan no longer wishes for the Class 5 Monster Core, only that I may leave this place safely! We will even offer you a large sum of money for this.” The young lord’s eyes had a look of hope in them. Although he was a noble, he had lived a sheltered life and was constantly protected by everyone. He didn’t have the heroic spirit that mercenaries had after experiencing life and death situations again and again. So in such a situation like this, it wasn’t easy for him to maintain a calm composure.

Revealing an evil smile, Jian Chen stared at the Space Belt on the waist of the young lord, “Young lord, if you truly wish to leave from this courtyard safely, then hand over your Space Belt.”

The young lord’s face changed greatly from that demand. All of the items in his Space Belt were of his personal property and so he was reluctant to part with it.

Struggling to keep a calm composure, the young lord bit his lips and said, "Fine, Jian Chen, I will hand over my Space Belt to you. I hope you will stay true to your word and let me leave peacefully."

"Naturally!" Jian Chen laughed.

Afterward, the young lord parted with his Space Belt reluctantly before demanding, "I will be taking the corpse of uncle Liu with me!"

Jian Chen didn't say another word and flicked the Space Belt around uncle Liu's waist into his hand and threw the body to the Xia clansmen.

Immediately two of the guards caught the body carefully before slowly retreating back out of the courtyard.

When the Xia clan retreated, there was no hesitation at all.

In the courtyard, every member of the Flame Mercenaries looked at Jian Chen with a huge smile on their faces. This action of Jian Chen had won over everyone's hearts.

Kai Er and the other five Great Saint Masters came around to where Jian Chen was and spoke seriously, "Captain, it can be said now that we have offended the Xia clan. This isn't a matter that they will take lying down, it would appear that we will need to prepare to fight against them in the future."

Jian Chen nodded his head.

"Captain, since we have offended the Xia clan, why couldn't we force them to stay behind? Now that we've offended them, we should have killed them all, lowering the number of Great Saint Masters in their clan weakening their overall strength." Charcas asked with confusion.

"Absolutely not!" Jian Chen shook his head. "Although I've killed one of their experts, the Xia clan will definitely be mindful of my strength now. If they were to come for my life, then the Xia clan would suffer a huge lose as well. I believe the Xia clan will try to send some expendable person to test me so that they won't lose much if that person dies and will also give them more time to prepare. This son is quite different however, as the son of the leader, his position within the clan is quite unique. If I were to kill him, then I'm afraid that the Xia clan would be the second coming of the Tianxiong clan and immediately mobilize their entire clan to deal with us. Although I don't fear them, but our brothers are injured so it is in our best interest to avoid a clash."

"The captain is quite wise!" The six Great Saint Masters all nodded their head in approval.

Jian Chen took out some money from his Space Belt, "There are 5000 purple coins in here, Kai Er, take this money and go heal yourselves. We must make sure that everyone is fully healed, and if there's any money left over, share it with everyone else."

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Outside the gates, twenty blue robed men riding on top of Class 2 Magical Beasts quickly rode into Wake City in a fierce rush. The one leading them was sitting on top of an expensive looking Class 3 Magical Beast and did not look to be lacking in strength.

This type of formation had plenty of people as well as having magical beasts that neither caravans or mercenaries could afford to have.

Just as they entered the entrance to Wake City, the grandiose looking carriage of the Xia clan simultaneously came charging out. Each one of the guards were looking down, and on top of one of the Class 2 Magical Beasts, there was a body that continued to leak blood.

At the sight of the Xia clan's chariot, the blue robed men couldn't help but stop.

"I didn't think that the Xia clan would beat us here first, it looks like we came too late." The leader on top of the Class 3 Magical Beast muttered to himself. Soon after, his eyes widened as he saw an inconceivable sight.

"How could this be, could Wake City have a high level expert strong enough to kill Liu Zheng?" The man couldn't help but gasp in shock.

"Master, that's the chariot of the Xia clan, I didn't think they'd come here so fast. I can only assume that the Class 5 Monster Cores have been purchased by them already." A skinny man said from the side.

The middle aged shook his head as he looked at the dead body on the magical beast without saying a single word.

Chapter 256: Heavenly Flower Sect

Watching the Xia clan drive off into the distance, the middle aged man shouted out to his men, "Let's go into the city!"

The twenty men all strode on in past the guards. None of the city guards dared to stop them, as judging from the magical beasts, they knew these men were strong. So without any further obstructions, the group entered the city.

The man sitting on top of the Class 3 Magical Beast led the group into the streets. Looking around him, he then turned to look at the group behind him, "Disciple Zhang!"

"Teacher!" Immediately, one of the men riding on a magical beast came up to where the middle aged man was and spoke up, "Teacher, what is needed of me?"

"Disciple Zhang, go and take a few people to see what happened to the Xia clan." The man sitting on the Class 3 Magical Beast spoke with a serious expression.

"Yes, teacher!" Without question, the disciple immediately called over a few men and rode off to find out some information.

"Let us wait a moment for disciple Zhang to return." The man had his mount stop by the side of a street and spoke to the rest of his group.

"We follow teacher's command!" The rest of the uniformed men spoke out.

Afterward, the dozen men and magical beasts all waited by the side of the street patiently. On the street, many passersby turned their heads to look at their group with curiosity.

Quickly, the group of men who had rode off to find information came back. The one called disciple Zhang came up to the middle aged man and spoke out, "Teacher, we've come across some information! Less than an hour ago, the Xia clan arrived at Wake City and immediately rushed toward the Kai clan's compound, but they soon left afterward."

The middle aged man's eyebrows furrowed together as he muttered, "Kai clan...so this is just what I expected."

"Teacher, should we go to the Kai clan?" Disciple Zhang asked. Although he looked like a rough man in stature, he was very meticulous in his thoughts.

The middle aged man shook his head as he looked at the rest of the group, "Let's go and find an inn to take residence in for now."

"Teacher, are we really not going to the Kai clan then?" A voice called out in confusion from behind.

"The situation is quite different. Let's first find an inn for now." With this, the middle aged man rode away on his magical beast mount.

In a grand looking room with its doors closed shut, another middle aged man and two others around similar ages were all gathered together. One of them wore a blue uniform with his hair almost covering his face. Another was a heavily rugged man with a shaved head with his naked arms being revealed from his uniform.

"Teacher, what purpose have you called us here for?" The blue uniformed man asked.

"This Kai clan is quite complicated if even Liu Zheng was killed by them. It would appear the mission given to us by the sect leader will be quite difficult to accomplish."

"Teacher, on the road, I heard plenty of information regarding this Jian Chen. Rumors say that he, alongside two fire attributed Earth Saint Masters, killed three Class 5 Magical Beasts. If he was able to fight with a Class 5 Magical Beast, then his strength is surely not weak. It seems to me that Liu Zheng from the Xia clan was most likely killed by Jian Chen. Within Wake City, only he would be able to kill a man of his strength." The bald man said.

The one being called teacher nodded his head, "This mission given to us is quite difficult. Liu Zheng from the Xia clan isn't too far away in terms of strength compared to me, so I didn't think that he would die here. It appears that we will need to pay a visit to this mysterious expert named Jian Chen."

"There's no time to waste, teacher, we should go now!" One of the men quickly proposed.

"Alright!"

Immediately, the three men exited the inn and rode on their expensive looking magical beast down the street toward the Kai clan.

Arriving at the doors to the Kai clan, the three men dismounted from their horse and immediately walked up to the guard standing there. Cupping his hands, one of the men spoke out respectfully, "Fellow brother, we are from the Tianhua Sect with an important matter to discuss with your clan leader. Would it be possible for us to enter?" The man didn't dare sound arrogant, so his voice was very amicable sounding.

“That’s fine. Please wait here while I go notify the leader.” The guard didn’t hesitate at all before leaving to report back to the leader.

The three middle aged men waited patiently with calm expressions.

Within the Kai clan courtyards, Jian Chen, Kai Er, and the five Great Saint Masters were all currently discussing among themselves on what the next step should be to deal with the Xia clan. Although they weren’t sure if the Xia clan was willing to go to war over the man’s death, they still had to make sure preparations were in place so they wouldn’t be caught unprepared.

At this moment, a guard swiftly entered and spoke up, “My lord, there are three men from the Tianhua Sect that wish to meet with the clan leader.”

“What, the Tianhua Sect?!” Hearing this, Kai Er was startled. Immediately he turned to the guard and asked him, “Were there truly only three men?”

“Yes my lord, there were only three men.” The guard replied respectfully.

Seeing Kai Er’s reaction, Jian Chen narrowed his eyes and asked, “Kai Er, who are the Tianhua Sect and just how strong are they?”

“Captain, the Tianhua Sect is a sect located two thousand kilometers away from Wake City on a mountain. I’m not too sure of their exact strength, but they are not any weaker than the Xia clan, in fact, they are actually far stronger.” Kai Er said seriously.

Jian Chen could begin to feel a sharp headache coming as he muttered, “The temptation of Class 5 Monster Cores is truly great. I didn’t think that an even more powerful faction than the Xia clan would appear straight afterward.”

“Captain, this Tianhua Sect clearly wants the Class 5 Monster Core. It’s up to you to decide, do we handle this matter the same way we dealt with the Xia clan?” Mo Tian asked.

Jian Chen shook his head slowly, “Let’s see first before we act. Although I’m not afraid of them, I have to do my best to avoid the trouble that offending a powerful group would bring to our brothers.”

Soon after, Jian Chen brought Duo Kang and the rest of the Great Saint Masters to the front gates. From a distance, Jian Chen could see the three uniformed middle aged men standing there. One of them was a Peak Great Saint Master and the other two were Middle Great Saint Masters.

“This one is called Jian Chen, what matters might the Tianhua Sect have?” Jian Chen cupped his hands respectfully.

When the three men looked at Jian Chen, each one of them were extremely surprised. Immediately, the person up front cupped his hands together, “So you are sire Jian Chen. Sure enough, the rumors saying that you are quite the handsome youth are true. Us three are from the Tianhua Sect. I am Qing Yun, and these two are my disciples.”

“Qing Shan!”

“Qing Mu!”

The two men standing right next to him cupped their hands together.

Chapter 257: Pressure

Seeing how the Tianhua Sect's men were quite pleasant in attitude and didn't have any notion to cause trouble, Jian Chen let out a breath of air in relief inwardly. He was no longer a single person fighting for himself because of the Flame Mercenaries. So Jian Chen truly did not want to offend anyone that was too powerful, otherwise his Flame Mercenaries would face annihilation a second time.

Jian Chen greeted the three politely and then led the three into the Kai clan's courtyards.

Within Jian Chen's personal courtyard, he and the three men from the Tianhua Sect sat at a stone table before smiling wide, "Fellow brothers, I've heard that the Tianhua Sect is two thousand miles away from Wake City. You must have rushed here, is that true?" Jian Chen didn't waste any time on idle words and immediately got straight to the point.

The three men looked at each other with a hint of hesitation before Qing Yun cleared his throat. "The truth is, our Tianhua Sect has heard about sire Jian Chen having a Class 5 Monster Core. That is an item our Tianhua sect desires to have, so our leader has ordered us to come to Wake City to see if we are able to purchase it from you."

Jian Chen had a regretful look on his face from that answer, "My apologies, but while I do indeed have a Class 5 Monster Core on me, it is not for sale since I have use for it as well." Jian Chen's cultivation needed a ton of energy from monster cores, and in order to heal the Azure and Violet Sword Spirits, he would need a tremendous amount of that energy. While he had plenty of Class 3 and Class 4 Monster Cores, it was still not enough. A single Class 5 Monster Core was equivalent to a hundred Class 4 Monster Cores in terms of energy. So a Class 5 Monster Core would definitely remain in his possession, besides, he didn't need anymore money anyways.

Class 5 Monster Cores could easily be bought within a highly populated city where experts gathered, but in a far away city like Wake City, they were especially rare. Even if they could be found in the market, then their prices would be extravagantly high.

The men had known this result was coming, yet they couldn't help but have a look of dejection on their faces as they listened to Jian Chen. A Class 5 Monster Core was a treasure that even the Tianhua Sect would want. If they were to go to a major city to buy one, then the hazards associated with it would be heavy. If the news were to escape that they bought one, then on the road they would be besieged by bandits who would fight them over it. In the Tian Yuan Continent, there weren't many Earth Saint Master bandits, but there were plenty of major bandit groups or even Heaven Saint Master experts that wanted in on the monster core.

After talking for a while, the three men all left the courtyard in a hurry.

Returning back to their original inn, the three men congregated in the same room behind closed doors.

"Teacher, now that we know this Jian Chen is not willing to sell his Class 5 Monster Core, what shall we do?" The bald headed Qing Mu said.

Qing Yun narrowed his eyes, "This Jian Chen seems very young, but with the experience I've gained in my lifetime, I can tell that this person is not ordinary at all. He is a mystery with strength that is equally

shocking. Although we weren't able accurately guess just how strong he is, if he was able to fight with a Class 5 Monster, then that means his strength isn't anything minor. Furthermore, he was able to kill Liu Zheng who is similar to me in terms of strength."

"Teacher, then should we return back to the sect?" Qing Shan spoke with an unwilling face.

The middle aged man went silent for a moment. "If a youth like this has such a strength, then my only concern is that Jian Chen has a strong clan supporting him. This isn't something we can recklessly dive into, we first must report back to the leader and wait for a confirmation on the next step. Qing Shan, Qing Mu, you two will stay in Wake City for now and pay attention to whatever happens. Bear in mind, you must not cause trouble for the Kai clan and wait for me to return."

"Yes, teacher." The two instantly replied. Although the age difference between the three wasn't all that much, Qing Mu and Qing Shan both placed a heavy importance on Qing Yun in their hearts.

Qing Yun didn't hesitate and left the room before mounting his Class 3 Magical Beast to ride back toward the Tianhua Sect in a hurry.

The Kai clan had Jian Chen sitting down by his courtyard. After the three men had left, Jian Chen remained at the table in deep thought.

The allure that the Class 5 Monster Core had, brought him more attention than he had thought it would. He had no idea that a Class 5 Monster Core would have even Earth Saint Masters come from far away to buy it. Jian Chen did know that if his own strength wasn't strong enough to make the others afraid, then the monster core would have been stolen from him long ago.

Today had been the day where he had sent off the Xia clan and then was promptly visited by the Tianhua Sect which was not weaker than the Xia clan. Both clans were not to be trifled with and each had an Earth Saint Master supervising them. Who knew whether or not in the future that an even stronger faction would show up?

An Earth Saint Master was a high leveled expert that could threaten even Jian Chen. After seeing the power of the three Class 5 Magical Beasts fight him, Jian Chen could roughly guess that if he were to come across a First or Second Cycle Earth Saint Master, then his azure and violet Sword Qi would be able to help deal with them. However, if he were to come across a Fifth or Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master, then his odds were significantly lower.

The difference between each Earth Saint Master was extremely vast, thus why they were split into two six cycles. From the first to sixth cycle, the gap between each cycle was an almost uncrossable divide.

The Xia clan and the Tianhua Sect's Earth Saint Masters were threats to Jian Chen and his Flame Mercenaries. Even though he had a decent amount of Great Saint Masters, up against a large clan, there was no chance of victory.

"Let's take advantage of this situation. I must take this chance to improve my own strength." Jian Chen spoke with determination before returning to his room.

Sitting in a cross-legged position on his bed, Jian Chen held a Class 4 Monster Core in both hands as he began to think to himself deeply. After making the breakthrough to become a Great Saint Master and learning the existence of the azure and violet Sword Spirits, he knew that both spirits were in dire straits

and required an enormous amount of energy to slowly recover. The fact that both Sword Spirits were weak played a direct part in how strong the Sword Qi would be. While he was fully capable of helping the Sword Spirits recover their strength, Jian Chen couldn't guarantee just how much he could play a part since an extremely large amount of energy was needed.

Right now, he had two different methods of improving his strength.

The first was to give every single last bit of the energy he cultivated to the azure and violet Sword Spirits to allow them to heal. This way the Sword Spirits would grow stronger as well.

The second was to use the energy for himself and increase the strength of his own body and capabilities. However if he were to use the second method, then unless he cultivated to the Peak Great Saint Master level, he would not be a match for any Earth Saint Master by himself.

Jian Chen thought to himself for a moment without making a decision. Finally, he decided on the second path to carefully cultivate his own strength. Although the azure and violet Sword Qi was extremely strong, in the end, it was a foreign power to him and not truly his. If he grew too reliant on it, then his future path would be severely impacted by it as well. He had to improve his own strength so that he would be able to fully support himself under this existence in a new world.

Chapter 258: Who Did It?

Jian Chen sat on his bed cross-legged with two Class 4 Monster Cores in each hand as he continued to absorb the energy into his body. After his breakthrough to become a Great Saint Master, the amount of energy he could absorb at once had increased much to Jian Chen's utter relief. After the azure and violet Sword Spirits had awakened, the amount of energy they were taking from him had decreased significantly. He could now absorb around half of the energy within a monster core in comparison to the lowly ten percent he had when the Sword Spirits had been actively taking it.

Now that the azure and violet Sword Spirits were awake and were capable of self thought, they still didn't communicate with Jian Chen frequently. They were connected to Jian Chen in a unique way and sometimes communicated to him via a mysterious manner.

Within the Kai clan, after Jian Chen had begun to cultivate, the members of the Flame Mercenaries all took out a few monster cores and began to cultivate themselves. Each one of them had felt a huge pressure on them with the Xia clan and Tianhua Sect coming into the scene. Despite being relatively new to the Flame Mercenaries and knowing Jian Chen for a very small amount of time, his words and actions had already gained everyone's respect and acknowledgement.

In a flash, a whole day went by and turned to night. Ever since the Tianhua Sect had left, the Kai clan had been extremely peaceful with not a single person making a racket.

Two thousand kilometers away within a dense forest on a mountain, there was a clear patch of grass. A series of pavilions stood tall in the night sky as a group of fireflies floated about and illuminated the night sky.

The Tianhua Sect was located within the borders of the Blue Wind Empire. For over a hundred years, they had been slowly gathering strength, and so after those hundred years, they had finally made it out

of the preliminary step. They had a thousand disciples with at least fifty Great Saint Masters, making their sect one of the most powerful ones for kilometers around.

Within one of the private rooms, two uniformed men sat on the opposite sides of each other.

“Senior, with the situation looking like this, I don’t know what the proper course of action should be.” A middle aged man spoke seriously; it was Qing Yun. After returning to the Tianhua Sect, he had reported what he had learned in Wake City to the leader of the sect.

The uniformed man sitting on the opposite side of Qing Yun went silent for a moment. This man was the leader of the sect—Qing Tian. He was five years older than Qing Yun, and while the age difference wasn’t that big, the difference between their cultivation rate simply couldn’t be compared. A few years back, Qing Tian broken through the bottleneck to become an Earth Saint Master. With his talent, his cultivation had been astoundingly fast. Qing Yun on the other hand still remained at the Peak Great Saint Master level.

Qing Tian pondered to himself before speaking lightly, “Although a Class 5 Monster Core is quite precious, it isn’t priceless. They are relatively common in a major city, so even if Jian Chen doesn’t wish to sell it, then that’s that. It would be in our best interest to not bother him regarding this; I’ve a feeling that this Jian Chen is even more complex than what meets the eye. If we were to offend him, then our Tianhua Sect might come across some trouble. “

“Senior, could it be that you are worried about the power standing behind Jian Chen?” Qing Yun spoke with a serious expression.

Qing Tian nodded his head, “Correct, this worries my heart a little. However, no matter if the power standing behind Jian Chen is strong or not, his cultivation talent alone is enough to shock people. The amount of twenty year olds with that type of power on the Tian Yuan Continent can be almost counted on one hand. Given a few more years, then I’m afraid to see what type of expert Jian Chen will become.”

“As of right now, we’ve done nothing wrong to him. We simply cannot afford to offend such a genius like him for the sake of a single Class 5 Monster Core. Junior, tomorrow, you will return to Wake City and if possible, become close friends with Jian Chen.”

Qing Yun nodded his head, “Senior, I didn’t think that our thoughts would be so similar. I was worried about this as well, so that’s why I came back to report it to you.”

Qing Tian smiled before looking at Qing Yun seriously, “Junior, you’ve already reached the level of a Peak Great Saint Master, who knows how fast you will make a breakthrough to become an Earth Saint Master given a Class 5 Monster Core.

With this, Qing Yun let out a breath of air with dejection before shaking his head. “No, even if a Class 5 Monster Core increasing my chances, I still have not yet grasped a guaranteed success. If I shatter my Saint Weapon during this stage, then it would be extremely hard to reform it.” Qing Yun paused for a moment before speaking up again, “Senior, it’s getting quite late so I’ll be returning to my bed first. I’ll have to leave for Wake City first thing in the morning after all.”

With that, Qing Yun left the room quickly.

At the same time in the depths of another mountain a thousand kilometers away, there lay a manor house towering over the forests. This manor house belonged to the Xia clan.

The Xia clan had established this manor house a few dozen years ago. The first clan leader was an Earth Saint Master expert, and because of his existence, the Xia clan became the number one power in the region and grew in power from there.

However, the Xia clan's headquarters was not in a city. For the sake of convenience and no restrictions, they had established another general headquarters at a Second Class city a few dozen kilometers away.

At this moment within the Xia clan's halls. Twenty men sat quietly at the table with a stretcher covered by a white cloth nearby. Underneath the white cloth was the figure of a person and a few traces of blood. Because of this sight, the mood within the halls was quite somber.

Just then, a white robed elderly man with a great beard walked forward. Directly sitting down in front, the elder looked at the group assembled in front of him who looked back at him respectfully.

"We pay our respects to the leader!"

Just as the elder sat down, the twenty men all left their seats to immediately kowtow to the elder.

The elder looked at everyone for a brief moment before looking at the stretcher. There was a complex look on his face for a moment before the elder waved his hand, "You may sit."

"Yes, leader!"

It was only at this moment that everyone could finally sit back down. Each one of them could see a calm expression on the elder's faces without a hint of worry. From this, they could all tell that the elder's mood was rather light.

The elder continued to look at the stretcher in the middle of the hall for a long moment before sighing. Rising from his seat, he slowly walked toward it and began to lift up the cover.

Right in front of his eyes lay a man whose vacant looking eyes stared blankly up toward the ceiling. From his neck, there was a single wound with some blood still drying.

The elder slowly closed the dead man's eyes with his hand before covering up his face once more. He then walked back to his seat and sat down before looking at everyone, "Just what exactly happened here. Who was the one that killed Liu Zheng?" The elder's voice sounded calm, but everyone knew in their hearts that the elder's heart was filled with a furious wrath.

Chapter 259: The Xia Clan's Dispatch

With those words, the entire hall went quiet as everyone grew serious. The twenty men began to grow nervous as they watched their patriarch. As high ranking members of the Xia clan, they knew of the deep and personal friendship between him and Liu Zheng. After his death, each one of them had found it very difficult to report it to their patriarch.

The serious stare in the patriarch's eyes grew colder as he suddenly stared daggers at everyone. At this, everyone's heart suddenly jumped.

“My lord, this matter would be best explained by the young lord. Only he will be able to give a clear and detailed explanation of the matter.” A middle aged man spoke out nervously with a forehead filled with sweat.

“Have Xia Liu come straight away.” The patriarch ordered.

A person immediately left the room in order to fetch the young lord Xia Liu.

After a while, the fearful face of Xia Liu entered the hall and kneeled down, “Grandson Xia Liu sees honorable grandfather!”

The patriarch’s eyes landed onto Xia Liu’s body, his previously cold eyes grew softer and softer by the moment before speaking, “Liu Er, just what exactly happened? Who was the one that killed your uncle?”

“Grandfather, you must take revenge for uncle Liu’s death!” Xia Liu’s face became sorrowful before describing the detailed story of just what had happened between Jian Chen and the Xia clan. Embellishing the story, he pushed all of the blame onto the Kai clan and Jian Chen and had even painted Jian Chen out to be a maliciously evil person so that he himself was abstained from guilt. However, he did not try to hide Jian Chen’s strength at all since killing Liu Zheng was already proof enough of his strength.

After Xia Liu finished talking, the patriarch went silent for a moment as he began to think to himself. His eyes then flashed dangerously as he finally spoke to his grandson, “Liu Er, this man named Jian Chen killed Liu Zheng in a single sword strike, is that right?”

“Grandfather, this is absolutely true! If you don’t believe your grandson’s words, then ask the guards! Each one of them saw it for themselves. That Jian Chen is too much; not only does he not even think of the Xia clan as being worthy he also doesn’t think we’re on an even level as him, he openly curses our Xia clan! Grandfather, you must not allow him to get away, uncle Liu’s death must be avenged!” Xia Liu cried out in anguish, his hatred for Jian Chen had already made its way all the way to his bones.

“My lord, the one named Jian Chen is truly too much. If we do not do anything about this, then I fear that our Xia clan’s might will be impacted by this in the future.” A middle aged man spoke out.

“I agree, my lord, this matter is not something we can ignore.”

“We must take revenge for Liu Zheng’s death...”

The seated group of men began to talk among themselves. Although Liu Zheng had been killed by a single strike, not a single one of them were worried; they had absolute confidence in the patriarch’s strength.

The patriarch clasped his hands together and spoke out to the nervous crowd, “The father of Liu Zheng and I have been friends for countless of years. His father has saved my life, and when he himself was dying, he entrusted Liu Zheng’s healthy life to me. Now that he has been killed, it doesn’t matter how strong the culprit is or who they are. This is not something I will easily forget. Furthermore, Liu Zheng himself has done many things for our Xia clan, his contributions are endless. Therefore, I cannot allow his death to go in vain. Zheng Hua, go and hire a few quick minded men to go to Wake City to scout out for information. Before we take action, I want to know their strength to the finest detail.”

“Yes, my lord!”

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The next few days were relatively peaceful as the after effects of the magical beast wave had finally died down in Wake City. The entire city was already back to fully healing and was booming once more.

The prize reward for any information on Kendall’s family had affected many people. Everyone had coveted that monetary reward so multiple people would try any possible method for the sake of getting a little of that money. However, after several days, Jian Chen hadn’t heard a single piece of verifiable information since so many people had tried to sneak away with the money with fake information.

During the same time, Jian Chen had stayed within the Kai clan without taking a step out of it. Commander Duo Li would come by once a day to report the news regarding the search, and the three men from the Tianhua Sect would come by often to find Jian Chen and talk to him. Following several days of talking, Jian Chen and the three men couldn’t help but become closer friends.

Jian Chen had managed to talk about the Xia clan with the three men at times. Fortunately for him, he had learned that the Xia clan only had a single Earth Saint Master who had made that breakthrough ten years ago. His talent at cultivation wasn’t that outstanding, so he should be at the Second or Third Cycle at this point—which was not a major threat to Jian Chen.

During his cultivation, Jian Chen had dispatched some Flame Mercenaries to spy on the Xia clan. Although they wouldn’t be able to see their every move, they would at least know if a large amount of troops were being moved about.

Thanks to these few days of cultivation without interruption, Jian Chen’s strength had increased at a terrifying rate, right now, his strength was at the Middle Great Saint Master level.

In the evening, a travel weary youth slowly made his way to the Kai clan and quickly ran straight to Jian Chen’s little courtyard without stopping.

“Captain, this morning, a large amount of troops were seen moving out from the Xia clan toward Wake City!” The mercenary panted in deep breaths.

Jian Chen maintained his sitting posture as he cultivated, but his eyes looked at the youth calmly, “How many people are there and when will they arrive?”

“There’s a total of three hundred men, but because of their numbers, they won’t be able to travel very fast. If they travel through the night, then they will arrive by midnight. If they take a rest, then they will arrive tomorrow.” The mercenary said seriously.

Jian Chen waved his hand without any expression, “You may leave.”

After the mercenary had left, Jian Chen had sat in his bed for a moment as he muttered to himself. “If the Flame Mercenaries fight against the Xia clan now, then it would be like striking a stone with an egg. We cannot sit around for our death, so it is best to strike first. If we can strike at them during the night, then our casualties will be limited.”

Thinking about a plan for the next few minutes, Jian Chen then brought the seven Great Saint Masters on their Class 2 Magical Beast Mounts out of the city.

A kilometer outside of Wake City, three uniformed men suddenly moved into Jian Chen's path. These three men were Qing Yun, Qing Mu, and Qing Shan of the Tianhua Sect.

"Haha, brother Jian Chen, where are you heading off to?" Qing Yun said with a smile toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen cupped his hands together, "Ah, brothers Qing Yun, Qing Mu, and Qing Shan. Since it's night time, we have some matters to take care of."

Qing Yun laughed, "If my guess is correct, then brother Jian Chen is going to deal with the Xia clan?"

Jian Chen nodded his head without a single word.

Qing Yun's face grew serious for a moment as he continued to speak, "Brother Jian Chen, do not take this as me underestimating you, but the strength of the Xia clan is not weak at all. They have ten Great Saint Masters while everyone else is at the Saint Master level. Furthermore, the patriarch of the Xia clan is personally leading the troops. With just the eight of you, even if you win somehow, there will be a heavy price to pay."

Hearing this, Jian Chen's eyes narrowed. The troops that the Xia clan was leading was truly beyond his expectations.

Qing Yun continued to smile at Jian Chen, "Although brother Jian Chen will find it difficult to fight against the Xia clan with eight people, then if you add the three of us, then this will be an easier matter. Will brother Jian Chen accept our help?"

Chapter 260: Assassination Operation

Startled, Jian Chen quickly tried to recover and smiled, "If brother Qing Yun wishes to join me, then this one will be very grateful. However, I am puzzled, are you not afraid of provoking the Xia clan and make trouble for the Tianhua Sect?"

"Brother Jian Chen, you might know this, but although our Tianhua Sect and the Xia clan are separated by a long distance, there was once a clash of conflict between us making our sides fight. Afterward, a few of our Tianhua Sect disciples had mysteriously disappeared, but we could only guess that the Xia clan was the reason for that, we just never found clear evidence of their actions. We wish to exterminate the Xia clan, but if we were to take action, then our Tianhua Sect would suffer greatly as well, so the best we could do was to put this matter off. Now that Jian Chen wishes to fight with the Xia clan, then us three will do our best to help you." Qing Yun spoke.

"Haha, so it's like that? Then this one truly thanks you three for your help." Jian Chen laughed joyously. With the three of them, their strength would increase several times over.

After that, Jian Chen and the Tianhua Sect disciples didn't waste any more time talking and immediately rode off into the distance on their magical beast mounts.

At this moment it was barely the start of the new morning. The sky was still dark because of the dark clouds in the sky with the moon slightly hidden behind them. Deep within the sky, the distant sounds of thunder could be heard.

Roughly three hundred miles outside of Wake City, there were several hundred tents scattered about with a few campfires starting to be lit up. The campfires danced in the dark light and flickered energetically.

In the center of the campgrounds was a large flag that was hoisted into the air so that everyone could see the giant "Xia" symbol on it.

By this point, the majority of the group had already rested up, so a few men began to patrol back and forth among the tents while the rest stoked the wood in their campfire.

"Bang!"

A sudden crack of thunder illuminated the campground with an ear splitting sound. In that instant, the entire campground was lit up brightly as if it was daytime.

Straight after that, a torrential downpour came down from the skies and immediately extinguished the campfires and threw the campfire into complete darkness. With the heavy downpour, not a single thing could be heard.

"What bad luck for us to be under such bad weather." One of the patrolmen cursed as he crawled into a tent to avoid the rain.

Five hundred meters away, the figures of a few men suddenly darted closer with the rain and darkness hiding their figures. The rain muffled their footsteps so that their movements would not be noticed.

This group was Jian Chen and the others from Wake City.

Two hundred meters away from the campground, Jian Chen and the group came to a stop. After taking a moment to talk about the plan, Jian Chen carefully took off toward the campground while the others remain behind.

Jian Chen stopped at the closest tent before carefully entering. Inside the tent it was so dark that Jian Chen couldn't see his hand when it was right in front of him, so his entire figure wouldn't be spotted.

Using his spirit to let him perceive what was in the tent, he could sense three men inside still sleeping. Without hesitation, he flashed his sword and stabbed the three of them before immediately leaving.

Jian Chen was completely confident in his sword technique. In those three blows, he had stabbed all three of their throats and claimed their lives without a single sound.

Under the heavy downpour, Jian Chen traveled from tent to tent as the rain poured down on him. Right now he was completely drenched in water and as a result, he looked bedraggled.

Originally Jian Chen had planned on fighting with the Xia clan in the open, but after this heavy rain, he had decided on a new change of plans. If he could assassinate a few of the Xia clansmen before the battle, then the military might of the Xia clan would be cut down in size. If he could assassinate the Earth Saint Master in their clan, then there would no longer be a heavy threat to him.

However, Jian Chen wasn't sure that he would be able to kill the Earth Saint Master, so he had decided to clean up the lower leveled members to cause the maximum amount of damage to the Xia clan's fighting force.

Although assassination wasn't an area that Jian Chen was an expert in, the heavy rain really helped cover up Jian Chen's tracks and movements. So no one was able to detect him at all. In a short moment, Jian Chen had already killed a hundred men, roughly thirty percent of the Xia clan's total number of people.

After another short moment, the total number of people that Jian Chen had killed was around two hundred. Right now, nearly a hundred of the tents were coated with blood on the inside. Some of the blood made it to the outside, but the rain was starting to wash it away slowly while the stench of blood remained slowly filling up the area.

In the center of the campground within a large tent, the patriarch of the Xia clan sat cross-legged with his eyes closed as he cultivated. His entire body was so still that he seemed almost like a statue.

Then, the patriarch's nose twitched before his eyes flew open and he stared dangerously outward.

Trying to listen closely, his eyes narrowed, "How strange, why is there a faint smell of blood?" Straining his ears even further, he tried to listen for a brief moment before immediately sensing something and roaring, "Wake everyone up, someone's here!" With that, the patriarch immediately flew out from his tent.

Within the campgrounds, every single person was now starting to wake despite the ongoing downpour of rain before storming out of their tents.

Now that his position was revealed, Jian Chen no longer hid and immediately began to fly about killing the nearest person to him so that he would be able to kill the most amount of people in the shortest amount of time.

Jian Chen was starting to use the entirety of his strength. His Light Wind Sword flew out at rapid speeds and instantly pierced through the throats of those closest to him.

Realizing where Jian Chen was and what he was doing, the patriarch let out a huge roar before bringing out a giant axe to swing down on him.

At the same time, the seven Great Saint Masters and the three men from the Tianhua Sect immediately charged into the camp from two hundred meters away.

The Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hand began to glow with a hazy silver light that was extremely noticeable in the dark night. A faint amount of intense Sword Qi began to float outward. Those closest to Jian Chen could feel the the terrifying amount of power from it.

Right now, every single person still alive charged toward Jian Chen who bore straight into a group and began to kill indiscriminately. Evading the patriarch's attack, Jian Chen killed another dozen Saint Masters with his fast sword techniques. With even Great Saint Masters needing to be careful against Jian Chen, Saint Masters wouldn't even be able to catch a glimpse of his sword strikes. Thus every Saint Master found that their throats had been pierced and died without even being able to scream.

Against such a large group like this Jian Chen along with the patriarch, there was still another restriction on top of that. With the darkness, Jian Chen wasn't able to see too clearly, but that restriction applied to the Xia clansmen as well. They weren't able to see Jian Chen or even predict his movements as he

moved about. Even more so, they were afraid that if they made a move, they would hit one of their own.

Seeing how his clansmen were continuously dropping to the ground, the patriarch's chest began to beat furiously as he roared, "Everyone move out of the way!"

With that order, every single clansmen immediately scattered, allowing their patriarch to fight against Jian Chen. Right after everyone moved away, the patriarch was able to lock onto Jian Chen's position, and without hesitation, he suddenly brought down his axe in the direction Jian Chen was heading.

Sensing the sudden gust of wind come toward him, Jian Chen's eyes flash dangerously as he brought his Light Wind Sword up. Suddenly, a faint glow of azure and violet light could be seen, allowing Jian Chen to then fearlessly bring his own sword against the patriarch's axe.

Jian Chen was quite familiar with the azure and violet Sword Qi, but now he wanted to test it out to see whether or not if he could break apart an Earth Saint Master's Saint Weapon.