

Chaotic 311

Chapter 311: Gathering of the Five Experts (Two)

Jian Chen's sword struck out immediately as it left behind a single mirror image. Slowly, the mirror image turned into a dense net of mirror images that enshrouded the enemy. Several metallic clangs could be heard as the weapons struck against each other in a continuous motion, the energy scattering around the area and leaving a mess.

"This youth is quite strong if he's able to fight Zhe Gu to a standstill." The fire sword wielding youth muttered under his breath with some shock.

"This youth is quite complex to be able to fight Zhe Gu on a scale like this without being put at a disadvantage. Geniuses are too scary; when he grows older, he will definitely be a person of major influence and power. My lord, should we go rope him into our grace?" The purple-robed man asked the fire sword-wielding youth.

The sword wielder looked on with a flash of killing intent, "With his strength, he'll definitely try to fight for the number one spot in the Gathering of the Mercenaries; he is a rival."

With that, the purple robed man understood the meaning of the youth's words and went quiet.

On the other side, a youth around the age of thirty years old wore a white robe with golden linings. Both of his hands were wrapped up against his chest as he watched the two fight, "It seems Jiede Wukang's men have provoked a decent fighter. I didn't think he'd be so young though."

"That's right; that youth is quite decent if he's able to fight Zhe Gu to a standstill. If his strength was limited by just a small amount, it would be his defeat for sure. While Jiede Wukang's strength isn't as good as Zhe Gu, with a Ruler Armament, he can only be matched up against others with a Ruler Armament. Otherwise, no one aside from a Heaven Saint Master would be an opponent for him." The white robe man by his side said.

"It would seem that the youth will die here. When it comes to Jiede Wukang's temper, absolutely no one in this world can escape from it after provoking him."

"That might not be the case here lord Qin Ji. Do you see that yellow-robed girl behind him?" The man spoke with a smile.

Hearing that, the one named Qin Ji turned to look at the girl. Unable to move his eyes away from the sight, he said, "What a stunning girl; her face is as cold as ice. Her eyes even give off a grim feeling; this is absolutely not a simple girl."

The middle aged man laugh and said, "Lord Qin Ji, do you see the golden longbow on her back?"

Qin Ji immediately looked away from the girl and onto the longbow on her back. he said nothing after.

The middle aged man said, "I don't recognize what bow that is, but I can only assume it's not an ordinary one. It isn't her Saint Weapon because I can't detect any Saint Force from it. So, I can only guess that bow is actually a..."

"Second uncle, could it be that bow is a..." Qin Ji spoke with shock.

"I don't dare confirm it." The man shook his head

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"First Technique of the Divine Spear's Three Techniques—Shadows of the Spear!" A voice cried out as the middle aged man's spear began to fill the air with its shadow, stabbing toward Jian Chen. The shadows of the spear were numerous, making it difficult to tell which one was real and which one was fake. Each one of them were like the real one as it released a strong amount of pressure.

This technique was almost parallel to Jian Chen's sword strikes.

"That's an Earth Tier Battle Skill!" A person cried out.

"An Earth Tier Battle Skill? That's second to a Heaven Tier Battle Skill; I didn't think I would be able to see one today!"

"I've heard a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was enough to change the winds of battle and even distort the world. Who knows what an Earth Tier Battle Skill will be capable of?"

Jian Chen let out a sneer as he closed his eyes. His right hand continued to blur as the sword in his hand covered the air with phantom images of the sword that rivaled the spear's in numbers.

"Ding ding ding ding...."

Following a series of metallic sounds in a short amount of time, the man and Jian Chen continued to fight for a hundred blows. The two were traveling at speeds so fast they were almost invisible to the naked eye. The only difference was that while the man was relying on his battle skill in order to strike at such high speeds, Jian Chen was relying on his own strength to lash out at equal speeds.

"What a fast speed!" The fire sword youth cried out in shock.

"His sword is too fast; even I find it hard to keep track of the real one." The purple-robed man spoke in amazement.

"What a fast sword; just what did he do in order to reach a speed where he could fight against the battle skill of Zhe Gu?" Qin Ji asked in amazement.

"Even I'm curious about this. A Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master with the wind attribute would find it difficult to achieve such a speed. His Saint Force is clearly not of the wind attribute, yet he is still able to achieve such a speed. It makes me feel too astonished; just what is helping his arm swing that fast?"

"Second Technique of the Divine Spear—Divine Dragon's Tail!"

A bright red spear flew into the air before smashing downward with an extreme amount of force onto Jian Chen. At the same time, an intense amount of pressure pressed down onto him as if it was a heavy stone, causing Jian Chen to feel unable to advance a single step.

Without fear, Jian Chen lifted his sword and with a large amount of Sword Qi, he met the spear head on.

"Bang!"

Following a loud explosion, a large ripple of energy surrounded Jian Chen as he was forced back several steps with his arms trembling slightly. Following his backward momentum, two small ditches could be seen from the drag.

As an Earth Tier Battle Skill, the second technique and first technique were equal in strength almost.

“Third Technique — All Conquering Divine Spear!”

Just as Jian Chen regained his footing, Zhe Gu roared once more as the fire red-colored light began to shine brightly. A large amount of compressed berserk energy began to form on the tip of the spear. Jian Chen suddenly felt as if that this spear was undodgeable as if the spear was locked on onto him. The only option left was to take it head on.

Jian Chen closed his eyes slowly as he carefully monitored Zhe Gu’s position. At this moment, his “Spirit” and the Light Wind Sword in his hand established a deep connection that caused the sword to grow colder as a bright amount of Sword Qi burst out. As the sword was completely enveloped, it suddenly left Jian Chen’s hand with a burst of silver light before shooting forward.

“Bang!”

Another loud bang could be heard as the compressed energy on the spear’s tip lost its equilibrium. Exploding violently, the explosion looked as if there was a beautiful flower on the spear. It continued to expand as the bright red light stunned everyone that saw it.

The dirt from the ground went flying as the powerful energy scattered through the entire area and forced everyone around a hundred meters back while Jian Chen and Zhe Gu were drowned within the energy.

In half a moment, the energy dissipated completely, revealing Jian Chen and Zhe Gu’s positions to everyone else. The two men looked completely intact and had only suffered a small bit of damage from the energy blast with their clothes a bit disheveled. The binding on Jian Chen’s hair had already been lost, causing Jian Chen’s long hair to dance in the hurricane-like wind. In his right hand was the same silver Light Wind Sword.

Right in front of him, Zhe Gu remained in his spear-wielding stance while his body continued to remain in that position without moving. The hair that used to reach down to his waist had been severed so that only the hair from the neck up remained.

Suddenly, Zhe Gu’s throat began to show some blood before a small thin line began to expand across his throat. In a split second, the line became bright red in color, and, in the next second, Zhe Gu’s entire head separated from his body and fell to the ground.

Everyone looking at this spectacle went into an uproar as they all looked at Jian Chen and Zhe Gu’s corpse with complete and utter shock.

In that split second, they all didn’t know what had happened. They could all see that Zhe Gu had launched the final attack of his Earth Tier Battle Skills, but Jian Chen had neither died nor suffered any heavy injuries. They hadn’t expected this outcome where Jian Chen would stand without a scratch after the Earth Tier Battle Skill was released. Even more so, they didn’t imagine that the unbelievably strong Zhe Gu would have his head drop to the ground.

Just how did Zhe Gu die?

What happened in that one split second?

Everyone began to think about these questions as they swirled around in their minds.

“To dare kill one of our Jiede Clansmen, you are seeking death!” In that moment, a furious person roared as a thirty-year-old youth with a meter-long sword flew at Jian Chen. A fire-like Saint Force began to billow out from him, causing everyone to look at him with shock.

“What a strong burst of energy!”

“Could he be a Heaven Saint Master?”

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A few of the Earth Saint Masters who thought themselves as the strongest began to look on with shock.

Even Jian Chen’s face grew deathly serious as he saw the Ruler Armament in the youth’s hand. This would be the second Ruler Armament he had seen in this place, and the both of them were swords of the fire element.

“Die!” The youth stared at Jian Chen as he swung down his Ruler Armament.

Jian Chen was already familiar with what a Ruler Armament was, so without daring to meet it head on, he retreated backward. At the same time, a bright golden light flashed from behind as it flew toward the Ruler Armament.

Chapter 312: Gathering of the Five Experts (Three)

The golden light that appeared behind Jian Chen suddenly struck against the Ruler Armament with a loud ear ringing sound. Another blast of energy flew out from the collision and spread out toward everyone watching. Those with the strength of a Great Saint Master within a hundred meters were instantly sent flying away. Against such an intense amount of energy, only those with an Earth Saint Master level of strength would be able to stand their ground.

The golden light that had struck against the youth’s Ruler Armament caused him to be shocked before the explosion and shockwave sent him flying back several meters. When he regained his footing, his face was already beginning to pale.

Ruler Armaments were extremely strong, and when two Ruler Armaments clashed in such a close proximity, even an Earth Saint Master would be hit with a strong feedback. That recent explosion that happened right in front of the youth’s eyes had clearly dealt some minor damage to him, but because his strength wasn’t all that strong, if he were to discard his Ruler Armament, he would be weaker than Zhe Gu.

The youth holding the Ruler Armament looked at the longbow wielding girl behind Jian Chen with a terrified look as he spoke out, stuttering, “Rul-Ruler Arma-Armament!”

The girl didn’t reply to the man and lowered her bow slightly. Then, her hand gripped the longbow tightly and prepared to fire off a second arrow.

"I didn't think there'd be another Ruler Armament here, let alone a longbow modeled one." The two meter fire sword wielding man spoke with amazement toward the longbow.

Qin Ji let out a long sigh as he stared at the sight with a complicated look, "Second uncle, it seems that your guess was correct, that longbow is definitely a Ruler Armament."

The middle aged man standing right next to Qin Ji smiled faintly, "I truly didn't think that longbow would be a Ruler Armament. How unexpected, that means there are six Ruler Armaments here. The chances of killing those magical beasts have just risen, it is a shame that Zhe Gu has died, taking out a good amount of our forces."

Qin Ji laughed, "Second uncle, although Zhe Gu has died, another person with an unexpected amount of strength has appeared. It seems to me that he is by no means weaker and will be a great boost to our strength."

"That is correct."

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The appearance of the Solunar Bow caused the youth who came out to avenge the death of Zhe Gu to waver before standing still and shouting, "Who are you?"

"That is my question to you." Jian Chen spoke out calmly. Although he was afraid of getting hit with a Ruler Armament, he didn't show it on his face.

The youth looked at Jian Chen with disdain before looking back to the girl and spoke proudly, "This one is called Jiede Wukang." Within this isolated world, Jiede Wukang's name had been known to everyone as one of the five experts.

Jian Chen who had been scoffed by Jiede Wukang laughed coldly, "So you're Jiede Wukang, you're nothing much then. If you were to go without your Ruler Armament, then you would not even be an opponent for me to kill."

"You! You are courting death!" Jian Chen's words reversed the scale of Jiede Wukang, causing him to immediately blow up in anger. Holding his Ruler Armament, he flew at Jian Chen, but before he could get far with his outstretched Ruler Armament, he immediately stopped.

The girl had notched her Solunar Bow once more and was already aiming the bow at him.

Jiede Wukang's face went white for a moment. While they both had Ruler Armaments, a bow always held the advantage in a long range battle. If he were to be shot, even if he were to block it with his Ruler Armament, the mighty explosion that would happen after would force him to eat up a loss. To him, eating up a loss was not an outcome he wanted. He would definitely come out the loser since the golden arrows were too fast for him to dodge. Thus, Jiede Wukang was stuck in a difficult situation to retreat from.

Seeing how Jiede Wukang was stuck in a difficult situation where he could neither retreat or advance, a laugh could be heard in the crowd.

“Hehehe, just what lively event is happening here, who’s fighting? Its surely a large battle if I can feel the mountains shake, you’ve scared this girl half to death almost.” With that, a pink robed girl walked past the crowd with small quick steps. By her side, she was followed by two expressionless men.

This was a fully matured girl who looked to be around twenty six years old. Her entire body seemed to exude an endless amount of charm, and with every movement, it seemed that she was able to enrapture anyone nearby.

The pink robed girl’s appearance could only be described as devastatingly beautiful that was exceedingly rare under the heavens. With her charm exuding from her body, she was as deadly as the yellow robed girl in terms of beauty and killing intent, giving everyone else the feeling: a desire to conquer her.

“Hahaha, this girl comes from the Tianmu clan with the first name Ling! I hope every big brother here looks after me carefully.” The pink robed girl laughed with a crisp sound almost as if it carried an enchanting spell. Those with a low control of themselves began to feel lost.

“Tianmu Ling, could she be the the Tianmu Ling from the five experts?” A person cried out in shock.

While everyone knew the names of the five experts, some of them had never seen what they had looked like before.

Everyone looked at Tianmu Ling with a strange look as they all thought to themselves with some shock. None of them had imagined that Tianmu Ling would be a charming girl and was at the same time a little unconventional in her attitude.

Tianmu Ling slowly looked around herself before seeing the still motionless figure of Jiede Wukang and laughed, “This younger brother is quite strong. The sword in your hand must be some sort of strange Saint Weapon to be able to cause this little girl’s heart to flutter with such fear.” With that, Tianmu Ling took on a scared expression, making herself seem quite pitiful.

Jiede Wukang had an embarrassed smile on his face as he tried to use this as a way to escape from the situation. He slowly put down his Ruler Armament and spoke proudly, “This one is called Jiede Wukang. This Saint Weapon is the treasure of my Jiede clan. Rumors say that it is the byproduct of the first generation and possesses a boundless amount of energy. It is so strong that if a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master were to use this sword, then it would be capable of killing a Heaven Saint Master.”

“Wow, how strong!” Tianmu Ling had a look of shock on her face as she put her jade white fingers up to cover her mouth. This type of reaction caused Jiede Wukang to feel even more proud of himself.

“Then what might the other big brothers be called?” Tianmu Ling looked at everyone else that had some sort of authority within the crowd.

“This one is Qin Ji!” The white and gold lined robed youth cupped his hands together with a gentle smile.

“This one is called Dugu Feng!” The other man with a two meter long sword made of a fiery red color cupped his hands as well.

“Waaa, Qin Ji, Dugu Feng, and Jiede Wukang, you three are all men this little girl has heard before. This girl didn’t think that three of the five experts would appear right in front of her or that these three elite big brothers would be so handsome that my heart would start to dance and leap.” Tianmu Ling was like

an eighteen year old girl that was staring with eyes of infatuation. It was as if she was meeting her adored idol as her eyes suddenly turned into stars.

“And what might little sister be called, could you call me big sister?!” Tianmu Ling turned to look at the yellow clothed girl with a smile.

“Hmph!” The girl snorted before turning her head in disgust.

Tianmu Ling seemed to have ignored that as she turned toward Jian Chen with a smile in one smooth transition, “Then this little brother must be one of the five experts, Shi Xiangran.”

“This one is Jian Chen, not Shi Xiangran.” Jian Chen spoke calmly.

A look of surprise appeared on Tianmu Ling’s face before instantly going away as she laughed, “Little brother Jian Chen, you are quite handsome! So handsome that I almost went crazy, you should take responsibility for this.”

After hearing this, although Jian Chen knew that Tianmu Ling was only joking, he couldn’t help but feel a giant sweatdrop fall down his forehead.

“**!” The yellow clothed girl suddenly spat something out in anger.

“Oh! Could little sister here be jealous?” Tianmu Ling laughed as she looked at the other girl while ignoring the insult that was thrown out.

The beautiful face of the girl suddenly turned red as her chest began to heave up and down before staring angrily at Tianmu Ling. She started to fume angrily as she growled, “You should speak less garbage.”

“Ai yo, little sister has a large temper! This can’t do, girl, you must be gentle, or else no man will like you.” Tianmu Ling beamed.

The yellow clothed girl said nothing else.

Suddenly, another set of footsteps could be heard as a twenty seven year old youth wearing white slowly came into view.

Jian Chen quickly took notice of this youth. From his appearance, Jian Chen’s eyes suddenly took on a dangerous gleam, this person was Shi Xiangran.

The differences between all of the five experts that were there including Tianmu Ling was every single person had a few strong experts with them. However, Shi Xiangran was traveling by himself.

Shi Xiangran didn’t notice Jian Chen yet but the moment he saw the bright clothes of one of the people, his eyes took notice of the yellow clothed girl and suddenly stopped.

In an instant, the Light Wind Sword appeared in Jian Chen’s hand. He couldn’t reveal the secret with his Soul Sword just yet so the sword stayed in his hand. With a silver flash of light, he flew toward Shi Xiangran before stabbing at his throat with unbelievable speed.

He had to kill Shi Xiangran before he could utilize his barrier, otherwise, once that barrier went up, then he would be invincible while using his Ruler Armament.

Shi Xiangran hadn't yet realized Jian Chen was there, but the very moment he had noticed the yellow clothed girl, he instinctively thought to the Solunar Bow and unveiled his barrier without hesitation.

The very moment the Light Wind Sword was about to pierce through his throat, a transparent barrier suddenly appeared over his body.

"Bo!"

As the barrier appeared, it suddenly shook violently as the Sword Qi on the Light Wind Sword touched the very first layer of Shi Xiangran's throat. As it pierced the first layer of skin, it didn't reach any farther before being shot back out like a bullet due to the barrier.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed dangerously once more as the Light Wind Sword began to release an even larger amount of Sword Qi as he tried to stab at Shi Xiangran's throat once more.

Shi Xiangran's barrier began to shake violently, but because of its unbelievably strong defenses, the Light Wind Sword was unable to tear it apart. As the barrier continued to expand, the Light Wind Sword was driven farther and farther back.

Jian Chen let out a sigh in dejection before taking back the Light Wind Sword. If he was just faster by a second, then he would have been able to kill Shi Xiangran.

Seeing the Light Wind Sword shoot away from him, Shi Xiangran suddenly turned pale with fright because he had absolutely no idea when the sword had approached him. He reached up with his hands to touch his neck only to feel a small sliver of blood leak out from the wound onto his finger.

Shi Xiangran's face turned white at that. At the sight of blood, his forehead began to sweat heavily. It was at that moment that he had realized he was one step away from knocking on the doors to the underworld and nearly stepped through them.

Chapter 313: Joining Hands

Shi Xiangran's face continued to turn white at that. At the sight of blood, his forehead began to sweat heavily. It was at that moment that he had realized he was one step away from knocking on the doors to the underworld and nearly stepped across it.

A furious anger began to swell up within Shi Xiangran's chest as he glared dangerously at Jian Chen. His eyes began to exude a treacherous amount of killing intent that went undisguised. Just now, if he hadn't been able to activate his barrier in time, he would have become a corpse. Furthermore, to die at the hands of someone that was younger than he was, to the high and mighty Shi Xiangran who spent his entire life being spoiled as the genius of the clan, was a humiliation that he could never forget.

"If I don't kill you today, then I will no longer write my name as Shi Xiangran!" Shi Xiangran's eyes went bloodshot as he flew toward Jian Chen with an angry yell. From his Space Belt, he took out a small fist sized iron chunk and threw it into the air.

Quickly, the iron seal enlarged in midair and blocked the sunlight from above with a circumference of about two hundred meters. Covering the sky of everyone nearby, the seal immediately came crashing down to the ground with a heavy wave of energy.

The moment Dugu Feng saw the iron seal above their heads, his eyes flashed dangerously before immediately taking out a long sword and slashed up with a fiery blaze. The very moment he slashed his sword, the surrounding temperature in the air suddenly increased by a terrifying amount.

Even the one meter long sword wielder Jiede Wukang looked up with disdain. Sneering, he leaped up into the air and struck at the seal with his sword a fiery blaze.

Immediately, the temperature in the surrounding area increased once more, causing the vegetation in the area to dry up straight away. Even the trees that were reaching high into the air were beginning to shrivel up as if all of the water inside them was being evaporated. The fire was so strong, it was almost as if everyone was in a sea of fire.

Qin Ji's face grew extremely dark as a machete appeared within his hand. The machete was surrounded by a cyan glow, but the shape of the machete itself was strange. The machete had a saw blade like design where each tooth seemed to be inexplicably sharp.

Qin Ji raised his machete and leaped into the air toward the Seal of Treasure Mountain. With a single slash of cyan light, he struck out at the seal

At the same time, Tianmu Ling revealed a long whip and laughed, "This little brother has quite the temper. I haven't offended you, so could you please not go around randomly using things to smash into people?" With that, her arm shook and brought the whip flying straight up at the seal.

"Whoosh!"

A flash of golden light flew past Jian Chen as the girl let loose her bowstring. An arrow of pure Saint Force condensed into shape as it flew at an unbelievable speed toward the seal.

At this moment, the five experts had all unleashed their attacks each with their own Ruler Armament. The only difference was that four experts along with the yellow clothed girl were fighting against one.

Shi Xiangran's Seal of Treasure Mountain encompassed two hundred meters in circumference which towered over everyone there. In his rage induced stupor, he had failed to notice that he had offended everyone there.

By the time Shi Xiangran realized this fact, it was far too late.

"Bang!"

The six Ruler Armament crashed against each other, emitting a large ear ringing sound. Immediately, the ground began to shake and mountains started to tremble as the largest amount of energy that day flew out from every corner as a result and blew over the five experts and Jian Chen. Everyone was unable to keep grounded to the floor and could only fly backward. With each step they tried to use to anchor themselves, they could only succeed in leaving a small footprint.

"Ha!"

The explosion rocked the ears of everyone in the vicinity with an explosive sound. Everyone tried to use their Saint Force to coat themselves in it in order to protect themselves from the blast radius. Out of everyone present, the only one who felt safe at all was Shi Xiangran because of his barrier. The defenses

to his barrier were so strong that despite the intense aftermath, he would not be harmed. The worst that would happen was that he would be blown backward.

Four of the Ruler Armaments returned to their owners hand as the fifth Ruler Armament, the Seal of Treasure Mountain was hit by a combined amount of force high up in the air. Instead of landing back down to the ground, it returned to Shi Xiangran's hand.

The energy that had exploded outward completely destroyed the area as well as throwing all nearby trees into the air and flattened the grass before incinerating it. On the ground, there was a single fissure with a large series of spiderweb cracks extending out from it.

After a while, the energy finally subsided into a tranquil scene. For a kilometer, not a single blade of grass could be seen and the trees were scattered about.

Shi Xiangran who was situated inside the barrier looked as if his face could leak water. In his heart, he had felt inexplicable resentment, he hadn't thought that in his one single strike, he would somehow offend everyone there. Thus, he blamed everything on Jian Chen.

Tianmu Ling returned the whip before adopting a face of traumatized fear and placing a hand to her chest, "How scary! That iron seal is too scary! Big brother, I can only assume that you are Shi Xiangran of the five experts. Ai yo, why can't this little girl remember when I offended big brother? Just why is it that the moment big brother appeared, he wanted to kill us all? It's a good thing this little girl has some self protection and so many big brothers to help us in this time of need. Otherwise, this little girl would have been smashed to the ground."

Hearing Tianmu Ling speak, Shi Xiangran's face grew even darker and darker. Before he could say anything, his face instantly returned to normal and then adopting an apologetic expression and cupped his hands together. "I apologize everyone, when I saw a hated enemy of mine, I had somehow made a silly mistake. This one is called Shi Xiangran; I've no intentions on being anyone's enemy, I hope no one pays too much attention to this." Turning to point at Jian Chen, he said, "Do you dare to see who's stronger between us two? Or could it be you only know how to hide behind a woman? If it's like this, how are you any different from a coward?" Shi Xiangran spoke with disdain to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's face grew dark as he stared dangerously at Shi Xiangran with an undisguised amount of killing intent. As a large amount of Saint Force concentrated in his hand and formed the Light Wind Sword before slowly walking toward Shi Xiangran. Right now, he planned to use the azure and violet Sword Qi in an attempt to test an idea. Although he wasn't sure if they would be able to destroy the barrier, Jian Chen could still wish.

Seeing how Jian Chen still desired to fight Shi Xiangran, the yellow clothed girl couldn't help but feel anxious before running up to stop Jian Chen. Facing Shi Xiangran with an angry look, she spoke, "Shi Xiangran you despicable bastard, if it weren't for that barrier protecting you, you would have been killed long ago! Just what qualifications do you have to issue a challenge? If you are a man, then get rid of your barrier and fight like a man would."

Shi Xiangran's face suddenly grew unsightly as he heard the girl's words. Those words were coincidentally the very words that stabbed at Shi Xiangran's weak point. Staring icily at her, he roared, "You repulsive b*tch!"

“You...” The girl started as her eyes furiously bore a hole into Shi Xiangran. From her eyes, it seemed as if she was ready to cut Shi Xiangran into a million pieces.

At that moment, Qin Ji walked in between the two and cupped his hands, “Fellow friends, please listen to my words for a moment.” Before waiting for the two to respond, he said, “We have all gathered here today in order to find out the answer to the secret here. We shouldn’t be wasting any times on useless things. Right in front of us is the immortal’s cave. This much everyone can attest to seeing, but there are several strong magical beasts guarding it. Even if we all have Ruler Armaments, it would still be very difficult to enter the area. So, I wish that we can all put aside our grievances and work together. As long as we can defeat all the magical beasts, we will be able to enter the cave and see the inner treasures. Otherwise, I’m afraid we will never be able to enter since there is only ten days left until this round of the competition is over.”

“That’s right, if we want to enter the cave, then there is no other choice but to join hands. Those magical beasts are far too strong for us individually.” Said Dugu Feng with his fire sword in hand as one of the men with a Ruler Armament.

“Hahaha, that’s right. Fellow big brothers, it would be better for you to temporarily give up your hatred. Getting into the cave is of the utmost priority. I’ve heard there was a Heaven Tier Battle Skill in there, that is a monumental prize. Plus, this is the cave of a senior cultivator, even if there isn’t a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, there’ll definitely be a treasure of sorts in there.” Tianmu Ling said.

“Right now there’s only ten days until the end of this round of the competition. When we get transported out by the strange energy, we’ll be powerless to try and remain here. If we wish to enter the cave, then we must all unite.” The purple robed man next to Dugu Feng spoke.

Hearing his words, Jian Chen’s eyes continued to flash continuously with some hesitation. In the end, he reclaimed his Light Wind Sword, a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was something he desperately wanted. Joining the Gathering of the Mercenaries was for the sake of obtaining one so that he could hand it over to the Changyang clan.

One could imagine that if the Changyang clan were to obtain a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, their strength would improve greatly. If the Changyang clan’s strength was to increase to a sufficient amount, then he wouldn’t need to hide from the Hua Yun Sect and return to the gentle home that he remembered as well as the kind and loving mother he had.

Chapter 314: Division of People

Shi Xiangran sneered as he shot a venomous glare at Jian Chen, “You’re lucky, I’ll let you go for now.” With that, Shi Xiangren returned the Seal of Treasure Mountain to his Space Ring, but the barrier remained activated to protect himself.

Jian Chen couldn’t help but fire back, “You should stay in that tortoise shell forever. Let’s see just how long that will last.”

For the barrier that a Saint Ruler paid a heavy price to make be called a tortoise shell, Shi Xiangran’s face went ashen as he heard Jian Chen.

Upon hearing those words, Qin Ji, Jiede Wukang, Dugu Feng, and Tianmu Ling all began to smile unnaturally.

“Hahaha, for someone to say the barrier left behind by a Saint Ruler’s Saint Force is a tortoise shell, this little girl has lived for some time, but this is the first time I’ve heard of such a thing. Little Brother Jian Chen is far too unique!” Tianmu Ling laughed.

“Well then everyone, there’s not much time left. We should plan accordingly now that we have six Ruler Armaments here. We’ll definitely be able to destroy those magical beasts and reduce the casualties to an absolute minimum.” Qin Ji spoke.

By now, the battle was over, that intense amount of energy that had rippled across the area for a kilometer had finally receded and many Earth Saint Masters had already returned.

“No wonder they are called the five experts, their strength is far too strong...”

“Just what was that two hundred meter object? It seemed extremely powerful....”

“I heard them call it a Ruler Armament, strange, just what is that? I’ve never heard of such a thing before....”

Many of the men there began to chat among themselves in quiet voices with a fear of speaking too loud.

“There are a total of four magical beasts, each one of is a rare species and are individually very strong. It requires two of us with a Ruler Armament in order to fight one of them to a standstill. I can only guess that it would take three of us with a Ruler Armament in order to kill one of the magical beasts. We have six Ruler Armament users, meaning that we can kill two of them, the other two will have to be dealt with by the others.” Qin Ji spoke seriously.

“We have plenty of Earth Saint Masters, with the last two magical beasts, they’ll be able to deal with them. Although no one else would have a Ruler Armament, the amount of Earth Saint Masters is enough to be able to handle any problem.” Dugu Feng said.

“That’s correct,” Qin Ji nodded his head. “If we all work together, then we will be able to break past the defensive line of the magical beasts.”

“I agree to this plan.” Dugu Feng endorsed.

“I agree as well.” Jiede Wukang spoke out.

Three of the five experts had all agreed while the other two remained silent.

“Brother Jian Chen, if we may have your opinion.” Qin Ji looked toward the yellow clothed girl and Jian Chen and then the four men behind them. With a single glance, he knew that Jian Chen and the girl were both the pillars of their group.

“I see no problems.” Jian Chen smiled.

The girl said nothing and only nodded her head in agreement.

Seeing the strongest two of the group give their agreement, Qin Ji had a look of excitement on his face. Then, with a look around the area, he spoke in a loud voice, “Everyone, now that the five experts have

all united to enter the immortal's cave, I hope that everyone will stand with us. Our combined strength will be enough to kill the magical beasts, and whoever enters the cave will be able to take their own treasure!"

As soon as Qin Ji finished his speech, everyone stood up at once and began to cheer loudly. Each one of these men were at least at the Great Saint Master level if not higher.

"If you are not an Earth Saint Master, then don't throw your life away. We are only inviting Earth Saint Masters to fight with us." Dugu Feng yelled out loud, causing those of the Great Saint Masters to be displeased by this.

After this, the Great Saint Masters could only retreat away from the campgrounds, leaving behind around seventy men. Each one of them were Earth Saint Masters with a strong background and a determined face.

"Good, then let's have everyone here so we can plan things out. I propose that we split up into four groups, each one will deal with a single magical beast, does anyone have any opinions?" Qin Ji spoke.

"This plan's fine, I agree."

"I agree as well."

.....

Everyone began to ask their questions.

"Just who will be in which of the four divisions?" A person asked.

Qin Ji smiled, "When it comes to this, I've already a plan. The inner group here has enough people to split into two groups of ten. The rest of the seventy men here should split into two group as well. Two groups of thirty five men, does anyone have any objections?"

The inner group Qin Ji had mentioned were all standing right next to him. Some were the five experts, including Jian Chen's group.

It looked as though the men on the outside had the advantage, but that wasn't it. Those in the inner group were all the strongest individuals, and a few of them could easily fight against three other men at their level of strength with ease.

"Right now we should split our groups then." Qin Ji looked at Jian Chen and the girl with a smile, "Jian Chen, would it be possible for us to be on the same division?"

Seeing Qin Ji take the initiative to be friendly, Jian Chen was caught off guard for a moment before recovering himself quickly, "If brother Qin Ji is with us, then it would be our honor."

"Little brother, you are so handsome, this elder sister wants to be with you. You wouldn't refuse me would you?" Tianmu Ling walked to Jian Chen at a leisurely pace and a huff of air exhaling out of her mouth.

Jian Chen laughed with a collected face and calm heart, "This one has no objections, but only brother Qin Ji can accept..."

"I've no objections either, sister Tianmu Ling is welcome to join." Qin Ji spoke with a graceful smile toward her.

"Hahaha, little sister, you look ill. Could it be you don't want elder sister joining you? Hahaha, little sister, you don't need to worry. Sister here won't snatch this handsome brother away from you." Tianmu Ling spoke with charm toward the yellow clothed girl.

"You should speak less crap." The girl fumed as her eyes stared furiously at the girl as if she could spit fire from them.

"Hahaha, little sister has a huge temper. That can't do, little girl, you have to be gentle! Be considerate and men will love you. Like this, you won't have any men that'll treat you right." Tianmu Ling seemed as if she was never angry and constantly laughed.

The girl's response was particularly violent as she pulled back the bowstring of her Solunar Bow and pointed an arrow at her, "If you continue to speak like this, don't blame me then."

"Ah!" Tianmu Ling shrieked as she hid behind Jian Chen for protection. With a fearful face, she said, "Little sister, your older sister was only just joking. Please don't be so impulsive, otherwise, little brother's life here might be threatened!"

With a helpless sigh, Jian Chen spoke, "Tianmu Ling, it's best if you stop teasing her. She has a bad temper."

"Hahaha, little brother's words here are all too correct. Little sister's temper is quite bad." Tianmu Ling laughed sillily but stopped teasing her.

The people around them looked on as if they were watching a performance with a small smile on their faces, but no one said anything.

Afterward, the four divisions were quickly split up. Jian Chen, the yellow clothed girl, Tianmu Ling, and Qin Ji were all in one division along with the two expressionless men with Tianmu Ling, Qin Ji's three middle aged companions, Senior An, Yun Zheng, Qin Jue and Qin Xiao.

The second division was composed of Jiede Wukang, Dugu Feng and several men. Only Shi Xiangran was left alone in that group without any companions.

While these two groups weren't numerous in men, they still had three Ruler Armament users per division and extremely strong men.

The seventy Earth Saint Masters were split into two divisions of thirty, but since each person in both divisions had no experience working with each other, these two groups were the weakest of the four.

"Everyone should rest up for today so that we will be at the peak of our power. Tomorrow, we will set out."

With that, everyone began to set up their tents. There was enough room for everyone to set up a tent because of the battle that cleared out a kilometer of land, becoming a flat clearing.

As for the Great Saint Masters who were denied an invitation to fight, not a single one of them left. Together, they garrisoned themselves farther away in hopes that they could take advantage of the chaos and slip in.

Within their own tents, Jian Chen addressed Senior An, Yun Zheng, Qin Jue, and Qin Xiao, "Whether or not you wish to follow me or leave, just tell me. However, while the magical beasts are extremely strong, they are not the biggest threat. The biggest threat to us are those fighting with us."

"On the outside everyone is fighting for the same purpose to kill those magical beasts, but the moment we enter the immortal's cave, our alliance will undoubtedly crumble and fall into a chaotic battle."

"Jian Chen, I've known this already, but my strength is far too weak to help you. Even if I were to go and fight, I wouldn't be able to handle the aftermath from all of the explosions created from the battle. So I'll wait outside for you all." Qin Xiao spoke with no hesitation and spoke of his plan.

Qin Xiao's withdrawal was something that Jian Chen had expected. Even if Qin Xiao were to enter, Jian Chen wouldn't be able to protect him.

"What about you three?" Jian Chen asked the other three.

"I'll stay behind!" Qin Jue spoke out loud.

Senior An and Yun Zheng both gave each other a look before hesitating. Senior An then spoke up, "Brother Jian Chen, I'll enter with you. Although our strength isn't on par with yours, our strength is still quite decent."

"Then I'll follow you in." Yun Zheng said.

Chapter 315: Entering the Immortal's Cave (One)

On the second day, everyone cleaned up their tents and formed a dense group within the forest. Shi Xiangran was afraid of Jian Chen's initial strike that he had delivered, causing him to keep up his barrier without the slightest intention of dropping it.

Standing on the road, Qin Ji spoke to the others, "There are only four magical beasts guarding the immortal's cave. The names of each of these strong magical beasts is the Flying Spirit Snake, Amethyst Thunder Lion, Albino Earthworm, and the Pangolin Emperor. After these several days of fighting them, we've already established that their strength is the same as each other. The only difference is their innate skills. The Flying Spirit Snake is capable of flight and spits out an extremely potent poison, if it flies, then it will be extremely hard to deal with. The Amethyst Thunder Lion has a protective layer of amethyst scales that have an extremely high defense. It can also spit out lightning as well as discharge electricity from its body, it would be the best for everyone to stay away from it. The Albino Earthworm is a special variation of an earthworm. It has an equally strong defense to the Amethyst Thunder Lion, but it's only weakness is that it is slow. For anyone with a wind attribute Saint Force, they will find the Albino Earthworm easier to manage than the other three."

"The last one is the Pangolin Emperor and the biggest headache. Its attack strength isn't as strong as the other three, but the most annoying trait about it is that it is especially fast. In a single moment, it can drill deep into the earth to evade our attacks and then strike out from underneath. It is completely silent

when it is in the earth and leaves behind no trace. It can attack from underneath one's foot at anytime, and while it is the weakest in terms of attacks, its attacks are generally unblockable."

At the mention of the Pangolin Emperor, Qin Ji's eyes narrowed angrily; clearly, he had eaten up a heavy loss from it already.

"Qin Ji, which magical beast do you think we should take on?" Jian Chen asked from the side.

"Does it need to be said? Of course we want the Flying Spirit Snake. We have three Ruler Armaments, and one of them is a longbow model! If the Flying Spirit Snake were to take to the skies, then we could shoot it down. We also have a whip that can tether and restrict the snake's mobility. At the very least, we could prevent it from taking to the skies. The two weapons are the bane of the Flying Spirit Snake." Qin Ji spoke with no hesitation.

Jian Chen thought for a moment before nodding his head in agreement, "Yes, then the Flying Spirit Snake poses less of a threat to use than the other magical beasts, let's take it."

Hearing Qin Ji speak, the seated Dugu Feng spoke up, "The Albino's Earthworm has extremely strong defenses and has a lot of strength as well. The average Earth Saint Master wouldn't be able to do any damage to it, and without a Ruler Armament, its defenses cannot be pierced. My division will take this one, the Amethyst Thunder Lion and Pangolin Emperor will be handled by the other two divisions."

In a flash, the discussion was over. The most annoying magical beast, the Pangolin Emperor who had an unavoidable and unblockable attack and the strongest magical beast the Amethyst Thunder Lion were given to the last two divisions. Although the men in those two divisions were displeased, they weren't able to say anything. The Flying Spirit Snake was capable of flight which would render all those on the ground helpless. It would also be able to strike at the men on the ground with its poison, so this magical beast was best suited for the group with the longbow and whip user.

As for the Albino Earthworm, many men were of the same mind of as well. As were all magical beasts that held the character for "Dragon" in their name, the defenses of the Albino Earthworm were as strong as Dugu Feng had said. The average Earth Saint Master would be incapable of doing harm to its body, and since it also had an extremely high defense, it was only fair that three Ruler Armaments were needed to harm and kill it.

Although the Pangolin Emperor and Amethyst Thunder Lion were both hard to deal with, the remaining two divisions were strong in their own right and had many people. With at least thirty Earth Saint Masters against a single magical beast, the problem shouldn't be that big.

After walking for ten kilometers, everyone came to a stop as they spotted the remains of a battleground.

Suddenly, the loud roar of a magical beast could be heard as it shook both the heavens and the earth with an ear splitting sound. Then, three enormous magical beasts came into view: one massive python of large width with a head bigger than the height of a fully matured man and black wings—this was the Flying Spirit Snake.

Right next to the Flying Spirit Snake was a large lion. It's head was incredibly ferocious looking and had amethyst colored scales layered all over its body. Occasionally, a ripple of electricity would dance across its body— this was the Amethyst Thunder Lion.

To the side of Amethyst Thunder Lion was a gecko like magical beast that was a meter tall and ten meters long. Four stumpy legs held it up from the ground and its body was completely covered by brown colored scales.

As these three magical beasts appeared, a strong presence could suddenly be felt, pressing against everyone's chest as if there were a heavy stone there, making it difficult to move.

"Together now, the Pangolin Emperor might still be underground, so be careful!" Dugu Feng said as he held up his flame sword and charged toward the Albino Earthworm. Following straight behind, Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang and their group charged with their weapons out.

At that moment, aside from the Pangolin Emperor, the other three magical beasts began to take action.

"Whoosh!"

With a flash of golden light, the yellow clothed girl shot an arrow from her Solunar Bow toward the Flying Spirit Snake.

"Bang!" The arrow collided against the Flying Spirit Snake with an explosive sound. The snake's entire body began to spasm for a moment before settling once more. On its giant body, a single bloody hole could be seen.

With an enormous hissing sound that stung the ears, the snake flew toward the yellow clothed girl.

Qin Ji raised his machete and roared, "Use the whip to bind its body!"

Tianmu Ling flew forward with a serious expression. In an instant, the whip in her hands blurred as it flew toward the snake's body. While in midair, the whip began to extend before becoming a hundred meter long cord that wrapped around the two wings and bound it shut, preventing it from flying.

"Forward!" Qin Ji roared. With his Ruler Armament in the air, he and three other men flew at the Flying Spirit Snake. At the same time, Jian Chen's body blurred away as he flew at the Flying Spirit Snake as well with his Light Wind Sword. Senior An and Yun Zheng both followed close behind Jian Chen.

"Bang!" An explosive sound and a billow of energy pulsed out like an ocean of energy. The surrounding area quickly went to ruins as the three other divisions began to fight as well.

Chapter 316: Entering the Immortal's Cave (Two)

"Ah~~"

As the battle continued on for some time, a cry filled with pain could be heard on the battlefield as a middle aged man was bitten from the waist down by a creature whose head looked like a mouse, dragging him down beneath the ground.

"That's the Pangolin Emperor!"

"The Pangolin Emperor is here, everyone be careful of the ground!"

As soon as everyone heard the yell, they all stared intently at the ground.

At that moment, right in front of the group, a large golden colored rat like beast flew up from the ground with the upper half of a man in its mouth.

“Be careful, the Pangolin Emperor is here!”

“Hurry up and attack it, don’t let it escape into the ground!”

As soon as the Pangolin Emperor appeared, everyone began to shout out loud as they charge at the Pangolin Emperor.

The Pangolin Emperor was extremely fast and immediately flew back into the ground after swallowing the body in its mouth. Even when three Saint Weapons slashed at its body, only sparks could be seen. The Pangolin Emperor was a scaled magical beast with golden scales all over its body. Despite its defenses not being as strong as the Albino Earthworm, it was still stronger than what the average Earth Saint Master could damage.

An incredibly sharp spike arose from the ground and instantly speared through the hip of a man before he could even react.

“Ah!” The man cried out in a shrill voice before thrusting his fire attribute Saint Weapon into the ground in hopes of exposing the Pangolin Emperor from its subterranean hiding spot. All that he hit was earth as the Pangolin Emperor had already moved on from the area.

An intense purple light flashed as the entire world shook all of a sudden. By the side, the Amethyst Thunder Lion shot out a blue spear of lightning that arced toward the closest person, burning his body black which caused him to fall to the ground.

Several men struck out at the lion immediately with their Saint Weapons, creating a clanking sound as they smashed against its scales with some sparks and blood. Although the Amethyst Thunder Lion’s defenses weren’t all too weak, it wasn’t capable of defending against a barrage of blows without taking some damage.

An angry roar was emitted from the lion’s mouth as it swiped its sharp claws at the surrounding people attacking it. Another arc of lightning was spat out from the lion’s mouth and struck the closest person without giving him a chance to dodge. In that instant, ten of the thirty Earth Saint Masters that had attacked the Amethyst Thunder Lion had been shocked by the lightning and fell to the floor with charcoal black bodies. Another three men were torn apart by the lion’s claws, dying instantly and injuring several others.

The power of an Amethyst Thunder Lion was incredibly strong, and so those fighting against the lion would suffer the most casualties.

On the other side, the groups fighting the Flying Spirit Snake and the Albino Earthworm were having an easy time. The two divisions both had three Ruler Armament user and were strong in their own right, making it hard for their group to suffer any casualties.

Qin Ji brought up his Ruler Armament and swung it down onto the Albino Earthworm, easily cutting past the scales on its body and bringing a decent amount of damage to it. In a short moment, the entire body of the Albino Earthworm was dyed bright red with its blood.

The Flying Spirit Snake wasn't much stronger than the Albino Earthworm, especially with its wings restricted by Tianmu Ling's whip. Although she wasn't displaying the full might of her Ruler Armament, it was still enough to contend against the Flying Spirit Snake. In the end, the snake's strength while bound up was far less than before, which impacted it majorly, so only around sixty percent of its full power could be displayed.

Qin Ji's Ruler Armament struck against the body of the Flying Spirit Snake and left behind a deep one meter long gash, causing it to cry out.

The yellow clothed girl stood far away and shot arrow after arrow from her longbow. Each golden arrow flew toward the head of snake. With a violent hissing sound, the snake began to sway its head side to side as blood dripped down.

Jian Chen and the other men began to fly at the snake with their Saint Weapons ready to attack. On its head, each person swung down to deliver a heavy stroke.

Despite each magical beast being quite strong, the humans attacking them at the same time was far too much. Each man was an Earth Saint Master at the least, and taking a hit from them was taxing on their strength. As for the Flying Spirit Snake and the Albino Earthworm, taking on three Ruler Armaments each brought about even more damage than what the Amethyst Thunder Lion had caused. As of right now, only the Pangolin Emperor had an advantage over the other side and was in good condition.

The Flying Spirit Snake continued to struggle fiercely against the bindings but to no avail. The wounds on its body was growing more and more severe and its temper even more violent as it continued to be injured.

Tianmu Ling's face grew serious as she bit her lower lip and concentrated while sweat pooled over her forehead. At the moment, she was completely focused on constraining the wings of the Flying Spirit Snake.

Suddenly, the Flying Spirit Snake let out a loud hiss as a large amount of corrosive acid shot from its mouth headed in every direction. The very moment the poison landed on a person, the clothes and flesh of the area it landed on immediately melted away.

"The poison is too corrosive, it can penetrate through Saint Force and in two hours it can kill even an Earth Saint Master! Retreat!" Qin Ji commanded as the three men and Senior An quickly retreated back with him to escape from the poison.

The cloud that was wafting up from the poison was already making causing visibility to be almost nonexistent, causing anyone on the outside to be unable to see what was happening within the area. Enveloped in a transparent barrier, Qin Ji disregarded all attempts at defense and leaped high into the air before coming down onto the snake, piercing it in its heart.

"Slash!" The region near the heart of the Flying Spirit Snake immediately ripped in a one meter gash as Qin Ji flew into the next strike and split apart the wound even further with his weapon once more.

The Flying Spirit Snake let out an ear piercing hiss as it violently swung its body upright. In the next second, the tail of the snake smashed into Qin Ji's barrier.

Although Qin Ji wasn't injured, the impact was enough to send him flying far away.

As he flew through the air, Qin Ji's eyes widened suddenly. In an earth shattering moment, he could see the blurry glows of an azure and violet ray of light through the poisonous mist.

"Aooo!"

In the next second, a desperate wail from the Flying Spirit Snake could be heard. Within the poisonous mist, no one was capable of seeing what was happening, but they knew that something had obviously struck the ground heavily and shook it.

The Flying Spirit Snake continued to hiss in pain as its voice grew warped. The poisonous mist in the area began to swirl around madly as if something was shaping it into a random shape.

The bloodsoaked Jian Chen quickly flew out from the poisonous mist with the majority of his clothes melting away from the poison and some of the green poison still stuck to his body.

Only the yellow clothed girl was standing in front of him, and since there was a layer of poisonous mist covering his body, no one else was able to see Jian Chen.

Jian Chen immediately took out a new set of clothes and quickly cleaned off the rest of the snake's poison before putting on the new set. Just like he was still in yesterday's clothes, Jian Chen flew around the poisonous mist with a smile to regroup with the rest.

At that moment, the previously spasming Flying Spirit Snake finally stilled as the poisonous mist dispersed as well, allowing everyone to see what happened within.

The moment everyone could see, their faces went still with shock and amazement. Even Qin Ji was no different from the rest.

The entire body of the Flying Spirit Snake was on the ground but the area where its heart was had been completely bisected away from the rest of its body. Blood splurged out from the wound in large amounts from its head sized heart which was also cut into two pieces. The Flying Spirit Snake lay on the ground still alive, but it was not too far away from death, and the monster core had already disappeared from its body without a trace.

Qin Ji couldn't help but think back to when he saw the blurry azure and violet glow. He had felt a great change overcome Jian Chen, but he didn't say anything as he felt doubt and confusion cloud his heart.

Just then, the Albino Earthworm let out a terrible sound as well before collapsing to the ground with Shi Xiangran's Seal of Treasure Mountain smashed on top of its head. Even its entire body had been smashed several times with the seal to make for a serious injury.

Both the Flying Spirit Snake and the Albino Earthworm were dead now. Only two remained one was the Amethyst Thunder Lion which was prancing about. Despite the wounds on its body, they was nowhere near anything life threatening. Its strength was far superior to those in its grade because of its innate skill and rarity. Even an Earth Saint Master could only hope to do a sliver of damage to it.

The Pangolin Emperor was the most healthy one. Scuttling about underground, it would play hide and seek with those on top as if it were a game rather than a battle. Appearing and disappearing randomly before attacking people in a single instance, it left behind no traces and only a major headache.

The divisions fighting both the Amethyst Thunder Lion and the Pangolin Emperor had taken major casualties. At least a dozen men died fighting the lion while many more had taken serious damage as the tenacious continued to struggle with it. As for the Pangolin Emperor, it had already swallowed seven men while injuring a dozen others. The Pangolin Emperor hadn't even taken any damage yet.

"The Amethyst Thunder Lion is far too strong, come and help us quickly, or we won't last much longer..."

"Help us deal with the Pangolin Emperor..."

Seeing how the Flying Spirit Snake and the Albino Earthworm were killed, the others cried out for assistance with glee.

Quickly extracting the monster core from the Albino Earthworm, Dugu Feng led his men into the forest without regard for the two divisions still fighting the magical beasts.

"Ignore them, let's go! Don't be left behind, the immortal's cave is right in front of us!" Qin Ji shouted to Jian Chen and the rest of the division as he brought three men with him to chase after Dugu Feng. He did not care for the corpse of the Class 5 Flying Spirit Snake.

Without looking at the Flying Spirit Snake's corpse, Jian Chen called out to the rest of the men to follow them into the forest.

After making a mad dash, Jian Chen followed Qin Ji into a cave. This cave was unnaturally deep and with every single interval, there was a single nightpearl emanating a white glow of light. The interior and cave walls were glossy as well, meaning that someone had used an incredible amount of strength to cut the walls evenly.

"Bang!" A loud sound could be heard up ahead as the entire passageway began to tremble.

Jian Chen, the yellow clothed girl, Tianmu Ling, Yun Zheng and Senior An began to hasten their pace even more before quickly arriving at an area where everyone was gathered. Upon seeing Jian Chen enter the room, Shi Xiangran immediately activated his barrier to secure his safety.

Right in front of everyone, a single stone door blocked their paths.

"Bastard, just who touched the mechanism here? It dropped a stone wall blocking our way in!" Jiede Wukang roared in anger as he held his Ruler Armament

Chapter 317: Fighting Over a Heaven Tier Battle Skill

"It doesn't matter what doors are blocking our way, I'll smash them apart!" Dugu Feng strode forward and immediately struck the door fiercely with his fist.

With a muffled sound, the stone door continued to tower over everyone else with only some dust being shaken down.

At this sight, everyone was astounded. Even Dugu Feng had been stunned for a moment before muttering to himself, "Is this really a stone door?" Dugu Feng knew clearly just how much strength was put behind his fist. Even an iron door would have a hole blasted through it, but this stone door wasn't even scratched.

"Heavens, is this really a stone door, it's unbelievably hard!"

"This stone door was made from a stone like material, but it's so durable!"

"This stone door definitely isn't an ordinary one..."

Everyone began to chat among themselves.

"It doesn't matter what it's made from, but if it dares block our path, then it will be destroyed!" Dugu Feng spoke coldly. His right arm held the fire sword as he prepared to swing his Ruler Armament.

Upon seeing that Dugu Feng was about to use his Ruler Armament, everyone stepped back in fear of being caught in the aftermath.

The Ruler Armament in Dugu Feng's hand began to release a great flame as he yelled. With a large swing, he smashed the sword against the stone door heavily.

"Bang!" An ear splitting sound could be heard as the entire cave shook from the blow. Everyone shook their heads in pain as they steadied themselves.

After a while, the cave grew quiet once more. Everyone's eyes remained wide open as they looked at the stone door in shock—it continued to stand over them as if normal.

"Ju-just what was used to make this stone door, it's really hard!" Tianmu Ling stammered as she covered her mouth with her hand in shock.

Even Dugu Feng found it hard to remain calm and was stunned. For such an ordinary looking stone door to be able to take a blow from a Ruler Armament without any damage, it was far too much to believe.

The richly dressed Qin Ji walked to the stone door and raised his hand to touch it with a calm expression. "Breaking open this door will allow us entry into the immortal's cave, let us have all of those with a Ruler Armament strike at it at the same time. I doubt this door will be able to withstand the might of six Ruler Armaments."

"That's right, this is the best course of action." Jiede Wukang spoke.

"Hahaha, okay then, big brothers. If big brothers can do the heavy work, this little girl will help out from the side. Whether or not this stone door breaks is all on you." The girl spoke with charm as she smiled at everyone. Then stepping toward Jian Chen, she looked at him with a loving smile, "Brother Jian Chen, do you want to give it a try?"

Jian Chen shook his head with a bitter smile, "This one has no Ruler Armament so my attack would be tremendously weak. The area isn't that wide either so it wouldn't be able to hold that many people standing side by side. I would rather not hinder everyone else."

As soon as Jian Chen spoke, a large animalistic roar could be heard, causing everyone in the cave to pale.

“That’s the Amethyst Thunder Lion and the sounds of footsteps, goddammit, they dared to come running here! They’re bringing the lion over! Everyone, let’s act quick!” Qin Ji yelled.

Without any hesitation, Dugu Feng, Jiede Wukang, Shi Xiangran, Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling all stood in front of the stone door. With their Ruler Armaments out, they each prepared to strike. Then, suddenly, a transparent barrier suddenly appeared and covered the people inside.

This caused Jian Chen to be shocked. He hadn’t thought that these people with Ruler Armaments would have a barrier from a Saint Ruler around them. Abruptly turning around to look at the yellow clothed girl, he could see her standing ten meters away with her bowstring pulled back completely. The only difference was that there was no barrier protecting her, but Jian Chen didn’t know whether or not she didn’t have a Saint Ruler helping her or she just wasn’t using it.

At that moment, aside from the six Ruler Armament users, everyone drew back quickly. The energy feedback from six Ruler Armaments was enough to cause harm to any Earth Saint Master.

“Attack!” With one command, all six Ruler Armament users struck out. An arrow flew ahead of the other attacks and collided into the stone door along with the fist sized Seal of Treasure Mountain while the others smashed against the door in coordination.

“Bang!” A loud sound could be heard as a large shockwave of energy exploded outward at an alarming speed. Washing over everyone while the cave itself began to shake almost as if it was on the verge of collapsing in on itself.

Jian Chen and the other Earth Saint Masters stuck close to the walls of the cave as a way to keep themselves rooted to the ground. At the same time, they used their Saint Force to enforce their bodies as a secondary form of defense.

Half a breath later, the shockwave receded to a calm as the six Ruler Armament users each were dragged back ten meters. The barriers had protected them from any harm while only the yellow clothed girl was quite pale in the face. Upon looking at the stone door, there were several cracks, but it was still not broken.

Everyone let out a shocked gasp, the stone door was far stronger than what anyone had imagined. They didn’t think that even six Ruler Armaments wouldn’t be enough for them to shatter a stone door.

What everyone could rejoice about was the durability of the immortal’s cave. Even after such a heavy blow, it still had not collapsed.

“Again!” Jiede Wukang yelled out. Immediately, the six people struck out once more for another terrifying unified attack that was stronger than the one before.

Another explosive sound could be heard as stone pieces could be seen flying about and the cave echoed with the sound. After the second strike, the unbelievably strong stone door had finally been shattered.

Even after the stone doors shattered, Dugu Feng, Jiede Wukang, Shi Xiangran, Qin Ji, and Tianmu Ling didn’t care for the aftermath of the explosion and all charged past the gates. Each one of them were protected by their barriers and weren’t worried about being damaged by anything.

Sensing their movements, Jian Chen's eyes flashed in recognition. Immediately charging straight toward the doorway, against the energy wave, Jian Chen twisted and turned in a struggle to get past. Finally, he was able to break free of the energy wave and follow the five through the opening.

Beyond the stone gates was an empty space where none of the energy from the earlier strike could reach. Placed right on top of a high platform was a dark colored wooden box. On the outside, it looked quite ordinary and didn't seem to be anything special.

Seeing this box, Dugu Feng, Shi Xiangran, Jiede Wukang, and Qin Ji all flew toward it without a moment of hesitation.

A cyan colored whip blew past them and in an instant, it had reached the platform and wrapped around the box before pulling it back.

The four men instantly came to a compromise with each other and struck out at the box.

"Bang!"

As the box was smashed apart, a white leather book was sent flying into the air. As a result of the blast from the attack, the book continued to flap in the air as the pages.

Four hands simultaneously flew out to grab at the falling book in hopes of snatching it away from everyone else.

Tianmu Ling didn't move a foot and immediately snapped her wrist, causing a part of the whip to fly at the four men. At the same time, the head of the whip flew at the book

At this moment, the four men acted as one and smashed down on the whip with their Ruler Armaments. Although the whip was also a Ruler Armament, it wasn't able to withstand the might of four Ruler Armaments and was forced back down. The four men instantly arrived at the book and lashed out to grab it. Each hand latched onto a part of it and with a violent pull, each one tried to pull the book toward themselves.

"Chi!"

The string binding on the book instantly tore, causing several pages of the book to fly through the air. Combined with the energy from the earlier blow on the whip, the book pages all fluttered about through the air.

Four pairs of hand zipped through the air as they collected the scattered pages. At this moment, Jian Chen suddenly appeared in a silver ray of light. Spotting two of the loose pages, he grabbed at them with lightning speed before grabbing onto another one nearby.

Dugu Feng swiftly grabbed onto another two pages as well before spotting another right next to his hand. As he lifted his hand to grab at it, suddenly, a person appeared in his line of sight. This person was Jian Chen who immediately grabbed at the piece of paper right underneath his eyes.

Dugu Feng was immediately stunned before instantly growing angry as his eyes gleamed with a murderous light.

After the small struggle for the pages, the book was quickly divided up by the six people. In the end, Tianmu Ling had two pages, Jian Chen had four, Dugu Feng had four, Jiede Wukang had three, Shi Xiangran had two, and Qin Ji had four for a total of nineteen pages.

At this moment, Shi Xiangran had already flew at Jian Chen with his barrier present while his Seal of Treasure Mountain flew at Jian Chen's head.

"To dare kill my men, I'll definitely kill you today!"

"No one has dared steal from me before!"

At that moment, Jiede Wukang and Dugu Feng flew at Jian Chen with their Ruler Armaments out and ready to kill him.

Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling had no plans on helping out either side. Although they had fought alongside Jian Chen, but their relationship with him wasn't anything special. Shi Xiangran was a hated enemy of Jian Chen, Jiede Wukang had his comrade Zhe Gu die by Jian Chen's hand, and Dugu Feng had a part of the battle skill taken away from right under his nose. Each person had a reason for fighting Jian Chen.

Chapter 318: Killing Three Experts

Shi Xiangran, Jiede Wukang and Dugu Feng all struck out at the same time toward Jian Chen, much to his shock. The thing that made Jian Chen extremely serious was that all three of them had barriers and so it would be incredibly hard for him to injure them. Furthermore, the three of them had a Ruler Armament each. If he was hit by one, then it would do an incredible amount of damage that he wouldn't be able to endure and could even die from. Even if he were to be injured, Shi Xiangran and the other two would never let him go or even let him out of the cave.

Jian Chen's eyes gained a berserk gleam to it. Right now, he could only use his final trump card to go all out.

An azure and violet glow could be seen on Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword as he walked toward Shi Xiangran without fear and stabbed his sword straight at the barrier protecting him.

Right now, Jian Chen could only place all his hopes on the azure and violet Sword Qi. Success or failure, it was all reliant on the Sword Qi since it was the strongest attack he could use.

Seeing Jian Chen take the initiative to charge, Shi Xiangran revealed a happy smile on his face. With the defensive power of his barrier that even a Ruler Armament couldn't break, meant that Jian Chen wouldn't be able to either. Jian Chen's attack wasn't something that Shi Xiangran even cared about, so the pieces of paper within Jian Chen's hand were something that he felt were as good as his. Grabbing onto the Seal of Treasure Mountain tightly, Shi Xiangran waited until he grew closer and immediately treated it like a stone as he used it to smash into Jian Chen's head.

As the Light Wind Sword made contact with Shi Xiangran's barrier, under the expecting eyes of Jian Chen, the barrier began to melt away without a sound, allowing the sword entrance.

At this, Jian Chen revealed a look of joy. Without another moment of hesitation, the Light Wind Sword immediately reached further inside and stabbed into Shi Xiangran's throat.

Shi Xiangran instantly went rigid as his movements came to a grinding halt. Staring down at the spot where the sword had pierced through his barrier and into his throat, he then looked back at Jian Chen with a look of utter disbelief. Even the Seal of Treasure Mountain that had left his hand to strike at Jian Chen stopped in mid air as well.

“N-no....that...that ca-can’t be...” Shi Xiangran spoke in shock as he spat out some blood and stammered. His eyes slowly opened wide in disbelief.

Dugu Feng and Jiede Wukang, who were initially running at Jian Chen, immediately stopped. They watched the barrier of Shi Xiangran get pierced by Jian Chen’s silver blade before it stabbed Shi Xiangran in the throat. They both understood the durability of the barrier and how even a Ruler Armament was useless. Even a Heaven Saint Master would need to use all of their strength in order to break apart the barrier. But right in front of their eyes, the barrier that had been protecting Shi Xiangran was penetrated by Jian Chen’s sword with ease or with no resistance almost as if it were tofu. This was something that was completely unimaginable to them both.

On the other side, Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling both stared in disbelief as shock filled their hearts. Tianmu Ling’s mouth dropped open in shock as she stared at Jian Chen and Shi Xiangran as motionless as a stone statue.

At that moment, the yellow clothed girl had entered the cave as well just in time to see Jian Chen’s sword stab into Shi Xiangran’s throat. In mute shock, her eyes began to widen as she stared at the sight with disbelief.

“He...he broke through Shi Xiangran’s barrier?” The girl felt her heart surge in shock. At this moment, she didn’t know what feeling was stronger, the joy from the death of Shi Xiangran or the excitement from seeing the sudden revelation of Jian Chen’s superior battle strength.

Jian Chen looked at his sword that had broken through Shi Xiangran’s barrier with excitement. It was almost as if a heavy burden was released from his heart. After the Sword Spirits had awoken, they had consistently helped him increase his attacking power. Even as a Great Saint Master, he had been able to kill Earth Saint Masters, and up until now, the Sword Spirits had never disappointed him. They had even destroyed the barrier something that a Ruler Armament couldn’t accomplish. With this, even those with a barrier wouldn’t be as big of a threat as before.

Although a Ruler Armament was extremely powerful, it was only capable of emitting an extremely strong strike. As long as one made sure the Ruler Armament didn’t make contact or clash with one, then the Ruler Armament was no different than an ordinary Saint Weapon.

Shi Xiangran’s life quickly bled away as he continued to stare at Jian Chen with a quivering look. Slowly losing his strength, the barrier began to quickly dissipate before disappearing entirely.

With a twist of his wrist, Jian Chen’s sword cut through Shi Xiangran’s throat in a bloody manner before pulling out. At the same time, Jian Chen quickly pocketed Shi Xiangran’s Space Ring and the Seal of Treasure Mountain for his own before turning toward Jiede Wukang to fight with him.

From the earlier moments, Jian Chen had recognized both Jiede Wukang and Dugu Feng as his enemies. For those who were his enemies, Jian Chen had no mercy. Even more so, Jian Chen desired the Heaven Tier Battle Skill pages in their hands.

Seeing Jian Chen come flying over, Jiede Wukang's face grew ugly. Back when he was contesting for the pages he hadn't thought of Jian Chen as an opponent at all, but with Jian Chen easily breaking through Shi Xiangran's barrier, he couldn't help but feel as if his heart had been dealt a serious blow. Right now, he couldn't afford to naively think that his barrier would protect him from any harm anymore.

Jiede Wukang leaped back with an explosive amount of force as he brought his flame sword to swing at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen knew better than to go head on with a Ruler Armament. He easily dodged the swing and with an azure and violet glow of his sword, his Light Wind Sword stabbed at the barrier protecting Jiede Wukang.

Without any obstruction, the barrier quickly dissolved away to reveal a small hole where the sword had touched, allowing Jiede Wukang to be stabbed with no problems.

Seeing that his own barrier powerless to block even a single strike, a pool of sweat began to appear on Jiede Wukang's forehead as he went pale. With a single leap, he flew back and brought his weapon up to guard against the sword stab.

"Ding!"

Stabbed against the Ruler Armament, the azure and violet Sword Qi wasn't able to break past it. Since the Ruler Armaments were far too strong for the currently recovering azure and violet Sword Qi. They could not be damaged by the glows.

At that moment, the Ruler Armament billowed outward with a great flame that shot at Jian Chen like a bullet. Jian Chen couldn't help but start slightly as he jumped back with his blood boiling with emotions.

Jian Chen knew that Ruler Armaments were the remnants of a Saint Ruler's Saint Weapon so they contained an unbelievable amount of power. Just a single strike of one would be enough for him to find it difficult to endure.

"Go die!" Jiede Wukang capitalized on Jian Chen's backward leap and instantly stabbed toward Jian Chen.

Disappearing from view, Jian Chen dodged Jiede Wukang's sword nimbly before stabbing at him with his own sword. The entire area began to be consumed with mirror images of Jian Chen's sword as he entrapped Jiede Wukang within.

In an instant, Jiede Wukang was flustered by Jian Chen's movements. Immediately bringing his own Ruler Armament to protect himself, he attempted to find out which sword was the real one before exploiting the large energy within his Ruler Armament to strike Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword.

Just as Jiede Wukang was about to go through the motions of his strike, he immediately came to a stop midway through his dance only to see that Jian Chen had somehow made his way behind him. His Light Wind Sword had inexplicably split his barrier once more and stabbed through his throat from the back.

Once more, this caused everyone to stare wide eyed in amazement. No one could have imagined that Jian Chen would be able to kill Shi Xiangran in a single moment even with his barrier, and then going on to kill Jiede Wukang in the next moment.

Dugu Feng's face had already turned unsightly at this. He quickly moved to run toward the entrance of the cave with the speed of a bullet. He knew that he had offended Jian Chen already and wanted to escape from a difficult battle at all costs. With the superior strength that Jian Chen had just revealed, he knew he had no chance of winning.

Jian Chen quickly stored away Jiede Wukang's Ruler Armament into his Space Ring before taking the Space Ring as well and chasing after Dugu Feng with all the speed he could muster.

If Dugu Feng were to escape, then Jian Chen would lose all chances of being able to learn the Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

Sensing that Jian Chen was chasing after him, the escaping Dugu Feng cried out, "Help me block him!"

Immediately, four men came up to obstruct Jian Chen's path with an incredible amount of aura leaking out of them. Included among the group was the purple robed man.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed with a large killing intent as he slashed at the four men with his azure and violet Sword Qi enhanced sword.

The four men didn't know how strong the azure and violet Sword Qi was, so they brought up their swords to block it.

"Ding ding ding ding!"

Following the sounds of metal hitting metal, the Light Wind Sword immediately smashed against their swords before each one of them suddenly gained a new finger sized chip on their blades.

With their Saint Weapons damaged, each one of the four men immediately felt the pain and cried out before turning pale.

Taking advantage of their pain, Jian Chen went after their lives. Jian Chen was impatient to chase after Dugu Feng so he acted quickly and full heartedly. A First Cycle Earth Saint Master was easily manageable for him to kill. With a flash of silver, the Light Wind Sword stabbed out four times.

Three of the four were too slow to dodge and instantly had their throats stabbed. Only the purple robed man was able to use his Saint Weapon to block the strike at the last moment, causing his sword to earn another jagged mark.

Now that his Saint Weapon had been struck twice, the middle aged man began to spit out some blood as he looked at Jian Chen in shock.

Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword struck out in succession as he fully suppressed the man's movements. Against his attacks, the man was unable to do anything but dodge, since he knew that Jian Chen was capable of striking and damaging his Saint Weapon. Even as he dodged, he was still hit by Jian Chen's sword several times and was nearly stabbed straight through by the sword. In the end, he too was killed which allowed Jian Chen to continue chasing after Dugu Feng without hesitation.

Chapter 319: Return of Ming Dong

All the men crowded in the passageway hurriedly shot out of the way for Jian Chen. The struggle for the Heaven Tier Battle Skill had only been a few moments, and no one outside of the cave had any idea

what had happened inside. At this moment, they could only watch in confusion as Jian Chen chased down Dugu Feng. Wasn't everything going fine earlier? How could they suddenly start fighting, and the bigger question was, just when had Jian Chen's strength become so amazing?

Jian Chen chased Dugu Feng through the passageway of the cave for some time. Following that some of the experts' subordinates quickly came to their senses and charged into the cave as well.

Within the cave, Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang lay motionless on the ground. Their blood continued to leak down onto the ground in one big puddle.

"Lord Wukang!"

Suddenly, a grieved voice could be heard as two middle aged men shot into the cave like arrows to Jiede Wukang's side. Looking at the hole in his throat, the men all instantly turned white before crying out loud in grief.

"Lord Wukang, lord Wukang!" One man shook Jiede Wukang's body with an impatient shout as if trying to wake him up.

"Lord Wukang has already died." The other man sighed with a look of sorrow on his face.

"Dead...just...just how is that possible? Lord Wukang had a barrier protecting him, along with a Ruler Armament. There isn't anyone here that could possibly kill him!" The man spoke in a crazed manner. Jiede Wukang's position in the clan was far beyond what was right. Not only was he the son of the patriarch, but he was also the future leader of the Jiede clan. The two men and Zhe Gu came to protect him specifically. With Jiede Wukang dead, it was hard to say that they would live as well.

"Ai..." The other man gave a long sigh as he stared blankly. He didn't care for Jiede Wukang's death much, but Jiede Wukang's status in the clan was far too high. Since he was Wukang's bodyguard, he would be punished severely for what had just occurred. The penalty might be so heavy that Jiede Wukang's father might have them both die to serve Jiede Wukang in the afterlife.

"Who was it? Who was it that killed lord Wukang?" The man spoke with an extremely grim voice. Now that Jiede Wukang was dead, he really did not want to be the only one to take on the responsibility for Jiede Wukang's death. It was possible that after the Gathering of the Mercenaries, he would be killed.

"Just now, there was a youth named Jian Chen that held some grievances with our lord. He just ran off to chase Dugu Feng. Even the four, strong, well-known guards of the Dugu clan were killed in a short moment by Jian Chen. The one who killed lord Wukang must be Jian Chen; his hidden strength must be enormous." The other man spoke with a gloomy expression.

"Miss Tianmu Ling, lord Qin Ji, if you could tell us: was the person who killed lord Wukang, Jian Chen?"

Tianmu Ling and Qin Ji both nodded their heads in a stupefied manner. The fight they had just seen had caused a tremendous amount of shock to their hearts. Jian Chen had somehow destroyed the barriers placed on Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang created by a Saint Ruler, which were known for being incredibly hard to destroy.

After finding out who the murderer was, the two men both grew dark. Jian Chen was strong and was not someone they could fight against. The two were not willing to stay here any longer and carried Jiede

Wukang's body out of the cave. Neither of them were stupid; when Jian Chen came back to annihilate everyone, it would be in their best interests to run far away with Jiede Wukang's body. They would wait for the end of the Gathering of the Mercenaries and report it to the elders in hope that the patriarch would be lenient in his punishment. Running away from the clan was not going to work, and would only speed up their deaths.

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"The cave's right over there, hurry up and get in! Let them deal with the Amethyst Thunder Lion!"

"Hurry up, the cave's right in front of us!"

Outside the cave, a group of miserable looking men were all running to it as fast as possible. Right behind them, the small, mountain-like Amethyst Thunder Lion continued to shoot lightning from its mouth. Each arc of lightning burnt a person into a crisp as the golden Pangolin Emperor continued to strike at the other humans not too far away.

Within the group, not only were there the original divisions of Earth Saint Masters, but also at least a hundred Great Saint Masters. After the two divisions with the Ruler Armaments had killed two of the magical beasts and entered the cave, the Great Saint Masters all decided to risk it and charge forward. In hopes of obtaining the treasure within, each one threw away their lives to charge toward the cave.

The influx of these Great Saint Masters had aroused the attentions of the remaining two magical beasts. Thus, the already suffering divisions quickly renounced their attempts to kill the magical beasts, and ran for the immortal's cave at full speed.

With no strong individual to control the magical beasts, the situation had naturally gotten worse for the Great Saint Masters. The Earth Saint Masters didn't care and left the Great Saint Masters to deal with the ire of the magical beasts.

Suddenly, a single shadow could be seen flying through the sky with an explosive wind rippling through the air. Despite many people seeing the shadow's image, no one cared for it at this moment.

Just as this shadow receded away, another shadow quickly streaked through the air before chasing after the first one. This was Jian Chen chasing after Dugu Feng.

Jian Chen was utilizing most of his speed by catapulting himself off of the trees. With each launch, he flew forward another ten extra meters, and was slowly reducing the distance between Dugu Feng and himself.

Sensing that Jian Chen was still chasing him, Dugu Feng's face grew startled as he thought to himself, "Could fifth uncle and the other three men have been killed by Jian Chen? No. There's no way. Fifth uncle was at the Fifth Cycle Earth Saint Master, there's no way for him to be killed by Jian Chen that quickly." There was disbelief as that thought went through his mind. He knew that Jian Chen's strength was far higher than what he had thought if he could disregard the barriers on both Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang. He shouldn't be strong enough to kill his fifth uncle and the three other Third Cycle Earth Saint Master bodyguards even if he were to use a Ruler Armament. By this point, Dugu Feng had already deemed Jian Chen to be a terrifying existence that he could not afford to fight. He increased his speed even more, determined to protect his Ruler Armament.

Dugu Feng wasn't a man that feared death, but he wanted to prevent the Ruler Armament from falling into any other man's hands. Thus, he could only run away. The Ruler Armament was something every clan would pay a heavy price for, and would tremendously impact the clan's power and influence. Dugu Feng absolutely could not allow his Ruler Armament to fall into someone else's hands. Otherwise, his clan would be condemned to a lifetime of shame that could not be recovered from.

The two men's speed slowly increased to the maximum. Ten kilometers had been traveled in a short amount of time. Running past the forest, they reached a clearing.

Right now, Jian Chen had closed the distance to Dugu Feng. By now, there was only a single kilometer separating the two. Even though Dugu Feng wasn't a wind attribute, his running speed was still quite superior to most, so even Jian Chen had to exert a lot of energy to chase after him.

At this moment, ten kilometers away from Jian Chen, a black robed youth with hair that reached down to his waist was quickly running toward a forest. This youth looked to be around 27 or 28 year old, and had a firm look on his face.

"I've heard that the cave of a previous cultivator was around here and contains a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. People even say that the five experts were all gathered there as well. Bah, I should go take a look myself—hopefully I'll be able to find him." The black robed youth muttered to himself.

Just then, the black robed youth saw two figures appear a few kilometers away from him, quickly charging over in his direction.

Seeing the two people, the youth revealed a look of disdain as he muttered, "Another two men rushing to their deaths. I hope they're not too weak, I want to test out my strength." With that, the youth examined the two, but the moment he saw their faces, a look of shock overtook it.

"Are my eyes going bad, this is too much of a coincidence!" The black robed youth spoke as he kneaded his eyes gently. With a closer look, he concentrated on the two men before smiling widely and charging straight at them.

"Friend, hold off the man behind me and the Dugu clan will reward you handsomely!" Dugu Feng had already thrown away his face and reputation for the sake of preserving the Ruler Armament. While he knew that he was not an opponent for Jian Chen, he would much rather fight Jian Chen to the death than try to flee.

For the sake of the Ruler Armament, he could not choose this option.

Hearing Dugu Feng's words, the black robed youth was stunned for a moment before he smiled meaningfully. With a simple movement, a wind attribute Saint Force could be seen as it covered the youth's body. Like an arrow, he flew toward Dugu Feng and Jian Chen with a faster speed than before.

The black robed youth's speed was almost inconceivable. In a moment he had traveled several kilometers, causing both Jian Chen and Dugu Feng to be shocked. The moment Jian Chen saw the youth's face, he went still as a surge of emotions swell up in him.

Dugu Feng was shocked for a moment before becoming happy. He didn't think that his luck would be good enough to meet such a strong person. With his fast speed, even if he wasn't able to defeat Jian Chen, he would at the very least keep him occupied.

“Friend, help me hold up the man behind me and the Dugu clan will reward you.” Dugu Feng spoke once more with a relaxed voice.

The youth revealed a strange smile, but he did not respond to Dugu Feng. Bringing out his cyan colored longsword, he quickly slashed at Dugu Feng with an alarming speed.

Bringing up his Ruler Armament to defend himself, Dugu Feng quickly protected himself. The youth staggered back a few steps as his feet dragged across the ground.

What was more shocking was that the Ruler Armament-wielding Dugu Feng had also been forced back three steps by the ordinary looking sword of the youth.

“Friend, what is the meaning of this?” Dugu Feng’s face grew dark before shock filled his face. The youth’s strength was extraordinary, and even after blocking the sword, his inner organs had felt the vibration from the blow.

“Could this average looking youth somehow be a Heaven Saint Master?” Dugu Feng thought to himself in terror.

The youth recollected himself before looking at the sword in Dugu Feng’s hands with some surprise before cursing out loud, “F*ck, so it was a Ruler Armament.”

With the youth holding up Dugu Feng, Jian Chen had quickly caught up. Standing twenty meters away from Dugu Feng’s back, he smiled at the black robed youth.

The youth looked at Jian Chen with a happy smile before waving his hands, “Hey, Jian Chen! I didn’t think I’d meet you in such a manner. You seem to be doing quite well if you can bring even a Ruler Armament user to heel.”

Jian Chen revealed a happy smile on his face, “Ming Dong, it’s been almost a year since we last saw each other, I barely recognized you.”

This one youth was unexpectedly Ming Dong, who had stayed in the midair shrine. Nearly a year had passed, but his strength had undergone an earth-shattering transformation.

Chapter 320: Blood Oath

After nearly a year, Ming Dong had undergone an extreme transformation. Right now with Ming Dong standing calmly right there, he was exuding a mountainous aura that seemed almost boundless. From head to toe, the aura he was exuding was what a strong individual would display. It was as if he had experienced many different life and death battles and had become a hardened soldier. Unconsciously, he was radiating killing intent that was unlike anything else and made everyone around feel as if their hearts were being pressured by it.

Ming Dong, right now, was almost as if he were a completely different person than the one from a year ago. Jian Chen couldn’t help but feel some doubt, was this black robed youth in front of him the Ming Dong he knew?

Ming Dong laughed with an excited look on his face, “Jian Chen, I was getting worried about where I should go to find you. I didn’t think that I’d be able to find you so fast. This must be what the Heavens have decreed or that we were just destined to see each other.”

Upon hearing the conversation between Jian Chen and this black clothed youth, Dugu Feng instantly grew extremely ugly. Before, he had been extremely overjoyed to see the large amount of power of this youth, but he didn't think that the two men would somehow know each other. And from the look of things, the two men were on extremely good terms with each other.

Dugu Feng was suddenly stuck between a rock and a hard place. Right in front of him was a tiger and behind him was a wolf. Both of them were extremely fast; especially the newcomer's speed. Dugu Feng had already given up on running away since he knew that even if he were to run at full speed, he wouldn't be able to escape from the wind attributed Ming Dong. There was no way for him to run away from the two.

Dugu Feng's face grew deathly serious. He wasn't afraid of death at all, but the Ruler Armament was something he couldn't afford to lose. If it were to fall into someone else's hands, then his clan would be humiliated to the highest degree. Without a Ruler Armament, then his clan's power would plummet. That was because if a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master were to use a Ruler Armament, they would be capable of fighting a Saint Ruler. His fighting ability would only be describable as a being able to shatter the heavens and scorch the earth.

"Ming Dong, let's catch up later, for now, let's take care of the business in front of us." Jian Chen smiled.

Ming Dong turned to look at the serious Dugu Feng with his own smile, "That's fine, Jian Chen, this guy has a Ruler Armament. That means he has a strong background, you should prepare yourself."

Shrugging, Jian Chen spoke helplessly, "There's no other way, although it'll be a headache, but some headaches have to be endured. I've already killed two other Ruler Armament users, so trouble is unavoidable, another one shouldn't matter too much."

Upon hearing Jian Chen's words, Ming Dong's eyes widened in amazement, "No way, you've killed two people with Ruler Armaments? You're too strong now, did those two Ruler Armament users have no barriers to protect themselves?"

Jian Chen laughed, "Ming Dong, I didn't think you would know about Ruler Armaments or even about the barriers. It seems that you've learned a lot in one year."

"Of course! Uncle Tian has treated me nicely and spent a lot of energy to try and bring up my strength from the Great Saint Master to where I am now in the span of half a year. He also taught me many things." Ming Dong pointed at Dugu Feng. "Jian Chen, this person's strength is quite decent, could you give him to me to practice? Ever since I left uncle Tian a few days ago, I haven't been able to test out my strength properly."

Ming Dong's words left Dugu Feng speechless. He could have sworn that he heard the one called Ming Dong say that within half a year, he went from the Great Saint Master level to a level where he could contend against a Ruler Armament user without injuries and even knock them back. Dugu Feng had found this hard to believe; anyone in the Earth Saint Master level would not be able to rely on their own strength and yet still be able to injure a Ruler Armament person, but this black robed youth was the very first.

"That's fine then, Ming Dong, I'll leave this to you. Let me see just how much you've improved in the span of a year." Jian Chen leaped back and gave the space to Ming Dong. He approved of the speed in

which Ming Dong had improved and was not worried that Dugu Feng would be able to run away from Ming Dong.

“Wait one moment!” Dugu Feng cried out in a hurried manner, turning to look at Jian Chen, he asked, “We had some misunderstandings before, but that is only a minor problem and not worth chasing me down without mercy. Did you want the pages of the Heaven Tier Battle Skill or my Ruler Armament?”

“What do you think?” Jian Chen joked as he looked at him with a smile.

“If you want the the pages, then I’ll give it to you as well as everything else in my Space Belt. But if you try to take the Ruler Armament, then I can tell you right now, it will bring you an endless amount of trouble. A Ruler Armament is something extremely important to my clan and no one in the clan would allow an outsider to take possession of it. Even if you kill me and take the Ruler Armament, then our clan will definitely do whatever it takes to chase you throughout the continent and kill you. Even the ancestor of our clan will personally come after you.” Dugu Feng warned.

Jian Chen’s expression didn’t change as he spoke casually, “I’ve already killed two men who had barriers and Ruler Armaments, do you think I’m afraid of that?”

Dugu Feng went white as he mentally made that realization. He was afraid that Jian Chen had an equally strong clan supporting him and was even stronger than the Dugu clan. If that clan was too strong, then he was afraid that if the Ruler Armament was taken from his clan, they wouldn’t be able to steal it back from that clan. Even if they tried to steal it back, they would still be mocked by everyone else and the entire clan would be humiliated.

Suddenly, Dugu Feng made up his mind. Smashing against the part where his heart was with his fist, Dugu Feng spat out some blood onto his fingers and began to paint in midair. His fingers gently moved through the air as he began to draw a strange type of image. With each stroke, a blood colored trace could be seen still before it all finally became a bloody pattern.

Jian Chen looked at Dugu Feng with confusion at what he was doing. Whatever this strange thing was, this was the very first time he had heard or seen such a thing.

Ming Dong walked over from Dugu Feng’s back and watched in amazement at the bloody pattern and a look of utter disbelief.

“Jian Chen, I, Dugu Feng, make a blood oath to you today. If you allow me to return the Ruler Armament to my clan, I, Dugu Feng will see you as my king. Wherever you go, I will follow, whatever order you command, I will strive to accomplish to my dying breath.” Dugu Feng stared at Jian Chen unwaveringly as he spoke with determination and some reluctance. For the sake of protecting the Ruler Armament, he was willing to follow Jian Chen for his entire life for the sake of his family that he loved. He did not wish to see his family become condemned by everyone, and so, he was willing to give up his own life.

Jian Chen was speechless as he looked at Dugu Feng with a surprised expression. Although he didn’t know what a blood oath was, whatever Dugu Feng had said truly surprised him.

Ming Dong’s eyes slowly looked at the strange blood pattern left by Dugu Feng as he spoke, “A blood oath. I’ve heard that from ancient times until now this is a binding promise that is written using one’s heart blood as a way for the soul to take form in the oath. It is said that the person who holds the oath

also controls the life of the person who made the pledge. With just a single thought, the person who made the oath will have their body and soul extinguished. Whats even scarier is that if the person who holds the oath dies, then the one that made the oath will share the same fate. I didn't think that you would know the blood oath from ancient times."

Upon hearing Ming Dong's explanation, Jian Chen finally had some understanding of what a blood oath was. He didn't think that this world would have such a bizarre thing; truly, this strange world was filled with magical things.

Even at Ming Dong's words, Dugu Feng didn't blink and looked at Jian Chen, "If you allow me to bring the Ruler Armament back to my clan, then you will be my king, and I will act out your orders no matter what the task is without complaint. If you wish for my Ruler Armament, then I will be dead either way without any form of protection. What is your answer?"

"Fine, I'll let you bring back your Ruler Armament to your clan, remember your promise." Jian Chen spoke instantly. To him, a Ruler Armament was truly strong, but in the end, it was still just a weapon. Dugu Feng was a living person with room for growth. Furthermore, no one knew for certain whether or not Dugu Feng would become a Saint Ruler.

Dugu Feng looked at Jian Chen intensely before saying, "As of today, I Dugu Feng formally separate myself from the Dugu clan. From now on, whatever I, Dugu Feng, do, it will not be related to the Dugu clan. My life and my death will bear no relations to the clan, and I will only obey you on any command but those relating to the Dugu clan. I am no longer a part of the clan, and will not be able to use the clan in any way."

Jian Chen revealed a small smile full of admiration toward Dugu Feng as he spoke instantly, "I promise you, you will be you. The Dugu clan will be the Dugu clan. I will definitely not exploit the Dugu clan's power and will definitely not pit you against them. I won't force the secrets of the Dugu clan from you either. As long as you are willing, then that is enough for me."

"Fine, from here on out, I, Dugu Feng, will serve you as my king. As long as you don't try to bring harm to my clan, then please accept my blood oath." Dugu Feng spoke with a refreshed tone.