

## Chaotic 271

### Chapter 271: Returning to Huang Village

Jian Chen continued to open up the remaining boxes only to never see another monster core. That was because within every single box after that, only the components of the cannons could be found in every shape and size. However, only two of the four meter long barrels could be found. From this, Jian Chen could deduce that only two cannons could be assembled from this.

However, the discovery of these two Advanced Tier Cannons had made Jian Chen extremely happy. The one worrying thing was that he had no idea how to assemble the Magical Crystal Cannons, or what part did what. To him, all these parts may as well have been scrap iron.

“Forget it, it’s best not to worry about this for now. I’ll wait for a time when I can learn how to assemble the cannons.” Jian Chen muttered to himself. After that, he collected all of the pieces within the boxes and stored them within his Space Ring. Then, he mounted his Class 2 Magical Beast and rode away from this place, leaving behind the soldiers who had died to the poison of the Silver Striped Golden Snake.

Despite the venom of the fang not yet being at its most potent state, it was still a poison that was highly fatal and thus was extremely dangerous. In such a short amount of time, these soldiers had all been killed without a single survivor besides the commander who had run away.

Jian Chen rode the magical beast at a rapid pace for half a day before a small forest could be seen five hundred kilometers away from where he had killed the soldiers. Finally stopping at the forest, Jian Chen began to control the Radiant Saint Force to heal himself.

Jian Chen’s innate spirit was quite formidable. His mastery of the Radiant Saint Force was at least two ranks higher than the previous Radiant Saint Master in Wake City. In just a mere two hours, he was back to full health.

Afterward, Jian Chen found a stream and leaped into it to wash himself.

“I didn’t think that one of them would manage to escape. Since he was a wind attribute Earth Saint Master, there’s nothing I could do if he wanted to escape since my speed is much slower than his.” Jian Chen muttered to himself in the river water.

“It’s a good thing I didn’t reveal my identity. In the case that the commander spreads the news, then my identity in Wake City would immediately be found out. In that case, the Flame Mercenaries would be completely exterminated.” At that thought, there was a small sense of fear, but his identity had been kept a secret, so he could rejoice to himself.

After changing his clothes for a clean pair, Jian Chen took the five Space Rings from under the tree nearby and began to inspect the items within. One of the five Space Rings was from the patriarch of the Xia clan while the other four were from the recently deceased commanders.

The patriarch of the Xia clan had a pile of purple coins that numbered over a thousand. There were several other piles of assortments of varying value hidden within. Furthermore, there were a hundred Class 4 Monster Cores, several hundred Class 3 Monster Cores, and an incomparably large amount of Class 2 Monster Cores.

All of a sudden, when Jian Chen saw one of the contents within the Space Ring, his heart skipped a beat. Taking out the item from the Space Ring, Jian Chen looked at the simple looking book right in front of him. The pages of the book were quite thick and were even starting to yellow. Some tears and rips from the passage of time could be seen on them.

“Water Manipulation!”

The two words were written on the cover of the simple looking book. As Jian Chen slowly flipped through the pages of the book, an excited look grew on his face. Unfortunately, the battle skill recorded within this manual was only that of a Human Tier Battle Skill. Furthermore, this was something that only water attributed Saint Force cultivators could use.

“Forget it, this isn’t all that strong. In the case that the Flame Mercenaries grow stronger, then this battle skill can be a reward of some sort.” Jian Chen sighed.

Looking into the next Space Ring, a large pile of bright monster cores greeted his eyes. Jian Chen had a great big smile on his face as he realized that there were over a thousand Class 4 Monster Cores in this Space Ring.

“With so many Class 4 Monster Cores, this must be another energy supply for the Magical Crystal Cannons.” Jian Chen muttered with his heart pounding. The profit he had earned today was extremely large.

Opening up the third Space Ring, Jian Chen discovered that it was filled with Class 4 Monster Cores. Aside from that, both of the Space Rings had a Purple Card along with some other daily life items.

When Jian Chen opened up the last Space Ring, he saw a small fist sized monster core laying in the space within. This monster core, was a Class 5 Monster Core.

Jian Chen’s body went rigid as he looked at this monster core with joy. He understood that a Class 5 Monster Core was a precious treasure that the patriarch of the Xia clan and the Tianhua Sect wouldn’t hesitate to travel thousands of miles to purchase. With there being around a hundred Class 5 Monster Cores, Jian Chen couldn’t believe his eyes almost.

The profit he had gained today was truly massive.

Jian Chen immediately began to count the amount of Class 5 Monster Cores. By the time he had finished counting them all, his heart had nearly leaped out of his throat; in total, there were around 232 Class 5 Monster Cores.

Jian Chen tried to quell his trembling body. If one had all these Class 5 Monster Cores, then they would be able to power up the Advanced Tier Cannons and shoot them. With this amount of Class 5 Monster Cores, it was even possible to shoot two hundred times and completely level a First Class City.

After half a day, Jian Chen had finally began to calm down as he collected the rest of the spoils before continuing on the road on his mount.

A day later, Jian Chen had stopped right in front of the entrance to the mountains. Abandoning his mount, Jian Chen proceeded into the mountains on foot.

This mountain range was rather ordinary looking, but the World Essence was withering slightly, causing only wild beasts to be born. Occasionally, there would be a Class 1 or Class 2 Magical Beast, but nothing higher.

The dense foliage covered the surrounding area along with the treetops whose branches and leaves obscured the sky above so that even the mountains themselves were hidden.

This mountain range didn't have the malicious atmosphere like the Magical Beast Mountain Range. With Jian Chen's memory of the area, he quickly made his way back to Huang Village where he had left roughly a month ago.

Jian Chen swept across the sight of Huang Village with excitement. When Rosco had seen him, he immediately gathered everyone in the village to celebrate. That night, the entire Huang Village gathered to celebrate Jian Chen's successful return.

The injuries on Ming Dong's body had finished healing half a month ago. Thankfully, he had remained behind in Huang Village and continued to cultivate to improve his strength diligently. Occasionally, he would follow some of the other men from the village to go hunting. With his Saint master strength, he was easily able to kill some wild beasts. With him living within Huang Village, the entire village was able to eat more often and more luxuriously.

Thus, Ming Dong quickly rose to a popular status within the village. Not a single person in Huang Village didn't respect and admire his strength.

#### Chapter 272: Tianqin Clan

Later that night, Jian Chen and Ming Dong gathered together within a small room.

"Seeing how much better you're looking now, you must be fully recovered." Jian Chen commented as he smiled at Ming Dong.

Nodding his head, Ming Dong replied, "It was all thanks to the medicine you left behind. Otherwise, it would have taken much longer for me to fully recover. Thanks to that, I was able to cultivate by myself peacefully and increase my strength by a large amount."

Jian Chen nodded with praise, "Not bad, you're a Peak Saint Master now. With your cultivation talent, I suspect that within a month, you'll make the breakthrough to become a Great Saint Master."

"As long as there is enough monster cores, then I'll definitely be able to reach the Great Saint Master realm by three months at most." Ming Dong's face was filled with determination. He couldn't help but feel proud of his training talent. Whenever he thought of Jian Chen, the prideful look on his face was instantly wiped away.

Although his own talent at cultivation was beyond most people, Ming Dong knew that there was an extremely large difference in talent between him and Jian Chen. Jian Chen didn't look a day older than twenty, but he had already reached the realm of the Great Saint Masters. He himself was already twenty seven years old; several years older than Jian Chen, yet his strength was only at the Peak Saint Master level. With this, it would be more accurate to measure between the heavens and the earth.

Jian Chen held out a dozen Class 4 Monster Cores to Ming Dong, "Continue to increase your strength then. You need not to worry about obtaining any monster cores, just leave all of that to me, but what you need to bear in mind is that cultivation to increase your strength is a step by step process. If you try to rush ahead recklessly, then who knows what hidden dangers in the future will affect your progress.

Knowing how generous Jian Chen was, Ming Dong didn't dare to argue. Accepting the monster cores handed to him, he said, "Don't worry, I am well aware of this."

"Good. Ah! Are you aware of the Gathering of the Mercenaries that happens twice every hundred years?" Jian Chen suddenly asked.

Ming Dong nodded his head, "I've wandered around for countless of months, so the Gathering of the Mercenaries is something I've heard mentioned before. They mention it as a relatively fierce competition, and those with a low level of strength would do best to not participate. Otherwise, they would find it hard to escape with their lives intact."

"En!" Jian Chen nodded in approval, "I've heard that the chances of dying are quite high, but the rewards offered are also endlessly rich, causing all mercenaries to be driven mad by them."

Hearing this, Ming Dong's heart skipped a beat for a moment as he stared with concentration at Jian Chen. "Don't tell me that you wish to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries."

Jian Chen didn't bother to deny it, "Correct, that is my plan."

"It's best not to go!" Ming Dong exclaimed. "Although I don't know much about the Gathering of the Mercenaries, I've heard that it is filled with danger. If one isn't at the Earth Saint Master realm, then they shouldn't participate or risk dying."

Jian Chen chuckled without a care in the world, "Don't worry. Although I am not an Earth Saint Master, I can still protect my own life. A Heaven Tier Battle Skill is far too tempting to let me pass up on it."

Ming Dong's face grew incomparably serious as he stared at Jian Chen for a while. Finally, after confirming that Jian Chen wasn't joking, he let out a single breath of air, "It seems that you are resolute on participating in the Gathering of the Mercenaries."

"Correct, I am determined to go. Tomorrow I will depart from the village, you should go with me. Huang Village is far too peaceful and that may become ingrained in you if you stay here long enough."

"Fine then. I was beginning to get restless the past few days. If it weren't for me waiting for you to come back, I would have left this place long ago."

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By the second morning, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both notified the village of their departure. Leaving behind a large amount of food, they left the village.

In regards to Ming Dong leaving, the entire Huang Village was quite reluctant to see him leave, but they all knew that Ming Dong wouldn't be content to continue living in the village. He would leave the village sooner or later, as long as he treated the world as a place to travel and explore, he would not want to stay where he was now. The village could only hope that both Jian Chen and Ming Dong would come and visit whenever they had time in the future.

After all, Huang Village was deep within the mountain range that was isolated from the rest of the continent. Travelers here were far and few.

Two days later, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both finally walked out of the mountains, and with another day of traveling, both men finally arrived at a Second Class City. From far away, they could see a stream of merchants and mercenaries flowing in and out of the city.

The amount of soldiers at the city gates numbered around three hundred, with each one of them inspecting both merchants and mercenaries alike. Obstructing their paths, they would talk for a moment before letting them pass. Even the walls were filled with troops of elite soldiers from the city who looked down on everyone with intense glares.

“What’s going on? Just why are there so many soldiers, I don’t recall it being like this before...”

“I can only assume that something major has happened. I was in Antelope City yesterday and the guards there were plenty as well. The entire city has soldiers moving about everywhere as if they’re searching for someone. What an uproar...”

“Don’t you all know? My cousin in a nearby city is the captain of the soldiers, but I heard that a spy from the Gesun Kingdom has infiltrated our Blue Wind Kingdom. Even the three hundred soldiers of the elite Storm Troop were killed. The spy took all of the monster cores and ran, making even his majesty furious. Right now, every single person in the kingdom is looking for the spy...”

Many people were talking among each other by the gates with great pleasure. Though, as Jian Chen heard this topic, he couldn’t help but smile coldly. It was almost definite that the loss of all those monster cores was an unbearable loss for the kingdom.

After waiting for half the day, everyone in front of them had entered the city, making it Ming Dong and Jian Chen’s turn to be inspected.

“Halt, what is your purpose here?” Immediately, a few soldiers stopped the two and asked them a question.

Jian Chen gave a faint smile, “Fellow brothers, we are two mercenaries that wish to stay here for a while and replenish our essentials.” Jian Chen held his mercenary emblem for the soldiers to see.

The soldiers inspected the emblem given to them for a small moment before looking over at the two mercenaries, “You two don’t look like spies, you may enter!”

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both walked into the city unobstructed. Afterward, Jian Chen walked down the streets only to realize that portraits had been plastered everywhere throughout the alleys. The person described on the portrait was similar to Jian Chen in stature, but the strange thing was that his appearance was not described at all.

“With a portrait like this, just how are we supposed to find the spy? We don’t even know what this spy looks like, so how could we find him...”

“We don’t know what the spy even looks like, even if he was standing right in front of us, we wouldn’t know! Ai, why couldn’t they just draw up a portrait so we would know just what we need to look for?”

With so many people looking at the portrait, everyone could only grumble at the descriptions on it.

“Heh, the ruler of the Blue Wind Kingdom truly wishes to find me with a portrait like this? This is nothing more than a fool’s journey. There are many people with a physique like this, hell, the entire street is filled with people that match such a description. Could they want to just capture every single person with this description?” Jian Chen chuckled to himself as he looked at the portrait.

“Right, without knowing the appearances of this spy, this portrait is nothing more than decoration.” Ming Dong replied by his side.

Leaving the area, they both walked deeper into the city where plenty of magical beast stables were gathered near the market place.

The magical beast stables were an unfrequented place. Almost as if it were a big shack, there were only thirty or so magical beast mounts laying about.

The magical beast mounts at the stables were of the more docile type without the ability to fight at all. Their prices reflected this because they were quite steep, making very few people unable to afford one, thus, very little people came by the stables.

Within the stables, Jian Chen had spent around five hundred purple coins in order to purchase two Class 3 Magical Beasts adept in long distance traveling before going to an inn to rest. By the next morning, they were ready to leave the city.

Right now there was only half a year until the Gathering of the Mercenaries began. In such a short time span, the two would have to hurry up and travel without any breaks. The distance between Mercenary City to where they were currently at was far too wide. They would have to cross multiple kingdoms and travel hundreds of thousands of kilometers.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both rode their Class 3 Magical Beasts off on the official roads at a rapid pace. Dirt and mud splattered behind their trails like a long dragon made of dirt. Many merchants and mercenaries cried out in annoyance as Jian Chen and Ming Dong blew past them. After seeing their Class 3 Magical Beast, they knew better than to provoke them.

Two days later, Jian Chen and Ming Dong left the Blue Wind Kingdom and continued on their journey.

During the daytime, they would travel as much as they could while at night the two would continue to cultivate. They continued this pattern for half a month, and like this, they made their way past the third kingdom and had already traveled several thousand kilometers.

In the plains, Jian Chen and Ming Dong stopped by the side of the road to rest for a while. Jian Chen held a map in his hand as he tried to make sure of his position and destination.

“Ming Dong, judging from the symbols on the map, there’s a First Class City fifty kilometers ahead. We should head there and rest for a while and see if there’s an even better magical beast mount to be found.” Jian Chen mentioned without lifting his head from the map.

Opening up his canteen to take a sip, Ming Dong replied, “Good. Since you’re not lacking money, then changing our mounts will be a good thing. Although a Class 3 Magical Beast is quite fast, if we continued on to Mercenary City like this, then it’ll take us another two or three months.”

Shortly after stopping, the travel weary Jian Chen and Ming Dong entered the city called Walaurent City.

Walaurent City was a First Class City that expanded over a large area. The entire city was filled with bustling activities with streets so wide that several chariots could ride through them at the same time. There were multiple restaurants of varying sizes by the streets with merchants and mercenaries walking together, chatting.

Walaurent City was fairly decent, with its wide streets with no trash or garbage to be seen, it was far more orderly. Wake City in comparison had many mercenaries with their stalls cluttered together by the side of the streets. From this, the difference between a First Class City and a Third Class City could clearly be seen.

Suddenly, a large sound could be heard coming from behind. At this, Jian Chen turned his head to look only to see a group of brightly dressed transporters carry a luxurious chariot down the street. On the chariot, a yellow colored banner could be seen waving high in the air with the word "Qin" written on it.

#### Chapter 273: Tianqin Clan (Two)

"Move aside! Anyone in our path should make way!" A few men cried out from the very front as the people in the streets moved toward the side.

"It's the Tianqin clan, what's the matter with them? Come on, let's get out of the way, we can't afford to cause trouble with them."

"It's the Tianqin clan, hurry and get out of the way! If you block their way, then who knows what might happen to you."

Both merchants and mercenaries alike hurriedly made their way to the side of the streets, leaving behind an empty street for the Qianqin clan to walk through. As soon as the carriage passed through, the men immediately walked back onto the middle of the street.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both drew close to the edge of the streets as well. However, since everyone had already crowded against the side, the majority of the area was already occupied. So Jian Chen and Ming Dong had no other choice but to stand on the outermost area which had made them stick out just enough to be noticed.

"Out of the way I said, did you not hear me, or are you courting death?!" The forerunner cried out as he glared at Jian Chen. With a flick of his wrist, a single black whip flew toward Ming Dong.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed dangerously at this. How insolent of the Tianqin clansmen! Just as Jian Chen prepared to move, Ming Dong had took a step back and grabbed at the whip. With a fierce pull, the owner of the whip flew off from his mount and landed fiercely on the ground.

"Halt!" With that, the entire Tianqin clan's fleet suddenly came to a screeching halt. Every single movement was almost identical and orderly just like the formation of an elite squadron.

"Outrageous! What youngster dares to block the path of the young lady of the Tianqing clan? Men, arrest him!" Another man cried out in rage as he pointed at Ming Dong.

"Yes!" A person volunteered as he charged at Ming Dong.

Ming Dong's face grew dark as he sent an apologetic glance to Jian Chen. His previous action had been completely involuntary, nor did he really think about the consequences. It was only now did he realize that he had just offended a powerful clan.

Jian Chen laughed at the worried Ming Dong, "Don't be afraid, do what you will."

Ming Dong nodded his head slightly and then leaped down from his mount. A cyan colored glow began to emanate from his body before he began to fight the person coming at him. None of his attackers were using their Saint Weapons, so he had lashed out with his own fists as well.

Jian Chen looked at Ming Dong with a look of surprise before revealing a bright smile on his face, "I didn't think that not only is Ming Dong a genius at cultivation, but that he would also be a wind attributed Saint Master."

With the help of his wind Saint Force, Ming Dong was extremely fast. As he and the others began to fight, those attackers had already begun to be pushed back.

"To even attack our guards, your death won't absolve your crimes!"

At this fight, a large group of men from the Tianqin clan immediately thundered out loud. A middle age man flew down from his mount with a surge of Saint Force, he flew at Ming Dong to attack him.

With a sneer, Jian Chen brought out his Light Wind Sword in an instant and flew toward the middle aged man to strike at the blade in his hand.

"Ding!"

The Light Wind Sword and the man's newly formed battle axe collided in mid air with a loud clang. Immediately, the sword gleamed past the axe and with a bright ray of silver light, the sword swept past the man's throat.

Falling back to the ground, the middle aged man's face was extremely ugly to look at as he looked at Jian Chen with shock.

Reabsorbing his sword, Jian Chen cupped his hands together and spoke, "Sire, this was the fault of my brother here, but that is not a crime punishable by death. This one hopes that sire looks the other way this one time." Jian Chen's voice wasn't rude, but it wasn't polite either. The Tianqin clan were extremely powerful within the First Class Walarent City. While Jian Chen wasn't afraid of such a powerful clan, he didn't wish to offend them at this given time.

The man looked at Jian Chen with shock and a hint of fear as his face began to pale, but he did not say anything.

"Just what has happened?" A sweet sounding voice could be heard. The voice was pleasant to hear, just like the sounds of a skylark.

Hearing this, Jian Chen averted his gaze to look at the white robed veiled woman who walked out from her carriage. Her appearance was covered by a white colored gauze so that it was completely impossible to see her visage.



“Second miss, please hurry back to your carriage, we’ll take care of this matter straight away.” A guard immediately spoke out to her respectfully.

The female looked at Jian Chen and Ming Dong for a small moment before speaking gently, “While I was inside the carriage, I could hear everything that happened outside quite clearly. This matter was our fault completely, guards, hurry up and apologize.”

Hearing this, the guard fighting Ming Dong hesitated for a moment, but after seeing Jian Chen’s strength, he could only utter a small apology.

Jian Chen waved his hand casually to say something apologetic in return before preparing to leave the place.

At that moment, the sounds of hooves could be heard as a blue robed middle aged man came riding forward with his Class 3 Magical Beast mount. “Second sister, you’ve been gone for so long without telling your older brother, so what better than for your older brother to come greet you?”

The man rode at a decent pace for a moment before stopping right in front of the Tianqin clan’s carriage.

The youth was of a sturdy build and wore blue robes. Underneath his robes, his black pants could be seen with his hair reaching down to his shoulder. From his appearances, he looked to be thirty years old.

“Look, it’s the young lord of Tianqin clan! How lucky we are today to see him. With how rarely he walks out of the Tianqin clan compound, I didn’t think he would show up right now...”

“I’ve heard the young lord of the Tianqin clan is a genius at cultivation. With the help of the Tianqin clan’s entire strength, he was able to make the breakthrough to become a Great Saint Master at the young age of twenty eight. Now that he’s over thirty years old, I don’t know just how strong the young lord is...”

“My father is one of the guards for the Tianqin clan. I’ve heard him say that in battle, the young lord is extremely violent. Every day the young lord would fight against the captain of the guards, but the captain would always come out with a splitting headache afterward.”

At the appearance of this youth, the entire group of spectators began to whisper among themselves.

The young lord of the Tianqin clan pretended not to listen to these words and looked at the lady with concern, “Second sister, are they trying to bully you? Tell your older brother and I’ll fight them for you.”

The moment after the young lord spoke, one of the guards hurriedly spoke out, “Young lord, while we were guiding the second miss’ chariot, these two men came up to obstruct our path. Even more so, they had the courage to injure one of our guardians and underestimate our clan!”

Hearing this, the young lord cast a dangerous glare at Jian Chen before growling, “Just who are you to provoke my Tianqin clan, do you truly think my clan to be that easy to bully?”

“Guardian!” The moment she heard the man speak, she had a displeased look on her face and turned to her older brother to speak gently, “Elder brother, the situation is not like that. Don’t trouble them too much, the cause of this situation is because of these guardians with no etiquette.”

After hearing his sister speak, the tension on the young lord's face began to ease up before immediately coming back with a fiercer glow in his eyes. "It doesn't matter who's in the wrong, but you blocked the path of my second sister! This isn't something I'll let off so lightly, let me fight with you, if you can beat me then this matter will be resolved."

A surge of Saint Force went to the young lord's hand, instantly forming a giant blade. In an instant, he flew off his horse and charged at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen brought out his Saint Weapon as well and began to fill the air with Sword Qi near the charging young lord.

The sounds of weapon smashing against weapon could be heard clashing against each other. After a series of rounds, Jian Chen had realized that the young lord was already at the Peak Great Saint Master level, making him slightly stronger than Jian Chen. However, Jian Chen's sword was fast enough for the young lord to have to commit most of his efforts to dodging the sword. In another three exchanges, Jian Chen clearly had the advantage over the young lord.

"Armorize!" The young lord roared. A large amount of brown colored light began to exude from his body before forming an earthen like layer of armor over his body. From the outer appearance, it looked like an actual set of armor. With the constant flowing glow of earth Saint Force, the armor looked to be almost unbreakable.

"Armorize? I've heard that this is a defensive saint technique for those with an earth Saint Force. No other secret technique is capable of such an effect. I didn't think the young lord of the Tianqin clan would be capable of such a saint technique..."

"Is this not the strongest defensive technique the young lord has? I didn't think that this youth would be able to force the young lord to such a state so quickly..."

"If he is able to force the young lord to this degree, then that means this youth is quite strong."

"Under the heavens, there are surely many types of wonders. I didn't think that this youth would be so strong already, his potential surely will be great..."

Seeing the young lord's armor, both the spectators and guardians of the Tianqin clan began to murmur among themselves in surprise.

The young lord stared gravely at Jian Chen and said sternly, "Your sword is quite fast, and dodging your blows is becoming too tiring for me to continue doing. Since you were able to force me to use my ultimate defense, you are qualified to be my rival. From here on out, I'll use my entire strength, prepare yourself!"

#### Chapter 274: Friends Through Fighting

The young lord stared gravely at Jian Chen and said sternly, "Your sword is quite fast, and dodging your blows is becoming too tiring for me to continue doing. Since you were able to force me to use my ultimate defense, you are qualified to be my rival. From here on out, I'll use my entire strength, prepare yourself!"

Brandishing his Light Wind Sword so that the tip of the sword was pointed toward the ground. His eyes stared at the young lord for a moment before saying, "Make your move!"

The young lord's eyes gained a dangerous gleam of light before he grew serious. "Earth Storm!" Suddenly, a rich amount of earth Saint Force flew from his body and instantly transformed the earth and dust around Jian Chen and him into a dust storm ten meters in circumference.

Jian Chen's visibility was limited so that he could only see the earth Saint Force and not even his hands. Everywhere he turned, he couldn't see more than an inch in front of him; the sight reminded of Jian Chen of being stuck in a quagmire. There was an uncomfortable feeling that seemed as if it was restricting his movements and made him slightly cautious.

"Could this be a battle skill? What a strange one." Jian Chen muttered to himself. All of a sudden, his eyes flashed once before stabbing forward with his Light Wind Sword.

"Ding!" Following a metallic sound, a sword that was previously hidden in the dust storm was revealed. Knocked away by the force of the Light Wind Sword, the dust storm began to waver before Jian Chen's sword then struck out in quick succession once more.

Outside the dust storm, none of the spectators were able to see what was transpiring inside. They could only hear the continuous stream of weapons clashing against each other. The dust storm continued to ravage the area with an erratic pattern that felt as if it would dissipate at any moment.

On the other side, the Tianqin clan's guardians all looked with an unwavering gazes at the dust storm. The outstanding young lord of the Tianqin clan versus the foreign youth, just which one of the two was stronger?

Some of the guardians had a worried look on their faces as they continued to wait. The genius that was the young lord of the Tianqin clan was their pride and joy. The guardians of the clan definitely did not wish for their pride and joy to be beaten by an even younger youth.

Even the young woman that was standing within the carriage couldn't help but stare relentlessly at the two men fight within the dust storm. Despite not knowing just what was happening inside, she knew from the state of the dust storm that her elder brother was not doing well.

"Guardian, this disturbance is because of you, when we return back to the compound, you and the rest will be punished." The lady complained to the guardian with a strict tone.

Upon hearing those words, the guardians all grew white as they started to panick. The patriarch of the Tianqin clan doted upon the second miss as if she were the favorite daughter. If she were to say some choice words to the patriarch, then there would be a fierce punishment to be had.

With that thought, a few of the guardians began to panic before apologizing, "The second miss' lesson is just. This is the fault of our guardians, when we return we will receive our punishment in the punishment hall."

At that moment, the dust storm shook once more erratically before the dust storm grew faint, revealing the situation inside.

Jian Chen stood at the center with his sword in his right hand pointing down toward the ground. Five meters away from him, the armored young lord stood with his giant sword stabbed into the ground.

While there didn't seem to be a difference after fighting since both combatant's clothes were still completely intact, but those with good eyes were able to see that the earthen armor on the young lord was dimmer than before. The flow of earth Saint Force that had been there before had all but disappeared.

Reabsorbing his sword, the young lord smiled at Jian Chen, "Not bad, your strength is quite strong. In this generation, you are the only one who made me feel that a loss was inevitable. I, Qin Xiao, accept my defeat."

Reabsorbing his own sword, Jian Chen cupped his hands toward the young lord, "The lord is too polite. This battle was a draw, a conclusive outcome is far too early to say!" From the words of the young lord, Jian Chen had concluded that he was a straightforward person.

"A loss is a loss, there is nothing humiliating about it at all. I, Xiao Qin, am not a sore loser." Waving his hand, the young lord spoke with a casual tone about the battle.

At this, Jian Chen's opinion of the young changed drastically. He now started to see him in a more respectful light.

The young lord cupped his hands in respect, "What might be the name of fellow brother and which teacher have you studied under? With the strength you have at such a young age, there is no way you are a nameless person."

Cupping his hands, Jian Chen replied, "The young lord praises too much. This one is named Jian Chen. My master is a nameless hermit within one of the deep mountain ranges."

Qin Xiao walked up to Jian Chen. His physique was so defined that Jian Chen in comparison seemed very fragile. With the two standing next to each other, the difference was far too clear.

Slapping Jian Chen's shoulder, Qin Xiao said, "Brother Jian Chen, just call me Qin Xiao. That way, it'll sound much better to me. Everyone within my clan calls me that." With that, he stopped speaking for a second before saying, "Brother Jian Chen, you are the first one in a generation to defeat me. I, Qin Xiao, truly admire that. Thus, I would like to invite you to my Tianqin clan as a guest, would you do me the honor?"

"This..." There was a surprised look on Jian Chen's face as he hesitated for a moment. He hadn't thought that he would suddenly be invited to be the guest of the Tianqin clan. He had only just arrived at Walaurent City and so he wasn't familiar with the clan. He had only just learned of the clan not too long ago, and while the young lord seemed to be quite honest and straightforward, with this recent fight, if there was someone within the clan that harbored hard feelings then Jian Chen would be like a sheep walking into the den of a tiger."

However, Qin Xiao didn't even wait for Jian Chen to make a decision and pulled Jian Chen's shoulder in a friendly manner to walk with him. "Let's go, brother Jian Chen. The moment I first saw you I knew it was fate, let us go back to the compound and have a chat."

The young lady who had been standing there looked at her elder brother who was holding Jian Chen close by as if he was his sworn brother with disbelief. What was even more unbelievable was that this was the first time that she had seen her elder brother treat such a person like a good friend.

Seeing how the relationship between the young lord Qin Xiao and Jian Chen changed for the better so quickly, the guardians who had previously looked at the fight looked at each other in disbelief. The one who had wanted to kill Ming Dong looked especially anxious. His face grew worrisome as his face scrunched up. When he had first recklessly tried to cast the blame, he had begun to regret everything.

The Tianqin clan was an incredibly influential clan within Walaurent City. They could be said to be the number one clan in the city, and even the lord of the city was of the Tianqin clan as well as being the younger brother of the patriarch.

Even though they were the number one clan in Walaurent City, the Tianqin clan's main compound was not in the middle of the city. Instead, they were on the edge of the city in one of the more elegant parts where there was a nice manor house. Around the manor, work had been done so that a stream of river flowed around it with countless of fragrant plants surrounding it as well. The mysterious fragrance was so strong that anyone who smelled it would be instantly awakened from their slumber.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both accepted Qin Xiao's invitation and walked alongside him. On the road, Qin Xiao continued to talk with Jian Chen about matters concerning his clan. However, none of which were anything confidential and were anything that anyone living Walaurent City could find out.

The Tianqin clan already had four hundred years of history. Ever since their foundation, they had resided within Walaurent City and silently grew. After four hundred years, their strength had reached an incredibly strong level beyond anyone's comprehension. Even the young lord of the Tianqin clan, Qin Xiao only knew a thin layer of it.

The Tianqin clan had initially been founded by two people, thus the Tianqin clan was separated into two veins. One vein was called the "Tian", the other was called the "Qin". Both were of equal status and power. They would help each other all for the sake of the betterment of the Tianqin clan.

Walking into the compound, Jian Chen continued to look around himself. In his heart, he couldn't help but compare it to his Changyang clan. Noticing that the clan guards were quite strict like his clan, it was still quite different from his Changyang clan in general.

Turning his head to his sister, Qin Xiao spoke up, "Second sister, since it's been quite long since your return, you should go see father. After so long, father has been worried."

The second sister of the Qin family stood quietly behind her elder brother. Both of her bright eyes blinked in a curious manner as she looked at Jian Chen's back.

"Yes, I know. Elder brother, please go receive the guest while I go see father." The second sister then walked away with two maids, leaving Jian Chen and her elder brother alone.

Within the Tianqin clan's compound, Jian Chen, Ming Dong and Qin Xiao sat within his personal compound and talked over some wine and fine food. The aroma of exotic fragrances could be smelled as it tempted everyone's appetite. On the side, there were a few maids pouring wine for the three.

“Brother Jian Chen, you are the first person I, Qin Xiao, have truly admired. You are the very first person that has beaten me within Walaurent City in this generation and forced me to accept my defeat. Come, let us have a toast.” Qin Xiao said as he raised his cup into the air.

#### Chapter 275: Late Night Ambush

There was a forced smile on Jian Chen’s face. He hadn’t thought that he and the young lord of the Tianqin clan would become friends so quickly. However, the outspoken and straightforward personality of Qin Xiao had made a favorable impression on him. With a polite word, Jian Chen raised his own wine cup and took a single sip.

“Brother Jian Chen, your strength is quite strong. In the future when you have time, we must compare notes. Right now, the captain of the guards is the only one capable of fighting me. There aren’t many willing to fight with me, and I dare not find Earth Saint Masters to fight with since I would easily be overpowered.” Qin Xiao explained as he drank from his cup.

“Of course, as long as I am here, then I will definitely compare notes with brother Qin Xiao.” Jian Chen laughed. While Qin Xiao was fierce while fighting, right now, he was a pleasant companion to talk to. It was because of this personality of his that made him preferable than to those who were hypocritical.

“Brother Jian Chen, I can see that you two are not natives from here. Where might you two come from?” Qin Xiao asked curiously.

Jian Chen hesitated before answering, “In all honesty, we came from a distant kingdom to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries. The both of us have traveled many miles and traveled across many kingdoms. It was only today that we arrived at Walaurent City to rest. Neither of us thought that such an event like this would happen.”

Hearing this, Qin Xiao stopped for a moment before slapping the table with a smile, “This is quite the coincidence. I didn’t think that brother Jian Chen would want to go to Mercenary City for the Gathering of the Mercenaries. Haha, we are traveling the same way.”

“What, could brother Qin Xiao be participating in the Gathering of the Mercenaries as well?” Jian Chen asked surprised.

“Of course, the rewards from the Gathering of the Mercenaries are quite rich. There is not a single faction on the continent who would not be tempted by them. Our Tianqin clan is no different, this Gathering of Mercenaries we are bringing a few members to join forces with me.” Qin Xiao said excitedly.

“Brother Jian Chen, you and I are friends, so you should stay in the Tianqin clan for now. Two months from now, we can set off for Mercenary City.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen’s eyebrows furrowed slightly, “Qin Xiao, there’s not even half a year until the Gathering of the Mercenaries begins. With there being thousands of kilometers left until then along with if we spend two months in Walaurent City, then there won’t be any time for us to get there.”

Qin Xiao laughed, “It seems that brother Jian Chen has never heard of a Space Gate before.”

“Space Gate?” Jian Chen was confused for a moment as he tried to think of what a Space Gate was. Then, his face grew joyous as he spoke, “Qin Xiao, could it be that your Tianqin clan has a Space Gate?”

A Space Gate was something that Jian Chen had seen mentioned in the libraries of the Changyang clan and Kargath Academy. Rumors had it that Space Gates were mysterious portals that were made of a spatial composition that were rare within the continent. Space Gates were something that only Saint Kings could create, and so only the seven Capital Cities had a Space Gate.

It was rumored that a Space Gate was capable of allowing a person to travel thousands of kilometers after crossing to the other side. Space Gates were truly one of the most profound mysteries of the world and were the only capable gateway to long distance traveling.

Jian Chen’s words caused Qin Xiao to laugh bitterly, “Brother Jian Chen, you think too highly of our Tianqin clan. How could such a mysterious thing be controlled by our Tianqin clan? Not even our Zhuya Kingdom has control of a Space Gate! However, one of our allied kingdoms is in control of one, thus our Tianqin clan plans on using it to get to Mercenary City.”

“Ah, so it’s like that!” Jian Chen spoke with clarity. He was excited to hear about the Space Gate, with one of those, he would be able to reach Mercenary City without trouble. Right now, Jian Chen couldn’t help but secretly rejoice about his decision coming to Walaurent City. Otherwise, he would have never been able to use the Space Gate to assist him with his troubles.

Although the records of the Tian Yuan Continent said that only the seven Capital Cities had a Space Gate, that was only on the surface. Secretly, there were many more Space Gates hidden throughout the continent with no one being able to accurately locate them.

Within the study room of the Tianqin clan.

“What?! Xiao Er has brought an outsider to our Tianqin clan? Troublesome, how truly troublesome! Our Tianqin clan isn’t some place that just anyone can enter.” An expensively dressed middle aged man spoke out angrily as he sat on his chair.

The man was over forty years old with an air of power belonging to that of an elder. His words carried about a stressed tone as his eyes flickered with a bright glow.

On the other side of the middle aged man stood a white robed figure. Her face was covered behind a veil, it was the second miss of the Tianqin clan.

“Father, eldest brother’s personality is rather straightforward, but this time the person he brought back with him is not a simple person. While this person is quite young, his strength is tremendous. Even eldest brother isn’t a match for him and left your daughter stunned. Eldest brother even readily announced his loss and spoke of his respect for him. From the eyes of your daughter, this is the first time I’ve ever eldest brother in such a state.” The second miss spoke with a gentle tone that could rival a skylark’s. Those who heard her voice would have their hearts skip a beat.

“Ah, so it’s like that? It would appear that I must go and see this person to understand what he is like for him to be someone that Xiao Er would respect.” The middle aged man murmured, all of his previous anger had evaporated suddenly.

Within Qin Xiao's residence, Jian Chen, Ming Dong and Qin Xiao all laughed and chatted among each other as they ate and drank. With Qin Xia's straightforward personality, their friendship couldn't help but deepen by quite a bit.

"Xiao Er, you are usually so quiet everyday. Just what has happened to cause you to become so loud?" A voice called out over the sounds of their laughter.

With that, an expensively dressed middle aged man walked into the compound with a casual stride.

"Father, why have you come today?" Qin Xiao shot up from his chair in surprise.

The man's eyes looked at both Ming Dong and Jian Chen for a moment before laughing, "I haven't been here for some time, so your father decided to visit you." Then looking at the two others, he said, "Xiao Er, why don't you introduce your two friends to your father."

"Father, let me introduce you to my companions then. This one is Jian Chen and the other is Ming Dong." Qin Xiao laughed as he pointed at the two.

Standing up, both Jian Chen and Ming Dong cupped their hands to the middle aged man, "I, Jian Chen, pay his respects to the patriarch!"

"I, Ming Dong, pay his respects to the patriarch!"

The middle aged man looked at Ming Dong for a moment before then looking at Jian Chen to measure them both. With a brief look of surprise, he nodded his head with a smile, "Not bad, you seem to be quite talented men. Where might you two come from?"

Without waiting for Jian Chen to say anything, Qin Xiao immediately spoke up, "Father, Jian Chen isn't from our Zhuya Kingdom. They are from a far away kingdom that traveled here so that they could participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries. Coincidentally, they came across me in their trip to Walaurent City."

"Ah, so I see. Haha, brother Jian Chen has come from such a long distance away. Seeing how you were able to become friends with Xiao Er so fast, it would appear your meeting was by fate. Qin Xiao, your father still has some matters to attend to, treat your guests well in my absence." The man spoke in an easy going manner as if he was a compassionate father and did not have the air of a patriarch.

After that, the man had left the compound, leaving the three of them alone.

Afterward, because of the matter with the Space Gate, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both accepted Qin Xiao's invitation to stay at the Tianqin clan. Because of the Space Gate, they would be able to get to Mercenary City without embarking on a long journey.

That night, Jian Chen and Ming Dong stayed within a compound of their own that was relatively isolated where even the patrolmen rarely went to.

Later on in the night, Jian Chen held two monster cores in his hands as he continued to cultivate on his bed. For the sake of succeeding within the Gathering of the Mercenaries, Jian Chen had to continue cultivating his strength. His goal was to enter the top three and earn a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.



Suddenly, Jian Chen's ears twitched as his eyes both flashed open. As he saw two lights flash in the night, Jian Chen brought out his Light Wind Sword in an instant and leaped forward with his sword immediately stabbing up through the roof.

"Crash!"

With this movement, the tiles on the roof was immediately split apart. A shadowy figure fell from the roof with a whistling sound as it made contact with Jian Chen's sword. A large amount of shock was sent spiralling into Jian Chen's arm, temporarily numbing his hand and causing part of his skin to split open.

Jian Chen was shocked at this man's strength. With just a single exchange, he had been dealt an injury he couldn't afford to take. At the very least, this unknown assailant's strength was at the Third Cycle Earth Saint Masters level.

Jian Chen immediately flew backward as he looked at the shadowy figure, "Who are you?!" He demanded.

The figure didn't say a word and instead brandished a black iron club to swing at Jian Chen.

At Jian Chen's words, the Light Wind Sword in his hand began to glow faintly with an azure and violet light. Within the dark night, this color was very noticeable. In the next moment, the Light Wind Sword flashed silver before striking at the iron club.

"Ding!" The two weapons collided once more, causing Jian Chen to stagger backward. This mysterious attacker of his was so strong that he was most likely at the Fourth or even Fifth Cycle Earth Saint Master instead of the Third Cycle. This wasn't a level that Jian Chen could afford to fight against.

Despite all of this, the azure and violet Sword Qi had managed to cause a large gap within the assailant's iron club.

The mysterious figure suddenly froze as he looked at his weapon before speaking out with a hoarse voice, "That's...not possible!" Horror filled his voice before instantly flying out from the roof and disappearing into the night.

Jian Chen looked at the broken hole in his roof without a word as his eyes flashed brightly. Slowly, a thoughtful smile began to creep up on his face.

Chapter 276: Treasure Pavilion

"Bang!"

Suddenly, a large commotion could be heard as the sound of footsteps rang out. Ming Dong came running in with his sword in hand as he asked seriously, "Jian Chen, what happened?" Rushing forward, he saw the giant hole in the ceiling with his twinkling eyes. Looking back to Jian Chen, he asked with concern, "Jian Chen, are you alright?"

Waving his hand, Jian Chen said, "I'm fine!"

"We are in the Tianqin clan's compound and had only just arrived at Walaurent City with no enemies. Just who could possibly want to attack you?" Ming Dong asked curiously.

Jian Chen chuckled, "This isn't the work of an enemy. Instead, this is their attempt to test me."

"A test!" Ming Dong had a surprised look on his face, "Then you're saying that the people who attacked you for no reason are..."

Jian Chen threw up his hand to quiet Ming Dong, "This is a matter that we come to an understanding about and say no more."

Ming Dong went quiet for a moment before muttering, "No wonder the guards patrolling the area weren't alerted, so it was like that?"

"Ming Dong, it's already quite late, you should return to your room." With that, Jian Chen began to tidy up the tiles that had fallen before climbing back into his bed.

"If you say so, then I'll be heading back." Without another word, Ming Dong returned to his room without bothering Jian Chen any longer.

As the night went on and the morning came by, Qin Xiao came by to Jian Chen's room early only to see the broken remnants of the door that was caused by Ming Dong when he had kicked it open. With a stunned look, he immediately cried out, "Brother Jian Chen, are you still here?"

"Qin Xiao, come in!" Jian Chen's calm voice from within his room.

Immediately after walking into the room, Qin Xiao noticed the giant hole on the ceiling of the room with a pile of broken tiles on the floor.

At this sight, Qin Xiao couldn't help but be shocked. Looking all around him, he asked, "Brother Jian Chen, just what exactly happened last night? Just why is it a mess in here as if there was a fight?"

Jian Chen gave a casual smile as he said, "It was nothing major. A mysterious black robed man attacked me last night, but brother Qin Xiao shouldn't concern himself with the matter."

"What, someone attacked you last night?" Qin Xiao spoke in shock before instantly turning furious, "Who would dare? To think someone would try to commit such a crime in my Tianqin clan?! It would seem those guards should be swapped as well, they're nothing more than good-for-nothings! Brother Jian Chen, I will report this to my father, don't you worry. No matter who it was that attacked you, my Tianqin clan will definitely not let this assassin be. Hmph, never has there been such a person that would dare provoke the honor of our Tianqin clan!" Qin Xiao cried out furiously before stomping away to his father with such anger that even Jian Chen couldn't placate him.

"It would seem that Qin Xiao didn't know about last night's events." Seeing the retreating back of Qin Xiao, Jian Chen muttered to himself from his window.

Quickly, a group of people came back to where Jian Chen was. The leader of the group was Qin Xiao with the patriarch of the Tianqin clan along with a few other guards.

Jian Chen quickly made his way out from the room and cupped his hands to the patriarch, "Jian Chen respectfully greets patriarch Tianqin."

The patriarch laughed, "Brother Jian Chen needs not to be so polite. I've heard that you've suffered an attack yesterday night, is that true?"

"It is!" Jian Chen replied.

The patriarch attitude became extremely serious after that answer as he looked at the door which had been kicked down by Ming Dong. Investigating the sight for himself, his face grew even more embarrassed by the moment before shouting, "Just how ridiculous is this, how dare someone try to act in such a way to my Tianqin clan!" With an intense glare, he stared at one of the guards that had accompanied him, "Just what kind of captain of the guard are you? For an enemy to be so unafraid of infiltrating our clan, just what good are you?"

Hearing this, the guards there began to panic before kneeling to the ground, "Please, my lord, we will do everything we can to investigate the infiltrator. Please give us this one chance to redeem ourselves."

"Pah, because of your years of service to our Tianqin clan despite having very little contributions, I will temporarily pardon you. Hurry up and go find out just who did this to our Tianqin clan!" The patriarch commanded with a strict tone.

"We thank the patriarch for his kindness. We will definitely find out who the infiltrator was." The guards spoke as they received amnesty and kowtowed to show their gratitude.

The patriarch turned to look at Jian Chen with his serious look fading away quickly. "Brother Jian Chen, I truly wish to give my apologies. To think that you suffered an attack while being a guest at my Tianqin clan, this is truly unexpected. However, please do not worry, my Tianqin clan will pursue the one responsible and will make sure he is handed over to you for your satisfaction."

The guards lined up next to him looked at each other with some confusion. In regards to Jian Chen, they only had a little information about him, They only knew that the young lord had made good friends with him, but the patriarch of the Tianqin clan had began to treat this fragile youth far too well than they thought.

"Could it be that this youth has a strong clan supporting him?" The guards all thought at the same time. Despite this question all weighing heavily on their minds, they didn't have the qualifications to ask.

The patriarch's attitude toward Jian Chen made him feel as if he was being pampered and so he didn't dare feel slighted by this. Cupping his hands together, Jian Chen said, "Patriarch Tianqin is far too kind. Yesterday's night was nothing serious so please do not waste too much of your efforts on this. It cannot be certain or not if it was an enemy of mine that followed me to kill me."

After that, the patriarch left Jian Chen with a few parting words while commanding the patrolmen to make sure that such an event wouldn't happen again.

Qin Xiao walked up to Jian Chen's side. With his toned physique, the comparison to Jian Chen's slim build was strikingly clear.

Slapping his shoulder, Qin Xiao said, "Brother Jian Chen, yesterday night's events must have startled you. It's a good thing you came out unharmed, otherwise there would be no way for me to forgive myself."

Laughing, Jian Chen said a few words before allowing Qin Xiao to take him on a stroll through Walaurent City.

Walaurent City was extremely large with a flourishing city center. As Qin Xiao lead both Jian Chen and Ming Dong throughout the city, they came across several thriving streets in the city.

Then the three finally came to a stop right in front of a massive building with the words, "Treasure Pavilion" written in fancy lettering.

"Brother Jian Chen, this is where the biggest concentration of treasures are within Walaurent City. This is where the rarest of treasures can be found, let's go in and take a look." Qin Xiao said to Jian Chen."

Within Treasure Pavilion, many richly dressed men were walking around along with several sturdy looking mercenaries that were all looking with an attentive gaze at the merchandise around them.

"Brother Jian Chen, this place has the monopoly on the most fantastic of treasures. There are even many things here I'm not aware of that may even date to the ancient past. Although they may not have any practical use, they look quite nice if collected. Thus, many people gather here to look for things for their collections, although very rarely, there are some that later buy an unknown treasure or two." Qin Xiao said as he looked around at the closest merchandise to him.

Suddenly, the azure and violet Sword Spirits within Jian Chen's dantian shook once before sending a message to Jian Chen telepathically. At that message, Jian Chen could tell that the two Sword Spirits were feeling excited.

Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat as he looked around. Without a change in his expression, he said, "Brother Qin Xiao, I'm going to take a look then."

"Ah, go ahead. When it's time to leave I'll call for you." Qin Xiao replied.

Afterward, Jian Chen and Ming Dong climbed up to the second story. The very moment they stepped foot onto the second story, Jian Chen stopped moving for a moment before continuing to climb upward.

As Jian Chen approached the fourth floor, two sturdy looking men blocked his path to the stairway. One of them looked at Jian Chen before speaking out politely, "My apologies, my lord, but only those with a Purple Card can enter this floor."

While a Purple Card was a way of storing and saving money, within the Tian Yuan Continent, a Purple Card also signified one's wealth. It was a symbol of status that was clearly also the requirement for entering the fourth floor to the building.

With a wave of his hand, a Purple Card appeared. Looking at the two men, he said, "Might I be allowed to enter now?"

"Of course, please enter my lord!" The two men instantly gestured for him to go past them.

Jian Chen walked passed the guards onto the fourth floor, but just as Ming Dong was about to follow, the two men immediately blocked the path once more. "My lord, please show us your Purple Card as well. If you cannot show your Purple Card, then in strict accordance to our rules, you may not be allowed entry onto the fourth floor."

With those words, Ming Dong had a bitter look on his face before smiling to Jian Chen, "Jian Chen, you can go ahead, I'll wait down below for you."

“Wait a minute!” Jian Chen called out for Ming Dong to stop. With another wave of his hand, a purple card appeared in his hands. Stuffing it into Ming Dong’s hands, Jian Chen turned to the two guards there and spoke stiffly, “Is he allowed entry now?”

The two guards looked at each other with some hesitation before they relented. Although they both could see that the Purple Card in Ming Dong’s hands wasn’t his, but the rules of the building only stipulated that one must be in possession of a Purple Card in order to be allowed entry. It had never said that a Purple Card must belong to the person, so Ming Dong hadn’t broken any rules at all.

The fourth floor was rather empty in comparison to the stories below. Throughout the entire floor, there were many strange and bizarre objects on display. Ranging from many different colored stones to strange lumps of iron—there were even many antique looking pottery vases and chinaware. In short, there were many fantastical things to be seen, some from the past and many weren’t ordinary looking things at all. However, what their uses may be, no one knew.

#### Chapter 277: Strange Five Colored Stone

There were a variety of mysterious things within the fourth floor of the Treasure Pavilion. A large slab of stone was floating a meter in the air while slowly glowing with a faint azure color. There was nothing underneath the slab to support it, so anyone that saw this slab would know that this was no ordinary thing.

On another red pedestal, there was a small pile of iron sand. The iron sand was darkly colored and exuded a constant black flame. Nothing for fuel but the air around it, the fire burned constantly without ever being extinguished.

Aside from that, there were a few other strange crystals that glowed brightly along with a few ancient looking pottery vases.

The fourth floor to the Treasure Pavilion didn’t have as many people as the first floor. There were only twenty expensively dressed men that casually walked around and selected an item that caught their interest.

Jian Chen began to follow the sensations he was feeling from the azure and violet Sword Spirits before stopping right in the middle of the room. Right in front of him on a counter were countless of shining stones. Each one was about the size of an adult hand that emanated a weak light similar to a night pearl, but these weren’t night pearls, they were just strange looking stones that had a faint amount of energy pulsating within.

Following the deep sensation he was feeling, Jian Chen’s eyes landed upon a thumb sized gem. This gem was perfectly round and glimmered with many different colors. There was a strange pattern within the stone that was particularly eye catching.

Jian Chen knew that this strange five colored stone was the reason why the Sword Spirits were so happy, meaning that this was not an ordinary stone.

Calling over the manager of the fourth floor, Jian Chen inquired about the price.

The manager of the Treasure Pavilion’s fourth floor was a white haired elder. Although he was quite old, both of his eyes shined brightly as if both pupils were a shining star. The manager looked at Jian Chen as

if to size him up before speaking with a grand smile, “My lord has such a sharp eye to be able to spot this special gem. This type of gem is known as the Multicolored Stone. Although this gem is seemingly small, it’s price is rather expensive compared to the other gems. It’s selling price is 15,000 purple coins.”

Jian Chen stifled his breath so that he would not be heard gasping in shock. This price was far too expensive; it was practically beyond what was believable.

Noticing the change in Jian Chen’s expression, the elder knew that Jian Chen had been intimidated by the price. With a smile, he said, “My lord, please do not look down upon the Multicolored Stone. Although I do not know what this stone is or what it is used for, but this is the absolute price.”

Swallowing his breath, Jian Chen tried to calm himself as he stared at the thumb sized stone. “Honored elder, could you please explain to me just what’s so special about this stone?”

“Then please allow this elder to explain it to you, my lord.” The elder cleared his throat with a cough before explaining, “If we are to disregard the auspicious light of the Multicolored Stone, it is already a stone of grace and refinement. Although it is only the size of a thumb, it is incomparably strong. Not a single item is able to leave a mark on its surface and its weight changes in accordance to the weather itself. Truly, this is a mysterious stone.”

Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat as he became interested before speaking with some doubt. “To be able to change weight in accordance to the weather? Honored elder, could you please explain this in detail?”

The manager of the fourth floor laughed, “My lord, while this Multicolored Stone has only come to our Walaurent City a few days ago, it has already been placed as merchandise for many people to see in our Treasure Pavilion. The stone’s mysterious grace has already been noted quite clearly to us.”

“On a day with clear skies, the Multicolored Stone will begin to glow five different colors as it is right now. When the weather is quite nasty or is raining heavily, then the stone will glow with an intensely bright luster that could light up the entire Treasure Pavilion. However, what must be carefully noted is that if the Multicolored Stone were to touch a single drop of water, then it will grow extremely heavy. Its weight will be so heavy that those without enough strength will be unable to pick it up.”

“Oh? It has this type of mysterious change?” Jian Chen asked with doubt.

By this point, the other men on the fourth floor had all heard the price of the Multicolored Stone and began to converge at the same spot to look at it.

“Not a single one of my words are false!” The elder nodded his head with conviction before saying, “This was found out because when the Multicolored Stone was dipped in water to polish it, it instantly grew so heavy that the stone fell a kilometer within the ground. It was only after our Treasure Pavilion hired a strong expert that the stone had been excavated once more with difficulty.”

“How fake is this, a stone that fell several hundred meters into the ground?”

“I’m sure this is nothing more than a scam, I don’t believe it at all...”

“Just what type of person is strong enough to be able to pull out a stone from that far below?”

Jian Chen didn’t say a word as the other men around him began to voice their doubts.

“Whether or not you believe me is up to you, but with the reputation of Treasure Pavilion on the line, it is below us to lie about such a thing.”

“I didn’t think that this stone would be such a mysterious object. I am quite taken by it, honored elder, I would like to buy this stone.” Jian Chen smiled at him.

Jian Chen’s actions had instantly made Ming Dong leap in shock. Grabbing at his clothes, he asked hurriedly, “Jian Chen, don’t be crazy! Even if this stone is as magical as they say, it isn’t worth the money they are asking for.”

Jian Chen chuckled before stating, “I have a reason for buying this stone.”

“But...even if this stone is so magical, it’s still 15,000 purple coins. This is far too expensive.” Ming Dong said, with this price, he didn’t feel that the stone was worth it.

“My lord, do you truly wish to spend 15,000 purple coins for the Multicolored Stone?” The manager looked at Jian Chen with a surprised look. This object truly was quite mysterious and had caught the eye of many people. The very moment each one of them saw the excessively high price, they would instantaneously lose interest. So this mysterious Multicolored Stone had been passed over and sent to Walaurent City’s Treasure Pavilion.

Jian Chen held out his Purple Card, “Honored elder, I truly wish to buy it.”

Seeing the Purple Card in Jian Chen’s hand, the manager looked at Jian Chen with disbelief as if trying to see if he was joking. Swiftly a smile appeared on his face as he took the Purple Card, “My lord is truly a positive person. This Multicolored Stone has been passed around within our Treasure Pavilion’s circle for dozens of years, but now it has finally found an owner.”

After that, the manager of the fourth floor immediately had someone bring a person from a nearby bank to come and take out 15,000 purple coins from the Purple Card. Then, the Multicolored Stone was given to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen took the thumb sized Multicolored Stone and looked at it closely. Although this stone was very small in his hands, he had a hard time imagining that with a drop of water, the stone would instantly become extremely heavy.

“In this huge world, nothing is truly too bizarre.” Jian Chen sighed to himself.

Suddenly, the Sword Spirits within his dantian pulsated once. At the same time, the Multicolored Stone in Jian Chen’s hands felt as if it was reacting to the Sword Spirits as five different colored lights burst out from the tiny stone. The entire fourth floor of the Treasure Pavilion was basked within it’s multicolored light. With the entire area illuminated, everyone within eyesight immediately felt wide awake as if in an instant, their spirit had suddenly grew stronger.

“Heavens, just what is happening?”

“What an auspicious light, this stone is truly a treasure!”

“What a complicated and mysterious stone this is to have such an effect. Ai, if I had known about this earlier, I would had bought it first.”

“How blind I am in order to miss such a treasure...”

Everyone on the fourth floor immediately began to talk to each other about the stone, causing the previously quiet area to become a noisy ground full of chatter. Everyone had been animatedly talking to each other while secretly regretting to themselves that they didn't have as sharp of an eye as Jian Chen who had spotted this treasure. Many of the men there had already started to look at the Multicolored Stone in Jian Chen's hand with an avaricious look.

“W-wh....what just happened?” The elderly manager of the Treasure Pavilion cried out in a stupefied manner. He had already been a manager for the Treasure Pavilion for many years and had researched many things. However, this situation right in front of him was the very first time he had ever see something like it.

Even in the strongest of storms, the Multicolored Stone wouldn't release such an intense light. Furthermore, he could tell that this multicolored glow of light was not like the usual light.

“Could it be, the Multicolored Stone and this young lord were destined to cross paths? Many people have seen this stone, but were instantly scared away from the prices. However this lord didn't even shy away from the thought of buying it.” The elderly manager secretly thought to himself. Right now, he didn't have a single word that he could say about this situation.

Jian Chen too had been shocked by the sudden rays of light from the Multicolored Stone. He reacted quickly and stored the stone within his Space Ring. As soon as the Multicolored Stone disappeared, the light that had illuminated the building instantly disappeared with it.

The men who were on the fourth floor of the Treasure Pavilion instantly snapped to awareness as well following the disappearance of the light.

“When the ray of light basked over me, I felt so comfortable. My head had never felt so awake!” A richly dressed man exclaimed as he walked over.

“That's right, I too felt that my mind has cleared up.”

“Good heavens, this isn't a lie, my spirit has strengthened many times over!”

Straight away, as soon as everyone became coherent, they each discovered a new change in their body. The look of joy on their faces could hardly be contained as they cried out their findings in shock.

“Sh\*t!” Seeing everyone's reaction, Jian Chen's heart immediately stopped beating for a moment. Grabbing Ming Dong, the two flew toward the stairs so that they wouldn't stay in this place any longer.

“Halt!” A middle aged man immediately sensed that Jian Chen was about to escape. With a single shout, he bounded forward to block his path.

Chapter 278: Lord Tian Jue

Jian Chen's expression grew dark as he looked at the middle aged man in his path with a sharp glare, “Sire, just what is the meaning of this?”

As if sensing the ominous look on Jian Chen's face, the man gave a bright laugh, “Please don't misunderstand me fellow brother. I am a member of the Sidav clan. The Multicolored Stone you just



bought is of interest to me. So as the representative of the Sidav clan, I hope that you will sell the Multicolored Stone to me.”

By this point, the other men had been brought back to full awareness. Quickly, they all surrounded Jian Chen as they began to bother him with offers to buy the stone. Each price was higher than the last.

Inwardly sighing, Jian Chen had been worried that such an event would occur. With the unique ability of the stone, many people wouldn't be able to stop themselves from trying to buy it from him with exorbitant prices.

Although they had all heard about the explanation from the manager, they hadn't though there was enough truth behind it for the price to be worth purchasing. It was only when the Multicolored Stone had released that strange glow and they all experienced their spirit suddenly increasing that they truly wished to buy this mysterious treasure.

“Everyone, I am truly sorry, but I am not selling this Multicolored Stone.” Jian Chen addressed everyone

“Brother, you might as well sell it to me. I am willing to buy it for 30,000 purple coins. As it is, the Multicolored Stone is useless for you and will lead you to countless of headaches. Don't be so stubborn.” A pigtailed elder spoke out in a way that made him feel as if he was only looking for Jian Chen's best interest.

“That's right, fellow brother, this Multicolored Stone is not safe in your hands, you would do best to sell it to me.”

“The Multicolored Stone will attract too much attention for you, who knows if someone will try to kill you for it? The gains do not make up for your loss. You should sell it to my Maple clan, we are willing to buy it for 35,000 purple coins.”

Everyone went began to bid even higher and higher.

Suddenly, a loud voice called out from the back, “This Multicolored Stone is something I desire, you all shouldn't bother fighting me for it.”

Hearing this, the noisy clamor instantly stopped. Everyone turned toward the back of the crowd to see just who could dare to be so arrogant. To dare say such arrogant words in a crowd like this? Everyone that was able to enter the fourth floor of Treasure Pavilion were not ordinary people of ordinary statuses by any means.

Only two men wearing white robes could be seen walking forward before stopping right in front of Jian Chen. One of the youths was around twenty eight years old, around Ming Dong's age. The middle aged man by his side stood with a firm expression on his face. Both of his eyes had a lively glow to them as he stared at the crowd with a powerful expression.

“So it was the young lord, Tian Jue...”

As soon as everyone saw the twenty eight year old youth, their faces all changed. Many of them had even began to smile enchantingly at the youth as if they were good friends. The others had dark expressions on their faces and sighed as they realized they no longer had a chance to obtain the Multicolored Stone.

“Ai, how did I come across the young lord Tian Jue here? It’s all over, the Multicolored Stone won’t be mine any more. Even if this young brother decided to give it to me, I’d have to in turn present it to the young lord.” A middle aged man spoke dejectedly.

“Haha, so it’s lord Tian Jue, I didn’t think to see you here at the Treasure Pavilion today...”

“Since the young lord has interest in this stone, then we won’t disturb you any longer....”

Everyone began to talk once more, but before where they had been fighting each other to buy the stone, they had now all withdrawn their offers. Not a single one had a displeased look on their faces as they smiled at the young lord.

Seeing how everyone was happy to see him, the youth stepped forward toward Jian Chen and spoke with a haughty tone, “Hand over the Multicolored Stone. I will recompense you for your 15,000 purple coins later.”

Narrowing his eyes, Jian Chen spoke out with an evenly voice, “My apologies, but I’ve said that I will not be selling the Multicolored Stone.”

Hearing that, Tian Jue grew angry as he stared at Jian Chen with an intense glare. “Kid, do you know who I am? Within Walaurent City, I, Tian Jue, am able to get anything I wish for.”

Those words of Tian Jue had made even Jian Chen angry a little. Staring back at him with his own intense stare, Jian Chen leaked out some killing intent as he growled, “I don’t care for who you are, if I said I am not selling, then I am not selling.”

The threatening tone in Jian Chen’s voice had caused the entire floor to become stunned with disbelief. Even Tian Jue himself was speechless for a moment. He had never seen such a person talk to him in such a manner before.

Recollecting himself, he gave a furious smile before glaring at Jian Chen, “Good! Very good! Kid, you have guts to speak to me in such a manner. In fact, you are the first in Walaurent City!” Tian Jue looked to the middle aged man at his side, “Guard Cheng, take this arrogant child in! Hmph, to think that he would dare talk to me like that, he must be tired of living.”

“Yes, my lord!” The man replied before charging at Jian Chen with both of his hands outstretched to grab at him.

With a snort, Jian Chen brought out his Light Wind Sword. With a swish of his right hand, the sword disappeared in a silver arc of light before stopping right next to the man’s neck. The speed was so fast that no one had any idea just what Jian Chen had done in that split second.

The middle aged man came to a screeching halt as he stared in disbelief at Jian Chen. His heart began to beat wildly as sweat began to drip down his forehead in a concentrated amount. Even his face had begun to pale.

He hadn’t been able to detect Jian Chen’s movements at all. Against his sword, he was powerless to do anything about it. It was only when he felt the Light Wind Sword come across his neck that he had noticed that Jian Chen had struck out. If Jian Chen had truly wanted to kill him, then he wouldn’t be able to do anything about it.

After making a breakthrough to becoming a Middle Great Saint Master, Jian Chen had grown faster in both body and sword. With this man being at the Peak Great Saint Master level, unless Jian Chen had been lazy, there would be no way for the man to dodge it.

Seeing this sight, everyone on the fourth floor had been shocked and looked at Jian Chen with both regret and sympathy.

“Outrageous! To even strike at my guard? You are truly asking for trouble.” Tian Jue boomed with a furious anger.

“Just who’s making such a racket? How annoying, even my eardrums are vibrating because of the racket.” Just after Tian Jue had roared, another angry voice came from the direction of the stairs.

Upon the new voice, everyone on the fourth floor immediately looked toward the stairs with a pitying glance as they whispered to each other.

“Just who said that, is he trying to die..?”

“Whoever spoke out just now should have looked before he acted. Right now, just a single word could offend the young lord Tian Jue...”

“The lord Tian Jue is already so angry, this newcomer surely doesn’t know by now, but he has offended lord Tian Jue. Truly, he has chosen a bitter apple to take a bite of.”

As was expected, the moment Tian Jue heard that line, his face grew exceedingly malicious as he started toward the stairwell with some killing intent pouring out of his body. “Who dare’s say such words, hurry the f\*ck up and show your face!” Now that he had been provoked for the third time, Tian Jue’s face had grown extremely dark with anger.

Right in front of everyone’s eyes, a sturdy looking man slowly walked up the stairs toward them.

However, the very moment everyone saw his appearance, their faces all went slack. Each one couldn’t find the words to say to each other thanks to their shock. When they had heard Tian Jue speak before, they were all smiling to see what would happen next, but the smiles on their faces had instantly been wiped away and were instead replaced with a look of utmost horror.

“Q-Qin...Qin Xiao, so it was you?” Seeing the sturdy looking youth walk up the stairs. Tian Jue’s originally furious self had instantaneously grown fearful.

The person that had walked up the stairs was the young lord of the Tianqin clan, Qin Xiao.

Qin Xiao laughed coldly as he looked at Tian Jue, “I was wondering why there was such a racket; so it was you all along. Tian Jue, you have been quite audacious these past few days to even swear at me. Did you wish to receive a thrashing then?”

“Y-you...” Tian Jue’s face turned a paleish green at Qin Xiao’s words as he pointed at him with a trembling finger. Unfortunately, he truly feared Qin Xiao enough to never swear at him willingly. He was all too familiar with Qin Xiao’s temperament. If he were to talk back, then Qin Xiao wouldn’t be afraid to beat him up in front of all these people.

“This one greets the lord!”

“This one greets lord Qin Xiao!”

At that moment, everyone on the fourth floor immediately began to greet Qin Xiao excitedly as if he was a dear friend to them.

Tian Jue’s chest moved up and down violently as his mind raced to think of something since he couldn’t talk back to Qin Xiao. Suddenly, a light of realization flashed across his mind as he turned around to look at Jian Chen who was standing right next to him. With a cold sneer appearing on his face, he spoke out, “Qin Xiao, this clueless brat has insulted the honor of our Tianqin clan and even dared to strike against my guard! Your timing is just right, we should bring him to heel straight away!”

But even as he said that, Tian Jue chuckled to himself inwardly, “Qin Xiao, while you yourself are quite strong, I will be able to knock you down a peg in public!” He had seen Jian Chen’s strength personally, so he was trying to borrow Jian Chen’s strength to offset Qin Xiao’s smile.

Hearing this, Qin Xiao looked over to where Jian Chen was holding his sword against the neck of the guard. At this, Qin Xiao didn’t even need to know what was happening. Instantly, his face turned red with anger as his fist quickly smashed against Tian Jue’s chest with a resounding thunderous clap, causing him to stagger back a few steps before falling to the ground.

“F\*cker, Tian Jue, you do want to be beaten up to even provoke my brother!” Qin Xiao roared in anger as he swore in front of everyone else.

#### Chapter 279: The Trouble Brought by the Five Colored Stone

Tian Jue wasn’t fast enough to respond to Qin Xiao’s angry fist, so all he could do was to stare speechlessly at Jian Chen and Qin Xiao. Opening and closing his mouth several times, he cried out in confusion, “Qin Xiao, wh-what are you saying? He...he is your...brother?”

Right now if Tian Jue had wanted to die, then he would have the solution right in front of him. Originally, he had wanted to use Jian Chen in order to make Qin Xiao lose some face by pitting them against each other. What he didn’t think was that with this sudden development, not only had he insulted the sworn brother of Qin Xiao, but he had also lost his chance of Jian Chen teaching Qin Xiao a lesson. Furthermore, he had even lost the ability to use the might of his clan to threaten Jian Chen because if Qin Xiao were to pick a side, he would stand by Jian Chen. If that were to happen, then Tian Jue would have no other chance.

Qin Xiao strode toward Tian Jue and landed another strike onto his chest. The fist contained such a strong amount of power that it forced Tian Jue to fly back another few steps. If it were not for his own strength, then he would had been forced to fly farther away and fall to the floor on his back.

After another two relentless strikes on his body, Tian Jue couldn’t take it anymore and shot a glare full of furious anger, “Qin Xiao, don’t be too excessive!”

“Excessive? You’re the excessive one! Tian Jue you brat, after trying to bully my sworn brother, how dare you say I am the excessive one! Hmph, the sworn brother of mine cannot be so easily bullied.” Qin Xiao roared with anger. Not even giving Tian Jue any face, he continued to dominate Tian Jue.

Everyone on the fourth floor all stood far away as they looked at the scene with an interested expression. Not a single one of them had a surprised expression on their faces as if they had expected this outcome.

“Qin Xiao, you speak nonsense, just how did I bully your sworn brother?” Tian Jue spoke out loud with an indignant expression as if he was being treated unfairly. He did however try to use his clan’s might to threaten Jian Chen and force the Multicolored Stone from him. Unfortunately, not only was Jian Chen not afraid of him, but he had even struck out at his guard, causing Tian Jue to feel quite vexed now that he had run out of options.

“Tian Jue, don’t even try to speak. Don’t think that I don’t know just what type of person you are exactly, you have bullied so many people in Walaurent City long enough. Even if I didn’t know, then today would have been the day. To think you would have the audacity to try and bully my brother, you really are trying to eat the heart of a lion and the guts of the leopard! Tian Jue you brat, today is the day I will have Elder Tian teach you a good lesson!” Qin Xiao roared before slamming both fists into Tian Jue once more.

Tian Jue was much weaker than Qin Xiao so he was completely powerless to act against him. Qin Xiao’s fists landed on Tian Jue squarely with a loud sound. However while the fists seemed to hurt, they were not all that serious since even Qin Xiao didn’t dare hurt Tian Jue too much.

“Qin Xiao, Just you wait, when we get back my father will definitely hear of this. You will be punished!” Tian Jue tried to dodge Qin Xiao’s fists while crying out at him.

“Hmph, I’ve lost count of how many times you’ve said this.” Qin Xiao laughed with disdain.

Even Jian Chen was looking at this event right in front of him with a stunned look. He hadn’t thought that the arrogant Tian Jue that was trying to force him to sell the Multicolored Stone earlier would be soundly beaten to such a degree. All of his arrogant bravado had been instantly blown away.

Right now, Jian Chen could guess that Tian Jue and Qin Xiao were both from the same Tianqin clan. Qin Xiao was from the “Qin” family, and Tian Jue was from the “Tian” family.

Slowly absorbing his Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen watched Qin Xiao chase after Tian Jue with a small bitter smile. The Tian Jue of right now was a completely different person.

“Brother Qin Xiao, let’s just forget about this matter.” Jian Chen spoke out to Qin Xiao.

Qin Xiao stopped chasing Tian Jue for a moment and dusted his hands, “Since it seems that my brother here wishes to forgive you, Tian Jue, let’s see if you will try to bully him again. If so, I, Qin Xiao, won’t let it go next time.”

Tian Jue looked at Qin Xiao with some fear lingering in his eyes. He didn’t dare be angry and speak to him since he was a man that bullied the weak and feared the strong. Qin Xiao’s strength and position within the clan was far beyond his own. Practically everyone in the clan cared for him as if he was a beloved pearl. This type of care was far better than what a mediocre person at cultivation like he could get.

Shortly afterward, Tian Jue shot a glare at Jian Chen with a dark look. Today’s events and humiliations he had received were placed solely on Jian Chen.

Walking up to Jian Chen, Qin Xiao looked to see if any harm had befallen Jian Chen before slapping him on the shoulder, "Brother Jian Chen, are you alright?"

"Haha, I'm fine. It's a good thing brother Qin Xiao was able to come so fast, otherwise, I fear of the consequences." Jian Chen laughed. With that, he looked toward the two men that were guarding the stairway. Those two men were still standing expressionlessly right over at the stairs with a cold stare, but seeing how Jian Chen was somehow good friends with Qin Xiao, they could only hesitate for a moment before slinking away without a word.

After this experience in the Treasure Pavilion, Jian Chen, Ming Dong and Qin Xiao walked out of the building to return back to the Tianqin clan.

Within the Tianqin clan's compound, Jian Chen and Ming Dong were both led to another nice looking residential area. This time Qin Xiao's compound was even closer to them than before.

When Jian Chen entered his own room, he closed the doors and the windows so that all of the light in the room grew dim.

Sitting on his bed, Jian Chen took out the Multicolored Stone that he had bought while at the Treasure Pavilion from his Space belt. The moment the Multicolored Stone appeared in his hand, the Sword Spirits within his dantian began to shake once more, sending a happy feeling telepathically to Jian Chen's mind.

At the same time, the Multicolored Stone began to emit a rich light that filled the room. Immediately, the dusky room was basked in a multicolored light that penetrated through the cracks in the wall and escaped outward. Jian Chen himself was basked in the glow that was a variety of colors from the stone.

The patrolmen that were guarding the area nearby could only see the sudden spectrum of light that shot out from Jian Chen's room. With a surprised cry, the captain of the guards immediately ordered, "Quick, go and inform the patriarch!", sending a guard away to quickly make the report.

Within the room, Jian Chen continued to bathe in the light. His spirit was feeling extremely happy now and he could feel it expanding to an even larger amount more than ever before. Furthermore, what had truly shocked him even more was that a mental image began to appear clearly in his mind. This sight that appeared in his mind was somehow the entire outside area around his room. It appeared like a wall scroll within his mind and Jian Chen could somehow "see" a single speck that was an ant crawl on the ground.

"Just what is happening? How powerful and mysterious is this Multicolored Stone?" Jian Chen cried out in shock.

Suddenly, the Sword Spirits within his dantian shook once more as an azure and violet glow of light appeared outside of his body. In a flash, they enveloped the Multicolored Stone before disappearing back into his body so that both the light of the Multicolored Stone and the azure and violet glow disappeared.

With the disappearance of the Multicolored Stone, the light from the stone disappeared from the world as well before entering into the world inside Jian Chen's mind through a mysterious manner. Even the image of the outside world he was seeing had disappeared.

When Jian Chen saw the empty spot on his palm, his face immediately went blank as he cried out, "Where's the stone?!" Right now was the exact moment that Jian Chen had realized the Multicolored Stone was nowhere to be found.

Jian Chen began to feel worry in his heart, the Multicolored Stone was a rare treasure which could increase one's spirit. If it were to disappear without a trace, then that would be a heavy blow to him.

Anyone that were to just receive such a rare treasure, one that could be used to improve themselves, would surely not be able to take it if it were to disappear without a trace.

A flash of light went off in his mind as he realized something and sighed in relief. The Multicolored Stone didn't disappear without a trace, it had just been brought into his dantian and was being enveloped by the Sword Spirits.

Dong dong dong!"

Suddenly, the door to his room began to shake, causing Jian Chen to immediately grow serious. He knew that the light from the Multicolored Stone had been discovered.

"Bang!" A large sound rang out. Seeing that Jian Chen wasn't going to open the door, the men outside kicked it down and began to pile in, filling up the room.

Among this group was a single elder with a lively look to his face. There was a long beard that grew under his chin; and behind the elder, there were several other middle aged men that all seemed quite extraordinary.

With just one look Jian Chen could tell that the elder standing in front of him held a very high position within the clan.

The elder smiled as he looked at Jian Chen, "I've heard that Qin Xiao had made a good friend yesterday. Little brother, I presume that person would be you."

Slowly getting off the bed, Jian Chen looked at the broken remains of the door for a moment before cupping his hands in respect, "This one is named Jian Chen, I am honored to greet the elder!"

With another smile, the elder looked around the room, but there was nothing of value to be seen.

"Little brother, I just saw a strange spectrum of light come out from here not too long ago, what sort of treasure might be the cause of it? I am quite interested in what caused that effect, would it be possible for this old man see?" He asked.

## Chapter 280: A Threat

Jian Chen's face became embarrassed. If the elder had requested it earlier, then he would have been able to take out the Multicolored Stone, but the Multicolored Stone was now within his dantian and held by the Sword Spirits, meaning there was no way he could take it out.

Seeing the troubled look on Jian Chen's face, the elder's eyes narrowed for a moment before speaking with a slightly annoyed tone, "Little brother, you need not worry. No matter how precious the treasure is, I, Elder Wu will not covet it. I only wish to take a look at what exactly the treasure is."

“Honored elder, this one is truly sorry, but I cannot take out the Multicolored Stone.” Jian Chen forced a smile on his face. The appearance of this group was unfortunately quite untimely. They had only just arrived when the Multicolored Stone had entered his dantian and gave him no chance to explain. After all, this was an unfathomable event, even if he were to tell the truth, no one would be able to believe him.

“Hmph, you can’t take it out? Could it be that you are worried our honored elder here will try to take your lousy treasure?”

“Elder Wu holds a decisive amount of power within our Tianqin clan, just how could he be jealous of your treasure?”

“Your treasure is no more than several coins, just how would our Elder Wu see this as a coveted item?”

The elder didn’t say a word as the men behind him began to noisily criticize Jian Chen.

Jian Chen’s expression darkened for a moment before cupping his hands, “Elder Wu, this one doesn’t wish to hide the treasure from the honored elder, but because there has been an unexpected change, I cannot show it.” Jian Chen spoke evenly with just the tiniest amount of frost lying underneath. If the other side persisted on trying to press him, then he wouldn’t give them face.

“Don’t be saying your empty words here, just hurry up and bring out the item for our Elder Wu. With his status in the clan, just what would he gain from wanting your item?” A youth spoke out icily toward Jian Chen.

“Get out of the way, let me through!” At this moment, a roar came out from behind, causing everyone to turn. A sturdy looking youth came running through the crowd into the room, and the moment everyone saw him, they all began to move out of the way as they cupped their hands together and said, “My lord!”

The person that was rushing over was Qin Xiao.

“Nephew Xiao, just what brings you here?” Seeing the youth, Elder Wu had a smile on his face as he asked him the question with a gentle tone.

Qin Xiao had a considerable amount of influence within his clan, and even though Elder Wu himself had a strong amount of sway in the clan, he still didn’t dare to be too excessive with him.

Qin Xiao shot a glance at Elder Wu and spoke with a stiff tone, “Elder Wu, I should be the one asking you that question. This is the home of my sworn brother, Jian Chen. Just what is a large group doing here?” With that, he looked at the group behind Elder Wu and commanded angrily, “Everyone here should leave immediately!”

Each one of the men behind Elder Wu looked at each other, unsure of what to do. It was only when Elder Wu shot them a cold glare that they all stood where they were.

Seeing this, Qin Xiao had a furious look on his face, just as he was about to give the command once more, a dignified sounding voice suddenly called out from outside the house.

“I want everyone out here, now!”



After hearing this loud and dignified voice, everyone's heart leaped into their throats. Although they didn't see who the person was, each one of them was extremely familiar with that voice to know that it belonged to the patriarch of Tianqin clan.

"We greet the patriarch!"

"We greet the patriarch!"

The group outside began to call out to the patriarch respectfully before obediently walking out of the room. With the words of the patriarch, not a single person would dare to remain inside the room.

The white robed patriarch had a few middle aged man standing behind him quietly as they entered the room.

"This one greets the patriarch!" Elder Wu spoke respectfully.

"Father, you've finally come! Elder Wu and his group of unruly men have barged into the room of brother Jian Chen's without a purpose! If news of this were to be spread out, then just how would our Tianqin clan have the face to have anymore guests?" Qin Xiao spoke with dissatisfaction.

The patriarch looked at Elder Wu and spoke calmly, "Elder Wu, this little brother is currently the guest of our Tianqin clan. You barging into his residency is not an acceptable behavior. If the city were to hear about this, then what face will our Tianqin clan have? Hurry up and apologize to brother Jian Chen!"

Elder Wu's face grew troubled as he looked at the patriarch with disbelief. He truly didn't understand as an honored elder that he was, just why did he need to apologize to the younger generation?

There was conflict in his heart, although he did not dare to disobey the patriarch's order, he could only give an unwilling apology to Jian Chen.

"Little brother, I've only heard from my guards that a bright amount of light had emanated from your room, so I came by to see what just happened." The patriarch gave a small smile to Jian Chen, his voice was rather kind, and did not carry around the arrogant voice of a leader of the clan.

There was a forced smile on Jian Chen's face; what a disaster this Multicolored Stone had brought! Just when he had bought the stone from the Treasure Pavilion, he had already come across trouble. It was fortunate that Qin Xiao had come at that moment, or else the situation would have grown dire. As for this time, it was fortunate that even the patriarch of the clan had come by.

"Patriarch Qin, this one recently went to the Treasure Pavilion and bought a strange stone. The multicolored light that the guards saw came from that very stone." Jian Chen explained.

"Oh? Is there is such a stone like that?" The patriarch spoke with interest before looking at Jian Chen.

"Little brother, I don't know what type of stone could have such a mysterious multicolored light like that. Would it be possible for me to see what the stone is?" He said with some eagerness.

"Patriarch Qin, that stone has somehow entered my body, so I am unable to to take it out." Jian Chen spoke with a helpless look.

"What, it's inside your body?" The patriarch cried out in shock and a little disbelief.

“It would seem that this stone is a Supreme Treasure. I’ve seen from records of the ancient past that say there are a few Supreme Treasures that are capable of being absorbed into one’s body. The effects from that are quite magical.” A white haired elder exclaimed from behind the patriarch.

“‘Supreme Treasure?’ Elder Zhuo, just how strong is a Supreme Treasure?” Turning toward the elder, he consulted the elder for clarification.

The elder shook his head, “Patriarch, any ancient records that have information regarding Supreme Treasures are exceedingly rare. Even I only know bits and pieces of it.”

Hearing that, the patriarch had a disappointed look on his face as he looked at Jian Chen without a word. With a small sigh, he said, “Little brother, seeing how you were able to come across such a treasure, then that must be in your destiny. Remember, while you are guilt free of any crime, others will be envious of it. I’ve heard that while in the Treasure Pavilion, many people were after your treasure. So you must be careful or else someone will try to steal it away from you.”

“This one thanks the patriarch for his warning.” Jian Chen replied respectfully.

With that, the patriarch and his men all left the area without a single word more about the Multicolored Stone.

“Brother Jian Chen, with such a precious gem on you, you must take care of yourself. While no one would dare openly try to steal it from you in Walaurent City, the moment you leave the city it will be a completely different matter. I cannot say for certain you will be safe from any person wishing for the treasure.” Qin Xiao said seriously.

After that, even Qin Xiao left the room. Ming Dong had came by some time before to investigate just what had happened, and after making sure that everything was alright, he too returned to his room to continue cultivating.

After some men from the Tianqin clan came by to restore the broken door, Jian Chen closed the door once more and began to cultivate earnestly. Before the Gathering of the Mercenaries, he had to increase his strength as much as possible.

In a flash, day turned to night. Late at night in the middle of the darkness, Jian Chen continued to absorb the energy from the monster cores into his body.

“Creak!” The sound of Jian Chen’s door opening could be heard. Following that quiet sound, a dark figure could be seen walking in.

Slowly opening his eyes, Jian Chen looked at the dark figure calmly, “For sire to visit me in the night, just what business might you have with me?” Although Jian Chen was in the middle of cultivating, he was always on constant vigilance, monitoring his surroundings. So when this person entered his room, he could tell.

Despite there not being a single candle light, the figure was able to walk to the table and sit down without a single problem. Then, the sound of an elderly voice could be heard, “Jian Chen, I will be straight to the point with you. I wish to buy your Multicolored Stone, just how much will it take for you to sell it?”

Jian Chen laughed, "So it is Elder Wu. However, you have come to be disappointed tonight, Elder Wu. I've already said in the day, the Multicolored Stone has already entered my body and is out of my control."

"Hmph, don't quibble around with me, Jian Chen. Do you really think that I will believe your c\*ck and bull story? I don't wish to mince words with you, that Multicolored Stone will only bring you trouble, and sooner or later, it will spell out your end. Are you going to sell it or not?" Elder Wu had begun to lose his patience.

Jian Chen's face grew dark at Elder Wu's words. Now that he was saying such words, Jian Chen no longer felt the need to be courteous to him, with a cold tone, "It's not for sale!"

A small sliver of killing intent began to leak out from Elder Wu's body. Slapping the table lightly, he laughed coldly, "Very well. I hope you don't come to regret this, Jian Chen." With those words, Elder Wu left the room.