

Chaotic 261

Chapter 261: Killing an Earth Saint Master

“Ding!”

The Light Wind Sword and the axe made contact in the air with a clanging sound as an explosion of energy flew out from the impact and scattered the rain around them off into every direction.

As the two Saint Weapons separated, Jian Chen’s figure couldn’t help but be sent flying back uncontrollably with the arm holding his sword trembling slightly. After all, his strength in comparison to the patriarch’s was much weaker. The azure and violet Sword Qi was able to strengthen his attack, but it wasn’t able to strengthen his Saint Force. With this momentary contact with the patriarch, Jian Chen’s inner organs felt the shock from the blow so heavily that he felt like vomiting blood.

The difference between an Earth Saint Master and a Great Saint Master was as wide as the heavens themselves were endless. Even a battle skill would not help bridge the gap in any way. If Jian Chen did not strengthen his inner body many times over, then he would have suffered a serious injury.

The patriarch of the Xia clan shook for a moment as his face went white. Then with a dark look and small growl, a small trickle of blood leaked from between his lips.

The patriarch was filled with shock as he brought up his Saint Weapon to inspect it. Despite it being extremely dark outside, with the deep and personal connection he had with the Saint Weapon, he could sense that on the blade of his Saint Weapon, there was a finger sized nick in it.

“How...how is this possible?” The man spoke in utter disbelief. At this moment, his heart couldn’t help be sent in turmoil. On his face was no longer a calm look, but one of shock.

He was an expert of the Earth Saint Master level with a Saint Weapon that was already incomparably strong. It could be said that anyone below the Heaven Saint Master level without the use of a battle skill would not be able to injure his Saint Weapon in the least. At this very second, his Saint Weapon had been unexpectedly damaged with a finger sized nick. This fact alone caused his very being to be shocked.

“Could it be this opponent is an expert of the Heaven Saint Master level?” The patriarch of the Xia clan thought in alarm, but just as soon as the thought appeared in his head, he instantly dismissed it to be false. The Jian Chen in front of him felt extremely weak, so there was no way for him to be a Heaven Saint Master.

“Then just what exactly happened?” The patriarch of the Xia clan began to pale as blood continued to flow. He simply couldn’t imagine how his Saint Weapon could be broken. Common sense dictated that anyone that could potentially damage his Saint Weapon was an expert among experts within the Tian Yuan Continent. Experts like those could kill him as easily as killing an ant without him being able to retaliate.

With his Saint Weapon injured, he himself had suffered a serious blow as well.

While the patriarch was stuck in his moment of confusion, Jian Chen’s sword had already flew at him once more. The hazy light emanating from the Light Wind Sword was as clear as day in the night, As fast

as lightning, the sword flew through the rain with a matchless speed as it aimed at the patriarch's throat.

Despite Jian Chen's speed, the patriarch of the Xia clan was still an expert of the Earth Saint Master caliber. To him, this speed of Jian Chen meant that he shouldn't see him as a Great Saint Master level threat anymore.

Suppressing his wounds, the patriarch lifted his Saint Weapon and allowed it overflow with a blue colored Saint Force. Suddenly, the surrounding water began to fly toward the weapon as if there was some sort of mysterious attraction. It flew toward the axe in his hands and began to condense at the tip of the weapon. Very quickly, the water began to rotate around before forming a dragon of water that flew toward Jian Chen.

However the azure and violet Sword Qi on Jian Chen's sword bore straight through the water dragon and continued to fly at the patriarch's throat.

The patriarch's eyes flashed dangerously and he swung his weapon down onto Jian Chen. The axe in his hand carried such a heavy amount of Saint Force that the sound of it crashing downward caused a thunder like sound that could split the sky. This axe's arc carried some sort of profound mystery to it that somehow pressed down against Jian Chen's body.

This time, the patriarch had used a battle skill.

Each and every battle skill, if properly used, would bring about some sort of powerful pressure. The higher level a battle skill was, the stronger the pressure. Each time these battle skills were used, it would cause countless people to be shocked, and could even change the outcome of a battle in a split second. Some battle skills could be harmonized to be used with a regular strike so that they would not look out of place. This type of attack style would make it hard to predict and understand as if it was a mystery of the world as well as giving it a formidable amount of power.

The force behind this axe of the patriarch was not ordinary at all; the power was far too strong. As the two Saint Weapons made contact, the overwhelming power of the axe caused Jian Chen to be sent flying away with blood coming out from his mouth.

However, even the patriarch did not escape without a scratch. Vomiting out some blood, he looked at Jian Chen with a look of fear and disbelief. On his axe, there was yet another jagged nick of the same size on his axe. While this latest exchange of blows had caused Jian Chen to be sent flying away, his Saint Weapon had been damaged once more.

"His Saint Weapon is far too strange; although he himself is not a Heaven Saint Master, but that attack was comparable to one. I cannot clash against him like this again." The patriarch concluded. He was bewildered yet greedy to find out just what exactly Jian Chen did to make his attack several times stronger, was it a battle skill? Or maybe some sort of treasure? Whatever it was, it would undoubtedly be a priceless treasure, and if he were to grab hold of it....

As he began to trail away, the Xia clan's patriarch felt his heart begin to beat wildly before staring at Jian Chen with greed.

Jian Chen leaped up from the ground with his forehead full of sweat. Unable to attend to his wounds, he could only charge at the patriarch once more.

Although the injury was quite serious, the patriarch's weapon had been damaged twice now, making his wounds even more serious than Jian Chen's. So compared to the patriarch, Jian Chen's wounds could be said to be quite light.

Jian Chen's sword cut through the falling rain drops quickly as it flew toward the patriarch.

By now, the patriarch had realized that Jian Chen's personal strength wasn't very strong, but his attack had far exceeded his own. So fearing another clash, the patriarch moved out of the way before trying to land a strike of his own.

Jian Chen's sword art emphasized speed. Despite the patriarch making a herculean effort to dodge, he was not fast enough to move out of the way completely. Jian Chen knew that an Earth Saint Master had a clear advantage over himself, so it was imperative for him to try to attack the patriarch's Saint Weapon. With this, the patriarch's strength would be limited and so he would not be able to freely attack or defend.

On the other side, Qing Yun, Qing Mu and Qing Shan fought alongside the seven Great Saint Masters of the Flame Mercenaries as they battled the remaining dozen members of the Xia clan. With Jian Chen killing the vast majority of the Xia clan in their sleep, the remaining few people were of the Great Saint Master level, so while they had a disadvantage with numbers, they would be able to persevere.

Qing Yun's strength had already reached the Peak Great Saint Master level and his Saint Weapon had the earth attribute to it, making his battle skill even more deadly when used against the Xia clansmen.

Jian Chen and the patriarch of the Xia clan continued to exchange several blows. Despite the patriarch trying his utmost best to dodge Jian Chen's sword, he couldn't help but be stabbed three times and have his axe suffer another five chips. With the increasing amount of damage to his Saint Weapon, the wounds the patriarch himself grew even more severe. If his Saint Weapon were to be destroyed by Jian Chen, not only would his entire strength be thrown away, but so would his life.

"Who are you and why are you attacking my Xia clan? Has our Xia clan wronged you in any way?!" The patriarch couldn't help but roar in confusion.

Jian Chen didn't cease his attacks, but he replied coldly, "I'll let you know before you die. I am the man your Xia clan is currently setting out against."

The patriarch's eyes narrowed as he stared at Jian Chen in concentration, "Could you be Jian Chen?"

"Correct!" Jian Chen didn't bother to deny it. His sword strikes grew even more fierce as if he was set on executing the patriarch today. He had no desire for his Flame Mercenaries to be targeted by an Earth Saint Master.

"Jian Chen, why don't we just try and talk about this?" By now the patriarch was beginning to show his weakness. He was clearly at a disadvantage, and so if things continued this way, then the end would be near for him.

"Not possible." Jian Chen refused the Xia clan's attempt for a ceasefire.

Hearing this, the patriarch's expression grew dark before staring dangerously at Jian Chen through the dark, "Jian Chen, this matter today; I, Xia Fan, will definitely remember this!" With that, the patriarch instantly turned around and began to flee.

Immediately giving chase, Jian Chen knew that in this heavy rain and darkness, if the patriarch were to get too far away, he would not be able to catch up.

While the patriarch's wounds were quite severe, he was still an Earth Saint Master. His inner Saint Force was enough to stabilize himself so that he could run fast enough for Jian Chen to be unable to catch up.

Seeing that the patriarch was getting farther and farther away, Jian Chen's eyes flashed unnaturally bright, making it seem as if there were two fireflies in the night. The Light Wind Sword in his hand immediately parted from his hand as if it had been brought to life.

"Pch!"

The patriarch simply did not think that Jian Chen would be able to accomplish such a strange feat so he had been caught unaware, allowing the Light Wind Sword to pierce straight through his throat.

Chapter 262: Finished Operation

With the heavy rain and darkness, visibility was extremely hampered. Combined with the fact that every single Xia clansmen was still fighting, the death of the patriarch of the Xia clan had gone completely unnoticed.

After piercing through the throat of the patriarch, the Light Wind Sword spun in the air and flew back toward Jian Chen's hand. The Xia clan's patriarch truly did deserve the rank of being an Earth Saint Master. Even after being pierced through the throat, he did not die. Both of his eyes were wide open with terror, but unfortunately with his throat pierced, he had lost the ability to talk. Otherwise, he would have said what was on his mind as he was at his final moments.

Because the sword that had pierced his throat was so inconceivably fast and could independently fly around the air, the Xia clan's patriarch had no knowledge of what this sword was.

The life continued to drain away from the patriarch's inner organs and body. Slowly, he closed his eyes as he continued to try and solve the mystery that was on his mind.

Thunder could be heard from the skies once more as the lightning illuminated the entire area for a brief moment. The immense downpour slammed against the ground so heavily that everyone's sense of hearing was severely affected.

Jian Chen's water soaked figure continued to drip with water as he walked toward the body. Squatting down, Jian Chen took off the patriarch's Space Belt on his waist and the Space Ring on his hand. With a brief inspection to see whether or not they were damaged, he then immediately left the area.

The patriarch of the Xia clan was the leader of the clan, and was also the founder. At the same time, he was also an Earth Saint Master, meaning that the wealth he had would surely be a great boon to Jian Chen and the developing Flame Mercenaries.

After killing the patriarch, Jian Chen didn't give up fighting and immediately charged toward the rest of the Xia clansmen. Since he now had an utter dislike for the Xia clan, he would not be merciless. With

each one of these men being the strongest fighters in the clan, if they were all killed, then the Xia clans strength would be drastically weakened

The Xia clan had an advantage, with multiple Great Saint Masters and a few Saint Masters, their fighting strength was strong enough for the seven Great Saint Masters to be injured. Even Qing Shan and Qing Mu were both injured, leaving only the earth Saint Force and battle skill owner, Qing Yun, to be unscathed. He was fighting several Great Saint Masters by himself, greatly reducing the pressure for the others on his side.

With Jian Chen added to the mix, the previous advantage the Xia clan had was flipped around. A few ordinary Saint Masters working together may have threatened a regular Great Saint master and may have been enough to kill one, but in Jian Chen's eyes, they were nothing more than lambs to the slaughter.

Jian Chen entered the group of Xia clansmen with his Light Wind Sword striking everywhere at a rapid speed. Each and every sword strike found a home in one of the Xia clansmen's throats, and before they could react, their life had been claimed by Jian Chen.

Under the quick killing pace that Jian Chen was setting, the Xia clansmen's numbers quickly dwindled down, and not too long after, not a single one remained.

With his sudden appearance, the three men from the Tianhua Sect were utterly amazed at Jian Chen.

There had been three hundred men from the Xia clan. Including the patriarch, everyone was killed without a single one escaping.

On the other side, only the Great Saint Masters from the Flame Mercenaries, Qing Shan and Qing Mu had taken damage. Every one of them was bloodied with open wounds that blood streamed out of.

"Brother Jian Chen, is the patriarch of the Xia clan dead?" Qing Yun panted as he asked Jian Chen. Because Jian Chen and the patriarch had been fighting a far distance away in the pitch darkness, Qing Yun was completely unable to tell how the fight had gone. Furthermore, with the pressure he was feeling during the fight, he couldn't spare the time to try and get a good look.

Jian Chen smiled, but with the darkness, it was not easily seen by the others. "Don't worry, that old man has been taken care of by me already."

With that, the three men from the Tianhua Sect felt sweat form on their foreheads. Their hearts felt utter shock at this piece of information; none of them had thought that Jian Chen would be able to kill an Earth Saint Master with a battle skill so fast. Furthermore, from what information they had previously gathered, they knew that the patriarch was a Second Cycle Earth Saint Master who was on the verge of making it to the Third Cycle.

"It's a good thing that our Tianhua Sect chose not to provoke Jian Chen. For the sake of a single Class 5 Monster Core, it would not be worth it to make such an expert our enemy." Qing Yun thought to himself.

Walking up to the rest of the Flame Mercenaries, Jian Chen looked at everyone and asked, "Are there any major injuries?" With these Great Saint Masters being experts of the battlefield, Jian Chen wasn't willing to lose any of them.

“While there’s a few heavy injuries, they’re not life threatening.” Duo Kang spoke with a weak voice.

“Brother Jian Chen, their injuries look quite serious. We should head back to Wake City and have a Radiant Saint Master come treat them.” Qing Yun proposed.

Nodding his head, Jian Chen immediately set off to grab the Space Belts from every single person on the battlefield. Afterward, he led the group back to Wake City.

“Brother Jian Chen, Wake City doesn’t have any Radiant Saint Masters, and even if there are, they are hard to find. You should take them back first, I’ll go to a nearby Second Class city to go find one.” Qing Yun then followed up.

“Then I’ll be relying on you, brother Qing Yun.” Jian Chen spoke with a respectful salute.

“Haha, brother Jian Chen doesn’t need to be so polite.” Qing Yun responded before leaving by himself. Since Qing Shan and Qing Mu were injured, they followed Jian Chen and the others back to Wake City.

The trip back to Wake City was rather slow because of their injuries. The rest of the morning passed by, Jian Chen and the rest finally arrived at Wake City.

After reaching the Kai courtyards, Jian Chen found a few rooms for the nine to rest up in. He dabbed some medicinal herbs onto their wounds and gave them some panacea so their wounds would heal at a faster rate.

By evening, Qing Yun had brought a white robed youth back to the Kai clan. This youth was around twenty eight years old with frail looking disposition. There was an arrogant look on his face as he came in with a dark skinned Great Saint Master.

Chapter 263: Forcing Open the Jaws of the Lion

Qing Yun led the white robed man to where Jian Chen was and spoke out, “Brother Jian Chen, I’ve brought the Radiant Saint Master to treat everyone!”

Hearing this, Jian Chen looked at the youth that Qing Yun had brought. This youth had an arrogant expression on his face that made him seem quite unsavory. However, that was because of how distinguished a Radiant Saint Master was in rank. Nonetheless, Jian Chen cupped his hands in greeting, “Honored friend, I apologize for bringing you so far, if you can help heal my fellow brothers, then this one will be truly grateful to you.”

The Radiant Saint Master looked at Jian Chen from the side with a look of disdain. Since he was a Radiant Saint Master and a decent one at that, he couldn’t help but look down on such a lowly mercenary. Even more so, this mercenary was even younger than he was; only a mercenary of the Earth Saint Master level would had been enough for him to have some sort of respect.

“Hmph, don’t speak such nonsense; I am not your friend. Hurry up and lead the way so we can take care of the people. I don’t wish to stay around here any longer than I need to be and waste my time.” The Radiant Saint Master snorted with an arrogant tone.

Jian Chen and Qing Yun both narrowed their eyes at this type of speech. Although a Radiant Saint Master was a high ranking status, this youth was truly too arrogant.

However, for the sake of their brothers, neither Jian Chen nor Qing Yun bothered to say anything. Instead, they brought the Radiant Saint Master over to where the injured men were.

The injured members of the Flame Mercenaries and the two Tianhua Sect members were all laid out together in a single room. Jian Chen first brought the Radiant Saint Master to the bed where Qing Mu was resting on. On his paling face, both of his eyes were closed shut. He wore only undergarments to protect the most important places while the rest of his body was enwrapped with bloody bandages.

Seeing the wretched state Qing Mu was in, the Radiant Saint Master's eyebrows knit together before inspecting his wounds even further. "His wounds are quite serious, thus the price will be even more costly. I hope you prepare yourself mentally, I don't want to find out later that you cannot afford it."

Jian Chen's eyes flashed coldly at these words. Whoever heard these words would have been put in a bad mood; even Qing Yun's eyes narrowed as he looked at the Radiant Saint Master unfavorably.

"Bang!"

Suddenly, a muffled bang could be heard as the dark skinned man behind the Radiant Saint Master stepped toward him and stare at Jian Chen and Qing Yun, "Honored Radiant Saint Master Asiz is one of our most exemplary members of the Radiant Saint Master Union. if you do not wish to be an enemy of our union, then restrain yourselves; otherwise, I will not be polite and later report this to the union."

Both Jian Chen and Qing Yun looked subdued for a moment; the Radiant Saint Master Union was an especially unique organization that was like how the Mercenary Union worked; they had no allegiances or restriction to any nation.

The Radiant Saint Master Union was where all of the Radiant Saint Masters on the continent gathered and it gave them a place to shelter. There were plenty of strong martial artists that even the Seven Great Empires weren't willing to provoke. No matter who the person was that provoked a member of the Radiant Saint Master Union, they did not live long after that.

When it came to this union, even Jian Chen and Qing Yun were afraid of the consequences. Unlike the Gesun Kingdom or the Tianhua Sect, the union encompassed the entire continent. If you incurred the hatred of a single Radiant Saint Master, then it didn't matter if you ran to the end of the world itself, you would be hunted and killed. At the very least from the beginning of their union, there has not been a single person that has lived after offending the Radiant Saint Master Union.

"Go ahead and heal them. The cost for healing them will of course be given." Jian Chen spoke.

Hearing this, the Radiant Saint Master sneered coldly as he looked at the two slyly, "His wounds are quite serious, so to heal them, I will need one or two days. This will be quite taxing on my spirit, so the cost of healing will be quite high in return." His eyes bore a hole into Jian Chen for a moment, "I will require fifty purple coins."

"What, fifty purple coins?!" Jian Chen's eyes widened as he cried out in shock. This was no longer a matter of expensive or not expensive anymore, this healer was trying to cheat him.

"Fifty purple coins, good heavens, that is a villainous deal." Qing Yun cried out with a flustered look.

“Hmph, his injuries are already quite grave. Even if you used the very best herbs, it would take a month or two to heal from, and even then, that would not be a guaranteed full recovery. For me collecting fifty purple coins is quite cheap.” He had a firm look on his face, but he was laughing to himself secretly. He was quite familiar with Wake City so he knew that he was the only Radiant Saint Master there. He also knew that the Kai clan had plenty of money, so since he was in control of the situation, he wasn’t afraid to force open the jaws of the lion.

Jian Chen quickly calmed himself as he looked at the youth in the eye, “Fine, fifty purple coins it is. Please start to treat them right away. I sincerely hope your ability is worthy of these fifty coins.” Jian Chen said with an impassive tone.

“Hold on, brother Jian Chen. This is too costly of a price, although they are indeed heavily injured, the most an injury like this would cost is five purple coins. Even a Third Class Radiant Saint Master would be able to heal them.” Qing Yun spoke to Jian Chen from the side. This was a price that he was not quite willing to stomach.

Jian Chen waved his hand away, “This is no matter, it is just money. As long as brother Qing Mu and the rest heal, then what other purpose does money have?”

Letting out a sigh of relief, Qing Yun did say anymore.

The Radiant Saint Master smiled as he extended his hand toward Jian Chen, “Hand over the money first then.”

With a small snort, Jian Chen immediately grabbed a handful of purple coins, “There are a total of nine injured men. Here are 450 purple coins, do your best to heal them.”

Seeing the large amount of purple coins, the youth’s eyes lit up for a brief moment before taking in the money into his own coin pouch. “You may leave now. I need to prepare and do not wish to be disturbed.” With that, the youth didn’t say anything else and began to gather his radiant Saint Force to prepare to heal Qing Mu.

Chapter 264: Gathering of the Mercenaries

After seven days had passed, the Radiant Saint Master had finally healed all seven of the Great Saint Masters and the two men from the Tianhua Sect.

In those seven days, Jian Chen and Qing Yun would talk every so often or go about their ways with closed room cultivation. The azure and violet Sword Spirits had helped him during the seven days and allowed his cultivation speed to be a dozen times faster than usual, bringing his speed past the Middle Great Saint Master realm. His inner Saint Force was now past the Primary Great Saint Master level as well, making him much stronger than before.

At times, Jian Chen would go to the city lord’s mansion in order to hear the most recent information regarding Kendall’s family. However, this only made him feel dejected since despite Yun Li’s efforts and the high reward, not a single piece of information could be found.

Regarding the final wishes of Kendall that had been entrusted to him, Jian Chen was trying his best to accomplish it. However, he hadn’t heard a single piece of relevant information regarding his family

which made the task extremely difficult. For now, all Jian Chen could do was worry helplessly without any way of doing anything but to slowly wait.

News of the three hundred men from the Xia clan being slaughtered right outside Wake City quickly made its way around. The Xia clan's might was strong enough to be considered one of the top strengths in the area; their influence was everywhere so this matter had been impossible to contain. The moment Wake City heard about this information, countless of people in every street and every teahouse began to talk about this topic with great interest.

"Who do you think the Xia clan offended for them to have three hundred members slaughtered?"

"The Xia clan is the local power around this area, with a force this large, they must have been preparing to fight a war."

"That was inevitable. There is no one in this area that could get away with provoking them and staining their honor. I've heard that the patriarch of the Xia clan was an Earth Saint Master, who could kill such a person?"

"I'm not too sure myself. While they are the strongest power here, that only applies to the area around here. If a strong expert were to wander into this area, it can't be said that they would be able to fight against the Xia clan, or even make a move against them."

As the group conversed among each other with different conjectures, a good amount of them believed that the Xia clan would suddenly appear out of nowhere afterward to retake their lost honor. After all, their power was almost without rival and in order to protect their own standing, they would definitely have to act.

With this, everyone was shocked to hear that the Xia clan hadn't taken a single step at all in this matter. They hadn't even said a single word relating to how three hundred men died, instead, they resigned themselves to wallow in silence.

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The following morning, Qing Yun brought the fully recovered Qing Mu and Qing Shan to where Jian Chen was.

"Brother Jian Chen, we've stayed here for quite some time, so this time will be our farewell. There are some matters back at the sect for us to attend to." Qing Yun spoke.

Cupping his hands in respect, Jian Chen smiled back, "The everlasting feast of the world will come to you regardless of how fast you walk. We will see each other again in the future."

"Haha, your words are true. Brother Jian Chen, if you have time, please come visit us in the Tianhua Sect." Qing Yun bowed back in respect.

"Of course, when I have the time, I will come and visit." Jian Chen replied.

A sudden thought came into Qing Yun's mind as he jolted with realization, "Ah, I've almost forgotten. Brother Jian Chen, in another half year is the bi-centennial Gathering of the Mercenaries. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, but it is a very difficult opportunity. Even if you want to participate but you miss the next one, then you will never be able to participate in the one after that."

“Gathering of the Mercenaries!” Jian Chen let out a surprised look on his face, “Brother Qing Yun, what exactly is this Gathering of the Mercenaries? Could you please explain it to me?”

Hearing this, Qing Yun a surprised expression covered his face. He didn’t think that Jian Chen would have never heard about the Gathering of the Mercenaries before, but he laughed and replied, “So it seems brother Jian Chen hasn’t heard about this event. Nevermind, then let me explain it to you in detail.” With this, he took a deep breath before explaining, “The Gathering of the Mercenaries is an event where every single prominent mercenary group in the continent gathers to participate in. This event will be conducted in the general headquarters of the Mercenary Union—Mercenary City.

“Although the name says Gathering of the Mercenaries, in truth, this is a competition between mercenaries for dominance. This competition only takes place every fifty years; furthermore, the participants must be under the age of fifty. So that’s why if one’s birth is untimely, then they will be unable to participant. Therefore, whether or not a person can participate within this bi-centurial event also relies on luck.”

“Each and every time the Gathering of the Mercenaries is held, it is always lively. Practically every single gifted mercenary on the continent gathers to vie for one of the top hundred ranks. After that, they will be awarded with a big monetary reward and honor. If one makes it within the top ten, then the reward will be even more rich. It’s even said that for those who make it within the top ten, they will be able to come and go as they please into the arsenal of Mercenary City and select a Heaven Tier Cultivation Method. If one makes it within the top three, then not only will they be able to select a Heaven Tier Cultivation Method, but they will also be able to take a Heaven Tier Battle Skill!”

The moment he spoke the words ‘Heaven Tier’, ‘Cultivation Method’, and ‘Battle Skill’, Qing Yun’s eyes burned with a fiery passion. This was something he clearly desired, no matter if it was a Heaven Tier Cultivation Method or Battle Skill, the entire Tian Yuan Continent would ravage itself for a chance to be able to lay claim to either of the two.

“After third place, the rewards will grow to be better and better. I’ve heard that the first place champion can not only choose any battle skill and cultivation method from the arsenal, but they will be allowed to cultivate within the holy grounds of Mercenary City for half a year.” With this, Qing Yun took a long deep breath before continuing, “The holy grounds of Mercenary City is the place every expert longs to go. Although I personally don’t know how good the benefits are, but the holy grounds are something even Heaven Saint Masters yearn to go to. Legends have it that even many Saint Rulers stay around there as well.”

Qing Yun exhaled slowly as he spoke with a tremble, “For even the supreme beings that are Saint Rulers to laze about in such an area, it can be concluded that the holy grounds within Mercenary City is a divine place to be.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen’s heart couldn’t help but begin to beat with an intense ferocity; the rewards Qing Yun spoke of caused his heart to go out of control. The words Heaven Tier Battle Skill alone were enough for his heart to tremble with desire. He did not have an overwhelming amount of desire for the holy grounds, but this battle skill could be donated to the Changyang clan. While the Changyang clan had a single Heaven Tier Cultivation Method, they were still lacking a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

“Brother Jian Chen, the Gathering of the Mercenaries gives a wealthy reward to the top ten. Even if the absolute experts were to join, I can bet that a good majority of them will not be able to make it that far. I can bet that if brother Jian Chen were to join, then with your strength, I believe that you will enter the top ten for sure.” Qing Yun spoke solemnly.

Chapter 265: Departure

Jian Chen tilted his head in deep thought, “Brother Qing Yun, you say to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries, one must be under the age of fifty. Then for those participating, how strong do you think they will be?”

Thinking about the question, Qing Yun replied, “According to the past few Gathering of the Mercenaries, a good amount of the top ten were all Earth Saint Masters. After all, to make a breakthrough into the Earth Saint Master realm is very difficult and perilous. To be able to reach the Earth Saint Master realm before the age of fifty is already an outstanding achievement.”

“Then there won’t be any Heaven Saint Master experts participating, correct?” Jian Chen asked. With the help of the azure and violet Sword Spirit, Earth Saint Master experts were merely a small threat to him. In his heart, Jian Chen wasn’t afraid of losing against any Earth Saint Master, the only problem to him would be a Heaven Saint Master.”

“Of course not!” Qing Yun shook his head, “Heaven Saint Masters are considered experts among experts that such a level is extremely difficult to cultivate to. How would it be possible for anyone under the age of fifty to reach such a realm? A genius that could reach such a level by then would be a once in a thousand year miracle. Even more so, even if they reach such a level before they are fifty years old, it doesn’t mean they are able to participate. With the Gathering of the Mercenaries happening in such a short amount of time, it doesn’t mean they would be at that level by then.”

Jian Chen nodded his head in understanding, what Qing Yun said was correct. Not every single talented mercenary would be able to participate. One had to be under the age of fifty by the time the Gathering of the Mercenaries happened. Even if a man hit the Heaven Saint Master realm before the age of fifty it didn’t mean that he would make it in time for the Gathering of the Mercenaries. If they were born too late, then they would miss out on their chance. Even up to now, there had never been a person who had reached the realm of the Heaven Saint Master by the age of 34.

Afterward, Qing Yun had explained a few more things relating to the Gathering of the Mercenaries and answered some questions. Although he had only talked about the rewards of the top ten mercenaries, Jian Chen had been instantly interested.

The three Tianhua Sect men left, leaving Jian Chen and the seven Great Saint Masters behind. He had asked the seven about the Gathering of the Mercenaries, but their knowledge about it had been very limited. They had indeed been able to explain a few things, but they had no valuable information on the prizes themselves, thus they were in the same boat as Qing Yun.

“Captain, while the Gathering of the Mercenaries is indeed a bi-centennial event, the chances of dying are extremely high. I’ve heard the rate of survival is only ten percent.” Charcas tried to explain.

“I’ve also heard that plenty of Earth Saint Master experts attend the event, their strength would be truly too strong.” Duo Kang added on.

“Captain, if you truly wish to enter the Gathering of the Mercenaries, you must think about this thoroughly. Indeed, the prizes are extremely rich, but the odds of dying are extremely high as well. Practically every single talented mercenary in the Tian Yuan Continent will attend. Mercenaries born with talent or in a good clan; those who have reached the Earth Saint Master realm; those with an unordinary skill or even battle skill; their strengths will be undoubtedly strong.” Mo Tian spoke out seriously. To him, the Gathering of the Mercenaries wasn’t anything special. This was something for those a part of the mercenary world would strive for, but not him.

“Of course I know the competition there will be fierce. If you do know however, where Mercenary City is, please tell me.” Jian Chen answered them all calmly. After Qing Yun had informed him about the Gathering of the Mercenaries, Jian Chen had made up his mind. He absolutely had to go to this event. The allure of a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was far too tempting.

Three days later, Jian Chen made his plans and left Wake City. He had given a task for the Flame Mercenaries to temporarily hunt and kill magical beasts for the money reward. For the sake of increasing their mercenary rank, they had to go all out.

Before leaving, he left the Flame Mercenaries a thousand purple coins and all the Class 2 Monster Cores he didn’t need for the Flame Mercenaries to be able to use for their daily life. Right now in this stage of development, a large amount of money was needed to advance.

Because of the seven Great Saint Master’s leadership skills, Jian Chen had allowed them to take temporary command with a relieved heart.

Jian Chen sat upon a Class 2 Magical Beast as he continued down the path. It had already been a day and he had traveled a thousand miles before finally coming to rest for the night at the Second Class Lanfeng City.

Entering the city, Jian Chen quickly found himself an inn to rest in. Then, he walked over to the dining section and sat down to begin eating.

By now the sky was already getting dark and it was past the regular dinner time. Thus, the restaurant was not filled with many people. There was still twenty or so tables with only a few waitresses hurriedly running about.

Suddenly, a heavily armored soldier leading a steel chariot came to a stop outside of the restaurant. Immediately, the armored soldier walked into the restaurant with a fierce step to his feet. Right on the middle of his chestplate was a single insignia that was unexpectedly the coat of arms of the Blue Wind Kingdom.

“Waiter, bring out some food and prepare some tables for us!” The armored man cried out loud in the restaurant. The other men with him then swept around the inside of the restaurant and looked at everyone else.

“Right away! Gentleman, if you would please come and sit. We will immediately bring out our best food and wine, please wait one moment!” The waiter took a single look at the insignia on the soldier’s chest before immediately becoming cordial as he ran to receive the guests.

The rest of the armored men didn't say a word and instead walked toward a table to sit at. Even more men came streaming in afterward; there was a total of a hundred men. As they filled up the restaurant, not a single one of them spoke a single word, indicating their discipline.

Before these men had entered, the restaurant had a good amount of idle chatter going on, but the instant they had come in, the entire restaurant went quiet almost as if there was a strange feeling in the room now.

Jian Chen looked at everyone slowly. The moment he saw the insignia on their chest plates, he could already guess their identities. The only ones that could wear the coat of arms of the Blue Wind Kingdom were the Blue Wind Kingdom army. Even then, only the elite troops of the army were to be able to wear it; the lower ranking soldiers did not have the right to do so.

Chapter 266: Desire to Fight

Shortly afterward, Jian Chen looked outside the window where several steel chariots had giant steel boxes on it. The soldiers all guarded the chariots very seriously and stared at whoever passed by them with an intense glare, causing everyone to look on with curiosity.

Jian Chen's eyes hovered over the steel box with a curious stare. He felt that an extremely strong amount of energy was contained within those steel boxes. It was a familiar source of energy that Jian Chen had felt several times before; it was almost as if there was a large amount of monster cores piled up within.

"Could the box be filled with monster cores?" Jian Chen muttered to himself. The very moment the thought flashed across his mind, he broke out into cold sweat. If the situation was like what he thought, then with there being so many steel boxes there, they should all be filled with monster cores as well. The number of monster cores would be a terrifyingly large amount.

Looking away slowly, Jian Chen tried not to think about the matter any longer lest he attract the suspicion of the soldiers guarding the steel boxes.

"This time the Gesun Kingdom is done for. Although their strength is stronger than our Blue Wind Empire, but with three kingdoms simultaneously fighting against them, no matter how strong they are, the Gesun Kingdom cannot withstand three of the Four Great Kingdom's might." Suddenly, the low voice of one of the men rang out.

"Right, if they have anyone to blame, then they should blame themselves for having such a prosperous and fertile land all other countries have long since coveted. In the past, we all feared of the patriarch of the Changyang clan so we didn't dare make a move. Now that the patriarch has long since been missing, I bet he's dead by now. With him gone, the Gesun Kingdom has no way of defending themselves from the rest of the Four Great Kingdoms." The other soldier laughed.

"Third eldest, things aren't as easy as that. Although the patriarch of the Changyang clan may be dead, the Gesun Kingdom isn't weak in strength. They still have the Ten Experts, every single one of them being a Heaven Saint Master. With that alone, they are stronger than our Blue Wind Kingdom many times over. Plus, who knows if they secretly have any more Heaven Saint Masters than just ten."

“That’s right, not a single one of the ten Heaven Saint Masters are a part of the Changyang clan. My teacher told me that the patriarch of the Changyang clan has a servant who is also at the Heaven Saint Master level, but this is a little known secret that no one talks about. If my teacher’s words are to be believed, then the Gesun Kingdom has at the very least eleven Heaven Saint Masters. That’s three more than what our Blue Wind Kingdom has.

“If I were to pair the Blue Wind Kingdom up against the Gesun Kingdom, then the Blue Wind Kingdom would lose greatly. However, it’s a shame for them that with the rest of the Four Great Kingdoms combined, there are a total of thirty Heaven Saint Masters. Hmph, I want to see how the Gesun Kingdom will face off against that.”

A few of the higher ranking soldiers were talking among themselves. While the restaurant was filled to the brim with people, only that table was talking. So while they were chatting quietly, everyone else could clearly hear them.

Barely able to keep himself composed, Jian Chen’s face grew dark as he began to think to himself with worry. The Changyang clan was the very first family he had since he entered this world, so they held a special place in his heart. The amount of people he truly cared about wasn’t many, but the people he definitely cared about would be eldest brother Changyang Hu and second sister Changyang Mingyue. Even more so, the one he definitely cared most was the one who cared about him since his birth; his mother Bi Yuntian.

Just hearing about how four forces were uniting themselves to fight against the Gesun Kingdom, Jian Chen couldn’t help but feel worried for his family in the Changyang clan. In fact, he felt a desperate desire to return back to the Gesun Kingdom, but that thought was instantly thrown out. He wasn’t an impulsive person; he knew his own strength. With his azure and violet Sword Spirits, he may be able to deal with an Earth Saint Master, but up against a Heaven Saint Master expert, he would have no chance to even retaliate. Although he had never gone up against a Heaven Saint Master before, it wasn’t hard to speculate the outcome with his strength.

Bending down to take another bite of his meal, there was a clear stiffness to the actions. Jian Chen simply no longer had the same appetite from before.

At that moment, a soldier that looked to be the commander of the soldiers spoke up, “Do you think the patriarch will show up? Although he has been gone for these years, it’s most likely that he’s dead, but in the end, all of this is still speculation.”

“That patriarch has long since arrived at the pinnacle. After disappearing for ten years, I bet that he is looking for a way to make a breakthrough.” Another said.

“Then will he be able to? If he does make that breakthrough, then we’ll...”

“Shut your mouth! That’s impossible! From now on, don’t say such things.” Immediately, another person roared at him to be quiet.

Jian Chen sat by the side eating his meal while also tilting his head to listen to the men talk. From their chat, Jian Chen had more or less found out some major piece of information. The most important fact was that four major kingdoms were joining together to fight against the Gesun Kingdom. It would take two or three years worth of time since the four wanted to eliminate the Gesun Kingdom in a single spurt

of action. Therefore, the war supplies and preparations had to be done in advance and expertly so. Furthermore, because of how the news had to be dispatched from soldier to soldier, the preparations would take even longer.

After the meal, Jian Chen immediately headed back to his room to rest. Coincidentally, the same high ranking soldier that had entered the restaurant with him had rented a room in the same inn. They hadn't gone to another inn for their entire troops, but instead each one had rented a place for the night at a regular looking one instead of a fancy inn.

That night, Jian Chen sat on his bed to meditate. Right below his window, Jian Chen could see several soldiers guarding the steel boxes on the chariots. Each one of them were guarding it with a cautious expression.

By now, Jian Chen could already guarantee that the contents within the steel boxes were all monster cores. A war between the Blue Wind Kingdom and the Gesun Kingdom was on the verge of starting, so there would definitely be a huge need for Magical Crystal Cannons. So the huge supply of monster cores underneath him was most likely being transported in order to supply the energy for the cannons.

By early morning, the soldiers had already ate their breakfast before buying a large amount of rations and drinking water in the inn. Immediately, the soldiers began to lead the several chariots in a grandiose manner out of Lanfeng City.

Not too far behind them, Jian Chen left the inn too and rode his Class 2 Magical Beast some distance away after them. There was no way he would allow those monster cores to be transported to the border of the Blue Wind Kingdom to be used against his Gesun Kingdom,

Despite not knowing how many experts the enemy had or how difficult this task would be, for the sake of his Changyang clan, this had to be done. From the chat he had eavesdropped on, when the war breaks out, the Changyang clan would most definitely be on the frontlines.

Chapter 267: A Plan With Poison

A large squadron of Blue Wind Kingdom soldiers with the coat of arms of the kingdom slowly marched as they led several chariots through the road. Their marching pace was orderly, and even their movements were perfectly synchronized with each other. Each one of the soldiers had a small fighting spirit leaking out from them. This was the spirit that only men who have been through countless of battles and have tempered themselves from their repeated close encounters with death could have. From this, it could be seen that these soldiers were the elite soldiers of the Blue Wind Kingdom.

Five kilometers behind, Jian Chen rode his Class 2 Magical Beast alongside a traveling merchant caravan. As he followed the soldiers, he began to think about just how he should put his plan into motion.

There were roughly two hundred soldiers in this squadron. While that wasn't many, they were still soldiers who had the very essence of discipline and skill drilled into them, thus making them harder to fight against. There was a small pocket of Great Saint Masters while the rest were all Saint Master leveled soldiers. Compared to the mob of Xia clansmen he had went up against, the soldier's fighting strength was equal if not stronger. Jian Chen could even sense that the commanders of the soldiers were practically all Earth Saint Masters.

After all, the amount of monster cores they were transporting as war preparations was by no means a small amount. It was naturally common sense for the Blue Wind Kingdom to dispatch their Earth Saint Master soldiers to guard them.

By the afternoon, the blazing sun hung high in the sky and sent extremely hot rays down toward the earth. As the earth grew baking hot from the temperature, Jian Chen continued to travel with the merchant caravan for a little longer before ultimately separating from them to follow the soldiers.

After separating from the merchants, Jian Chen began to follow the squad of soldiers by himself from afar. However, he had to increase the distance from five kilometers to eight because they were now walking through a plain. There was rarely any grass to obstruct vision, so with the vast line of sight, it would be easy to get caught if he stood close by.

In a flash, the day turned to night as Jian Chen followed the soldiers from afar, slowly making their way forward. There weren't any cities close by, so the soldiers had to find an empty piece of land to rest up for the night and start a fire for a meal.

During this moment of rest, their guards would be on a strict vigilance. Every so often some soldiers riding on top of a magical beast would patrol the area. This had forced Jian Chen to be unable to make a move at all. Against such an elite force like this one where there were Earth Saint Masters mixed in, Jian Chen couldn't be stupid and dash in recklessly.

By the following morning, the soldiers were already beginning to pack up with Jian Chen still following from behind. At this part of the road, there weren't many caravans, so it was every so often that the soldiers came across a group of mercenaries or merchants. Because of those infrequent appearances, none of the soldiers took notice of Jian Chen. At times, when there came a group of merchants following the same direction, Jian Chen would blend in with them for added coverage.

At noon, Jian Chen had split ways from the merchant group once more and continued to follow them by himself. With the sun being stifling hot, the soldiers soon came to a stop by a nearby groove. Sitting in small groups on the grass, each one began to pull out their canteens to take a few sips of cold water.

"This damn weather is too hot! All of my water is already almost gone. We have to get to a water source soon with this hot weather. A man can go two or three days without eating, but they cannot go without water." A high ranking soldier spoke out.

Another soldier by his side took out a map and began to inspect it closely. His eyes lit up as he pointed at a certain section of the map and spoke out, "Take a look at the symbol here, there's a river not too far away! We could go there and get some water."

A few of the high ranking soldiers immediately gathered together to take a look before commanding the rest of their soldiers, "Everyone, go task a person from your squad to go three kilometers southwest to fetch some water!"

"Yes, commander!" Immediately, a soldier collected everyone's canteen into his Space Belt and immediately set off on his Class 2 Magical Beast mount toward the water source.

Soon enough, the soldier arrived at a small brook two meters wide in length. The water was so visible that the bottom of the brook could be seen.

Dismounting from his mount, the soldier immediately began to take out all of the canteens from the Space Belt and started to scoop water into them.

Suddenly at that moment, a silver ray of light flew from the tall grass at high speeds. Before the soldiers could even react, it slashed through his neck completely.

The blood of the soldier splurged into the air as the head of the soldier was completely severed. His blood spilt into the river and began to dye the water with it.

A white robed youth appeared from the bushes, it was Jian Chen.

Walking up to where the dead soldier was, Jian Chen thought for a moment before digging a hole to bury the soldier's body in. At the same time the dirt where the blood had dripped on was covered up in order to prevent the smell from wafting into the air for a magical beast or humans to smell.

After all that was done, Jian Chen washed off the blood from the armor before taking off his own clothes to put on the armor. Taking some herbs, he began to disguise himself to look like the recently deceased soldier before finally filling up the rest of the canteens with water.

After all of the canteens were filled, Jian Chen immediately took out one of the venomous fangs of the Silver Striped Golden Snake before plunging it into the water supply of all the canteens.

The Silver Striped Golden Snake was a highly venomous being. Its venom ranked within the top three of its rank, and the venom from its fang was the most venomous part of it. Unlike the venom from its poison sacks, if the fang was soaked in water for a brief moment, the water supply would become an extremely deadly poison.

After plunging the fang into the water supply, Jian Chen repeated the process for all the other canteens. By the time he was done, all of the canteens were filled with the venom polluted water, making them all extremely poisonous.

After all of the canteens were filled with a good amount of venom, Jian Chen poured the rest of the venom into the high ranking soldiers canteens. Storing the fang back into his Space Belt, he began to inspect himself to see if there was anything out of place. Then, after making sure he didn't overlook anything, he mounted the dead soldier's mount and began to ride back to the groove.

Chapter 268: A High Success

Cautiously returning back to where the soldiers were resting, Jian Chen began to hand back the venom filled water canteens with great care so that he wouldn't reveal the plan he was concocting.

Jian Chen looked around himself silently as if observing his surroundings in the case that something went wrong, he would be able to react at a moment's notice. While the armor he wore made his appearance similar to the other soldiers, his voice was not something Jian Chen could change.

None of the surrounding soldiers could sense anything amiss with Jian Chen. One after another, they took a water canteen and began to drink to their fill.

"Si Qiafu, bring us our canteens!" A high ranking soldier beckoned to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen looked at the soldier who called out to him from the corner of his eye. He instantly knew that this name that the soldier had said belonged to the soldier that Jian Chen had killed. Without hesitation, he pulled out a few elegant looking canteens and walked toward them. His heart was prepared to make a move at any time.

However, these soldiers didn't sense anything wrong with Jian Chen either. Taking the canteens from Jian Chen, they began to indulge themselves with the water. The venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake was tasteless and colorless, so there was no way for the soldiers to sense that anything was wrong. Furthermore, they wouldn't think that someone within the Blue Wind Kingdom would act against them in such a manner.

Personally watching everyone take a sip from their canteens, Jian Chen's eyes glistened faintly. Right now, his plan was an overall success, the only thing left to do was to see just how intense the Silver Striped Golden Snake's poison would be.

While the venom within a Silver Striped Golden Snake's fang was the most dangerous part, the Silver Striped Golden Snake that Jian Chen had killed was still quite weak so the venom within it was not at its most potent stage. Jian Chen's heart couldn't help but worry, wondering whether or not this venom would work on Earth Saint Masters, he didn't know.

"Si Qiafu, why aren't you saying anything?" One of the four soldiers suddenly realized something was unusual with "Si Qiafu". That was because on an everyday basis, the soldiers would always call out to greet them respectfully. Since Jian Chen hadn't said a single word since his water run, these high ranking soldiers felt that something was off.

Jian Chen's heart thumped as he instantly brought the Light Wind Sword to his hand and stabbed toward the soldier.

Jian Chen's execution was firm and did not waver from its path. He knew that faking anymore was useless since he couldn't say a word. The moment he said something, then all would be revealed. Thus, it would be best to take the initiative instead of being caught unprepared.

"Pch!"

The Light Wind Sword pierced deeply into the soldier's throat as the tip of the blade went through the back of his neck with blood dripping from the sword.

Despite the soldier being very strong, he had not been prepared for Jian Chen's attack. Combined with the extremely fast sword strike, it had all happened in an instant. In fact, it had happened so fast that it was beyond anyone's reaction at that moment. So this surprise attack had been pulled off almost effortlessly to kill an Earth Saint Master.

This sudden development caused the other commanders to be stunned. After experiencing hundreds of battles and coming across many things, they were able to quickly react and flew at Jian Chen furiously.

Immediately leaping backward, Jian Chen made use of his momentum to run further away. With the blistering heat, every single soldier had drunk the venom filled water. It was only a matter of time before it took effect, so he would just have to wait.

"Si Qiafu you traitor! You dare to revolt?!"

“Si Qiafu, even after our kindness, you killed our commander Tianlin? I definitely won’t forgive you!”

“I didn’t think that you would a spy within our Storm Troops, how blind I am for not noticing...”

The commanders all cried out in fury as their faces grew unsightly from the rage. Both of their eyes grew red with anger as the previously resting soldiers stayed true to their title as elite soldiers and flew up without an order to immediately block Jian Chen’s path.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed dangerously as his Middle Great Saint Master strength was suddenly revealed. In an instant his Light Wind Sword flew at every nearby soldier blocking his path, painting the road red with their blood. This group of elite soldiers were completely unable to block his path.

Jian Chen quickly escaped from the confinement ring the soldiers had locked him in. Immediately flying a few steps backward, the remaining four commanders and the group of soldiers ran to chase him, some had already mounted their magical beasts to give chase.

Not even a few steps after beginning to chase Jian Chen, a good amount of the soldiers suddenly bent over with a painful grimace. Blood streamed down from their lips as their faces began to grow even more pale.

Straight away, even more soldiers began to halt their footsteps as they fell to the ground in pain. Their mouths continued to spit out blood as the soldiers on top of their mounts fell down from them suddenly. Not long after, two hundred soldiers were all on the ground with blood streaming from their lips. Their faces continued to be stuck in a painful grimace while some soldiers had already fell to the ground dead.

“Commander, we’ve been poisoned!” A soldier cried out hoarsely.

Hearing this, the four commanders chasing Jian Chen suddenly stopped. Naturally, the moment they saw their men in such a miserable state, a look of shock overcame them.

“What’s going on, how could you all be poisoned?”

“Bastard, how could we have been poisoned, just how was it done?!”

“It was Si Qiafu, only that renegade Si Qiafu could had done it!”

“Si Qiafu, how brazen you are! No matter what, I will find you, and I’ll skin you alive!”

The commanders all cried out in anger as they trembled with ashen faces. Si Qiafu had been a soldier they had carefully cultivated and cared for for many years. They hadn’t thought that he would betray them now in such an indiscriminate manner. If this were to get out that the most elite squadron of the Blue Wind Kingdom, the Storm Troops had a soldier defect, they would become the laughing stock of the entire kingdom.

Suddenly, one of the commander’s face went white as he cried out in alarm, “Crap, I’ve been poisoned too!”

“Damn it! I’ve been poisoned as well, it has to be from the water!”

“What poison is this for it to be so strong?”

“That bastard Si Qiafu! To dare poison us, I won’t forgive him!”

The four commanders’ faces all grew unsightly as they immediately tried to force the poison out of their systems.

At that time, Jian Chen who was running away from them at an extremely fast speed suddenly turned around and slowly started to walk back to the commanders with his bloody Light Wind Sword in hand.

The four commanders opened their eyes and looked at Jian Chen with a cold stare. When their eyes landed upon the Light Wind Sword, their eyes flashed for a moment before one of them roared, “You’re not Si Qiafu, who are you?!”

Chapter 269: Poisoned?!

“So you weren’t Si Qiafu after all. It seems that Si Qiafu was killed by you, and then you pretended to be him in order to poison our water.”

“Who are you and why did you poison our water? Have we done anything to warrant such hatred?”

The commanders immediately tried to stall for time in order to purify the venom within them.

Jian Chen chuckled as he let out a huge breath of air in relief. At this, his plan was completed. Walking to where the four men were sitting twenty meters away, he smiled, “Fellow soldiers, how are you feeling right about now?”

Seeing how Jian Chen hadn’t moved to fight them just yet, the four commanders all were temporarily relieved. Since they were all poisoned, in order for them to flush out the poison, they would have to avoid battle. In the case that they fought, then the venom within would be harder to suppress and would be spread throughout the body at a faster rate, making it fatal.

“Who are you and why did you poison us? Are you an enemy of the Blue Wind Kingdom?” One of the commanders growled.

Jian Chen gave a small laugh casually, “Being an enemy of your Blue Wind Kingdom is an issue for later. The vast amount of monster cores you’re supplying, is to supply the war effort on the Gesun Kingdom, correct?”

“So you’re a spy from the Gesun Kingdom who infiltrated our kingdom?” A commander glared at Jian Chen with a look that made him resemble that of a blood thirsty wolf ready to bite at him.

“Haha, this soldier is quite smart. From this piece of information alone he has figured out that I am from the Gesun Kingdom. However, there is a critical flaw in your words. While I am a native of the Gesun Kingdom, I did not intentionally move into your Blue Wind Kingdom to be a spy. This matter today was nothing more than a coincidence.” Jian Chen laughed happily. Now that the stronger commanders were all poisoned, the pressure on him had been lifted.

“Hmph, what a nice coincidence. Sire, why don’t you take off the mask and let us see your true identity. Or are you a coward who refuses to show us?” A commander sneered.

“I’m quite happy with this situation. Seeing how you are men who are about to die, why do you have so many demands. Seeing my face or not will not change a thing.” Jian Chen laughed.

“So the men of the Gesun Kingdom are apparently cowardly folks who don’t dare to reveal who they are. I’ve seen it all today.” A commander grunted.

“Pch!” Suddenly, a commander coughed out a mouthful of blood, causing his previously white face to be stained with some of his blood. His face was now as pale as paper as he cried out in shock, “What kind of poison is this to be so strong?!”

After that, the remaining three commanders all gave a small groan as their faces grew darker as well, blood slowly began making its way down from their lips.

“What’s wrong? Could it be that you’re feeling the poison is growing stronger the longer time goes on? No matter how you try to move your Saint Force, the poison will not be suppressed by it.” Seeing the miserable state the four commanders were in, Jian Chen’s eyes couldn’t but light up before courageously walking ten meters within the four.

“Just who are you to have a poison this strong?” A commander roared.

“There’s no harm in telling you I suppose. Have you heard of the Silver Striped Golden Snake before?” Jian Chen asked.

“What?! Silver Striped Golden Snake.....”

“We’ve been poisoned with the venom from that snake?!”

“Impossible! Silver Striped Golden Snakes are already exceedingly rare and priceless within the Tian Yuan Continent! Just how would you be able to obtain its venom?!”

The moment the commanders heard the name of the Silver Striped Golden Snake, they couldn’t keep their calm composure any more. Each one had a terrified look on their faces before giving into their despair.

The poison of the Silver Striped Golden Snake was one of the most poisonous things on the continent. It’s poison was so fierce that even Saint Force wouldn’t be able to suppress it. Medicinal drugs or herbs would be useless as well. It was only under the control of a Radiant Saint Master that the poison of a Silver Striped Golden Snake would be able to be controlled and hopefully cured.

Just as these commanders lost hope, Jian Chen shot forward with his Light Wind Sword ready to stab. Immediately, the sword found a home within one of the commander’s throat, killing him. Without hesitating, Jian Chen pulled out his sword and dashed toward another.

“Be careful everyone!”

The remaining three commanders immediately shook themselves back to consciousness as the commander who had been stabbed by Jian Chen fell to the floor. One of the commanders immediately swung his broadsword at Jian Chen while the other two brought out their Saint Weapons before following suit.

Jian Chen gave a cold smile, he was not afraid of the three Earth Saint Masters any longer. His Light Wind Sword flashed three times, striking against the others sword simultaneously.

The sounds of three metallic clangs could be heard as Jian Chen's sword slapped against the three commanders'. Immediately, the three Saint Weapons of the Earth Saint Masters had a finger sized nick in them.

The three Earth Saint Masters all spat out blood as their faces scrunched up in pain. With their Saint Weapons damaged, they too felt the damage.

"How is this possible? We can sense that your strength isn't that of an Earth Saint Master, so how can you even damage our Saint Weapons?!" A commander cried out in terror. The other two commanders by his side all looked thunderstruck at this situation.

"How strange, be careful of his Saint Weapon, it somehow has some sort of different power within it!" One of the commanders could detect the faint glow of the azure and violet light within the sword.

"Careful now, don't let his Saint Weapon hit yours or you will be forced into a terrible state!" The commanders were stronger than the patriarch of the Xia clan. Quickly, they could deduce what had just happened and quickly flew at Jian Chen once more.

Jian Chen's attacks covered a larger area than before. Each strike was either aimed at the Saint Weapons in the three commander's hands or at their throats. Without a doubt, the three commanders were afraid of the azure and violet Sword Qi, so they were quite restricted in their movements which limited their full potential.

The two sides continued to fight each other at lightning quick speeds for a moment when a large splurt of blood abruptly flowed out from the neck of one of the commanders. Jian Chen's sword had cut into the neck of one of the commanders and severed his head, causing everyone to be absolutely horrified.

"Duo Ji!"

The remaining two commander's eyes nearly burst out of their heads as they howled in anguish. Jian Chen didn't allow them to rest and immediately flew at them before stabbing at one of the commanders.

Chapter 270: Advanced Tier Magical Crystal Cannons

"We've been poisoned with the Silver Striped Golden Snake's venom, we can't even escape now because of him!" A commander roared. Abandoning his attempt to try and suppress the poison within, the Earth Saint Master's Saint Force exploded outward with a fiery red color. With a fire like essence that scorched the ground, some of the nearby grass had almost instantly been incinerated.

The other commander knew that escape was unlikely now, so with a look of determination, a cyan colored light exploded from his body as well. All of the surrounding air around him began to grow lively as it was starting to cycle around him.

"I'll let you taste my Fiery Sword's might then." The fire attribute Saint Force commander roared. The sword in his hand instantaneously turned red as it became as hot as a branding iron. As he slashed down at Jian Chen, a fierce blaze accompanied it with a force as heavy as a stone.

The other commander's sword instantly flew toward Jian Chen's chest in hopes of stabbing through it. The speed of the sword was so fast that Jian Chen had almost no hope to evade the sword.

Against these two unavoidable swords, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword immediately shot forward both swords with an azure and violet Sword Qi enwrapping around it.

"Ding!" The Light Wind Sword made contact with the sword of the fire attribute commander, but even with the hardness of steel and stone thanks to his fire Saint Force, the commander's sword couldn't help but gain another jaggedy gap.

Jian Chen felt some blood come out from his mouth from the explosive strength of the commander; despite this man being an Earth Saint Master with no battle skill, he couldn't help but be damaged still.

The Earth Saint Master with the fire like essence surrounding him like a protective shield cried out in shock once more. Since his Saint Force was linked to him, his body had once more gained another serious injury.

At the same time, the sword of the wind attribute commander had entered Jian Chen's chest before exiting through his back.

Jian Chen gave an angry shout and ignored the pain blossoming in his chest. The Light Wind Sword knocked aside the fire attribute commander's sword and instantly pierced through the commander's heart. With the sharp Sword Qi within the Light Wind Sword, the commander's heart had instantly been shredded.

Shortly afterward, Jian Chen immediately pulled out his sword and with a haze of azure and violet light, the light Wind Sword instantly flew toward the last remaining commander.

With a cold snort, the commander twisted the sword within Jian Chen's chest, enlarging the wound. At the same time, a burst of pure Saint Force entered Jian Chen's body to wreck havoc before pulling out his sword and jumping backward.

With a grunt, Jian Chen spat out some blood. This pure Saint Force injected into his body had been extremely refined. With it fighting against his own Saint Force, it had already destroyed a part of his vitality since he couldn't contain it.

At this moment, the azure and violet Sword Spirits residing within Jian Chen shook. The pure Saint Force that had invaded Jian Chen's body suddenly caught the interest of the two Sword Spirits. The Sword Spirits immediately charged forward and instantly the pure Saint Force was swallowed up by them without a trace.

With the danger within his body gone, Jian Chen didn't hesitate any longer and flew toward the commander. His Light Wind Sword became a silver glow of light as it flashed forward.

The poison within the remaining commander had already reached an extremely lethal dose. His face was unnaturally dark, but when he saw how Jian Chen was still charging for him combined with how the other commanders who had been his equal in strength had been killed, his only desire now was to escape.

"If this goes on any longer, it doesn't matter whether or not if I kill him or he kills me first. Even if I kill him, then the poison within my body will undoubtedly kill me extremely fast and everything will be useless. With a spy of the Gesun Kingdom infiltrating our borders and coming after the monster cores we're transporting, this cannot do. Even if I die, I cannot die in such an unknown way like this. His

majesty must be made aware of this matter!” The commander thought to himself. Enwrapped within his wind attribute Saint Force, he flew at a very fast speed that not even a trace of him could be seen. This way, Jian Chen wouldn’t be able to chase after him.

If a wind attribute Earth Saint Master was determined on running away, then his speed would most definitely outrank Jian Chen’s.

Up until now, there had been five Earth Saint Masters tasked with transporting the monster cores, four had been killed and the only remaining one had been dealt a fatal blow.

Unable to continue on with his internal injuries, Jian Chen walked over to the dead corpses of the other commanders and extended his hand to grab onto their Space Belts and Space Rings. Then dragging his injured body over to where the chariots were, Jian Chen immediately set about collecting them all without leaving a trace and would leave straight after.

Coming up to the first box, Jian Chen cut apart the lock on it before throwing open the cover to reveal the contents within. The entirety of the box was filled to the brim with Class 1 and Class 2 Monster Cores.

“So there was this many monster cores hidden inside? I can count nearly a thousand of these.” Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat as he surveyed the sight in front of him. Despite all of these monster cores being of an inferior grade, there was still an enormous amount of them. Moreover, this was only just one box. There was a total of fifteen chariots that each had two to four boxes. If every single one of those boxes contained monster cores, then the total amount of them was an astronomical number that no one would be able to count.

Suddenly, the azure and violet Sword Spirits within his dantian suddenly trembled and a message entered Jian Chen’s mind.

“The azure and violet Sword Spirits wishes to absorb the energy within these monster cores?” Jian Chen realized in an instant what the Sword Spirits had wanted and without hesitation, he immediately extended his hand the monster cores.

Although these inferior grade monster cores could be sold for a decent sum of money, but for the sake of helping the Sword Spirits heal, his desire to help the Sword Spirits was stronger as long as it wasn’t his own energy. Because of his current goal of fighting against Earth Saint Masters, this was his only chance.

Just as Jian Chen’s hand was over the box of monster cores, an extremely large force of attraction could be felt from the swords within his dantian. The thousand monster cores within the box began to emit a faint glow. As the energy began to condense, an essence of energy could suddenly be seen as it flowed from the monster cores into Jian Chen’s arm to his dantian.

Jian Chen’s eyes narrowed as he felt the extremely large amount of energy flow into his arm, causing it to numb a bit from the pain.

The speed at which the Sword Spirits were absorbing the energy was extremely fast, so in a brief moment, all of the energy within the monster cores had all been completely absorbed. Jian Chen immediately checked up on the situation with the Sword Spirits only to be disappointed. Even after

completely absorbing all of the monster cores within the box, there had been no change at all with the Sword Spirits.

“It seems that in order for the Sword Spirits to heal, the amount of monster cores needed is far beyond what I had imagined.” Jian Chen thought to himself with a bitter smile on his face. The appetites of the Sword Spirits were voracious, and he had no idea just how much was enough to make them satisfied.

After that, Jian Chen opened up the boxes one by one. Each box contained both Class 1 and Class 2 Monster Cores, but the energy within the monster cores had then been greedily absorbed by the Sword Spirits.

After the seventeenth and eighteenth box, Jian Chen threw open the lid only to discover that there were several thousand Class 3 Monster Cores inside.

From this box, Jian Chen only grabbed several hundred cores for his own personal cultivation while the rest were immediately absorbed by the Sword Spirits.

Afterward, Jian Chen walked over to another five chests, all of which contained Class 3 Monster Cores as well. This made Jian Chen extremely happy, but instead of taking it for himself, he had the Sword Spirits absorb all of them for the sake of the Sword Spirits hopefully growing stronger.

After absorbing all of the monster cores, the Sword Spirits within Jian Chen’s dantian finally began to undergo a change. The previously weak glows of light suddenly grew brighter at the intensity of a single lantern that flickered on and off.

At this change, Jian Chen was overjoyed. Immediately using the azure and violet Sword Qi, Jian Chen could tell that the quality of it had gotten richer.

Jian Chen walked over to an even larger steel box that was around four meters long. Opening it up, Jian Chen could see a jet-black iron rod half a meter wide. Around the iron rod was cotton to soften the insides and the outside.

Seeing such a familiar piece of iron rod, Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat. Immediately opening up the nearby steel boxes, he discovered that they had also contained various mysteriously shaped objects with cotton packaging.

Seeing these objects, a scene flashed within Jian Chen’s mind that caused Jian Chen to instantly be shocked. “This...this is a Magical Crystal Cannon!” Jian Chen had seen what a Magical Crystal Cannon looked like from his time in Wake City so he was not unfamiliar with their looks. Thus when he saw the components wrapped up in these boxes, Jian Chen knew that they were for the construction of a Magical Crystal Cannon.

“The Primary Tier Magical Crystal Cannons back in Wake City were only two meters long and the Middle Tier Magical Crystal Cannons were three meters long. These ones are four meters long, this must be an Advanced Tier Magical Crystal Cannon!” Looking at the cannons, Jian Chen quickly guessed that these were much stronger than the ones from before with a look of joy.

Advanced Tier Magical Crystal Cannons were something Jian Chen had never seen before. But from what he had heard, Advanced Tier Magical Crystal Cannons required Class 5 Monster Cores and could

shoot up to twenty kilometers away. These could kill an Earth Saint Master if hit and were weapons of mass destruction.

As long as one had an Advanced Tier Magical Crystal Cannon, a Primary Saint would be able to kill an Earth Saint Master. If there were a multitude of those cannons, then even killing a group of Earth Saint Masters would be possible.

Jian Chen's eyes grew fiery as he looked at the items in front of them. With this, it could be said that he was in possession of weapons with an incomparably strong might. If any strong faction were to offend him, then he would be able to employ these cannons from up to twenty kilometers away to destroy their headquarters.