

Chaotic 321

Chapter 321: Intact Heaven Tier Battle Skill (One)

Jian Chen looked at the floating blood pattern that Dugu Feng had drawn and spoke, "Dugu Feng, you are a true man. I, Jian Chen, admire you. This blood oath is not something I want. I have no desire to control your life, but the things you promised to do I am still waiting on."

Hearing this, Dugu Feng was stunned. Looking at Jian Chen in disbelief, he said, "Do you really trust me, are you not afraid of me going back on my word?"

"That's right. I believe in a person of your character. Of course, if you are a person that goes back on your word, then I can only blame myself for being blind." Jian Chen spoke with no hesitation as if he fully trusted Dugu Feng's words.

Despite the fact Jian Chen could control Dugu Feng's life with the blood oath, Jian Chen didn't need a person of empty strength. He needed a true comrade, someone with flesh and blood with his own spirit and self thought. Self independency was the only way to reveal Dugu Feng's true potential. Although accepting the blood oath would allow Jian Chen to be able to sleep worry free without fear of being betrayed, Dugu Feng would become nothing more than a soulless person. This would bear no major change on Dugu Feng's power, but in the end, Jian Chen would never hold Dugu Feng's true loyalty.

Dugu Feng stared at Jian Chen in a daze, full of disbelief. At this moment, he was looking at Jian Chen in a whole new light from a stranger to a comrade that he had fought and lived through multiple battles with, thus emotions began to fill up in his eyes.

Dugu Feng's fists unconsciously began to tighten as he stared at the handsome and younger Jian Chen before speaking, "You needn't worry then. I, Dugu Feng, am not a person that goes back on his word. When I return the Ruler Armament to my clan, then I will immediately come back to fulfill my promise."

Jian Chen nodded his head with a smile. The matter between him and Dugu Feng seemed to have been settled in a way that Jian Chen had not expected. He now had Dugu Feng's loyalty, so Jian Chen was happy. Ming Dong's strength had also made leaps and bounds, and with the addition of the equally strong Dugu Feng, it could be said that the Flame Mercenaries made another promotion in strength. With this expansion in strength, the amount of power Jian Chen was controlling now was on a larger scale.

"Dugu Feng, you should continue to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries. With you strength, you should be able to make a name for yourself and make it within the top ten. The rewards are extraordinarily rich. This is not an opportunity that should be missed." Jian Chen spoke.

Dugu Feng nodded his head, "Fine, after the Gathering of the Mercenaries are over, everything I earn will be given to you. I am no longer from the Dugu clan, so my achievements will be unrelated to them."

Jian Chen shook his head, "That won't be necessary. As long as you make the achievements yourself, then the reward is yours. Dugu Feng, I, Jian Chen, admire you as a true man. In the future, you will be a brother to us all. I hope that everyone can be honest with each other and that we can work together."

Hearing his words, Dugu Feng began to feel emotional as his voice began to tremble while he spoke, "Fine, I will be your comrade and will not permit anyone to do anything to cause harm to us. Otherwise,

anyone that tries will not escape from me.” Dugu Feng spoke heroically. From this moment, the proud heart of Dugu Feng had finally been influenced completely by Jian Chen.

“Haha, I didn’t think we’d earn one more friend from this. Dugu Feng, I am called Ming Dong, you can just call me by that. The previous offenses I may have spoken, please do not take offense to them. I, Ming Dong, truly wish to apologize for this.” Ming Dong too admired Dugu Feng’s character and smiled at him with a refreshed look.

Dugu Feng couldn’t help but have a small smile on his face as he clasped a hand on Ming Dong’s shoulder, “Then I’ll be calling you Ming Dong in the future. Today has been a lucky day for me to be able to come across two outstanding geniuses and become their comrade. You two are even younger than me, but you two are inversely stronger than me. Especially you, Ming Dong; with your own strength, you were able to receive a blow from my Ruler Armament and even caused me to be sent back. Could you be a Heaven Saint Master?”

Ming Dong laughed loudly, “It’s not that extreme, I am only at the Peak Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master level. Although there is only one more step until the Heaven Saint Master realm, this step will still take me another three years at the least to cross.”

“What, your strength has already reached the Peak Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master level?” As soon as Ming Dong finished talking, Jian Chen spoke in surprise as his eyes widened in disbelief.

In less than a year, Ming Dong had gone from a Great Saint Master to a Peak Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master. This was a frightening pace that even the words, “lightning quick” wouldn’t be able to describe. That was because to become an Earth Saint Master, an unbelievable amount of energy was needed to make the breakthrough. The amount of energy however, to become a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master was immeasurable. Yet, Ming Dong had somehow managed to pull off the impossible within the span of a single year. Even Jian Chen at the moment was only a First Cycle Earth Saint Master.

Dugu Feng regarded Ming Dong’s strength with astonishment, he didn’t think that Ming Dong was anywhere past the age of 28. This was younger than he was by two years, but the gap in strength between the two was vast. For him to be one step away from the Heaven Saint Master level, this type of achievement made the heaven sent genius Dugu Feng feel eclipsed.

Seeing the look on Jian Chen’s face, Ming Dong laughed as he enjoyed the expression. “Jian Chen, you shouldn’t look so surprised. For the sake of improving my strength, uncle Tian expended a lot of his energy and used an unmeasurable amount of heavenly treasures to improve my strength. Originally, uncle Tian had planned on raising my strength to the Heaven Saint Master realm. Unfortunately, with my current foundation, if I were to become a Heaven Saint Master, then my foundation would be shattered. For the sake of my future cultivation path, he forced my strength to hover around the Peak Sixth Cycle. Then, with his absolute strength, he confined my energy within my body and told me to not try and make the breakthrough for three years.

Hearing this, Dugu Feng felt shock in his heart before asking, “Ming Dong, your uncle Tian is quite amazing. He must be a Saint Ruler at the very least.”

Ming Dong’s mouth raised up by a small amount as he smiled, “My uncle Tian is extraordinarily strong. However strong he is, I don’t know, but I did hear that 5000 years ago, uncle Tian was a Saint Ruler.”

“Wh-what? Five....five thou-thousand years ago he was a Saint Ruler!?” Dugu Feng’s face lost color as his eyes grew so wide, they were in danger of falling to the ground. He was that shocked.

“What, Dugu Feng, is there something wrong?” Ming Dong had a crafty smile on his face as he pretended to be confused.

“N-no.. there’s nothing.” Dugu Feng spoke out in a rush as his forehead began to collect sweatdrops. His face grew white as he spoke; this was the first time since Jian Chen came by that he had lost his composure.

“It seems Dugu Feng most likely knows something, otherwise, he would not be shocked to such a degree to hear about a 5000 year old Saint Ruler.” Jian Chen thought to himself as he observed him.

“There’s still a few of the Heaven Tier Battle Skill pages I haven’t yet collected back in the cave. We should hurry on back.” Jian Chen spoke.

After that, the three men quickly dashed toward the cave as Jian Chen began to worry about the few pages left in Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling’s hands. Thus, their speed wasn’t slow at all. Not too long after, the three men quickly came near the area of the cave.

As the three men approached the area where everyone fought the four magical beasts, a loud roar could be heard from farther away before the bloodsoaked and furious Amethyst Thunder Lion came charging at the three.

“What a strong force, I’ve finally come across a strong opponent! Let me at him, you two shouldn’t take this away from me.” Ming Dong stared at the Amethyst Thunder Lion and charged at it with his own Saint Weapon.”

“Ming Dong, after you’re done with the Amethyst Thunder Lion, come meet up with us in the cave, we’ll be heading in first.” Jian Chen spoke to Ming Dong as he charged. Right now Ming Dong’s strength was already strong enough to knock back a Ruler Armament user without harm, he would be able to deal with the heavily injured Amethyst Thunder Lion with ease.

“Got it.” Ming Dong replied.

“Ah, that’s right, there still might be the Pangolin Emperor hidden below ground, be careful of it.” Jian Chen warned him.

Afterward, Jian Chen and Dugu Feng swiftly arrived nearby the cave where they saw a large amount of men gathered outside who were cursing loudly.

“For what reason are you blocking us from entering, this cave isn’t yours!”

“That’s right, you all are too arrogant! This immortal’s cave isn’t yours, just what right do you have to seize it for yourselves?”

“Don’t think that just because you have the strength to monopolize the cave that we won’t be able to enter. If we all unite, we will be able to make a break into the cave!”

“Hurry up and get out of the way for us! Although our strengths aren’t equal to yours, we are not afraid of you!”

From far away, Dugu Feng and Jian Chen could hear the sounds of curses as everyone was blocked entry into the cave.

Quickly, Jian Chen and Dugu Feng landed on the ground. Dugu Feng then roared out loud to the crowd, "Whoever blocks our path should move aside!" His voice was so loud that everyone's eardrums shook.

Chapter 322: Intact Heaven Tier Battle Skill (Two)

As soon as Dugu Feng yelled out loud, everyone grew quiet as they bit back their anger for the ones blocking the cave. Dugu's commotion had instantly earned their new ire and immediately, everyone began to curse at him.

"F*ck, who dares shout so loud, are they waiting for death?"

"Who's yelling out so f*cking loud? Come out!"

"F*cking hell, such arrogance! Hurry up and come out! If you wish to die, allow brother here to show you the road!"

Suddenly, after the men shouted their curses, they turned around to look at the flame sword wielding Dugu Feng and the white robed Jian Chen. Immediately, all the cursing stopped as their faces registered shock while the few that cursed at them immediately paled.

In a split moment, the entire place went quiet. Right in front of them was Dugu Feng of the five experts and an incredibly strong individual, Jian Chen. Not a single person there dared to even breathe loudly.

"Whoever was just cursing at us, step on out immediately." Dugu Feng barked out loud with a serious expression.

Not a single person made a sound, and not a single person moved. Everyone stood there silently as those who cursed at them felt their hearts beat crazily. At the same time, everyone began to make way for the two.

Dugu Feng looked at everyone slowly, evidently not willing to let those bastards who cursed at them go.

"It's fine, there's no need to bother about something like this. Our first priority are those pages." Jian Chen spoke to Dugu Feng before quickly running past the crowd and toward the cave's interior.

Dugu Feng sneered at everyone but followed Jian Chen straight away without another word.

Right in front of the cave stood several men which included Senior An and Yun Zheng. In total, there were eight men guarding the place that were pushing back several hundred men. Four of the other men were from Qin Ji's group while the last two were from Tianmu Ling.

"Jian Chen, you're finally back! Hurry up and enter or else the items will all be taken by them!" Senior An wailed in an impatient manner.

"Senior An, who told you two to guard this place?" Jian Chen spoke in bafflement toward Yun Zheng and Senior An.

“It was all because of that girl named Tianmu Ling. Thanks to her coaxing, she had Yun Zheng and I brought over here to stand guard, leaving the three of them inside still.” Senior An’s face revealed a sour expression, showing that he was evidently not there by free will.

Jian Chen slapped Senior An’s shoulder with a stern face, “You two keep guard here. Be assured, as long as there is a profit, I, Jian Chen won’t forget about you two.”

“That’s fine, Jian Chen, you don’t need to say such words to me. Hurry up and go otherwise all of the items will be taken and we’ll be stuck with a deficit!” Senior An said.

Without another word and under everyone’s watchful eye, he and Dugu Feng quickly disappeared into the cave.

“Strange, wasn’t he chasing after Dugu Feng a while ago? He even killed several of the Earth Saint Masters of the Dugu clan, but he just came back with Dugu Feng as if they had nothing between them in the first place.”

“Right, that’s awfully strange. Could Jian Chen and Dugu Feng have made some sort of secret agreement?”

“I doubt it, Jian Chen has already killed several of the Dugu clansmen. With Dugu Feng’s temper, there’s no way they would have made a compromise. There has to be something we don’t know.”

As for those men of Qin Ji’s group, they began to whisper among each other.

Walking into the cave, Jian Chen saw the four men he had killed from the Dugu clan. Instantly his face took on a forced smile. Previously, he hadn’t thought that this matter with Dugu Feng would take on such a drastic change. Thus, when he fought against Dugu Feng’s clansmen, he hadn’t held back. With such an urgent matter at hand, Jian Chen wasn’t lenient on them so he could chase Dugu Feng, otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to make it through in time.

Right now, Jian Chen couldn’t help but feel a headache come to him. In the current situation, it was quite difficult to explain to Dugu Feng what happened. After all, he and Dugu Feng had already laid down their arms and were friends now, not enemies.

Dugu Feng naturally knew that the four Earth Saint Masters he had brought with him had all died by Jian Chen’s hands. As if he knew what Jian Chen was thinking, he said, “They are from the Dugu clan and have nothing to do with me. Furthermore, they were only members from the outside branch. Two of them were actually disciples accepted into the Dugu clan and are not core members. They were conveniently younger than fifty years old, so my father hired them to be my bodyguards.”

Hearing Dugu Feng’s words, Jian Chen let out a breath in relief.

Dugu Feng had a small smile on his face, “It seems my choice was quite smart. I didn’t follow the wrong person; you and Ming Dong are both heaven sent geniuses of superior talent than I. I believe that if I follow you two, I will definitely experience things far more spectacular than my own experiences.”

“Perhaps!” Jian Chen spoke vaguely.

Afterward, the two men flew into the cave only to see Qin Ji, Tianmu Ling, and the yellow clothed girl flying all over the place as if trying to find the treasure. Shi Xiangran's body lay in a far away area with no one to care about while Jiede Wukang's body had been carried away.

When they saw Jian Chen and Dugu Feng walk back into the cave almost as if nothing had happened between the two, Qin Ji, Tianmu Ling, and the yellow clothed girl became stunned as if they saw the impossible happen. They were so shocked that they couldn't help but stop where they were.

"Jian Chen, you two..." Qin Ji was filled with confusion as he stared at Jian Chen and Dugu Feng. The two of them didn't look at all like they had been fighting.

Tianmu Ling looked at the both of them and asked, "Could it be that you two didn't fight?"

Jian Chen looked at Tianmu Ling puzzled, "Fight? Just why would we fight?"

"Because..." Tianmu Ling was speechless as she tried to find the right words to say. She couldn't tell Jian Chen, "You had just killed four of the Earth Saint Masters of the Dugu clan, are you and Dugu Feng not mortal enemies?" She wasn't that stupid.

The puzzled Tianmu Ling and Qin Ji didn't know just what had happened between Jian Chen and Dugu Feng, but it didn't take an idiot to know that something secretive had happened. However, they were tactful enough to not ask.

"Hmph, there was definitely some sort of shameful business." The yellow clothed girl spoke in a single sentence with her singsong voice.

Jian Chen laughed with an embarrassed smile, "It was nothing that shameful."

Then, Jian Chen's face grew serious as he looked at Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling. Before he could say anything, Qin Ji immediately took out the pages to the Heaven Tier Battle Skill from his Space Ring and said before Jian Chen could open his mouth, "Jian Chen, the two of us have fought side by side, no one else can say the same. These pages are of no use to me, so I gift them to you. You have a much bigger need for these than I do." Walking up to Jian Chen, Qin Ji gave the leather book and his pages to Jian Chen.

Qin Ji's preemptive action had left Jian Chen speechless. With a charming smile, he replied, "Ah, I've no words to describe my gratitude. I, Jian Chen, will remember this." With that, he took the papers with joy.

Dugu Feng had already given his pages to Jian Chen long before. With Qin Ji's pages, Jian Chen now had seventeen of the nineteen pages. That meant only the two pages from Tianmu Ling were left until he had all of the pages to the Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

Jian Chen looked at Tianmu Ling with a faint smile, "Sister Tianmu Ling, would it be possible for you to hand over those two pages?"

Recovering from her shock from seeing Jian Chen and Dugu Feng return safely, Tianmu Ling laughed as she replied, "Little brother, if your elder sister refused, then you would have killed this older sister." With that, she assumed a miserable expression, causing anyone that looked at her to take pity.

Jian Chen gave an embarrassed smile, "Sister Tianmu Ling likes to joke I see. I have no grievances with you, why would I want to kill you? However, the two pages you have are worth nothing by themselves,

and I am coincidentally short two pages. Could it be that you don't wish to see this Heaven Tier Battle Skill to enter this world and be eternally disgraced?"

"Brother Jian Chen's words have some meaning to them. An intact Heaven Tier Battle Skill is quite fetching to the eye. If it were to be uncompleted, it would be a barbaric act of crime." With that, Tianmu Ling looked at Jian Chen with a charming stare as her jade white arm slowly pressed against Jian Chen's "dirty sword" as she exhaled slowly, "Big brother, how about this, you can hand over the Heaven Tier Battle Skill pages to elder sister to complete it. Would this work? Of course, your older sister will not treat you unfairly."

TL Note: Jian Chen's name in Chinese can be transliterated to mean, "Dirty Sword." You can understand the rest of the joke here.

Tianmu Ling's other arm pressed against Jian Chen's shoulder with an increasing amount of weight as she began to hang off of him. Her rosy red lips were several centimeters away from Jian Chen's lips, and with each word, her breath could be felt on his lips. This was a strange sensation that exuded charm and seduction that if not for his own determination, his heart would have been in turmoil.

When Jian Chen heard her words, his face instantly changed expressions. He desperately wanted this Heaven Tier Battle Skill, and since they were incredibly hard to obtain, just how could he give it away so easily?

Jian Chen's change in expression had been noticed by Tianmu Ling straight away, "Ai yo, brother, your face was so handsome before, how could it make such a drastic change? Your elder sister was only joking with you, if you wish for the pages in your elder's sister hands, you must fulfill a request of mine."

"What request!" Jian Chen immediately spoke with urgency.

"Haha, it seems brother Jian Chen desires this Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Then your elder sister won't embarrass you. This request is rather simple, as long as you give your elder sister a lip to lip kiss, then that will be it. How about it? Is it not simple?" Tianmu Ling's lips were still several centimeters away from Jian Chen's, and each word spoken had made her breath press against Jian Chen for an itchy effect.

Upon hearing Tianmu Ling's "Simple" request, Jian Chen became speechless as a fine layer of sweat appeared on his face. Her words had been explicit, causing Jian Chen to grow red in embarrassment.

"Hmph, **! S!t! Shameless!" On the other side, the yellow clothed girl stared at Tianmu Ling in disgust as she gnashed her teeth together. When she had seen just how intimate Tianmu Ling was to Jian Chen, she had all of a sudden felt an uncomfortable feeling well up inside of her for unknown reasons.

"Hahaha, I've almost forgotten about brother's lover over there. Look, your lover is beginning to get jealous." Tianmu Ling laughed as she gave a charming wink to her, causing the other girl's chest to move up and down in anger before Tianmu Ling spoke, "You shouldn't speak such insane words."

Tianmu Ling was an expert at these types of affairs; the yellow clothed girl was not an opponent for her.

"Forget it, I remember brother's words now. Little sister's temper isn't good, eh, it's terrible! I won't tease you anymore then, little brother, if you want the Heaven Tier Battle Skill pages, then take them. Your elder sister will give them to you. This type of joke isn't something your sister likes." Tianmu Ling

lifted herself off of Jian Chen's shoulder and took out the two remaining pages from her Space Belt. Then, with a sideways glance, she spoke to Jian Chen, "Little brother, don't forget, you owe me a kiss."

Jian Chen hurriedly took the remaining two pages and quickly began to assemble all of the pages on the ground. As for Tianmu Ling's last few words, he hadn't paid attention to them.

The yellow clothed girl stared furiously at Tianmu Ling as if she wanted nothing more than to cut her up into a thousand pieces. To face off against a person that would speak obscenities at a woman, it really annoyed her.

"This little girl is quite interesting." Tianmu Ling looked away from her and muttered her own thoughts to herself with a small smile. Then, disregarding Jian Chen, she began to search the cave once more.

Soon enough, Jian Chen had completely pieced together the nineteen pages. This Heaven Tier Battle Skill was written on some sort of unknown magical beast leather, but while it was abnormally soft, its toughness was also very apparent, meaning it would not be damaged easily.

Written on the cover of the battle skill were the words 《Heaven's Stolen Fortune》. At these words, Jian Chen began to shiver in happiness as he looked at the entirety of the battle skill.

This Heaven's Stolen Fortune was an extraordinarily magical Heaven Tier Battle Skill. It allowed for one to temporarily increase one's strength three to ten times over at the cost of the rate of their Saint Force consumption being increased equally. The rate in which one's strength was multiplied is reflected upon how quickly they used up Saint Force.

If a person's strength was multiplied ten times over, then a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master would be able to fight a Heaven Saint Master and could even kill one. Naturally, this was only Jian Chen's guess. After all, there was no Heaven Saint Master for him to fight so he would not know how strong he would be.

Chapter 323: Skeleton of the Saint Ruler (One)

Jian Chen could feel his emotions stirring as he read the Heaven Tier Battle Skill the Heaven's Stolen Fortune. Jian Chen had long since knew about the rarity of a battle skill since he had left the Changyang clan. Even an inferior Human Tier Battle Skill was worth thousands of coins and could not be acquired by the most inferior of mercenaries. Right now he had a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, so his heart was naturally moved with joy that could not be described. Jian Chen knew clearly how precious Heaven Tier Battle Skills were and could not be exaggerated to any degree. Any time a Heaven Tier Battle Skill appeared within the continent, a bloody war would follow straight away and would eventually lead to an even bigger conflict.

On the Tian Yuan Continent, there were not many Heaven Tier Battle Skills. Each time one appeared, countless of Earth Saint Masters and Heaven Saint Masters would fight each other for it. Some Heaven Saint Masters fell to their deaths because of this.

Because of the rarity of a precious Heaven Tier Battle Skill, many similarly priced Heaven Tier Cultivation Methods were more highly sought for.

It would seem that this "Heaven Stolen Fortune" was capable of providing enough energy to rebel against the heavens. Jian Chen desperately wanted to flip through the pages, but he was a rational

person and forced his surging emotions and stored the Heaven Tier Battle Skill within his Space Ring with dissatisfaction.

As soon as the battle skill was stored in his Space Ring, Jian Chen's emotions were quickly calmed down. Looking around at the people who were searching the cave, he began to join them.

The cave was extremely large and spacious. Hanging right on the ceiling of the cave was a single head sized nightpearl that illuminated the entire cave with its shiny glow.

At the front of the cave was a single high platform that had contained the wooden box with the Heaven Tier Battle Skill. In the middle was a single stone table with a small pile of dust gathered on it. The stone table looked as if it was made from the very same material as the stone door that was protecting the cave out in front. On it was a single chessboard, indicating that the previous owner of the cave loved to play chess.

Right next to a wall was a single haphazardly made wooden bookshelf with several books on it. These books had clearly been thumbed through by Qin Ji's men, since there were dust piles on the floor in front of the bookshelf.

Jian Chen walked up to the bookshelf and grabbed a book with a sudden look of shock on his face. All of these books were Human Tier Battle Skills.

Jian Chen swiftly rummaged through the remaining books to find that two of the books were Advanced Human Tier Battle Skills and the rest were Earth Tier Battle Skills. Four of them were Primary Earth Tier Battle Skills and two were Middle Earth Tier Battle Skills. This discovery had left Jian Chen in a pleasant mood since this was quite a big find. Since he grew up in a rich clan and had a Ruler Armament, Qin Ji and his men were all men with eyes that were taller than their heads. These Earth Tier Battle Skills were beneath their notice, so even after they looked through these books, they didn't take them—which was convenient for Jian Chen.

Jian Chen wasn't as overbearing as they were and began to store away all of the battle skills into his Space Ring. For the sake of the development of the Flame Mercenaries, these battle skills were essential.

Despite the expansive cave, the items within were relatively scarce. Aside from a few things, there was nothing else to be seen. Qin Ji, Tianmu Ling, Dugu Feng, and the yellow robed girl had already scoured the entire cave and even had some choice words with the cave walls.

Suddenly, a noise could be heard from outside the cave as two middle aged men with blood pouring out their mouths flew into the cave before landing heavily on the ground.

These two men were the men that Qin Ji and Tianmu Lin had brought.

Seeing their own men sent flying through the air, Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling instantly grew dark in the face as an aura of killing intent could be felt being directed toward the entrance to the cave.

A cyan colored swordsman wearing black robes came walking in slowly as he argued angrily, "I can't enter? This cave isn't even yours, just what reason could you have for blocking me from entering?" As Ming Dong entered the cave, many people followed behind him including an embarrassed Senior An. Right behind him was a large crowd of people who began to crowd the place.

“Who are you!” Qin Ji thundered at Ming Dong dangerously in an unfriendly manner.

Ming Dong didn't even look at Qin Ji as he searched the five people in the cave before finally discovering Dugu Feng and Jian Chen. With a friendly wave, he spoke out, “Hey, Jian Chen, Dugu Feng, you two are here after all! It seems I've found the right place after all!” He spoke as he walked up to Jian Chen and clasped onto Jian Chen's shoulder as a sign of friendship.

Seeing how Jian Chen and Ming Dong were so close with each other, Tianmu Ling and Qin Ji's faces both slowly eased up. Despite this, they were still filled with dissatisfaction at Ming Dong. That was because everyone had been allowed entry into the cave with the disturbance Ming Dong had created.

Jian Chen forced a smile on his face as he looked at the people behind Ming Dong as he whispered, “Why did you bring so many people in here?”

Hearing this, Ming Dong suddenly had an embarrassed look on his face as he laughed awkwardly, “Jian Chen, were those guards outside the cave's entrance a part of this group? If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have been so rough.” As he spoke, Ming Dong strolled over to where the stone table was and placed a leg on it. In the next second, something strange happened as the stone table where Ming Dong was stepping on slowly began to descend into the ground.

Immediately leaping off the table, Ming Dong could only look on in astonishment as the table descended deeper into the ground before exclaiming, “Wh...what's happening? I couldn't have activated some sort of mechanism have I?”

Even as Ming Dong spoke, the group of men in the cave all grew vigilant as they began to worry whether or not the mechanism that was activated would kill them.

As the table descended into the ground, it was almost as if there was indeed a mechanism as Ming Dong had said. The cave began to shake as a muffled boom could be heard and a hidden stone door slowly started to rise up from the ground.

“There must be a treasure inside, hurry up and enter before anyone else can!”

“Hurry up and go in, there has to be the Heaven Tier Battle Skill inside!”

The crowded cave of people quickly began to cry out loud as they charged toward the area.

Jian Chen and the others in the group didn't hesitate for even a moment. In an instant they quickly flew toward the stone door. In a blur of movements, Jian Chen, Ming Dong, Qin Ji and the rest all disappeared from within the cave.

The area past the stone doors was quite small, only a few men could stand inside. There seemed to be a single person resting inside and right above his head was a single fist sized nightpearl that seemed to endlessly pour out a ray of light that would never cease.

As soon as several men entered this small cave, they immediately felt a tremendous amount of pressure coming at them from all angles. It was enough for everyone to suddenly become serious as their hearts could feel the shock; this cave was not a normal one.

Right next to one of the walls was a single jade white bed. On the white bed, a single white skeleton could be seen maintaining a meditative position for an unknown amount of time. This entire skeleton

exuded a fluorescent light from itself as well. Although it was only a skeleton, it was giving off an incredible amount of pressure. Even the faint amount of power that could be felt in the room was coming from this skeleton.

“This is the skeleton of a Saint Ruler!” Tianmu Ling shouted out loud in shock at the skeleton. Qin Ji, Dugu Feng, Ming Dong and the yellow clothed girl all showed similar signs of shock at this new found discovery. As they discovered the skeleton and felt shock overtake them, everyone soon quickly felt their blood begin to boil.

In a single flash of movement of Qin Ji that caused a squall of wind to appear, he flew toward the skeleton. At the same time, Dugu Feng, Tianmu Ling, Ming Dong and the yellow clothed girl all charged toward it.

Ming Dong looked at the skeleton with his blood pounding in his veins, immediately enwrapping himself in his wind attributed Saint Force, his speed increased by a terrifying amount and instantly brought him closer to the skeleton. Without any hesitation, he placed his hand on the skeleton and quickly stored it into his Space Belt.

Seeing that Ming Dong had collected the Saint Ruler’s skeleton, Qin Ji, Tianmu Ling and even the yellow clothed girl’s face began to look exceedingly disappointed.

Suddenly, a saw tooth blade Ruler Armament appeared in Qin Ji’s hand as a whip like Ruler Armament appeared in Tianmu Ling’s own hand as they both attacked Ming Dong.

Dugu Feng sneered before pulling out his flame sword from his back before closing the distance between himself and Tianmu Ling to substitute for Ming Dong as a strong individual.

Simultaneously, Jian Chen had already pulled out his Light Wind Sword as he flew at Qin Ji. With a firm outreach, the Light Wind Sword began to exude Sword Qi into the area around Qin Ji, causing him to be forced to pull back his Ruler Armament.

On the other side, the already ready to strike longbow wielder saw that both Jian Chen and Dugu Feng were unexpectedly helping the one that had taken the Saint Ruler’s skeleton. In an instant, she had realized that the relationship between these three were not ordinary at all and slowly withdrew her bow.

Dugu Feng didn’t hesitate in the slightest as he slashed his sword at Tianmu Ling, forcing her to use her barrier. Although it blocked his attack, the force behind the blow was enough to send her flying back.

Jian Chen had no desire to fight against Qin Ji, as soon as he renounced his attack on Ming Dong, Jian Chen drew back as well as he gave an apologetic look to Qin Ji. After all, the man had just given him the pages to the Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Jian Chen wasn’t a man that would show ingratitude to one that helped him, so this attack held no force behind it.

Qin Ji naturally realized the intent behind Jian Chen’s attack and waved his hands in a disheartened manner. “Fine fine, brother Jian Chen, I’ll give you face, this Saint Ruler’s skeleton I’ll give up on.” Despite the dissatisfaction in his heart, Qin Ji was secretly afraid of Jian Chen and did not wish to become an enemy of his. It was with great difficulty that he had established a decent friendship with Jian Chen so he did not wish to ruin it all and become enemies over the Saint Ruler skeleton. Even if he

had become enemies with Jian Chen, it was possible that he wouldn't receive anything and would share the same fate as Jiede Wukang and Shi Xiangran.

"My apologies brother Qin Ji. I hope I did not offend and that you will forgive me." Jian Chen cupped his hands in an apologetic manner toward him while confused at what just happened, could a Saint Ruler's skeleton hold some sort of treasure?

"How infuriating! Such a good item was taken away by you, no, that won't do, I want compensation!" Tianmu Ling seethed with rage toward Jian Chen and the other two. Right now her emotions had grown terrible; even her normal words of "Big brother" were gone from her speech as she called out to Jian Chen in such an informal manner.

Ming Dong turned to look at Tianmu Ling and Qin Ji before slowly walking up to Jian Chen. With a smile, he spoke with some emotion, "Jian Chen, my luck was quite good after all, I've picked up a treasure."

"What is that good for?" Jian Chen had to ask as he looked at Ming Dong with a look of pure concentration for an answer to his question.

Chapter 324: Collapse of the Immortal's Cave

"What is that good for?" Jian Chen had to ask as he looked at Ming Dong with a look of pure concentration for an answer to his question.

At this moment a loud commotion could be heard from behind as the entire crowd finally came into this room. In a flash, the small room was filled to the brim as even more people tried to get in until the room. It seemed as if the room was like a steamed bun and could not fill up anymore. In front of Jian Chen and the others, there was still a small empty space as everyone recognized who they were. They all knew of their strength and while they did not wish to be constantly pushed in from the others behind them, they did not wish to get close to Jian Chen and so they kept their distance in fear that getting any closer would mean their lives would be in jeopardy.

"Jian Chen, I'll explain it in full details later. But in short, we've got a treasure." Ming Dong spoke to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen nodded his head calmly without another word as he stared with narrowed eyes at the group in front of them. In a split second, this small room had filled up with people and even more people were trying to get in. This had meant that if they wanted to get out it would be a problem.

Suddenly, the entire cave began to shake as the ground shook as if there was an earthquake. As soon as the tremors started, a single fracture appeared within the cave before quickly expanding into multiple spider web like cracks that filled every single corner of the cave. Dust began to fall from the roof as the cracks spread out, obstructing everyone's line of sight.

This sudden development caused Jian Chen to grow startled. Right now, this cave was on the verge of collapsing in on itself. In contrast, those men from the outside had been rushing into the cave almost as if the Heaven Tier Battle Skill was clouding their minds. They crowded inside the room as they shouted out for the battle skill. Despite so many people coming in, they didn't earn a single treasure. That was because this room only had the Saint Ruler's skeleton which was claimed by Ming Dong and nothing else.

The tremors within the cave began to grow stronger as many stone fragments began to fall down from the ceiling. Even the walls to the cave were starting to crumble as stone slabs fell from them.

“Crap, the cave’s going to collapse! It seems this cave took one too many attacks, the Saint Ruler’s skeleton must have been living in harmony with the cave, so once we took the skeleton, the pressure we felt earlier disappeared with it! The cave can’t hold itself up any longer, Jian Chen, we have to get out right away!” Ming Dong had learned a lot in his one year away from Jian Chen, so he had quickly figured out the relationship between the skeleton and the cave.

Even Jian Chen’s face grew serious as he looked at the group in front of him and yelled, “The cave is about to collapse, everyone hurry up and get out!” Jian Chen’s voice was almost like a horn that blasted everyone’s ears like a thunderclap as he commanded them all to exit the cave.

Those men who were blinded by the Heaven Tier Battle Skill immediately regained their senses and realized the situation that they were in. Each one took on a look of shock as they all cried out, “Crap, the cave’s collapsing, hurry up and get out or we all die here!”

“Crap, it really is collapsing! Get out, get out now! I don’t want to die here!”

“Who ever doesn’t want to die needs to hurry up and get out of here!”

More and more people began to notice the strangeness of the situation and began to pale in the face. After several shouts, everyone began to charge for the exit to the outside world as if their lives depended on it. Many men had even been pushed to the ground and trampled in their rush to run out.

“F*cker, who stepped on me? Hurry up and show yourself, do you wish to die...”

“That’s my hand you stepped on....”

“Don’t step on me...”

In this moment of panic, everyone had forgotten about the treasures in their rush to escape the cave. The cave was already dropping stone fragments from the roof, if they didn’t escape soon, they would be buried deep underground.

Following the group’s exit, Jian Chen and the others began to fly straight out of the room as well now that the room was more spacious than before.

The four corners of the cave continued to fracture, creating larger and larger cracks as the cave continued to tremble before a secret spot in the cave was suddenly revealed.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed as he took notice of this sudden secret. A purple and gold box could be seen sitting inside a small hole. Within the dark and dusty room, the light given off by this box was extremely eye catching.

Jian Chen quickly flew toward the hidden site and quickly grabbed the purple and gold box into his Space Ring. By the time he was done with his actions, more and more secret spots within the walls began to show up.

By this point, Ming Dong, Qin Ji, Tianmu Ling, Dugu Feng, and the yellow clothed girl had already discovered the existence of these secret spots. Without hesitation, each one dove for the hidden spots and began to hurriedly collect the contents within their Space Belts.

The few people that hadn't yet left the room had a few sharp eyed men that saw this with a look of bliss and let out an ecstatic shout. Immediately dashing for the secret spots, one of them pulled out a single animal leather book.

"Adv... advanced... Earth Tier Battle Skill! Good heavens... I'm... I'm rich!" The person cried out as he looked at the book with joy and unable to restrain his emotions. At this sound, many people turned around to look.

"This is an Advanced Earth Tier Cultivation Method, it suits me perfectly!" Another person cried out with the book in hand.

Quickly, more and more people began to grab at the items within the secret spots. There were many things within the secret spots like Space Rings, cultivation method manuals, battle skills, and even several precious medicines.

With several men all collecting the items, the secret spots within the cave were quickly cleared out. At that moment, a Earth Saint Master suddenly took out a unknown book before widening his eyes and slowly crying out in alarm, "Heaven..." As soon as that one word escaped his lips, he immediately came to his senses and clasped his mouth shut with with his hand as he looked around himself in anxiety.

A sudden flash of fire could be seen as Dugu Feng appeared by his body with his Ruler Armament straight through the man's chest. Taking the book in his hands, his eyes swept across the title before smiling, "So it really is a Heaven Tier Battle Skill."

Hearing those words, Tianmu Ling put away the whip she had only just took out as she complained, "You all move far too fast, the good things were already taken away by you."

Qin Ji put away his Ruler Armament as well as he shook his head and sighed. Even the longbow wielder had put away her own bow.

An Earth Tier Battle Skill was something that they all didn't care for, but a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was something entirely different. To them, every single Heaven Tier Battle Skill was capable of indirectly increasing the strength of their clans. Even Saint Rulers would covet Heaven Tier Battle Skills at the same time, those clans with Ruler Armaments would not dare to disregard them.

If it were not for not Dugu Feng's reaction speed, then Qin Ji and his men would have been the ones that would have gained hold of the Heaven Tier Battle Skill since they were the next closest people.

Killing people for treasure after seeing such goods, was a trivial matter that was common within the Tian Yuan Continent.

Seeing Dugu Feng begin to kill people for their items, everyone no longer had any desire to stay in this place and quickly ran toward the exit.

Bang! Bang! Bang!....

Several large pieces of stone began to fall and crash into the ground with a loud bang. Some parts of the cave had already collapsed while other parts of the cave continued to rain stone fragments down onto the ground.

“This place can’t hold on for much longer, we better leave.” Ming Dong spoke out in anxiety.

The group began to fly toward the exit to the cave in a rush.

“Bang!” A single four meter tall stone fragment smashed into the ground right where the passageway was.

“Out of the way!” A single roar could be heard from behind as Dugu Feng smashed the stone fragment, with his giant flame sword, into powder.

Without hesitation, everyone charged through the dusty passageway in an attempt to run even faster than before.

Soon enough, the group finally made it through the exit to the cave with everyone looking worse for wear. Not only were their clothes filled with dust, but even their faces had a layer of dirt on them that made them seem extremely dirty.

“Huu...we’re finally out, I thought we were going to be buried alive.” Ming Dong exhaled as he dusted himself off.

Right in front of them was the group that had pushed their way out earlier. A good majority of them were all dusty and had a good layer of dirt on them. Some of the more unfortunate Great Saint Masters were even nursing their wounds from when the stone fragments fell on them.

“Out of the way, get out of the way you annoying...” Suddenly, a voice that Jian Chen was all too familiar with could be heard. Jian Chen turned his head to look only to see Qin Xiao pushing through several people in a hurry through the dust.

“What’s your rush, didn’t you get enough from earlier? Or did you forget that you wanted to die?”

“F*ck, so a lowly Great Saint Master dares push me? You must be terribly impatient to die.”

Immediately, a loud group of men cursed in anger toward Qin Xiao as the group of men that he had pushed began to prepare to find trouble with Qin Xiao and start a fight.

Qin Xiao didn’t bother to listen to the angry swears as he hurriedly looked all over the place. Soon enough, he saw Jian Chen and let out a sigh of relief before rushing on over to him, “Jian Chen, are you fine now? I heard that the cave collapsed, and since there were a lot of people in there, I began to worry!”

Upon seeing that Qin Xiao and Jian Chen knew each other, the ones that had cursed at Qin Xiao immediately went silent and obediently closed their mouths in fear that even a fart would come out of them. As for those who were prepared to fight with Qin Xiao, they all went pale in the face and submissively retreated back into the crowd to blend in with it.

By now, Jian Chen’s fame and reputation had preceded him. He and the five experts were two matters on completely uneven footing. Jian Chen was someone everyone knew and didn’t dare offend. After all,

his fight against Zhe Gu was seen by everyone quite clearly. Not only was he able to kill him, but he was able to take on Zhe Gu's Earth Tier Battle Skills without any harm to his body. This was an entity that was far too strong for anyone to dare offend.

The most important thing was that Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang of the five experts had died from within the cave. While only Qin Ji and a few others had seen the reason for their death, but these two men had grievances with Jian Chen. With that, it did not take much thought to connect the dots. Adding onto the fact that Jian Chen had chased Dugu Feng out of the cave, everyone could see the pattern from there. After all, the majority of the men there were all meticulous people. Although the Heaven Tier Battle Skill had temporarily made their brains numb, this was not be proof that they were stupid. A Heaven Tier Battle Skill was just too strong of an allure for them to resist.

Seeing the deep look of concern on Qin Xiao's face, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile at him, "Don't worry, I'm fine."

Ming Dong walked toward Qin Xiao with a dusty face as he clasped onto Qin Xiao's shoulder, "Hey, brother Qin Xiao! Still remember me?"

Qin Xiao quickly turned to look at the dusty and dirty face of Ming Dong, but the dirt concealed nothing from Qin Xiao. His eyes quickly recognized Ming Dong's face and widened in surprise before shouting out loud in amazement, "Ming...Ming Dong! We- weren't you not going to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries? How are you here?"

Ming Dong laughed, "I wasn't planning to, but then someone was looking for me, so I came along."

"Someone was looking for you? Who?" Qin Xiao spoke with confusion.

"It's a long story, let us wait for us to find an empty place before we talk. Come, Qin Xiao, let me introduce you to everyone." Ming Dong grabbed onto the flame sword wielding Dugu Feng and pulled at him, "Brother Qin Xiao, this is the newest member of our group, Dugu Feng. From now on he will be a fellow brother."

Qin Xiao was taken back for a moment before quickly resuming his straightforward attitude and greeted Dugu Feng enthusiastically. Dugu Feng replied with a smile.

Qin Jue who had just pushed his way out from behind had overheard the entire conversation with a look of utter disbelief. He didn't dare believe what he had just heard, but he didn't see Dugu Feng say anything in objection and had even replied back to Qin Xiao with a smile. In the end, Qin Jue could only choose to accept this as the truth, but his heart was still filled with doubts. Dugu Feng was one of the five experts and simultaneously had a clan behind him that had even the Tianqin clan's respect. Just how could a person like this suddenly become so close to Jian Chen?

Chapter 325: Huang Luan

"This matter must be reported to the patriarch. With the young lord and the disciple of the Dugu clans to suddenly become friends with each other, this spells out something major for our clan. If we can use this newfound friendship with the Dugu clan, then our clan will definitely pull out ahead of the others." Qin Jue thought to himself. Although he was a quiet person who rarely spoke, he was not at all stupid.

Qin Ji walked up to Jian Chen with a smile, "Brother Jian Chen, when you have time, you should come by our Qinhuang Kingdom. Our Qinhuang Kingdom is a few dozen kilometers north of Mercenary City. When you come by our kingdom, come over to the imperial palace and mention my name. This jade ornament will be your proof. As long as you can take this out, no one will doubt you." Qin Ji took out a small jade ornament the size of his fist from his Space Belt. On the ornament was a complicated design with the word, "Qin" written on it.

"Will do, when I have the time I will go meet brother Qin Ji in your kingdom." Jian Chen smiled as he took the ornament from him. In his mind, Jian Chen began to suspect something, was Qin Ji the prince of the Qinhuang Kingdom?

Qin Ji and Jian Chen spoke a few more words before finally splitting up from each other.

"Little brother, I have to leave now too. Make sure you remember, you still owe one small thing." Tianmu Ling spoke as she walked up to Jian Chen and spoke to him in a gentle manner with her mature charm.

Jian Chen gave an embarrassed smile as he spoke, "Sister Tianmu Ling likes to joke I see. You've given me a precious item, in the future when I have the chance, I will definitely return the favor ten or even a hundred times back."

Tianmu Ling followed Qin Ji's lead and left after that. Everything inside the cave was no longer recoverable, since it had collapsed, many groups of men began to leave in twos and threes. Yet, some people were still staying behind.

Jian Chen and his group didn't have any plans to stay behind either. After summoning everyone, they all left together, but unlike last time, their group had two new people; Dugu Feng and Ming Dong.

Walking through the forest while chatting on the road, Jian Chen introduced Ming Dong to Senior An and Yun Zheng. It was only the yellow clothed girl that Jian Chen had no idea on what to do since he wasn't familiar with her at all. Previously it was because of Shi Xiangran that they had been forced to travel together, but even after traveling together for at least a month, Jian Chen still didn't know the girl's name. He had wanted to find out, but because of her temper and because of the accident where he saw her body, Jian Chen was afraid that she would give him no face at all. Thus, he had no desire to be the one to poke at the thorns.

"Ah, Jian Chen, who is that girl with the longbow behind us? She's really beautiful; I, Ming Dong have never seen such a pretty woman. I think only that unknown second miss from the Tianqin clan would compare to her." Ming Dong asked Jian Chen in a low voice with a great amount of curiosity.

Hearing that, Jian Chen forced a smile on his face, "You should forget about finding an answer about her from me. I don't even know her name. She and I had a small misunderstanding in the past, and because of Shi Xiangran and his Ruler Armament, we were forced to band together in order to stand against him. This way, we would be able to defend ourselves against him."

"Shi Xiangran? Is that one of the five experts? How strange, I thought I heard that you were able to kill two Ruler Armament users. These types of people should pose no threat to you at all, just how did you feel so threatened to travel along with her? Could it be Shi Xiangran is extremely strong?" Ming Dong asked with confusion.

“That’s not it at all.” Jian Chen spoke. “Shi Xiangran had a strange barrier that made my attacks harmless to him. With his incredible Ruler Armament to attack us from a large range and was equally hard to dodge. Although I had a secret power, I wasn’t sure that it would be a threat to Shi Xiangran. For the best case scenario, I had decided to travel with her. It was only today in the cave that I was forced into a tough situation that I could try out my last resort against Shi Xiangran’s barrier. I didn’t think that it would be enough to break through! Because of this, Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang’s barrier were no longer a threat and I was able to kill them.”

Hearing this, Ming Dong looked on with shock, “Jian Chen, you were able to shatter their barrier, is that true?”

“I was able to borrow some outside help.” With that, Jian Chen revealed the azure and violet Sword Qi to Ming Dong with his finger. The two lights glowed faintly; while they were brighter and stronger than before, it was only by a marginal amount. Under the scorching sun, this light was nothing.

Just as the two glows of Sword Qi appeared, a strange incorporeal amount of Sword Qi filled the air, causing everyone to feel a sudden chill that made their hearts quake in fear.

The azure and violet Sword Qi was Jian Chen’s biggest trump card, but he had revealed it many times already and it had been seen by many people. Thus, the azure and violet Sword Qi could not longer be considered a secret. It was no longer necessary to try and hide it; it was only necessary to hide away the secret behind it.

After the survival competition was over, they would enter the individual fighting tournament which would take place on an elevated platform against other strong individuals. If Jian Chen wanted to be the number one rank, then he would have to use his azure and violet Sword Qi, thus there was no longer a point in hiding the Sword Qi.

Jian Chen didn’t talk about the azure and violet Sword Qi too much, aside from a little display of their strength and their name, Jian Chen hadn’t said anything else about it. Even with the azure and violet Sword Qi revealed, he still wanted to keep some factors of it hidden so when the time comes, it would still be a mysterious threat.

“Jian Chen, the azure and violet Sword Qi you have, could it be from the Supreme Treasure you bought from the Treasure Pavilion?” Qin Xiao’s eyes flashed with realization as he asked his question.

Hearing Qin Xiao’s words, Jian Chen was stunned. He didn’t think that Qin Xiao would have made a connection between the Multicolored Stone in his body and the azure and violet Sword Qi. This had also made him smile, he now had an explanation. This was because Qin Xiao’s words had some meaning to them. The strong azure and violet Sword Qi using the energy from the Supreme Treasure was a fitting explanation.

Jian Chen’s attitude caused everyone to think that the azure and violet Sword Qi was because of a Supreme Treasure. Although Senior An and Yun Zheng had no idea what a Supreme Treasure, they both knew from the name itself that it was an unknown treasure and looked at Jian Chen with envy.

The yellow clothed girl walked up to Jian Chen and spoke quietly, “I have some words to speak with you.”

Jian Chen had some doubts as he looked at her before finally walking out of the group to a vacant spot a hundred meters away where the girl followed him to.

Ming Dong and the others stopped traveling as they all looked on, curious to know what the girl wanted to speak to Jian Chen about. Then Ming Dong had a strange but deep smile on his face as he laughed, "That girl must like Jian Chen if she has to walk that far away so that we wouldn't be able to hear them."

Senior An nodded his head in thought as well, "I can see that as being likely. Jian Chen is quite handsome and strong, he's not too bad of a person as well. There is no woman under the heavens that would not be swayed by him. However, that girl's temper is really quite bad, could it be that she is the spoiled daughter of some rich clan? She really is quite haughty."

Hearing Senior An's words, Yun Zheng and Qin Xiao both nodded their head in agreement. Only Qin Jue and Dugu Feng remained silent.

On one side, Jian Chen looked at the yellow clothed girl, "What did you want to say?"

The girl looked at Jian Chen with a complicated look and hesitated before saying, "Not only did you kill Shi Xiangran and Jiede Wukang, but you also took their Ruler Armaments. The two clans won't let you go for this, you should be more careful in the future." The girl spoke with a rare amount of concern. Although she still harbored some angry feelings from when Jian Chen had seen her body, but after dealing with him for some time, she had come to understand him more. From her anger for him rose a new type of feeling.

"That I know." Jian Chen stated.

"Also, I would like to thank you for killing Shi Xiangran. Now that he is dead, there is no need for us to continue traveling together. Therefore, I should head out on my own way." The girl's voice was extraordinarily soft, and in her eyes was a seldom seen reluctance. Although she had only come to know Jian Chen for a month, she came to enjoy this feeling she had. Right now as she was prepared to leave Jian Chen's group, a complicated sensation could be felt rising up within her body.

Jian Chen seemed to look far away without a single word as the winds from the area blew on his body, causing his clothes to billow and his long black hair to flutter and dance in the winds. This sight made him seem like a hero from a legend.

The girl looked at Jian Chen's handsome face as she began to struggle for a moment before finally speaking out loud with courage, "Did you not want to know my name?"

"You never told me, how would I know it?" Jian Chen spoke calmly.

"Did it not occur to you to ask?" The girl began to look a little angry as she stared at Jian Chen with her beautiful face.

"With your temper, I was afraid of a bad result." Jian Chen spoke helplessly. Against her temper, he had tasted it enough times.

She was finally defeated. With a hurt look, she spoke in a low voice, "I am Huang Luan, remember my name. Goodbye." With that, she turned to walk away from Jian Chen as the wind blew behind her,

causing her yellow clothes to flutter in the air. Even her long hair had begun to dance in a ballad like motion as the wind carried it.

Chapter 326: Hidden Energy Within the Saint Ruler's Skeleton

Jian Chen stared at the still closeby girl with some hesitation before opening his mouth once more, "Wait a moment."

Hearing the voice behind her, the girl stopped her steps before replying to him without turning around, "What is the matter?"

Jian Chen spoke softly, "I am thinking that you have no barrier to protect yourself with."

"I do not have any barrier with me." The girl didn't deny it.

Jian Chen spoke without flinching, "You have a Ruler Armament with you and no barrier; do you really think you could travel safely like this? Although Shi Xiangran is dead, he is but only one of the many men lusting for your Ruler Armament. For example, if Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling were to face off against you, it would be incredibly difficult to fight by yourself. I trust that you know just how much any clan would value another Ruler Armament. For the sake of their clan's expansion, it can't be said whether or not they would try to snatch away your Solunar Bow. After all, to them, this is a huge achievement and at the same time, you have no relations to them."

"Aside from those two, this place still has many strong Earth Saint Masters and some that may even be organized. While your Solunar Bow is capable of killing an Earth Saint Master with ease, if a group of Earth Saint Masters were to attack you at the same time, would you have enough time to shoot them all? In the end, your Solunar Bow is only strong from afar. If they were to get close, then your Solunar Bow would lose its superior edge. In the end, who knows whether or not someone will place a trap for you?"

Jian Chen didn't know whether or not his words would be enough to convince Huang Luan to stay behind. Perhaps it was because of the month they had traveled together, but Jian Chen had no desire to see the beautiful girl die in a place like this. Jian Chen didn't have a good understanding of Ruler Armaments, but he did know that for the sake of protecting his Ruler Armament, the extremely proud Dugu Feng had sacrificed his own life and was even willing to make a blood oath. From this, Jian Chen could infer that the Ruler Armament was truly something that many families would pay a heavy price for.

With Huang Luan by herself as a long ranged Ruler Armament user, if an enemy were to get close to her, then her longbow would lose its effectiveness. She didn't have a barrier either so it would be hard to avoid those who might have a greedy heart.

Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling were the two people Jian Chen was most worried about. If either one were to get close to Huang Luang for a long period of time, then they would be able to touch her with ease. Although Jian Chen wasn't sure they would do anything against Huang Luan, one must be cautious even if the chance was only one percent.

Hearing Jian Chen's words, Huang Luang's face grew extremely serious. Jian Chen's words made perfect sense, and after the events from the cave, everyone knew that she had a Ruler Armament. Although this

was something most people were only hearing about for the first time, they would know what a Ruler Armament was soon enough. She was afraid of meeting these men. With this treasure on her and no defensive barrier while traveling by herself, she would definitely be a target for those who might come across her.

With that in mind, Huang Luan's face grew dark. Originally, she had thought that Shi Xiangran's death would be the only thing she needed to live in peace. She hadn't thought that she would gain a new type of headache. This Ruler Armament was far too precious.

"Just in case anything happens, you should continue to travel with us. This round of the tournament is almost over anyways, by the end, we'll all be transported out of this area, you'll be safe then." Seeing Huang Luan's willpower waver a bit, Jian Chen took the chance to strike. He didn't know whether or not he was a friend or stranger to her, but he had no desire to see something unexpected happen to her. Maybe it was because she was exceedingly beautiful, or maybe it was because he had grown to like her as a friend in the month they had been traveling together. Or maybe it was because he was still feeling guilty about seeing her body that one time. But this was a complicated matter that even Jian Chen couldn't explain clearly.

Huang Luan stood there without moving almost as if she were a statue. Then after some time, she was finally convinced and nodded her head.

With a sigh of relief, Jian Chen smiled, "Let's head back now and find a place. Afterward, we just need to wait, with our collected tokens, we'll definitely be within the top 500."

With Huang Luan deciding not to leave the group, the two walked back to the group. As they returned, Jian Chen couldn't help but notice Ming Dong gave him a knowing wink. Despite not saying anything, it didn't take an idiot to figure out what that wink meant, but Jian Chen sensibly said nothing.

"Brother, how amazing! This girl is comparable to even my sister in beauty, but she isn't as kind as my sister." Qin Xiao laughed as he spoke to Jian Chen with a meaningful smile, causing Jian Chen to smile awkwardly. The relationship between him and Huang Luan wasn't like what everyone thought, but Ming Dong and the others were trying to say otherwise. If he tried to explain himself now, not only would it not have a single impact on the situation, but it would also deepen everyone's misunderstanding.

Later within a clear and vacant space, several white tents were pitched. In the center of the ring of tents were Ming Dong, Senior An, Yun Zheng, Jian Chen, Dugu Feng, Qin Xiao, Qin Jue, and Huang Luan who all sat at a circular table with a variety of sweet smelling dishes on it. These things had all been taken from Jiede Wukang's Space Ring. All sorts of good looking dishes could be found inside, since the space within the Space Ring was larger than that of a Space Belt, there were a large amount of dishes that were cooked and meant for eating over a long period of time. Furthermore, the dishes within Jiede Wukang's Space Ring were of the finest delicacy and there was enough for the group to eat for several months.

After the meal, a few of the men left the table, leaving behind Jian Chen, Ming Dong, Dugu Feng and Huang Luan.

Ming Dong looked around the table before taking a sneak peek behind to see if anyone else would come back to the table. Then, with a mysterious glance at Jian Chen, he asked, "Jian Chen, do you wish to know what the skeleton of a Saint Ruler can be used for?"

“Yes, I’m quite curious. Just why is it so precious everyone would try to steal it?” Jian Chen spoke with curiosity.

“Then let me tell you.” A sing-song like voice could be heard as Huang Luan suddenly took the initiative to speak with a quiet voice.

Preparing to speak, Huang Luang organized her thoughts before saying, “A Saint Ruler has a limited lifespan, so naturally, they die a natural death. This type of death is what we have come to call a “Seated Death”. The energy within a Saint Ruler is incredibly strong and pure. That is why after a Saint Ruler dies by a seated death, the energy and Saint Weapon within their body do not dissipate into the world. The energy continues to stay within the body and slowly enters the skeleton. After some time, the Saint Ruler will leave behind its skeleton with its full strength intact, meaning it is very precious. If one were to obtain the power of a Saint Ruler, would that not make people envious?”

Jian Chen nodded his head in understanding, “I understand a bit more, but just how did your Ruler Armaments come to be then? According to what you’ve said, the energy of a Saint Ruler blends into the skeleton, while the energy from their Saint Weapon should dissipate. How could it continue on to exist?”

Huang Luan spoke, “A Saint Ruler’s strength is classified into nine levels. This system is called the Nine Heavenly Layers. When a Saint Ruler reaches the Ninth Heavenly Layer, they are standing at the pinnacle of the current realm and from there it is only one small step to become a Saint King. At this step, the Saint Weapon within their body has reached a peak of qualitative energy. By this point, a Saint Ruler is strong enough to sever the connection between himself and the Saint Weapon. Thus, when a Saint Ruler reaches the Ninth Heavenly Layer, they will take out their Saint Weapons and sever the connection. The Saint Weapon will be able to maintain the energy within it forever without dissipating, and thus becomes a Ruler Armament.”

“So when a Saint Ruler reaches the Ninth Heavenly Layer, they will be able to sever the Saint Weapon’s connection to themselves, but no one under the Ninth Heaven Layer will be able to accomplish such a feat. Then, when these Saint Rulers die a seated death, their Saint Weapon’s energy will be harmonized into their skeletons just like this one skeleton we have now?” Jian Chen asked.

“Correct.” Huang Luan said.

“Then that’s strange, when a Saint Ruler reaches the Ninth Heavenly Layer, just why would they sever their connection with their Saint Weapon and give it to someone else? Of course, for those Saint Rulers with a family, they would do this to benefit the younger generation, but if I recall correctly, this wouldn’t be the case for most people, as not every Saint Ruler has such a clan to be in.” Jian Chen asked the question on his mind.

“It is because of a correlation to an unrealistic legend. Because of that, every Saint Ruler that reaches the Ninth Heavenly Layer will choose to break off the connection and retain the perfected state of the Saint Weapon.” Huang Luan said.

“Legend? Oh, right. Jian Chen, uncle Tian told me something before, let me explain it to you.” Ming Dong said. “Uncle Tian said that when a Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler severs the connection with his

Saint Weapon, they will leave behind a small amount of essence, Qi and spirit, in their Saint Weapon and eagerly await for an impossible legend to happen to them.”

“What legend is that!?” Jian Chen spoke eagerly.

“Resurrection!” Dugu Feng spoke seriously.

“What, resurrection!” Jian Chen said startled as he stared at them all with disbelief.

Ming Dong nodded his own head with a solemn look, “That’s right, it truly is resurrection. This is what uncle Tian told me.”

“That’s...just how could it be that?” Jian Chen spoke as if the very notion was inconceivable.

Huang Luan sighed as she replied, “Of course it’s not possible since no one has ever achieved such a thing before. However, one thing is for sure; those Saint Rulers at the Ninth Heavenly Layer are all staunch believers of this without any doubt. Thus, when a Saint Ruler reaches the epitome of the Ninth Heavenly Layer, they choose to sever their connection with their Saint Weapon.”

Dugu Feng grew dark, “I can only assume that there is something we don’t know. Otherwise, why would the Saint Rulers at the Ninth Heavenly Layer believe in such a fairytale without a doubt?”

Jian Chen shook his head heavily, “This is still too inconceivable. For a Saint Ruler to use their Saint Weapon in order to resurrect, that is too much of an exaggeration. It is no wonder this legend has never borne fruit since it is an impossible task to begin with.”

As Jian Chen spoke these words, Huang Luan, Dugu Feng, and Ming Dong all agreed with him.

Chapter 327: End of the Survival Competition

In regards to this information, Jian Chen was truly shocked. Huang Luan and Dugu Feng were both from major clans with a Saint Ruler ancestor as an overseer and were both in high positions in the clans so they knew enough about these matters. While Ming Dong was born in a small village, because of the unfathomably strong Saint Ruler in the midair shrine and Ming Dong’s relationship with him, he was able to learn many secrets that made him as knowledgeable as Huang Luan and Dugu Feng.

The three of them continued to give their accounts on the secrets of a Saint Ruler, allowing Jian Chen to understand not only their strength classification, but also the powerful might of the remains.

The total amount of accumulated energy within a Saint Ruler’s skeleton was capable of being absorbed by a cultivator for their cultivation. However, only a Heaven Saint Master would be strong enough to extract the energy from a Saint Ruler’s skeleton, since a Saint Ruler’s energy was far too concentrated for anyone below a Heaven Saint Master to endure.

Other than that, Ruler Armaments somehow carried a shocking secret within them. A Saint Ruler that died in a seated death would be able to resurrect with it. This was almost like a story of The Arabian Nights, no one had ever seen it happen before. Although only a Saint Ruler at the Ninth Heavenly Layer would be able to sever the connection with their Saint Weapon, the rest of this legend was nothing more than that unless there was a secret that the common man wouldn’t know.

These two bits of information had given Jian Chen a lot to think about. He truly did feel that this world was far too strange and was unlike the original world he used to live in.

Dugu Feng took out an unknown book from his Space Ring and handed it over to Jian Chen, "This is a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, but only a water attributed person will be able to use it. It's no use for me, so you should take it."

Hearing that, Jian Chen's eyes sparked together. Taking this book to see the contents, he had to make sure himself that it was truly a battle skill for only a water attribute cultivator.

Turning to Huang Luan, he spoke, "If I remember correctly, you are a water attribute. This Heaven Tier Battle Skill will be for you then."

Taking a look at the battle skill, she threw it back at Jian Chen, "My Heaven Tier Battle Skill is higher than this one, I won't be needing it."

"Could you not learn both of them?" Jian Chen asked.

Huang Luang stared oddly at Jian Chen, "A Heaven Tier Battle Skill is the highest battle skill on the continent. Each Heaven Tier Battle Skill is highly profound so that a regular person would never be able to fully comprehend a Heaven Tier Battle Skill in their entire life. It isn't to say that learning more battle skills are good. Even if one were to learn many Heaven Tier Battle Skills, they would not be better than one who mastered a single one. So one should try to fully master a single Heaven Tier Battle Skill and not waste time learning anything else. Wasting energy is one thing, but wasting progress is another."

Hearing her reasoning, Jian Chen couldn't argue with it. He stored the battle skill away since he had no use for it now. It would become useful when the Flame Mercenaries expanded in the future.

Jian Chen took out the Space Rings from Jiede Wukang and Shi Xiangran. He took the tokens out of the space rings. They made a crashing sound as they landed on the table. With a conservative estimate, there were around 2000 tokens in total.

"Ming Dong, you've been away for too long. These tokens are necessary to move on, go ahead and take some." Jian Chen said to him.

With a happy look, Ming Dong said, "Great! I was seriously lacking some tokens. Right now tokens are quite hard to find. We've met several people on the road already, but their tokens had already been taken by someone else, leaving me with only a hundred tokens at the most." Ming Dong began to take some of the tokens, putting them into his Space Ring.

"That'll be enough, 500 tokens should be enough to grant me an advancement." Ming Dong spoke as he took 400 of the tokens.

"That won't be enough. If you wish to move on, you'll need at least 1200 tokens because the amount of participants are far more than you would think. I could only guess that there were at least 500,000 people in this round." Dugu Feng said.

Jian Chen grew startled at that. He hadn't thought that the amount of participants would be that much, he had only thought that 200,000 people at most would be participating.

Ming Dong took another pile of tokens; to be on the safe side, he now had 1500 tokens which should guarantee him a spot in the top 500. The amount of tokens with Jian Chen, Huang Luan and Dugu Feng had easily exceeded that amount so they hadn't any thoughts about these tokens at all.

Then, Jian Chen had Qin Xiao, Qin Jue, Senior An, and Yun Zhen all brought over so that the remaining tokens could be split among them.

"I only came to act as the bodyguard to Qin Xiao, I won't be participating in the finals." The normally silent Qin Jue spoke as he donated the tokens he had on him to everyone else.

"I only came to participate as a mission to gain experience from my father. I won't be participating in the finals either; with my current strength, participating would only end in my death." Qin Xiao spoke.

Jian Chen turned his gaze to Senior An and Yun Zheng. Although he hadn't known the two for long, the two of them had traveled with Jian Chen for a long road so Jian Chen couldn't mistreat them.

Yun Zheng and Senior An consulted for some time before Yun Zheng ultimately backed out and gave his tokens to Senior An.

"Senior An's strength is greater than mine and he also has an earth attribute. He was also able to save my life multiple times, so I will give this chance to him." Yun Zheng spoke.

After the tokens were given, Jian Chen took out four Class 5 Monster Cores and gave Senior An and Yun Zheng two of them as a reward for defending the cave.

"Right now we all have enough tokens. All that's left is to wait. After these next few days, we can finally leave from this demonic place. We've all suffered greatly in this one year, so we should all be happy now! Allow me to use this to entertain everyone!" Ming Dong laughed as he took out the carcass of a giant magical beast from his Space Ring, causing the tent they were in to bulge outward.

"Heavens, you killed even the Amethyst Thunder Lion?" Qin Jue and Senior An both cried out in astonishment as they stared at the bloody corpse of the Amethyst Thunder Lion.

Aside from Jian Chen, Dugu Feng and Huang Luan, everyone else did not know of Ming Dong's strength. Qin Xiao and Qin Jue had both believed that Ming Dong was the same Great Saint Master they had known a year ago.

Ming Dong gave a pleased smile as he laughed, "This Amethyst Thunder Lion is quite a strange magical beast, I'm sure it could be considered a mutant. It's strength was already at the peak level for a Class 5 Magical Beast and was not weaker than a Heaven Saint Master in strength. If it were not for the heavy injuries already, I would not be able to kill it as easily as I did. However, that digging maniac Pangolin Emperor was far too crafty and ran away. But I was still able to land us a fine delicacy, let us enjoy this high leveled magical beast meat and its multiple, good benefits!"

After leaving the tent, Jian Chen began to look at the items he had taken from the secret spots in the cave by himself. Before the immortal's cave had collapsed, he was able to grab three Earth Tier Battle Skills, four Earth Tier Cultivation Methods, several white jade bottles with wonderful smelling medicinal herbs, and a few other things of relatively useless value. There was also a few Radiant Saint Force filled pills which shocked Jian Chen since the pure Radiant Saint Force in these pills far exceeded his own.

“These pills are quite unique. I bet this was what the Saint Ruler himself had found.” Jian Chen thought.

Then, Jian Chen took out the purple and gold box and opened it slowly to reveal a small white piece of fur inside.

Jian Chen gently took out the fur from the box before suddenly feeling his heart skip a beat. Immediately, he took out the two white pieces of fur from his own Space Ring. These three pieces of fur were the exact same size and color. It seemed that they were almost identical.

Among the three pieces of fur was the one given to Jian Chen by his mother Bi Yuntian as her farewell gift to him which in turn was her family heirloom.

“Just what secret are these strange pieces of fur hiding?” Jian Chen held up the three pieces of fur with confusion. Jian Chen had privately done his research into this topic many times, but he had never found an answer.

Jian Chen knew that there was no way for him to be able to find out the mystery behind the pieces of fur, so he had never tried. Making sure that the three pieces of fur were together, he stored them in his Space Ring once more.

Over the next couple of days, Jian Chen and the group continued to idle about in a carefree manner. The strength of the group was enough to deter anyone away from their spot, so the next few days went by for them in their camp peacefully. Everyday they would eat three meals from the meat of the Amethyst Thunder Lion while waiting for the competition to end.

Jian Chen was not idle in this time. Aside from the meals, he would spend every single moment by himself in his tent in order to study the Heaven Tier Battle Skill he had found in the cave, the Heaven’s Stolen Fortune. This battle skill was capable of multiplying one’s strength—something Jian Chen found incredibly helpful.

In this time, many men came across Jian Chen’s group, but they could only look at the group from afar. Not a single person dared disturb them and were afraid that if they were to offend them, they would lose their lives.

When only three days remained in the competition, a bad rumor could be heard circulating about. Up in the north, three exceptionally strong men were talked about. Each one of them were a Radiant Saint Force user. This type of Saint Force was seldomly rare to see, but these Radiant Saint Force users were called the Radiant Warriors by most, and the undying by others.

That was because if one of them were to sustain an injury, they were able to quickly heal themselves. Within the battle, if one were not able to kill them in a single strike, then it would be hard to kill them.

A Radiant Warrior was able to use the Radiant Saint Force to heal injuries like a Radiant Saint Master, but what was different about them was that they could only heal themselves and not the wounds of another.

When these three men with the ability to use the Radiant Saint Force appeared, it caused everyone to gossip straight away. That was because Radiant Saint Force was an incredibly rare thing to see on the continent. In a short amount of time, everyone was beginning to compare the three to the five experts, and in another moment, rumors began to spread.

One person said they personally witnessed one of the Radiant Saint Warriors chop off the head of a Class 5 Magical Beast.

Another person said that they saw a Radiant Warrior kill a dozen Earth Saint Masters.

No matter the rumors, not a single one of them spoke of the three Radiant Warriors on a clear level.

When he had heard rumors of these three, even Jian Chen had felt some pressure. That was because within the large Tian Yuan Continent, he had traveled to many places and met many people, but as for a person with Radiant Saint Force, this was the very first time because not many Radiant Saint Force users could be found.

Three days quickly went by, today was the day the survival tournament ended.

Jian Chen and the others had already packed up their tents and sat around the ground to wait. After half a day, the previously bright place grew dark before the sky instantly grew ashen in color. In the next moment, a strong amount of energy began to warp through the sky, devastating it.

As the sky grew darker and darker, the entire area began to grow even more gloomy. The berserk energy within the sky continued to cause turmoil in the sky before finally cracking the sky as if someone had shattered it.

The crack in the sky continued to expand before quickly filling up the entire place. By now, the entire place was pitch dark without any light visible. Not even a single star could be seen, causing everyone to feel a little pressure.

Suddenly, a large attractive force could be felt that even Jian Chen felt that he wasn't able to resist.

It seemed as if this world was on the verge of collapsing as the entire place grew dark. Jian Chen couldn't tell what was happening anymore, but he could feel that an unbelievably strong energy was lifting him into the air.

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Twenty or so breaths into the darkness, it finally cracked before the world resumed its normal appearances. The difference was that not a single person could be seen, everyone had already been transported away from this place.

Suddenly, a strange energy filled the air as the dead bodies of the competitors began to slowly fade away.

Chapter 328: Threat (One)

As the darkness receded to make way for the light, Jian Chen looked up only to see a large shrine. This shrine was large enough to house 10,000 people, but at this moment, this place was already filled with many scraggly looking men that had all just been brought here along with Jian Chen.

"What type of energy is this for it to be strong enough to transport every single person in that world, could it be a Saint Ruler? Or maybe a Saint King, or perhaps a Saint Emperor?" Jian Chen thought to himself in amazement. The energy that had enveloped him was far too strong for him to even think about defending himself against.

“For those with tokens, please come here to register your name. For those without any tokens, please exit this place immediately; the door is behind you.” At that moment, a loud voice echoed throughout the shrine as an elderly looking man sat by a long table as if he had been waiting there for some time. By his side were two assistants who looked to be around the same age as well.

With those words in mind, many people grew depressed before walking toward the door. After everyone had left, only 200 men remained.

Jian Chen ended up as the most attention grabbing person because his clothes were still intact. Everyone else was in terrible shape and their clothes were not covering up most of their body. Many didn't even have a single Space Belt and used a bag to hold their things.

From this group, the majority of them were all Great Saint Masters while only a few dozen Earth Saint Masters remained.

Jian Chen looked around himself, from the 200 people here, he recognized no one. Not even Ming Dong or Qin Xiao could be seen.

“It seems that we were all taken outside.” Jian Chen thought to himself.

The two hundred men continued to walk toward the elder and the very first person had begun to take out his tokens from his Space Belt to show to the elder.

The elder swept his eye over the sum and spoke, “Five tokens, verification complete.”

Immediately an elder took out a brush and wrote the number five on a piece of paper before barking out, “Speak your name!”

“Liang Dezhong!” The competitor spoke respectfully.

“You may go.” The elder wrote down Liang Dezhong's name.

The third elder took away the black tokens.

The three elders worked in a fluid tandem. One would verify that the tokens were real while the second took their names and numbers and the third collected the tokens.

The second competitor came to the table and dropped three tokens on the table.

“Three tokens, verification complete.” The first elder spoke.

Immediately the other elder began to write down the record as the first one spoke a confirmation. After taking his name, the second elder wrote the number three.

Taking down the information was not slow at all and the competitors with a small amount of tokens were quickly weeded out. Rapidly, tens of dozens of men had been fully recorded. So far, the person with the least amount of tokens was two while the most had 80. Not a single person had over 100 tokens, so Jian Chen began to feel some confusion. Just how did these competitors survive the competition, did no one try to rob them? In the later half of the competition, most of the tokens were all within the hands of a few strong experts. Most of the strongest competitors had already a thousand tokens; Jiede Wukang and Shi Xiangran both had a thousand tokens each.

“Could they have just never bothered to fight at all during the year?” Jian Chen thought.

“126 tokens, verification complete!”

After a good amount of men, there was finally a person with over a hundred tokens.

Quickly, after one person had been announced to have over a hundred tokens, another person with 300 tokens was announced; making him the highest.

When it came to be Jian Chen’s turn, every single person immediately turned to look at him with a focused eye. Everyone was curious to see just how much the completely uninjured and intact competitor had collected.

Jian Chen lifted his left hand to reveal the Space Ring on his finger to everyone.

“That’s a Space Ring!” Someone cried out in shock. A Space Ring was the symbol of wealth and meant anyone that wore one was not an ordinary person. For a mercenary to wear a Space Ring, it meant that this person was an extraordinarily strong individual. Because of how expensive Space Rings were, only Earth Saint Masters wore them.

The three elders didn’t have a change in their facial expression as they stared at Jian Chen.

“Crash!”

The sounds of a wave of metallic objects crashing into each other could be heard as the black tokens crashed against the table. In a single second, the entire table had a small mountain on it that was almost impossible to begin to count from.

The three appraisers grew startled at this at last and stared at Jian Chen with a shocked expression.

After taking out all of the tokens from the Space Ring, Jian Chen slowly brought down his left hand.

“Is that all?” An elder asked Jian Chen.

Jian Chen nodded his head and replied calmly, “That’s all!”

The group of people standing nearby Jian Chen were all like stone statues from the sheer amount of tokens on the table.

This time, the elder in charge of counting the tokens took some time to count them all before speaking, “1873 tokens, verification complete!”

Hearing that number, everyone sucked in a sharp breath as their hearts immediately skipped a beat. For those who had only collected several or even less than a hundred tokens, this amount was far too gigantic for them to take in. Who would have known that someone that barely looked past the age of twenty would have such an amount.

The three elders attitude toward Jian Chen immediately changed as the one in charge of writing down the name immediately smiled at Jian Chen, “Fellow brother, what is your name?”

“Jian Chen!”

“Good, brother Jian Chen, your achievements have really astounded us. I hope you can continue to astound us and have many more achievements in the next round!” The elder smile at Jian Chen before writing down the number “1873” on the paper with his name.

Afterward, Jian Chen left the area without another look back while the mercenaries all stared at him, as he left, in mute shock.

“Jian Chen, that youth is named Jian Chen!” A person spoke out.

“Jian Chen, I’ve heard this name before! His name was recently made known. I’ve heard that he and the five experts are close friends, and that his own strength isn’t weaker than theirs.”

“So it’s like that? It’s no wonder he was able to collect so many tokens if he is able to be compared against the five experts.”

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After walking out of the hallway, Jian Chen suddenly found himself in a giant place that was arranged like a courtyard. Four giant hallways could be seen in every cardinal direction, and the hallway he just walked out from was one of the four. Many other miserable looking competitors could be seen hobbling out of the other hallways. In the middle of the courtyard like arrangement was a single wide space which was filled with people. Among the crowd was a single large Space Gate that shined brightly overhead. On the other side of the Space Gate was a stone statue that was familiar to everyone.

“Jian Chen, we’re over here!” A loud cry came out from far away as Ming Dong waved his hand at him. By his side, Huang Luan and Dugu Feng could be seen standing there.

Seeing his friends standing there, Jian Chen had a pleasantly surprised smile on his face. He had originally thought that everyone was sent to different places, but they were still all here.

Everyone quickly converged together with a happy smile on their faces.

“This Mercenary City is quite strong for it to be able to have such an expansive area.” Ming Dong said.

Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat, “Could we be in some sort of empty space then right now?”

Ming Dong nodded his head, “Correct, right now, we are in an isolated space. It seems that this Space Gate will allow us to return to the Tian Yuan Continent.”

Jian Chen wasn’t too surprised, he could already guess that they were no longer within Mercenary City. What he didn’t expect was to hear that they were currently in an isolated space.

“We should head on out, the Grand Elder is most likely waiting for us.” Qin Xiao spoke.

After talking, the group walked toward the Space Gate, and when they walked out from the other side, they were standing back in the vast area in Mercenary City. Not too far was the giant stone statue that remained vivid and lifelike almost as if it were a human filled with grace. His head continued to stare off into the sky almost as if trying to stare a hole into it.

“Although I wasn’t born in Mo Tianyun’s time, I’ve heard of his legends many times. In his year, the creator of Mercenary City was matchless. No one under the heavens could fight him and he was even

able to drive back the strongest of the Bai. The continent was left safe, but what a shame that he couldn't withstand the corrosion of time!" Dugu Feng spoke as he looked at the statue.

Huang Luan looked at Mo Tianyun's statue for a moment as well before turning to speak to Jian Chen, "I'll be leaving first. I hope that I'll see you again in the finals."

"Take care of yourself! Be careful of Shi Xiangran's clan. They've come prepared, your uncle Tian and uncle Yun will have quite the headache." Jian Chen spoke seriously.

"No worries, they won't dare make a move in Mercenary City!" Huang Luan spoke before turning her head and walking away.

Jian Chen turned to look at Senior An and Yun Zheng before cupping his hands together, "Fellow friends, we will be leaving as well, until next time!"

"One moment Jian Chen, I think I heard Ming Dong say that you've established a Mercenary Group. Is that true?" Senior An asked as he looked at Jian Chen with a curious expression.

Hearing this, Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat as he said, "That's correct, I've made a Mercenary Group, did Senior An want to join?"

Senior An laughed out loud before scratching at his bald head, "That's right. I'd like to join you if that is possible. Your strength is quite strong and you are a genius as well, I can bet that my future will shine brightly with you."

"Of course then, I would naturally accept you." Jian Chen had a happy smile on his face as he replied quickly before looking at Yun Zheng, "Did brother Yun Zheng wish to join as well?"

With a small smile, Yun Zheng replied, "If brother Jian Chen asks, then I, Yun Zheng won't dawdle. Senior An is correct, I too believe that traveling with you would lead to a bright future."

The addition of these two was what Jian Chen was hoping for. Right now the Flame Mercenaries required experts, so the addition of two Earth Saint Masters was what Jian Chen needed most.

"Haha, then all is fine now. Our Flame Mercenaries have expanded once more. I believe that our Flame Mercenaries will shine throughout the continent now." Ming Dong laughed.

Afterward, everyone left to find an inn. Qin Xiao had already made agreements with the Grand Elder from the Tianqin clan who was waiting for them at an inn.

Dugu Feng wasn't with Jian Chen's group since the Dugu clan had elders waiting for him, he had to go back for now.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong brought Qin Xiao, Senior An and Yun Zheng to the inn where the Grand elder was waiting for them at a table with several dishes nearby.

The Grand Elder looked at everyone before sweeping his eyes over to Qin Xiao and Qin Jue who were both healthy with an excited smile. "Come and sit down, I've already ordered some delicacies. Just wait in the safety of my company."

Ever since Jian Chen had first seen the Grand Elder, this was the very first time he had seen him smile or say a word. Even Qin Xiao was no exception, in that moment, Qin Xiao and Qin Jue both felt uncomfortable.

“Our apologies for worrying the Grand Elder.” Qin Xiao cupped his hands in respect before sitting down at the table with everyone.

Suddenly, the Grand Elder looked at Ming Dong with a sharp glance. In the next moment, a powerful look could be seen as he exclaimed in shock, “Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master!”

Chapter 329: Threat (Two)

Seeing the shocked expression on the Grand Elder’s face, Ming Dong laughed giddily, “The Grand Elder is quite keen to be able to see through my strength, but the Grand Elder needn’t lose his manners.”

Before the competition had started, the Heaven Saint Master that was the Grand Elder had been able to place a large amount of pressure on Ming Dong. However now, Ming Dong could be at ease with the Grand Elder without feeling any of the pressure anymore. That was because he was merely a step away from becoming a Heaven Saint Master. If it were not for uncle Tian, then he would have long since made the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master.

The Grand Elder continued to stare at the black robed Ming Dong with his normally peaceful expression. Instead of being clear like water, emotions raged through his eyes, disbelief could be seen within his pupils.

Within the short time span of a year, Ming Dong had made the breakthrough to become a Peak Earth Saint Master from a Great Saint Master. This rate of progression was practically impossible, and the most important fact was Ming Dong’s age. From his appearance, Ming Dong wasn’t much different from Qin Xiao in age. Ming Dong was thirty years old at the very most, for a youth like him to be a mere step away from the Heaven Saint Master realm, this couldn’t be called talented anymore; this was the signs of a genius seen once every millenia. A genius that would make anyone else frightened.

“How is this possible? A year ago you were only a Great Saint Master. Just how were you able to become a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master in less than a year? Did you....did you hide your strength before?” The Grand Elder found it hard to keep his emotions in check as even his voice began to quaver in shock.

Seeing the look of shock on the Grand Elder’s face, Ming Dong was delighted. In the past he had been a mercenary of the lowest rung on the ladder, a nobody. He had once looked at the Heaven Saint Masters as a high and mighty position that would never be attained by him. What he didn’t know was that he would somehow have a major life change after following Jian Chen to Mercenary City. In such a short amount of time, he had already made major strides in power and became an entity that even a Heaven Saint Master would be surprised at.

“Haha, Grand Elder, don’t be so surprised. This year I came across a fortunate encounter and was able to make a major improvement in my strength.” Ming Dong laughed.

The Grand Elder quickly regained his calm but the tiniest of shock could still be seen in his eyes as he looked at Ming Dong. This was still something he found hard to believe.

For someone who wasn't even thirty years old yet to reach the Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master realm, if this were to be leaked out, the entire Tian Yuan Continent would be shocked.

This was truly too unimaginable. For one to have a gift like this, if it took them ten if not five years to make the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master, they would still be one of the strongest in the continent since Saint Rulers were almost all hermits.

"Ai, I've grown old. To think that it was when I was seventy years old when I made the breakthrough to become a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master. I didn't think that a thirty year old would attain such a mastery already. If you continue on like this, then there'll be a day that you will become a supreme Saint Ruler." The elder spoke.

Hearing this compliment coming from a Heaven Saint Master, Ming Dong had a pleased look on his face as if he was the carp that had successfully made it past the dragon's gate.

The Grand Elder looked at Qin Xiao, "Xiao Er, you are Tianqin clan's shining star of the century. The mission you've accomplished for your father, even I feel gratified by it."

Unlike Ming Dong, Qin Xiao didn't have his natural attitude toward the Grand Elder and could only speak out, "Grand Elder, when I return home, I shall prepare to make the breakthrough to become an Earth Saint Master, I am certain I will succeed."

The Grand Elder laughed, "Let us take this matter slowly. You are still quite young, first prepare yourself and wait until you are completely sure that you will be able to become an Earth Saint Master. After all, becoming an Earth Saint Master holds the very first threshold of death. There cannot be a margin of mistake, or else your life is forfeit."

"Ah, why haven't I seen Tian Zhou, where is he?" The Grand Elder asked suddenly.

Jian Chen and Qin Xiao both looked dazed for a moment before going silent. Although Jian Chen and Tian Zhou had some disagreements, he didn't kill Tian Zhou. That didn't mean someone else might have.

Even Qin Jue began to stuff his mouth with food as if he hadn't heard the Grand Elder's words.

"Ai, Tian Zhou had quite the talent, I hope he is still alive." The Grand Elder spoke as if he knew something and said no more about it to the group.

After the meal, Jian Chen returned to his room. Since Tian Zhou and his three men had not yet returned, the remaining few rooms were given to Yun Zheng and Senior An.

In his own room, Jian Chen called Ming Dong over and the two began to pour over the Heaven's Stolen Fortune. Although this competition had finished, there was still the individual matches. After Jian Chen had killed both Jiede Wukang and Shi Xiangran, the two groups behind them would surely not let him go. Thus, Jian Chen would need to try and increase his own power which meant learning this Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

Within the "Heaven" set of rooms of an inn in Mercenary City, Jiede Wukang's body could be seen lying on the floor. Two white haired elders stood next to it with furious faces.

On one side were the two middle aged men that stood trembling by the side after carrying Jiede Wukang.

“Who killed Jiede Wukang,” One of the elders spoke with a dangerous look.

“El...Elder, lord Wu...Wukang was killed by a youth named Ji-Jian Chen.” One of the men quavered.

“Then what of the Duanyun Sword?” The other elder asked with a dreadful look.

The two men both went pale in the face as they spoke no more.

“Speak!” The elder who had asked about the sword commanded with a furious glare.

“It...it must have been taken by Jian Chen.” One man stuttered out.

Slamming his fist onto the table, the elder broke the table into pieces before yelling, “Worthless! Absolutely worthless! What use are you two?!” His fists came up in an attempt to strike at them.

Immediately the other elder’s face twitched before blocking him, “Third elder, calm yourself. Don’t forget where you are, we cannot make a move here.”

The third elder slowly lowered his hands with some reluctance before growling, “You two. Go and find the whereabouts of Jian Chen immediately. We must find him and take back our Ruler Armament.”

“Yes, yes! Third elder, we will go right away!” The two men bowed before running out the door.

At the same time another inn, three elders and a middle aged man were waiting impatiently.

“The time has long since passed, why hasn’t the young lord returned yet, did something happen to him?” The middle aged man said as he paced around the room impatiently.

The three other gray robed elders didn’t say a word, but worried looks adorned their faces. One of them finally spoke up, “Let’s wait a little longer, the fourth elder went to find the young lord, I am sure he’ll return soon.”

“Elder Cai, do you think Lord Shi Xiangran has come across some trouble? Otherwise, why is it taking so long?” The man blurted out.

Even the three elders grew apprehensive at his words, but one managed to say, “Don’t be nervous, just wait and see.”

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Time quickly passed by as three days and three nights flew by before a letter simultaneously made its way into Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Senior An’s hands. The three had made it to the next round, and the notice had already been posted in the city itself. The names of 500 people were written down with the number of tokens they collected.

The very first thing that Senior An and Yun Zheng did that day was to buy a copy of the rankings for Jian Chen.

When Jian Chen looked at the rankings, he couldn’t help but narrow his eyes. Even with 1873 tokens, he was only in fourteenth place. The first place person was someone named Caraga. The amount of tokens he had collected had been 3712 tokens, which was nearly 2000 tokens more than Jian Chen.

The second place person was a person Zhar who had collected 2700 tokens, another unfamiliar name.

The third place winner was Ka Zhafei with 2500 tokens.

The fourth place person had a strange name. He had only had the name “Jue” and had 2300 tokens.

Fifth place was a familiar name. It was Qin Ji who had amassed 2100 tokens.

Sixth place was Dugu Feng with 2030 tokens.

Seventh Place was Tianmu Ling with 1965 tokens.

Eighth place was Huang Luan with 1964 tokens.

Ninth place was an unfamiliar person named Bali Tong with 1952 tokens.

The tenth place person was a person named Zhuge Xiao Xuan with 1931 tokens.

The next three names were also unfamiliar. It was only until fourteenth place that Jian Chen had seen his name. Under him were Ming Dong and Senior An with 1500 tokens each.

The following men after them all had a small amount of tokens. The very last place person had around 300 tokens.

This ranking list caused Jian Chen to be silent for a long while. While he knew that this survival competition would have more than just the Five Experts, he didn't think that so many hidden experts would exist. For him to suddenly see an expert like the one who collected almost 3000 tokens in this competition, it had truly shocked him.

“I wonder how strong they are.” Jian Chen muttered. Although he was fourteenth place on the rankings, it was not an accurate testament of his strength.

“Jian Chen, who is this Caraga? I've never heard of his name, but he was able to collect so many tokens, he must be extremely strong then.” Senior An spoke with narrowed eyes.

Jian Chen shook his head, “I don't know either. It seems that we were too narrow minded. With the continent so large and filled with so many experts, the amount of experts in the Gathering of the Mercenaries should be large as well.”

“En, yes, that's right. In three days the finals will start. By then, we'll be able to see just how strong they are. This one is sure that the three men with Radiant Saint Force are among the top ten.” Senior An spoke cautiously.

After talking for some time, Senior An left the area which allowed Jian Chen to continue to research the Heaven's Stolen Fortune. The Heaven Tier Battle Skill was unmistakably deep, and even with Jian Chen's strength, he had barely got past the introduction. He had only a small grasp of the fundamentals, but he was still able to manage to barely increase his strength by three times. Though, it was still extremely hard to control he absolutely needed to master this battle skill as quick as possible so he could use it.

The Heaven Stolen Fortune had a total of eight layers. The first layer was nothing more than an introduction, and after the first layer, the person would be able to multiply their strength by three times. The second layer would allow them to multiply it by four, and the third layer would allow them to multiply it by five. By the eighth layer, it would be possible to increase one's strength ten times.

While the Heaven Stolen Fortune was quite terrifying, the amount of energy used was immense. Increasing one's strength would use an equivalent amount of energy. While a person's strength could suddenly skyrocket, the amount of energy lost would skyrocket as well.

Jian Chen meticulously studied the Heaven Tier Battle Skill along with Ming Dong. Only Qin Xiao would occasionally play around with them, but not once had they seen the Grand Elder afterward.

Today, two white robed elders along with two middle aged men with dark expression walked into the inn where Jian Chen was. Arriving at the third floor where Jian Chen's room was, one of them placed his leg on the door before ruthlessly kicking it open.

Sitting on his bed with the Heaven Tier Battle Skill out, Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes before staring at the dangerous looks on the two elder's faces. He had long since felt them come in.

The two elders looked at Jian Chen dangerously as one person asked, "Are you Jian Chen?"

Jian Chen didn't have any fear as he responded, "Correct, I am Jian Chen, what may I call the two elders?"

"We are from the Jiede clan. You may call us the third and fourth Elders!" One of the elders spoke.

Chapter 330: Threat (Three)

"We are from the Jiede clan. You may call us the third and fourth Elders!" One of the elders spoke.

Still sitting on his bed, Jian Chen cupped his hands in greeting, "Fellow elders, what business might you have with me?"

The third elder glared at Jian Chen dangerously, "Jian Chen, let me ask you. Did you kill the young lord Jiede Wukang?"

"And so what if I did?" Jian Chen spoke. He didn't bother to deny it since many men had seen him kill Jiede Wukang. Even if he denied it, then the Jiede clan would be able to find out the truth from Qin Ji or Tianmu Ling.

Straight away, the two elders exploded with killing intent as they listened to Jian Chen's words. "How arrogant, to kill the young lord Wukang. Jian Chen, just which clan are you from?"

Jian Chen revealed a small smile, "I am by myself, is there a problem?"

The third and fourth elders both looked at each other for a moment before breathing a sigh of relief. Previously, they had been worried that Jian Chen would have an incredibly strong power supporting him, but now all of their fears had been cleared away. Although the two of them clearly knew that there was the risk that Jian Chen was deceiving them, his answer was what the two elders were hoping for.

"Jian Chen, is the Duanyun Sword in your hands or not." The fourth elder gave a heavy stare toward Jian Chen.

"Duanyun Sword? Could that be the Ruler Armament in Jiede Wukang's hands? I didn't think that such a small sword would be given such a name, not bad." Jian Chen laughed. Although the two men in front of him were Heaven Saint Masters, Jian Chen was not afraid.

“So the Duanyun Sword is still in your hands. If you hand over the Duanyun Sword, then I’ll make sure to leave your body in one piece.” The third elder released a strong amount of killing intent.

Jian Chen touched the Space Ring on his hand with a smile, “Either way I will be dead. You might as well first kill me and take my Space Ring. This Space Ring has what you want, try to do as you please.”

“You arrogant child, do you really think I dare not kill you?” The third elder’s face grew fierce as the entire room filled with a murderous aura.

“If you dare then come and kill me.” Jian Chen laughed coldly. He was gambling on the fact that the two elders wouldn’t dare make a scene in Mercenary City. He had remembered the words from the Grand Elder: No matter what happens, do not try to fight in Mercenary City or risk having no help at all.

“You...!” The third elder bellowed in anger, he was on the verge of lashing out, but in the end he finally restrained himself.

At this sight, Jian Chen had a small smile on his face. His guess was correct, even the Jiede clan wouldn’t dare to strike in Mercenary City.

“It seems that this Mercenary City has people even Heaven Saint Masters are afraid of.” Jian Chen thought.

Hearing the commotion within Jian Chen’s room, Ming Dong walked into the room and looked at Jian Chen, “I heard some loud bangs in here, who are they?”

“They’re from the Jiede clan.” Jian Chen calmly replied.

Ming Dong instantly realized what was happening. He knew that Jian Chen had killed Jiede Wukang and had taken his Ruler Armament. The moment he heard that they were from the Jiede clan, no other explanation was needed.

“Jian Chen, do you require help? I can call uncle Tian out to help.” Ming Dong spoke under his breath to him.

Shaking his head, Jian Chen said, “No need, this is Mercenary City. They wouldn’t dare attack me here, otherwise, they would have tried earlier without trying to intimidate me,”

Ming Dong had a blank look on his face at that, “I had almost forgot that violence is forbidden here.” Turning to look at the two Jiede clan elders, he spoke with honesty, “Fellow seniors, you should go. Staying here would do nothing more but waste your time.”

The two elders had nearly died from anger from his response as their eyes burned furiously. They had no way to vent their anger since they didn’t dare do anything in the city.

“You two, I killed Jiede Wukang and have his Ruler Armament. What you wished to know you now know, you may leave.” Jian Chen spoke as if he was the emperor giving an order. This grievance the Jiede clan had with him would not be resolved easily.

To disregard the two like this, the two elders from the Jiede clan grew ashen in the face. If they were not in Mercenary City, then they would have long since struck out at Jian Chen; there was no need for them to have such anger.

“Jian Chen, you’ll regret this.” The fourth elder gnashed his teeth together.

“Jian Chen, return the Duanyun Sword or else the Jiede clan will hunt you down no matter where you go.” The third elder promised darkly.

With a sneer, he pointed to the exit, “You two, you may go.” Right now, Jian Chen didn’t bother with any other words.

The faces on the two elder’s grew terrifying as the third elder opened his mouth once more, “Jian Chen, do you truly wish to offend our Jiede clan?”

Jian Chen said nothing.

The fourth elder spoke, “Jian Chen, I will give you one last chance. Return the Duanyun Sword and we will no longer bother you. Even if you leave Mercenary City, we will not chase you.” The fourth elder figured out that force would not get the right answer from him; so if a tough approach did not work, a softer approach would be needed.

“You two may leave.” Jian Chen was growing impatient by now. Jiede Wukang’s clan was not a low one, and with him killing Jiede Wukang, the bridge had been burned. Only an idiot would relinquish the Ruler Armament and give more power to his enemy.

“You are certain that you will not return the Duanyun Sword?” The third elder clenched his fists tightly as an unbearable anger began to course through his heart.

By this point, Jian Chen had simply closed his eyes and no longer looked at the two elders. The manners of the elders were quite lacking. The master of the house had already told them to leave, yet they still remained.

Seeing that Jian Chen was being obstinate, the fourth elder let out a breath of air before trying to calm himself down. Right now, he knew that trying to get the Ruler Armament from Jian Chen was impossible.

“We’ll be leaving then!” The fourth elder growled before stomping out of the room.

The third elder glared poisonously before sneering once as he left the room as well.

With a wave of his hands, he blew a gust of wind and closed the door. Sitting right beside Jian Chen, he spoke out seriously, “Jian Chen, what are you planning now? Those two elders are Heaven Saint Masters, not easy opponents to deal with by any means.”

As if he had no care in the world, Jian Chen laughed, “No worries, while in Mercenary City they wouldn’t dare make a move. Next up is the finals to the competition, so we’ll be in the city for quite some time. Even when we leave, I have a way to evade their eyes and ears.”

Ming Dong took out a book from his Space Ring and handed it to Jian Chen, “Jian Chen, this is a specialized Heaven Tier Battle Skill that was entrusted to me from uncle Tian to give to you. I was originally planning on giving it to you earlier, but seeing how painstakingly hard you were researching the Heaven Stolen Fortune, I was afraid it would impact your studies. However in this situation, it seems that I should give this to you so you can learn it as soon as possible. If you come across a Heaven Saint Master who is after your life, this will help you immensely.”

Hearing the words 'Heaven Tier Battle Skill', Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat once more. A Heaven Tier Battle Skill was something that he absolutely wanted. He didn't think that he would come across 3 separate Heaven Tier Battle Skills so quickly.

Unable to contain his emotions, Jian Chen took the Heaven Tier Battle Skill. This book was called "Illusionary Flash". It was a battle skill specialized for movement and not attacks.