

## Chaotic 341

### Chapter 341: Into the Armory

Hearing the elder's words, Jian Chen grew even more interested in the holy land. He wanted to know just what was inside that made every Saint Ruler crazy for it.

"Senior, could it be that the holy lands contains one of the legendary Saint Tier Battle Skills?" Jian Chen couldn't help but ask.

The elder only replied with, "If the holy lands only had a Saint Tier Battle Skill, then it was named rashly. There is indeed a Saint Tier Battle Skill within, but that is only one piece of the whole. Don't ask anymore about the matter, I won't be able to tell you anymore."

The next step of the path was rather silent as Jian Chen followed the elder to a small pavilion. It was only a hundred meters in circumference and was ten meters tall. The entire building was made from bamboo and had a few scars on its surface, showing the toll time had done to it over the years. On top of the pavilion doors, a simple board was hung above with the word "Armory" written in fancy calligraphy.

Jian Chen looked at the pavilion with some shock. He didn't think that such a small pavilion would be where the "Armory" with the Heaven Tier Battle Skill would be stored—there seemed to be no sort of security here.

"This bamboo must not be an ordinary type of bamboo for it to not be rotten after so long. If it wasn't, then there would be no way for it to withstand years of rain and wind." Jian Chen thought.

The elder who had been leading Jian Chen to the pavilion suddenly stopped right in front of the door as he looked at it strangely. "This building has existed for countless of years. It was created when the founder of Mercenary City, Mo Tianyun personally decided to do so. To our Mercenary City, this place is a sacred place that is not lesser than the holy land."

Jian Chen immediately felt a sense of veneration for this place as he looked at the building once more in a new light. This building right in front of him had been personally built by Mo Tianyun and so there was definitely a special meaning to the building.

"Ai, the years have been ruthless." The elder let out a mournful sigh before going silent. Turning to Jian Chen, he spoke, "This is where all of the secret manuals are stored. I could only guide you here, the rest will have to rely on you."

"I thank the senior!" Jian Chen cupped his hands.

"Creak!" Suddenly, the doors to the pavilion opened on their own, revealing the dim dark light inside. Another voice could be heard from within.

"Jian Chen, hurry up and choose your prize. Also, take off your shoes, it is forbidden for dirt to be tracked into the armory."

Hearing the warning, Jian Chen was momentarily taken back. He hadn't thought that he would have to take off his shoes in order to enter the armory. Although he found the request to be weird, he did not hesitate and placed his shoes on the ground outside before entering the small pavilion.

The interior of the armory was exceptionally bright. Not a single speck of dust could be seen on any of the rows of bookshelves. Books weathered with age and simple materials were stacked on each shelves. These shelves themselves were quite mysterious as there was no wear or damage to them. Each one of the books on the various bookshelves were made from the hide of a magical beast and each were several inches thick in width with pages.

Taking a look around, he quickly came to see a gray robed elder carefully cleaning one of the many bookshelves diligently as if each book was a treasure that required an earnest cleaning so that no dust would remain.

Standing quietly behind him, Jian Chen spoke no words to the ordinary looking elder. By his appearance, the elder seemed as if he was incapable of any type of martial arts, but Jian Chen knew that he was no ordinary man. With an armory filled with Heaven Tier Battle Skills, there was no way the guardian to this place would be that simple.

Almost as if the elder hadn't sense Jian Chen's arrival, he continued to concentrate wholeheartedly on taking each book out from the bookshelf before carefully cleaning each page. As soon as the book was clean, he would put it back and move onto the next book.

The elder did not let Jian Chen wait for long. The moment he finished the entire bookshelf, the elder turned about and started to walk toward Jian Chen.

"This one is Jian Chen, I greet the senior!" Seeing how the elder was turning toward him, Jian Chen hastily cupped his hands together.

The elder continued to walk forward without looking at Jian Chen for a moment before speaking, "The Heaven Tier Battle Skill is in the upper levels, follow me."

"Yes, senior." Jian Chen hurriedly followed the elder.

"You'd best be careful and not damage any of the items in here." The elder spoke with a calm expression, but there was an unmistakable amount of power radiating from him.

Promptly responding to the elder, Jian Chen knew that the entire pavilion was filled with things that this elder was especially fond of. If he were to cause just the slightest amount of damage, then there would be a major headache for him.

Jian Chen carefully followed behind the elderly man through the pavilion. His footsteps were especially light since he didn't dare step too heavily.

Not too long later, Jian Chen found himself with the elder on the highest most level. There was only four bookshelves here, but each one differed with the amount of books. Some had a few hundred, some had only a few dozen.

Suddenly grabbing a thin book, the elder handed it to Jian Chen, "This book has descriptions of both Heaven Tier Battle Skills and Heaven Tier Cultivation Methods. Take a look and then take your pick."

Taking the book from the elder, Jian Chen began to flip through the pages. Indeed, what the elder said was correct. The book was a catalogue of every single Heaven Tier Battle Skill or Cultivation Method.

This was especially surprising for Jian Chen, since he was able to see hundreds of battle skills and cultivation methods. He became tongue tied when he began to read through the list.

A Heaven Tier Battle Skill was a treasure to the current world. Each one was worth an immeasurable amount of money, but in this armory, Heaven Tier Battle Skills were almost as common as rice. If the sheer amount of these battle skills were to be announced to the world, then the entire continent would be shocked.

“Senior, with so many Heaven Tier Battle Skills, has no one tried to steal them before?” Jian Chen asked suddenly.

The elder gave a look of disdain as he heard those words, but he refused to say a word.

At this point, Jian Chen suddenly realized that he had asked an extremely foolish question. Mercenary City had no one that would covet these battle skills and at the same time have the ability to steal them.

With no more questions, Jian Chen began to look for a Heaven Tier Battle Skill and Cultivation Method.

A moment later, Jian Chen finally decided on a battle skill and cultivation method. Without any further words, the elder walked to two different book shelves and took out two books before handing them to Jian Chen, “These are the items you want.”

Taking the two books with quivering hands, Jian Chen couldn’t believe that the two objects that he had just been given were a Heaven Tier Battle Skill and Cultivation Method.

Jian Chen had chosen the Heaven Tier Battle Skill called the “Nine Cloud Movement”. This was a Battle Skill that anyone could learn and did not require a specific attribute Saint Force or any other strict conditions.

The Nine Cloud Movement had a total of nine forms, with each form many times stronger than the one before. It was rumored that the very final form was capable of breaking the heavens and shaking the world.

Leaving the armory, Jian Chen followed the elder that guided him earlier back to where they had come from.

On the way, the elder spoke to him, “The holy lands will open in three days. By that time, someone will come get you, so it would be best for you not to leave Mercenary City before then.”

“Yes, senior.”

Without any further delays, Jian Chen and the elder returned to the halls where a single Space Gate was open for Jian Chen to walk through.

When he saw this Space Gate, Jian Chen felt a flutter of apprehension in his heart. Could it be that he wasn’t in Mercenary City and was actually within a pocket of space?

Without any more hesitation, Jian Chen crossed through the Space Gate and found himself back within the plaza of Mercenary City. The only difference now was that the large arena was nowhere to be seen, leaving behind a giant flat piece of ground.

The multitude of people that had occupied the area before had long since vacated the area so not many people were in sight. Despite the competition having only been finished two hours ago, the announcements for the top ten had already been announced by a large white banner in the sky with everyone of the top ten combatant's names written in a fancy manner.

The number one person was Jian Chen with Zhar in second place and Ming Dong in third.

"Ai, look! The number one person from the Gathering of the Mercenaries, Jian Chen...!" Suddenly, a youth discovered the existence of Jian Chen and cried out in excitement.

Hearing the youth's shout, everyone in the area suddenly turned around to look at the white robed Jian Chen. Envy, jealousy, and admiration adorned the faces of everyone staring at him, and plenty of pretty, young females didn't bother to hide their eyes of adoration.

Jian Chen was a handsome person with a handsome face, and so he was definitely a person that could lay claim to a girl's heart with his appearance. Right now with the glory of being the King of Mercenaries along with the recent show of his strength, he had already become the shining white knight for most girls.

#### Chapter 342: The Departure of Ming Dong

Separating from the crowd, Jian Chen finally managed to get away from the multitude and return to the very first inn he had rested in.

Within the tavern, countless of men were chatting while eating their meals. The topics in every single group revolved around the number one ranker in the Gathering of the Mercenaries, Jian Chen.

"Who would have thought that Jian Chen would seize the first place spot? I've heard he only has a strength around the First or Second Cycle Earth Saint Master level. For him to beat Zhar, a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master with a Radiant Saint Force, it's almost inconceivable." A middle aged man with a refined look and a well educated manner spoke. With a single look, the man could be taken to be a scholar.

"That's right, I didn't expect to see Jian Chen defeat Zhar, it cost me 3000 purple coins! If I had known earlier, then I would have bet on Jian Chen." Another doughty looking man poured a cup of wine into his mouth with an indignant face from the memory of him losing 3000 purple coins.

"Haha, young man, you've only lost 3000 purple coins, so what? Compared to those who have gambled away millions of purple coins, your loss is nothing but a drop in the ocean." The scholar laughed.

The four other mercenaries sitting at the table had one of the men give a long sigh, "Ai, a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Even if I were to live out my entire life now, I would not be able to find one myself. For Jian Chen to be able to obtain one so easily, I am envious of him."

"Big brother, we were just born in the wrong time. Otherwise, we would have been able to participate in the Gathering of the Mercenaries as well."

"You wish! Do you think first place is that easy to obtain? Did you not see those that were far stronger than us participate and be eliminated before they could enter the top ten? Even if we were participants, it would be a miracle for us to enter the top hundred."

“That’s right, we aren’t all that strong, so it’s best not to think about these things. The Tian Yuan Continent is quite large and has no shortage of geniuses. Each one has been specially trained since young, so their strength should be strong enough to become an Earth Saint Master at a young age. Furthermore, they have access to the most profound battle skills and cultivation methods. Did you not see that Ming Dong? He was already able to use an Advanced Heaven Tier Battle Skill at his young age and yet he was still only third place. I’m sure that first place Jian Chen is strong enough to even fight against Heaven Saint Masters.”

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From the chatter of everyone around, the majority of the people were envious and full of admiration for Jian Chen.

But then, a sharp eyed fellow had noticed Jian Chen walking in before crying out in surprise, “Everyone, look! Isn’t that the winner of the competition, Jian Chen?”

Upon hearing his voice, everyone immediately stopped eating and swung their heads to look at where the man had pointed. Each one looked on in shock at the white robed Jian Chen. Within the previously loud inn, no one dared to make a sound.

Jian Chen ignored all the gazes on him, since he had no interest in any one of them. With that, Jian Chen left for the upper levels of the inn.

The moment Jian Chen disappeared, everyone in the inn immediately exploded with chatter.

“Jian Chen’s in this inn? Do you think he’s renting a room here?”

“Jian Chen looks even younger than I thought. With one look, I could tell he is from a large family with a strong potential. Not only is he young and promising, but he is quite handsome too.”

“At such a young age, Jian Chen was able to defeat the Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master Zhar, his potential is truly unlimited.”

“The Heaven Tier Battle Skill and Cultivation Method Jian Chen won from the Gathering of the Mercenaries surely has to be on him right now, how envious.”

“Pay attention to what you say so you don’t get in trouble for it. Do you not have a filter on what words you speak out loud?”

A few of the inn residents continued to talk among each other, even the busy waitresses hurriedly spoke to each other, “Hurry up and report to the shopkeeper! The King of Mercenaries, Jian Chen is in our inn, this is a great event!”

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Arriving at the second floor of the inn, Jian Chen immediately walked to where Qin Xiao’s room was. They had already prepared a private room where all sorts of exotic delicacies were prepared for him to congratulate him on his win.

Seated at the dinner table already was Dugu Feng, Tianmu Ling, Qin Ji, Yun Zheng, Senior An, Ming Dong, Qin Xiao, Qin Jue, and several others. Aside from them, the Grand Elder of the Tianqin clan could be seen waiting with a smile.

Among all the people Jian Chen was familiar with, all of them except Huang Luan had gathered here.

At the dinner table, everyone congratulated Jian Chen on his win; even the Grand Elder of the Tianqin clan had changed his attitude toward Jian Chen to a more respectable status. Even Qin Ji and Tianmu Ling were given respect from him.

That was also because the three outsiders of the Tianqin clan, Dugu Feng, Qin Ji, and Tianmu Ling were all from three different factions with even more strength than what the Tianqin clan could afford to provoke. Qin Ji especially had a very extraordinary identity..

After the meal when everyone had left, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both returned to Jian Chen's room where Ming Dong spoke, "In two days, uncle Tian and I will go bring my father and mother here so I will be gone for some time."

"That is no problem, be at ease. In three days, I will be leaving to enter the holy land for half a year." Jian Chen laughed as he waved his hand in a casual manner.

Sitting by Jian Chen's side, Ming Dong asked, "Jian Chen, I've known you for quite some time, but I don't know where your family is, did you wish for me to bring some news to them?"

Jian Chen's expression immediately grew conflicted. Some thoughts hidden away in his brain were brought out by this question.

"I've left my home for a good amount of time by now, but I don't know whether or not my mother is faring well. There is also my elder brother Changyang Hu and second sister Changyang Mingyue who have both cared for me always. Changyang Mingyue surely must have married by now, what a shame that I wasn't able to attend the ceremony." Jian Chen thought dejectedly. At this thought, he had suddenly realized just how much he desired to return home and see his family once more, it had been far too long since he had left his home.

Seeing the dejected Jian Chen, Ming Dong had an indescribable look in his eye. From Jian Chen's expression, he could see that something was weighing down on him.

Placing a hand on Jian Chen's shoulder, Ming Dong spoke lightly, "Jian Chen, what's wrong? If there's any trouble, go ahead and tell me. I, Ming Dong, will definitely find a way to help you. If I can't, then I will definitely ask uncle Tian to."

Ming Dong's words had shaken Jian Chen awake from his thoughts. Shaking his head, Jian Chen replied, "No, there's nothing, I'm just remembering some old memories, that's all." Jian Chen needed power to deal with the Hua Yun Sect. Although he knew that asking Ming Dong and uncle Tian for help would easily resolve the matter, and probably touch upon the crisis Gesun Kingdom was currently facing as well, , Jian Chen did not wish to go about this route.

The Hua Yun Sect had forced him to run away from his home when he was only fifteen years old. To Jian Chen, this had carved an unforgettable amount of hatred for them into him. Jian Chen desired to finish this affair with his own power. He did not want any outside power to help him with his revenge.

With a mental sigh, Jian Chen took the Heaven's Stolen Fortune out from his Space Ring and said, "Ming Dong, your house isn't that far away from the Gesun Kingdom, so I hope that during your return trip, you could hand this over to Changyang Ba of the Changyang clan in Lore City."

Originally, Jian Chen planned on giving the Advanced Heaven Tier Battle Skill Nine Cloud Movement to Ming Dong to give to the Changyang clan, but after some thought, he decided to instead give them the Heaven's Stolen Fortune. This was because a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was far too precious. He was afraid that if news were to spread that an Advanced Heaven Tier Battle Skill was at the Changyang clan, there would be trouble.

While the Changyang clan was not weak, they weren't strong enough to protect two Heaven Tier Battle Skills, especially since one of them was an Advanced Heaven Tier Battle Skill. So, Jian Chen finally decided to let Ming Dong bring the Heaven's Stolen Fortune back with him because of the special characteristic of the battle skill: when activated, no person would be able to tell that it was a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. This was a battle skill that directly increased one's strength; it was hard to tell that it was anything special, as it could conceal itself very well, unlike other Heaven Tier Battle Skills, which would display astounding power as soon as they were activated.

Ming Dong took the Heaven's Stolen Fortune with a serious look as he spoke, "Don't worry, Jian Chen. I'll definitely bring this back to Changyang Ba of the Changyang clan."

"Remember, you must keep that this is a Heaven Tier Battle Skill a secret!"

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Ming Dong's departure was sudden, by the second day, he had left Mercenary City with a respectful farewell.

At the same time, Qin Xiao, Qin Jue and the other Tianqin clansmen followed the Grand Elder out of Mercenary City. Although they didn't wait for Tian Zhou, the Grand Elder had concluded that Tian Zhou must have met an unexpected situation, and with only a sad sigh, he said no more about the manner. He knew that gathering tokens within the isolated space was the goal, and even if he found out that Tian Zhou had been killed by someone, he would not be able to find them.

Even Dugu Feng had said farewell to Jian Chen as he took the Ruler Armament along with some other elders out of Mercenary City, leaving only Jian Chen behind.

Because Jian Chen would be residing within the holy land for half the year, he had already dispatched Senior An and Yun Zheng on a mission for the Flame Mercenaries. They were to go to the Gesun Kingdom and ensure that the Changyang clan would be given assistance. Although the distance from here to the Gesun Kingdom was quite large, this would not be a problem for the two.

Chapter 343: The Matchless Heavenly Enchantress

By now, the inn that Jian Chen was residing in had a long red banner waving overhead. Written on it in fancy calligraphy was a single line of words not only congratulating Jian Chen for becoming the King of Mercenaries, but it also notified everyone this inn was the inn he was staying at. Not only did it praise Jian Chen, but it also served to be an advertisement for the inn, improving its reputation. The owner of the inn had valiantly waived all of Jian Chen's expense and treated him as if he were the king of a nation.

This type of respect was completely new to Jian Chen, and many times he thought that he had swapped lives with someone else.

The Gathering of the Mercenaries was coming to a close, making the topic of Jian Chen being the King of Mercenaries an extremely popular one. Since the owner of the inn proudly stated who was staying at his inn, the entire Mercenary City had learned that Jian Chen was currently residing at the “Take a Smell” inn. Many people began to draw close in hopes of observing Jian Chen or with some other goal in mind; therefore, many of them had reserved a room in the inn to stay closeby.

In short, the shrewd owner of the inn had transformed his inn into an almost legendary one within Mercenary City.

With his identity and his place of residence revealed, Jian Chen encountered many people arriving at his room, offering all sorts of invitations. In the end, Jian Chen couldn’t help it anymore and barred his room shut. At the same time, he notified the owner that he required a few days to cultivate and did not want to be bothered. He forbid anyone from disturbing him, else he would move inns.

The owner of the inn had been terrified by Jian Chen’s words. It was with great difficulty that he managed to have such a deity stay at his inn. How could he let Jian Chen leave so easily? With that, he immediately agreed to Jian Chen’s request and had some of the hired hands blockade the entire area for Jian Chen so that no one would be able to enter. Even a Heaven Saint Master was forbidden access, after all this was Mercenary City, meaning not a single person would dare retaliate.

Within the confines of his own room, Jian Chen poured all his efforts into understanding the Illusionary Flash. Although he had already grasped the basics of it, he hadn’t mastered the introductory steps. The Illusionary Flash was exceptionally profound and was even more complex to understand than the Heaven’s Stolen Fortune. After a few days, Jian Chen had made very little progress, but with his speed he still managed to make a significant advancement.

As Jian Chen’s comprehension of the Illusionary Flash grew deeper and deeper, he began to feel that if he were to truly master the battle skill, then he would be able to flash forward large distances at a terrifying speed.

Three days passed by quickly. A member of the Mercenary City ruling party came forward to find Jian Chen before respectfully asking him to come out.

Jian Chen followed the youth to a plaza near a palace like building where he met another resolute looking middle aged man waiting for him.

“Honored Jian Chen, I, Elder Feng, have been commanded to guide you, please follow me.” The middle age man spoke respectfully as he led Jian Chen to a Space Gate.

“Honored Jian Chen, you must travel through this Space Gate to get to the other side, the elder is waiting for you.” The man spoke.

With a word of thanks, Jian Chen stepped through the Space Gate. Jian Chen already had a good understanding of Mercenary City, so when he heard that he needed to travel through a Space Gate, he no longer found it strange since he was used to it already.

With a flash of light, Jian Chen arrived on the other side of the Space Gate where a garden filled with sweet smelling flowers could be seen. Fifty meters ahead, two white robed elders were sitting there playing chess.

Jian Chen recognized both of the elders. One of them was the elder who had provided all of the tokens at first and had been the referee for the finals. The other member was the elder who had been cleaning the armory.

Taking a look around, Jian Chen realized that he was standing in an ocean of flowers where countless of butterflies could be seen floating around. The place seemed as if it was a rare paradise on earth. Aside from the two elders, there was no one else around.

Jian Chen had no idea what he should be doing, so he walked toward the elders slowly with light steps. Finally arriving close to the chess playing elders, Jian Chen waited patiently for them to finish without a word.

The two elders had serene looks on their faces as they concentrated completely on the chess game while completely ignoring Jian Chen's existence.

After waiting for almost two hours, the two elders finally finished their game with helpless expressions.

"So it was a draw again? Elder Hui, it seems that even after deciding on a chess game, a decision was still not easily made." The elder who had been in the armory laughed as he began to place the chess pieces back in a box.

The one called Elder Hui had a bitter smile on his face as well, "That's right, while we don't have much to decide between when it comes to winning or losing, it is still a tough choice."

Quickly, the two elders cleaned up the area before standing up. The elder who had been in the armory, cleaning, looked up at the sky, "It's about time for us to go."

Elder Hui nodded his head, "Then let us be on our way, youngster, follow us." He directed his final words toward Jian Chen.

"Yes, senior!" Jian Chen hurriedly cupped his hands in response. The two elders had to be Peak Heaven Saint Masters at the very least, especially the elder who had been a referee. Many times Jian Chen had fleeting thoughts that he was a Saint Ruler. To such a person, Jian Chen was but only a small dragonfly.

Hearing Jian Chen call him senior, Elder Hui laughed, "Youngster, you are called Jian Chen, correct? You may call me the Thirteenth Elder. As for the other elder, you may call him the Eighth Elder. There is no need to call us seniors."

"Yes, elders." Jian Chen cupped his hands hastily. At the same time, he had been shocked to hear that there was at least eighteen elders within Mercenary City.

Following the two elders through the flowery world, Jian Chen finally arrived at another large Space Gate several kilometers down the road.

At that moment, Jian Chen found himself in a desolate area where a large sacrificial platform could be seen with thousands of memorial tablet. By the platform, there were already eight people who were staring absentmindedly at the tablets.

From the eight men, there was a single middle aged man, a forty year old woman, an elder who looked to be a seventy or eighty year old grandmother, and the rest were all quite elderly themselves.

It was as if the eight people had returned to their original state where their presence had been held back. Each one looked quite ordinary and did not have a single characteristic of being unique in any way.

“These eight are the elders of Mercenary City, each one of them holding a decisive amount of power.” The Eighth Elder spoke.

Growing serious, Jian Chen took a look at each one of them to confirm their identities.

“The way to the holy land will open in an hour, wait for now. Aside from us elders, there are still a few men from Mercenary City that haven’t arrived yet.” The Thirteenth Elder spoke as he and the Eighth Elder both walked toward the platform where the memorial tablets were.

Without a word, Jian Chen followed behind with a strange look at the memorial tablets and a curious mind.

At this moment, a sound could be heard from a long distance away as a cyan robed woman with a zither could be seen flying rapidly toward Jian Chen and the rest.

The woman was quite tall and her hair shined on her cotton robes. Her clear and bright eyes could be seen shining in a way as if they could steal souls. Her fingers gently and tenderly caressed the strings of her zither. With each step, her slim waist swayed to the side gently. Although her appearance was not yet clear to see, the light radiating from her could only indicate that she was a matchless beauty that could cause nations to fall at the blink of an eye.

The woman gently walked toward the elders from Mercenary City, “This woman has come to greet everyone.” The woman’s voice was extremely charming and bewitching almost as if it was the music from the ninth heaven instead of being from the secular world.

Hearing the woman speak, Jian Chen instantly grew muddled in the head. he had never heard such a beautiful voice before. It was an unspeakable sensation that shouldn’t exist in this world.

Hearing the voice, the other elders slowly turned around before cupping their hands with a smile, “It has been fifty years but the Heavenly Enchantress still remains as beautiful as ever.” One of the elders said.

The cyan robed woman smiled, “Fifteenth Elder is too kind.”

“Heavenly Enchantress, it has been fifty years. You look even more beautiful than before.” The middle aged woman spoke as she looked at her with a breath-taking eye.

“Haha, the matchless Saint of the zither, the Heavenly Enchantress. A beauty that would bring the moon to shame and can captivate even the birds and beasts. The fairy of the Tian Yuan Continent with beautiful grace. With one word, hundreds of flowers grow ashamed of themselves.” One of the elders laughed.

Hearing this, the other men had small smiles on their faces as they too began to praise her.

“Heavenly Enchantress? Saint of the zither? Could it be that this woman is the very same Heavenly Enchantress spoken of by the second miss of the Tianqin clan?” Jian Chen thought with shock as he looked at the stunning woman with a great wave of emotions running through his heart.

#### Chapter 344: Entering the Holy Land

Judging from the news given to Jian Chen from the second miss of the Tianqin clan, the Heavenly Enchantress was a legendary figure on the Tian Yuan Continent. She was capable of causing a nation to fall with her beauty that was deemed extremely unique. Her ability with the zither was peerless and possessed the Zither of the Demonic Cry that could bring any other expert of the zither to shame with her songs. Even her opponents would be entranced by the melodic songs and would have their souls erased before their bodies would follow suit.

Aside from that, the Heavenly Enchantress had prevented a war between two countries with a single ballad over the battlefield, causing the hundred thousand soldiers on both sides to fall asleep for three days and three nights; a truly fearful feat.

The Heavenly Enchantress had become a Saint a long time ago as well as being a Saint Ruler. A person like this was already standing at the top of the continent and overlook the others. What Jian Chen hadn't imagined was that he would be able to see the once in a generation Saint Ruler the Heavenly Enchantress. This was something that had moved Jian Chen's emotions.

Afterall, a Saint Ruler was right in front of him, even more than that, but this woman was a living legend.

The Heavenly Enchantress had her facial features hidden, but it did nothing to hide the outline and her body. Not only was she quite tall, but her beautiful body was indescribable. One could choke from her beauty, as it seemed as if she was not meant for this world. And even Jian Chen had found it hard to move his eyes away from her the moment he locked onto her as if she was the only person in the world. The surrounding world seemed to have lost its color while she was the only focal point left.

Then, the Heavenly Enchantress had discovered Jian Chen's gaze and turned to look at him with a surprised look on her face as she spoke with a heavenly voice, “Elders, this must be the King of Mercenaries, correct?”

The Eight Elder laughed, “The Heavenly Enchantress guesses correctly, he is called Jian Chen and is our King of Mercenaries. Although he is only a First Cycle Earth Saint Master, his fighting strength is not weak at all.”

Nodding her head, the Heavenly Enchantress spoke no more as if she lost her interest in him. Switching her gaze over to the memorial tablets, her eyes suddenly grew distracted.

Seeing just how the elders were speaking to the Heavenly Enchantress as if they were her equal, Jian Chen was astonished. He couldn't help but think to the words the Thirteenth Elder had said. The holy land was a place that only Saint Rulers could enter, and if one who was not a Saint Ruler wanted to enter, then they would have to be the King of Mercenaries.

“Then does this mean these elders here are all Saint Rulers at the very least? Even the one Thirteenth Elder who had been in the armory is a Saint Ruler too then.” Jian Chen thought to himself in shock. For there to be ten Saint Rulers, Mercenary City was far too strong to believe then.

Afterwards, the elders came up one after another to introduce themselves to Jian Chen. As Jian Chen grew to understand their identities, he realized that aside from the first two elders, the rest were all affiliated with other powers but had a friendly relation with Mercenary City.

Right now, aside from Jian Chen, there was 26 people of both genders. The vast majority of the people there were past the age of 70, but there were still a few 40 years old men. Yet, the person with the most attention was the Heavenly Enchantress who stood within a group of people that made her seem as if she was the crane amongst the chickens.

Right now, there was still one more hour remaining when another person had flown through the air and joined with everyone else.

This person was a youth who wore an expensive looking white robe. His age was about 20 years old. He was also extraordinarily handsome on a scale far different than Jian Chen. However, while he was handsome, his face had a slight feminine aspect to it while Jian Chen had a masculine expression.

The youth had a smiling expression that emitted light as he walked towards the Heavenly Enchantress and cupped his hands together, "Heavenly Enchantress, it has been 50 years yet you've grown even more beautiful than before." The youth spoke as if infatuated with eyes that did nothing to show his adoration for her.

The Heavenly Enchantress' eyes narrowed as a look of disgust could be seen. Not even looking at the youth, she spoke, "I thank Bijian Wang for his compliments."

As if ignoring the attitude the Heavenly Enchantress was showing towards himself, the youth walked towards the Heavenly Enchantress with an infatuated expression towards her as he spoke once more, "Heavenly Enchantress, we've known each other for two hundred years by now, when will you invite me to your Three Sacred Isles for a tour? I've heard that the Three Sacred Isles is a paradise on earth without any strife and only a group of harmonious fishermen. This place has long since distanced itself with war as well. I've long since awaited for such a place, I, Bijian, have not fought for so long for such a reason!"

Each one of the elders looked on at this conversation with a helpless face. They all knew that Bijian had admired the Heavenly Enchantress. Back when Bijian had been a middle aged man, when he had come across the Heavenly Enchantress, it had been love at first sight. Using a secret method, he had managed to rejuvenate his face back to his youth so that he could win her affection.

Unfortunately for the love starved wolf, the Heavenly Enchantress had ignored Bijian's enthusiastic attempts in trying to win her love. As time went on however, she had eventually come to loathe him.

"My apologies, Bijian Wang, my Three Sacred Isles is accepting no one." Her voice was as cold as ice now.

As if encouraged, Bijian Wang had an innocent look on his face, "Heavenly Enchantress, could it be that even I am an outsider too?"

"Naturally!" Spoke the Heavenly Enchantress without taking a second to think while simultaneously giving no face.

Seeing the icy cold attitude of the Heavenly Enchantress, Bijian Wang had a helpless look on his face as he faced the skies and sighed. Afterwards, he walked by the Heavenly Enchantress' side without another sound. In his pursuit of her, even after so long without success, he did not give up.

At that moment, the space on the platform suddenly began to tremble as a large amount of energy could be felt gathering slowly within.

"The time has come, the holy land is about to open." An elder of Mercenary City spoke.

Everyone's gaze was sucked towards the space where the energy inside was growing richer and richer in density as well as intensity. At last, the space suddenly seemed as if it was starting to distort.

A few moments later, the large amount of energy already gathered there had reached a limit, causing the space to rip apart to reveal a three feet wide door made of chaotic space that could not be seen through.

"The gate to the holy land has opened, everyone please walk in." An elder of Mercenary City spoke with a respectful tone before walking slowly towards the gate and then disappearing into the chaos.

Suddenly, the other elders of Mercenary City bowed towards the gate to the holy land before disappearing inside.

When all of the elders from Mercenary City had entered through the gate, the Saint Rulers from outside the city bowed respectfully at the gate before walking through it as well.

Jian Chen was the last one to enter, although he had no idea why everyone had bowed at the gate before entering, but he too followed suit and gave a bow to the gate before stepping into the chaotic gate to the holy land.

Just as Jian Chen had reappeared, he had found himself standing on a bright ray of light. The atmosphere in this area was far different than before, as it felt as if it was rather moist.

Taking a look around, Jian Chen was startled to find out there was no sky to be seen in this area. The entire area a hundred meters above was a single slab of stone that extended as far as he could see as if it was scooped from the stomach of a mountain. And right in the middle of the ceiling, a single crystal could be seen overhead with a dim light that seemed to fluctuate with energy.

The Eight Elder walked up to Jian Chen's side, prompting Jian Chen to ask in wonder, "Eighth Elder, is this the holy land?"

The Eight Elder nodded his head, "That's correct, this is the holy land. I am sure that you can see that we are within the stomach of a mountain; the holy land is indeed here. The founder of Mercenary City, Mo Tianyun himself had created a single space within the city as a way to reach the holy land. That would come to be known as the gate to the holy land, and aside from that method, there is no alternative route to get here."

Jian Chen took a look at the holy land, he had no idea that Mo Tianyun would somehow be connected to the holy land.

Just then, the Eighth Elder looked at the floating crystal suspended overhead and slowly raised his hand as if he was being attracted by a sudden force of attraction. Slowly, the crystal began to slowly float towards the elder's hand before finally making contact with it.

Observing the item, Jian Chen could see that it was a conical shaped crystal around the size of a thumb and yet sparkled with a bright light from its transparent body. The energy that flowed from it was remarkably pure as if the entire crystal itself was completely pure without a single taint.

"Eighth Elder, just what is this object?" Jian Chen couldn't help but ask curiously.

#### Chapter 345: Cultivation in the Holy Land

"This item is something that is produced within the holy land. Every 50 years, another one of these will be made. This is something we call "Mercenary's Heart" and is given to every single King of Mercenaries in secret every 50 years." The Eighth Elder explained. "The Mercenary's Heart is made of the special energy condensed within the holy land. If it is absorbed, then not only will one's strength be increased rapidly, but it will also increase one's spirit. As long as one is not a Saint Ruler, then their strength will achieve a great amount of progress and improvement."

Handing over the Mercenary's Heart to Jian Chen's hand, the Eighth Elder spoke, "Take this and swallow it before you go off somewhere and refine it. You will see that you will make an extreme amount of progress."

"Yes, Eighth Elder." Jian Chen had no hesitation as he immediately placed the Mercenary's Heart into his mouth and swallowed.

"Bear in mind, the Mercenary's Heart must be refined within the holy land. If it is taken out of the holy land, then the energy gathered within the Mercenary's Heart will quickly evaporate." The Eighth Elder warned Jian Chen.

"This one understands, I thank the Eighth Elder for his warning." Jian Chen cupped his hands in thanks as his heart was still reeling with shock. This Mercenary's Heart was far too strange if it couldn't be taken outside and was completely useless for a Saint Ruler. But the strangeness wasn't all too bad. It was still given freely as a reward to every King of Mercenaries which was coincidentally the only non Saint Ruler qualified to enter the holy land.

"The holy land has a total of four areas. In the first area, the time flow goes ten times faster than the outside world. 10 months in there is 1 month in the outside world. If you wish to try to refine your Saint Force or try to comprehend any Heaven Tier Battle Skill, the first area is your best choice. The second area is best for understanding the six elements of the world. In that area, one could accomplish twice the work for half the effort, making improvements to one's strength quite rapid and effective.

"The third and fourth area is where the best part of the holy land are. The holy land's most precious items can be found there such as Saint Tier Battle Skills and even techniques of a senior generation that is comparable to a Saint Tier Battle Skill. Those not of the Saint Ruler realm will find it hard to comprehend, and thus is useless to you."

"The fourth area is where we elders of Mercenary City have left behind all that we have learned and realized over our years. To you, they are useless because you have no hopes in even coming in contact

with it, let alone being able to comprehend the absolute profoundness of them. Thus, the area that suits you best is the first area. You should cultivate there for half a year, it'll be the same as if cultivating for five years in the outside world." The Eighth Elder explained to Jian Chen. He had been the announcer for the Gathering of the Mercenaries, so explanations had been something he was in charge of. He had a responsibility to explain matters regarding the holy land clearly and did not treat Jian Chen with any special consideration.

After he had finished talking, the Eighth Elder left Jian Chen's line of sight, leaving him the only person around.

Taking an observation of the place around himself, Jian Chen had noticed that the other 20 elders had already disappeared from sight so that he was the last person here.

Not wanting to squander any of his precious time, he heeded the Eighth Elder's words and began to travel for the first area so that he could begin refining the Mercenary's Heart.

The very moment that Jian Chen had entered the first area, Jian Chen felt that the space within this place was completely abnormal that made his body feel quite unsuited for as if the area was objecting to Jian Chen's presence.

"This must be the first area where time goes ten times as fast." Jian Chen thought to himself as his feet continued onwards and took him to the abyss where he could feel the energy density grow even heavier.

As soon as Jian Chen had reached the deepest parts of this place, he took a look around only to see a cyan robed person sitting 50 meters away; it was the Heavenly Enchantress.

Standing from afar, Jian Chen couldn't help but look at her back which concealed not a single part of her stunning body.

With only a smallest amount of hesitation, Jian Chen slowly walked towards the Heavenly Enchantress. As he drew 30 meters closer, Jian Chen suddenly felt the energy in the area suddenly grow richer as it pulled towards the Heavenly Enchantress' body. The speed in which it was being pulled increased, and without any explanations, Jian Chen knew that the area the Heavenly Enchantress was in was the core of the first area.

Jian Chen stopped 10 meters away from her before sitting down. While he knew that the closer he got to where the Heavenly Enchantress was, the richer the energy would be, but at the same time, he did not dare to get too close to her.

"Senior, the holy land's Saint Tier Battle Skill and other cultivational insights left behind by our predecessors, why haven't you gone to find them?" Jian Chen asked the Heavenly Enchantress with confusion. With so many Saint Rulers here, a Saint Tier battle Skill and the insights from those of generations past was an undeniable treasure. But the Heavenly Enchantress had decided to come to this first area to refine her Saint Force, unlike the others.

But the Heavenly Enchantress continued to sit down with her eyes closed as if she hadn't heard Jian Chen at all.

After half a day of waiting without a response, Jian Chen had figured that an expert of the Saint Ruler would be extremely arrogant and would not even stoop down to a level where they would waste words with an Earth Saint master. Without bothering to ask anymore questions, Jian Chen immediately closed his eyes and began to refine the Mercenary's Heart.

"I follow the path of the Zither and use sound to fight. My road is different from the others, their battle skills and insights are unsuitable for me and provide no help." Just as Jian Chen had closed his eyes, the voice of the Heavenly Enchantress could be heard ringing in the air like the sounds of the song of heaven.

Flashing open his eyes, Jian Chen realized that the Heavenly Enchantress had still not yet moved from her spot, but a cyan colored mist had blocked his line of sight.

Without even waiting for a response from Jian Chen, the Heavenly Enchantress continued to speak, "So you are the King of Mercenaries. I am sure you have already obtained the Mercenary's Heart, it is a rare treasure that will surely bring about a great deal of change to your strength with fragments of the profound mysteries of the world inside it." The heavenly Enchantress spoke with her eyes closed.

"I thank senior for her words." Jian Chen cupped his hands together.

"There is no need to call me senior, just call me Heavenly Enchantress." She spoke without the initial coldness from before.

Afterwards, the Heavenly Enchantress spoke no more even after Jian Chen had asked several questions. With a dejected look, Jian Chen began to refine the Mercenary's Heart once more.

The Mercenary's Heart was extremely magical. Absorbing and refining the energy within it was fast enough for his speed and spirit to make leaps and bounds, almost as if the Mercenary's Heart was hiding some sort of strange energy that Jian Chen could use to blend into his own body and strengthen him. Furthermore, there were even some of the fragments that the Heavenly Enchantress had spoken about.

With one month inside the holy land being equal to 10 months in the outside world, Jian Chen had already spent two months inside before the Mercenary's Heart was finally refined. His strength by that point had made an extreme change, bringing him up to the Third Cycle Earth Saint Master realm and was already on the verge of making the breakthrough to the Fourth Cycle.

After this increment of strength, Jian Chen's spirit had also made a significant change. Compared to before, his spirit was three times as big as before, a drastic change that had made Jian Chen unbelievably happy.

And once the Mercenary's Heart had been absorbed, Jian Chen's mind had many different slivers of mysterious rays of light that were hard to grab hold of. These rays of light were seemingly the profound mysteries of the world, yet at the same time, they were also something different, causing Jian Chen to feel confused. Although Jian Chen could understand that these were the fragments that the Heavenly Enchantress had talked about, he still couldn't fully understand it.

It could be said that he had a mysterious treasure but was unable to find the key to unlock it and comprehend the secrets within.

Two months later, Jian Chen had opened his eyes once more only to see the Heavenly Enchantress still in the same place with her eyes closed as well. Standing up, Jian Chen had completely refined the Mercenary Heart and had now wanted to take a look at the other three areas.

Leaving without a sound, Jian Chen had arrived at the second area which had six different caves. Each cave was different and had six different types of elements; light, dark, fire, earth, water, and wind.

Deciding upon the light attribute cave, Jian Chen saw that the inside of the cave was extraordinarily bright, giving a sensation of dryness. It was almost as if the sunlight had been intensified within this cave, but unlike the normal rays of light, the light here was giving him a painful sensation almost as if the light was trying to kill him.

Within the light filled cave, Jian Chen could feel an abundance of Radiant Saint Force. Radiant Saint Masters were majestic within the Tian Yuan Continent since they could use the Radiant Saint Force to heal the injuries of others. Some of the stronger Radiant Saint Masters could even bring a person back to life and violate the natural order of the heavens. This type of Radiant Saint Master would be by no means a weak individual.

On the other hand were the Radiant Warriors who were given the nicknames of being undying. Radiant Warriors were filled with Radiant Saint Force and were exceedingly rare. Although they could control the Radiant Saint Force, they followed the way of the hegemon, which contrasted against the Radiant Saint Master's way of the king. They could only heal themselves and could not heal anyone else.

Radiant Warriors were also able to use their Radiant Saint Force to harm others as a form as an attack. If used on their own bodies, it would heal them, but if used on someone else, it would cause damage instead. Thus, in terms of healing, they were not equal to a Radiant Saint Master.

As for the light attribute cave, Jian Chen could feel both the soft rays of Radiant Saint Force as well as the hard tyrannical ray of Radiant Saint Force. So with the harsh rays of light stabbing into his body, Jian Chen would naturally feel a sharp stabbing sensation.

Not only could light help men, but it could also kill them.

#### Chapter 346: Saint Tier Battle Skill

Jian Chen was a Radiant Saint Master and not a Radiant Warrior in that regard. A Radiant Saint Master succeeded in using their spirit to augment and strengthen their control over the Radiant Saint Force in the world to heal those that needed it. A Radiant Warrior cultivated like any other cultivator in order to fight and improve their own strength. Spirit was secondary to them since it was absolutely unrelated to improving their strength. Thus, the light attribute cave would not be extremely effective for him since he wasn't a light attributed cultivator.

A Radiant Saint Master and Radiant Warrior had only a slight difference in name, but they walked two different paths of cultivation. One focused on the spirit and the other focused on Saint Force.

He quickly left the light attributed cave. Jian Chen knew that the light attributed element inside was meant for people to comprehend, but it would not serve him any use. Not only that, but he couldn't handle the painful stinging sensation.

Afterward, Jian Chen visited the other caves. Aside from some small increase in his understanding, since his inner Saint Force had no attribute, he felt no connection to any of the caves.

Quickly, Jian Chen arrived at the third area which was a single huge mountain wall. There were eight abnormally large caverns positioned on the cave walls. While most of the caves were located very high up on the wall, the lowest cave was only thirty meters high. The highest one was over a hundred meters up, reaching almost to the top of the cave. The entire wall was as smooth as a shiny mirror with no footholds, meaning that those without strength would find it impossible to climb.

Above the entrances' to these caverns were a few words; the very first cavern had the words, "Second Heavenly Layer Saint King Yunyang Wudi's remnants."

The top three caves had the words, "Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint King Tian Qinyu's remnants!" "Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint King Xue Wuya's remnants!" "Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint King Langsi Xiexun!"

Jian Chen's eyes swept across the caves with awestruck fascination. These eight caves all held the remnants of Saint Kings! The top most three caves had even housed Saint Kings at the Ninth Heavenly Layer!"

"Could it be that all of these Saint Kings were from Mercenary City?" Jian Chen muttered. It was only now that he realized the power he had seen in Mercenary City was the tip of the iceberg.

Mercenary City towered over the Tian Yuan Continent for countless of years as the pinnacle city. Not only did they have several Saint Ruler experts, but they also had some Saint King overseers. This type of colossal power was akin to a ferocious warbeast that no one had the possibility of killing.

Suddenly, Jian Chen couldn't help but think back to when he was in that isolated space collecting tokens for the competition. When he had been in the shrine, Ming Dong's uncle Tian had been a Saint Ruler 5000 years ago. Could it be possible for him to have made a breakthrough to become a Saint King after so long? Or maybe even a Saint Emperor? Since he had been residing within the isolated space along with the place used for the competition, could he too be a member of Mercenary City?

Sucking in a deep breath, he slowly started to try and calm himself down. With a single leap, he landed within the lowest cavern.

The passageway within the cavern was quite long and curvacious. After walking about 300 meters, Jian Chen finally arrived at a dead end which was a single spacious cave around fifty meters in width. There wasn't any sources of light, but what should have been a dark cave somehow was bright. Similar to the light outside. But the source of this light could not be found, giving this cave another sense of mystery.

All around the cave were various paintings of men. Each painting was almost lifelike, and in each painting, the person drawn within seemed to be performing some sort of graceful movement.

Within the center of the cave, three men were sitting idly while staring at the paintings with a stiffness similar to that of a statue. Not a single hair could be seen moving, and within the three of them, Jian Chen recognized the Thirteenth Elder.

"Could it be this painting portrays one of the legendary Saint Tier Battle Skills?" Jian Chen thought. Walking toward the three men, he followed suit and began to stare fixedly at the painting. But after half a day, he had failed to understand anything from the painting.

“Jian Chen, how did you come to be here? Did the Eighth Elder not tell you to stay at the first area to cultivate?” Suddenly, Jian Chen could hear the wizened voice of the Thirteenth Elder who spoke with shock.

“Thirteenth Elder, I was only taking a look around. I heard from the Eighth Elder that the third area had a Saint Tier Battle Skill. Could this painting be it?” Jian Chen asked. Since he was afraid of disturbing the other two men, Jian Chen spoke in a quiet voice.

“Correct, this is indeed a Saint Tier Battle Skill. Since you are here, I presume that you have seen the other caverns. This is one of the riches of Mercenary City. In total, there are eight Saint Tier Battle Skills; the equivalent to the Eight Senior Elders of Mercenary City. Each one of them reached the Saint King realm and these Saint Tier Battle Skills were created by them.” The Thirteenth Elder spoke.

“Thirteenth Elder, with these paintings all depicting a Saint Tier Battle Skill, I don’t see anything for cultivation methods, just why is that?” Jian Chen asked with confusion.

“A Saint Tier Battle Skill is different from a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. There are no Cultivation Methods, each advancement from this point on is dependent on oneself. The use of a Saint Tier Battle Skill is to draw upon the energy of the world. So to comprehend and understand a Saint Tier Battle Skill, one must be a Saint Ruler at the very least. That is because once one makes the breakthrough to become a Saint Ruler, they will begin to understand the profound mysteries of the world and grasp the energy of the world. Jian Chen, a Saint Tier Battle Skill isn’t something that you can understand right now. You are merely wasting your time here, hurry on back to the first area and cultivate. You are the King of Mercenaries for this time’s Gathering of the Mercenaries. Wait until you become a Saint Ruler and come back for the next Gathering of the Mercenaries to enter the holy land once again.” The Thirteenth Elder spoke.

“I thank the Thirteenth Elder for his kind intentions. I had only wished to see this Saint Tier Battle Skill, and even though I was unable to understand it, I was still able to further my insights.” Jian Chen smiled.

“It is up to you. You only have half a year’s time, I hope you treasure it wisely.” The elder said before turning away.

Jian Chen kept calm and looked back toward the first painting. Now that he knew that these paintings were Saint Tier Battle Skills, his attitude toward them changed completely. He no longer looked at them with a simple gaze and instead began to look at them intently so that not even the expressions were neglected.

As he looked at each and every movement within the diagrams, Jian Chen would occasionally feel a small revelation appear within his mind. It was as if he were on the verge of understanding something but was unable to grasp the final step and grew confused once more. Seeing just how each one of these movements and forms had some sort of secret, Jian Chen was unable to completely understand just what was the purpose, leaving him quite vexed.

With each observation, Jian Chen could feel his thoughts grow more and more chaotic as he felt his mind expand. It was almost as if his head had become a constantly expanding balloon, and since he couldn’t bear the “air” expanding within, his head was hurting badly.

Jian Chen knew that this Saint Tier Battle Skill was the cause, therefore he immediately turned away and sat on the ground. He tried to think of nothing, emptying his mind of everything as he fell into a deep meditation.

After an unknown amount of time, Jian Chen had finally regained control of his mind, allowing him to open his eyes and stare at the painting once more.

Now Jian Chen had a better understanding of the first painting. Slowly, he could understand that the people within the painting were like the heavens. They were representatives of the world, their movements were fused together with the world. Each move contained a profound mystery of the world, and each strike contained a profound theory, but that was something Jian Chen didn't understand.

However, when Jian Chen had understood the first part, he could suddenly feel that this one strike displayed on the picture was quite simple and he could work it out. In one moment, he could feel that this move embodied many things; a simple strike that could have countless of variations. In another moment, he could feel that this move was akin to nature and harmonized the body with the world before shaping it. In the next moment, he could feel that it contained a terrifying amount of power that could scare demons and shatter the world...

With such a simple looking painting, Jian Chen was able to understand so many pieces of information. If the other Saint Rulers were to figure out that Jian Chen was able to grasp this much, their eyes would pop open in shock, and they would look at him with inconceivable looks.

For an Earth Saint Master to gain so many insights after looking at a Saint Tier Battle Skill, was an impossible task. If Jian Chen were to later have a grasp on the profound mysteries of the world, then understanding this Saint Tier Battle Skill was not too far out of his reach. In fact, establishing his own Saint Tier Battle Skill wouldn't be impossible either.

As soon as this bit of information had traveled to Jian Chen's mind, his mind instantly grew chaotic once more as it swelled up, threatening to fracture at any moment.

Jian Chen immediately closed his eyes once more and forced himself to calm down.

After calming down, Jian Chen methodically inspected the paintings over and over again. However, the only information he could gather from them was the fact that these simple paintings seemed to be filled with many mysteries. No matter how much he looked at them, he was unable to progress. Thus, he could only stop here. If he tried to push on, he would get a splitting headache, his thoughts would go berserk, and his thought processes would slow down.

"It seems that being unable to grasp the mysteries of the world causes one to be unable to understand the Saint Tier Battle Skill. I can sense that this move is filled with many things, but I cannot understand the concepts. Could it be that the profound mysteries of the world are not enough?" Jian Chen thought to himself. With one of the legendary Saint Tier Battle Skills right in front of him but he himself unable to comprehend the meaning behind it, left Jian Chen feeling unwell.

Chapter 347: Leaving the Holy Land

Jian Chen left the first cavern, and visited the other seven caverns, each one contained its own Saint Tier Battle Skill. Without any exceptions, each battle skill was illustrated on paintings that required the cultivator to comprehend it by themselves with no instructions.

A Saint Tier Battle Skill was not like a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Heaven Tier Battle Skills were written using words, and required only a strong amount of practice in order to grasp the fundamentals. They also required time to initialize. A Saint Tier Battle Skill was completely different. This required one's own ability to understand. So if one was unable to comprehend the Saint Tier Battle Skill in their hand, it would be useless.

A Saint Tier Battle Skill was complicated and mysterious. A single Saint Tier Battle Skill could have hundreds of paintings, and each form depicted on them could hold many different mysteries. Some only had three paintings, but each one held mysteries that could shatter the heavens and annihilate the earth. When looking at the pictures, the people drawn within the paintings seemed almost as if they were alive. Each one carried a world-shaking power. If one didn't have a certain base level of strength, they would not be able to endure this incorporeal presence.

Even Jian Chen had felt an indescribable amount of power coming from the paintings, causing him to spit out blood. Even just the grace of the paintings was enough to inflict damage on Jian Chen.

After such an event, Jian Chen had a stronger understanding of Saint Tier Battle Skills. He knew what realm he was currently in, and that this Saint Tier Battle Skill was beyond his level. If he were to never become a Saint Ruler nor grasp the profound mysteries of the world, then the time he had spent trying to understand the Saint Tier Battle Skills would all be for naught.

Leaving the third area, Jian Chen arrived at the fourth. The fourth area was simply a large study room with a table and chairs. Bookshelves could be seen everywhere with books filling up each shelf, bound with the animal leather of magical beasts. There was a strange energy that filled the area attempting to prevent the books from corroding with time.

These books were filled with insights from the previous generations of cultivators. While Jian Chen wouldn't be able to benefit much from them now, he could still memorize them. Then, he would be able to think back to them when his own comprehension was better.

In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen had spent three months within the fourth area. Jian Chen had spent the entire time reading the insights from every single area possible within the realm of cultivation. While it was of no use to him now, they would come in handy later.

During the days within the fourth area, Jian Chen had also tried to establish his foundation even more. The experiences within the books he had read were many, and the amount of insights he could still glean from them were plenty. Those under the Heaven Saint Master realm would absorb the vital energy of the world to increase both their Saint Weapon and personal strength, but there was a barrier from the Great Saint Master to Earth Saint Master realm. If one succeeded in crossing the barrier, then they would become like the dragon, but if they failed, they would degenerate to a cripple who couldn't cultivate.

Cultivating as an Earth Saint Master was an extremely simple task with no complications. As long as one reached the Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master level, one could make the breakthrough to become a Heaven

Saint Master by the usage of the world's vital energy. With a small step, they would become a Heaven Saint Master.

Heaven Saint Masters were able to fly through the air with the use of their inner Saint Force to levitate. With the world's energy, they could fly through the air without much of a drain to themselves. So, if one wanted to be a Heaven Saint Master, it was necessary to have a grasp on the vital energy of the world.

The last part he grasped was the threshold to become a Saint Ruler. Although making the breakthrough to become a Saint Ruler wasn't as perilous as becoming an Earth Saint Master, the chances of making the breakthrough were many times harder.

That was because if one wanted to make the breakthrough to become a Saint Ruler, they must have a fundamental grasp of the profound mysteries in the world. There were many secrets hidden within these profound mysteries and they were the reason why there were so few Saint Rulers among the Tian Yuan Continent. This layer of cultivation was far away from the level Jian Chen was currently at.

Leaving the fourth area, Jian Chen still had another month left in the holy land. During this final month, he had planned on going back to the first area to continue his cultivation for what would be equivalent to ten months of actual time.

Arriving at the first area, the Heavenly Enchantress was still sitting in her original spot without any signs of moving. Sitting ten meters away from her so as to not disturb her, Jian Chen sat down with two Class 5 Monster Cores. Although the energy within this area was quite rich, the energy within a Class 5 Monster Core was denser. Now that he was a Peak Third Cycle Earth Saint Master, he was only a small hop away from the Fourth Cycle.

"The energy within the holy land is different from the outside world. The energy in here contains fragments of the profound mysteries of the world. Although they are miniscule, they should still provide a large amount of help to you." Just as Jian Chen had taken out his Class 5 Monster Cores, the Heavenly Enchantress' heavenly voice could be heard once more.

Pausing in shock, Jian Chen didn't think that the holy land's energy would contain the mysteries of the world. Cupping his hands to signify his thanks to the Heavenly Enchantress, he put the Class 5 Monster Cores back into his Space Belt and began to cultivate once more with the energy from the holy land.

Suddenly, the first area's energy began to rush toward Jian Chen in a frantic craze while Jian Chen continued to accept all of it into his body like water into a whale. At the current pace, his absorption rate was no slower than the Heavenly Enchantress.

With the help of the Sword Spirits, Jian Chen was able to absorb both the world qi and the energy within the monster core at a rate several times faster than anyone else. Ever since he'd first awakened the Sword Spirits in Huang Village, they had stopped stealing energy from Jian Chen without his permission. Therefore, the energy was now entirely absorbed by Jian Chen alone.

The Heavenly Enchantress' eyes flew open as she realized just how fast Jian Chen was absorbing the energy. After staring in shock for a few moments, she closed her eyes once more.

Half a moment later, Jian Chen's face broke out into a smile in the middle of his cultivation. As expected, he'd discovered that the energy from the holy land was indeed different from that from outside. There

were many things he didn't understand mixed into it, like whatever was contained in the strange energy from Mercenary City. These were all impossible for him to comprehend. They seemed like rings of light that flashed in his head fleetingly, unable to be grasped. Such things were no longer strange to Jian Chen; these were precisely the profound mysteries of the world, the level that he could not yet touch.

This realization made Jian Chen happy. Spending the rest of his time in a deep cultivational meditation, he began to absorb some of the fragments of the profound mysteries of the world. Originally, he had planned to try and study the Illusionary Flash, but with this newfound discovery, he completely ignored that previous notion.

Quickly, Jian Chen had spent the last ten months of his time in the first area of the holy land. His strength had already reached the Fourth Cycle Earth Saint Master, and in those ten months, Jian Chen's comprehension of the profound mysteries of the world had substantially increased. His mind was like a world of spirits and the profound mysteries were like a divine light that would occasionally shine. Sometimes, a strange thought would occur in his mind, but Jian Chen had never been able to fully grasp just what the thought meant. At times, his thoughts would be vague as he tried to comprehend them, but they were mysteries for a reason.

With the help of the fragments he had already, Jian Chen was able to establish a strong foundation of the profound mysteries. In his current state, even if he were to absorb any more of the fragments, he wouldn't be able to understand the current fragments.

Today was the day that half a year had passed. The Eighth Elder appeared by Jian Chen's side and spoke, "Jian Chen, it has been half a year. Follow me and I'll guide you out."

Sighing with some regret, Jian Chen had finally recognized the benefits of the holy land. The first area was capable of allowing him more time to understand the profound mysteries. Now that he had a good understanding of the benefits of this place, he was reluctant to leave.

"If only I could just stay here." Jian Chen sighed at that thought. He knew that his wish was impossible, thus he could only follow the Eighth Elder and depart from the first area.

Seeing Jian Chen's reluctant face, the Eighth Elder couldn't help but laugh, "Jian Chen, are you unhappy to leave the holy lands? Haha, this place is truly a treasured area if even Saint Rulers are attracted to this place so badly. You needn't worry, with you being this time's King of Mercenaries, you'll have an opportunity to enter the holy lands once more at the next Gathering of the Mercenaries after you become a Saint Ruler. Each time the holy land opens every fifty years, you may remain inside for five years."

"One can stay in here for five years? Then why was it that I am only able to stay for half a year?" Jian Chen asked with confusion.

The Eighth Elder laughed, "Only a Saint Ruler is qualified to stay for five years. Even the number one ranking person in the Gathering of the Mercenaries is only qualified to stay for half a year; that is the rules of our Mercenary City."

Jian Chen could find no faults in those words. The holy land was their territory after all. Anyone that wanted to enter the holy land had no right to dictate the rules as they personally saw fit.

Afterward, the Eighth Elder took Jian Chen to a Space Gate and left the holy land with him.

#### Chapter 348: Being Watched

Crossing through the Space Gate, Jian Chen found himself in the flower garden once more. Flowers bloomed everywhere within a fifty meter radius, and the pavilion in the center towered over him as if it were bathing within the field of flowers.

Jian Chen wasn't unfamiliar with this place, he had seen it once before. This was where he saw the Eighth and Thirteenth Elder play chess.

A flying figure quickly made its way toward Jian Chen before falling to the ground. It was a frail looking middle-aged man that seemed quite scholarly, one who enjoyed reading more than anything else. This man wore white robes with grandiose stitching and his eyes shone brightly with liveliness.

Seeing how this man had just been soaring through the sky, Jian Chen could tell that he was a Heaven Saint Master. Without any neglect in respect, the man cupped his hands together and spoke politely, "You must be Jian Chen."

Quickly swallowing the surprise back down his throat, Jian Chen nodded his head, "Correct, I am he."

"The elder ordered me to come and collect you, please follow me." The middle-aged man replied. With a wave of his hand, Jian Chen suddenly felt a formidable amount of energy envelop his entire body before he began to levitate through the air along with the middle-aged man.

"Could this Heaven Saint Master be able to control the energy of the world?" Jian Chen couldn't help but think about this. Although he was calm on the outside, he was furiously trying to figure out how the energy that was enveloping him worked.

The man was only traveling ten meters above the ground, but the speed in which they were traveling was still very fast.

Not long later, Jian Chen and the man reached yet another Space Gate. Descending down to the ground, the middle-aged man spoke, "You can leave from here."

Jian Chen returned the way he came: through the Space Gate. He found himself in the plaza where the Gathering of the Mercenaries had taken place. Suddenly, a person came walking out from one of the halls; it was the crane-haired elder. Handing him a badge, the elder said, "This is the emblem of the King of Mercenaries. It is made of a special material and has been interwoven with arrays so that when Saint Force is used to activate it, the vital energy of the world in a ten kilometer distance will be absorbed into it for later cultivational usage."

Jian Chen's heart leaped into his throat as he immediately thought about the Flame Mercenaries and Changyang clan. This would definitely be a great boon for the two.

Taking the emblem carefully into his own hands, Jian Chen left the halls under the supervision of the commanding officer and walked out onto the streets.

Jian Chen tilted his head up to look at the sun overhead with a happy expression. After spending a long time within the holy land with no sun, Jian Chen felt comforted by the sun rays basking his body in its light.

By now, half a year had already passed since the Gathering of the Mercenaries had ended and the entire Mercenary City had already gone back to its normal everyday life with the exception of the season being hotter than before. However, the steady stream of people going in and out of the city was still there.

Mercenary City was the holy city for mercenaries and merchants alike. Each of the four seasons was always a busy season and many people traveled to the city.

By now, winter had already passed and summer was fast approaching. With the scorching sun bearing down on the ground, it was already like the top of a burning slab of iron. Since Jian Chen had spent a long time within the dark and damp holy grounds, he quickly found himself dry and thirsty.

Walking to the middle plaza of Mercenary City — the plaza was now a four way intersection for everyone to cross — it was not as lively as it was half a year ago, but it still had many magical beast riders walking on the streets.

As for the founder of Mercenary City Mo Tianyun, his statue stood tall and stared up toward the sky with a real life like figure.

By now, Jian Chen had already stored away some fragments of the profound mysteries of the world within his head. The statue of Mo Tianyun was completely different before compared to his eyes now. To him, the statue seemed to be completely filled with an endlessly profound mystery. Even the seemingly normal hands of the statue were filled with a strange substance that made the statue seem more lifelike. At the same time, it seemed as if the statue was harmonized with the world completely.

After a moment of careful observation, Jian Chen finally regained his bearings and respectfully bowed toward the statue before leaving the area. His understanding of Mercenary City was growing more and more, causing Jian Chen's respect of Mo Tianyun to deepen as well.

Aimlessly roaming around the streets, Jian Chen finally entered an inn so that he could sit down and eat a meal. After residing within the holy land for so long, he hadn't a single thing to eat in ages.

It was already afternoon and past the regular eating time, so the inn was relatively clean with Jian Chen as the only customer.

At that moment, three other men came walking in before sitting down at a table. "Waitress, some wine and meat over here!"

Staring at the three men, Jian Chen looked back to his own table and decided on what to eat.

"Hei Zi, just wait until we finish our mission, then our mercenary group will become a B ranked group!" Another man spoke to the black skinned man who had talked first.

The dark skinned man nodded his head, "Right, we were only a C ranked group three years ago. But three years later, we've accomplished many missions and our own merits aren't bad either. Just wait for this mission to be finished, and we will truly become a B ranked group."

The three men were seasoned mercenaries. While they ate, they would occasionally talk about other mercenary related affairs while simultaneously looking at Jian Chen every so often.

After some time, Jian Chen had ate and drank his fill. With a satisfied clap, he spoke, "Waitress, is there a room free to stay for the night? I would like to reserve one." Jian Chen spoke as he placed a purple coin on the table.

"Yes, sir, we'll prepare a room for you right away, please wait one moment!" The waitress retrieved the purple coin with a smile and immediately left to make preparations.

With a look toward the three other men, Jian Chen had a meaningful smile on his face as he walked over, "Fellow friends, what might your names be?"

Jian Chen's sudden movement toward them had caught the three off guard, but they quickly recovered and had one man cup his hands with a smile, "This one is called Jian Hua, and these two are my close friends, Hei Zi and Bao Yue. I could tell that fellow brother's Qi was quite unordinary, what might be your name?"

"I am called Jian Chen!" Jian Chen smiled.

Hearing that, the three men instantly grew shocked. With an incredulous look, the one called Jian Hua turned to look at Jian Chen with doubt, "Could you mean that you are the Jian Chen that won the Gathering of the Mercenaries half a year ago?!"

"I am he!" Jian Chen's smile had a strange look to it.

"Ah, so you are Jian Chen, how disrespectful of me! Truly disrespectful! Brother Jian Chen's name is a name that is as well known as a thunder clap to the ears! Who would have known that the three of us would be as fortunate to be able to come across brother Jian Chen today?" Jian Hua boomed outward with a respectful manner as the other two hurriedly cupped their hands in a respectful salute.

Seeing their attitudes, Jian Chen revealed a cold smile on his face, "Fellow friends, spare me your theatrics. Speak of your plans right now."

Hearing this, the three men looked at Jian Chen with shock and vacant stares. Shaking his crew cut hair styled head, Jian Hua spoke with confusion, "Brother Jian Chen, what are you talking about?"

Jian Chen snorted, "You three have been following me for a good while, do you think that I wouldn't know? Speak of your purpose, I hate wasting time."

Still staring blankly at Jian Chen, Jian Hua could only smile as he continued to speak, "Brother Jian Chen is quite the jokester. How would we have followed you? This meeting was a coincidence."

"If my instinct isn't wrong, then you three are either from the Jiede clan or Shi family." Jian Chen's eyes grew cold as his sharp eyes pierced into them with his gaze.

The three men continued to stare blankly while Jian Hua forced a helpless smile on his face, "Brother Jian Chen, I'm afraid I still don't understand. Might've you mistaken us for someone else?"

Seeing how their faces didn't seem to be hiding anything, Jian Chen knew that asking anymore questions would be pointless. Without wasting anymore time, he left for the second floor of the inn.

Right as Jian Chen had disappeared, the shocked expressions of the three men instantly grew dark as they leaned closed to each other.

"I didn't think he would be that vigilant, he already spotted us from far away!" Jian Hua whispered.

"What should we do now?" Hei Zi asked.

"What else could we do? Let's report back to the elder."

Afterward, the three men placed a purple coin down and left the inn at a fast pace.

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Within a grand looking inn, the furious expression of an elder stared at the three men in front of him as he pointed and shouted curses at them, "Useless! Absolutely useless! All I see is a pile of garbage right in front of me! You've let the person you were trailing see you, just what use are you for other than eating?"

These three men were Jian Hua, Hei Zi, and Bao Yue. Each one of them had a pale face as they shivered in fear and didn't dare to utter a single sound.

"Elder, this isn't our fault, our target was already extremely careful and far too powerful. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been noticed." Jian Hua spoke with a quavering voice of fear in hopes of placating the elder's anger.

At that moment, the doors to the room opened as another elder came walking in. Upon seeing the three men in front of him, the new coming elder narrowed his eyes and spoke, "Fourth elder, what happened?"

"These three pieces of garbage were easily detected by Jian Chen after his return from the holy lands! With their presences being detected, all of our plans have now gone up in smoke!" The fourth elder exploded with anger as he swore once more.

#### Chapter 349: A Conversation

Hearing the words of the fourth elder, the newly arrived elder grew serious as he whispered, "It can't be, although we haven't come across him before, he was still able to spot us? That is an exceptionally smart mind with a cautious character. Now that he knows we are watching him, unless he is sure he can escape our grasp, he will definitely refuse to leave Mercenary City."

"But that's just it! Our plans were to wait for Jian Chen to leave Mercenary City before we come and reclaim our items. But at the most critical moment, these three pieces of trash ruined it all! Now Jian Chen knows that we are watching him, he won't dare leave the city now." The fourth elder spoke.

"Ai, if I had known Jian Chen's skills at detection were so high, I would have tracked him myself. Now that the situation is like this, it's quite troublesome. If Jian Chen continues to stay within Mercenary City, then we won't be able to make a move at all." The elder spoke with a sigh.

"Third elder, you are the intelligent one; what should we do in this case?" The fourth elder calmed himself down.

The third elder's eyebrows creased together in thought as he muttered, "This Jian Chen was able to become the King of Mercenaries with relative ease, a person like this is by no means ordinary. Since he knows that we are currently watching him, there is no need for us to be secretive about it anymore."

Third elder, let us go talk with him and see if there is any way for him to hand over the Seal of Treasure Mountain to us. As for the death of the third young lord, we can wait another day. At the very least, we can recover the Ruler Armament,”

The fourth elder nodded his head, “I thought as much. Ai, the family head was far too greedy if only he hadn’t wanted the third lord to try and take the Solunar Bow from the Huang family during the competition. In the end, we didn’t obtain the bow and the Seal of Treasure Mountain was lost to us. This is truly a disgrace.”

“Forget it, fourth elder. There’s no use trying to think anymore about this matter. Right now we should meet with Jian Chen and hope that we can reclaim the Ruler Armament. Here, eat this.” The third elder spoke as he handed a red pill toward the fourth elder.

The fourth elder had a lot of trust in the third elder, and so without any more questions he took the pill and swallowed it.

Afterward, the two elders headed toward the inn Jian Hua had explicitly said housed Jian Chen.

At this moment, Jian Chen was on his bed and was studying the Illusionary Flash once more. The moment he sensed the elders, he opened his eyes and stared at them.

The third elder stared at Jian Chen for a moment before paying a compliment, “No wonder you are the King of Mercenaries with such a talent like this. Jian Chen, we are from the Shi family. If our third lord Shi Xiangran has ever offended you in the past, we would sincerely like to apologize to you and hope that you do not take this personally.”

Since the other party had not been rude to him, Jian Chen returned the smile, “Senior is too polite. For such a small matter, I, Jian Chen, have already forgotten about it. As long as no one else looks for trouble with me, then I will not recklessly declare anyone as my enemy.”

The fourth elder nearly rolled his eyes at Jian Chen’s words as he cursed him internally. Jian Chen had killed their third lord and had also stolen the Shi family’s Seal of Treasure Mountain heirloom; therefore, it was only natural that the Shi family would chase after Jian Chen.

The third elder laughed, “Haha, brother Jian Chen is really courageous. I wonder if you are willing to return the Seal of Treasure Mountain to our Shi family? We should exchange our weapons of war for gifts of silk. After all, the Seal of Treasure Mountain cannot be activated without a combination of our Shi family’s blood and a special, secret technique. It’s useless in your possession, and it would make our Shi family feel extreme resent toward you. This will greatly impact your relationship with us. Can you please consider our offer?”

“Naturally, if you are willing to return the Seal of Treasure Mountain, then we will naturally give you fair compensation for it.”

The third elder’s words were sweet to hear and he held no ill intent behind them. Even his tone had been calm and cordial without any sense of anger.

Unfortunately, Jian Chen knew better than to believe his words and sighed in disappointment, “I’m afraid to disappoint seniors, but the Seal of Treasure Mountain has already been handed to someone else and is no longer within my possession.”

Jian Chen's words caused the two elders to reveal horrified expressions as the third elder tried to keep the calm look on his face, "What? The Seal of Treasure Mountain is no longer on you? Is that true?"

"When I entered the holy land, I gave the Seal of Treasure Mountain to Qin Ji, so it is no longer on me." Jian Chen spoke.

"You hoodlum! To give away such a precious treasure as if passing a gift, you... you ruffian! Are you not afraid of death? The treasure of the Shi family... just how could you give it away?!" The fourth elder exploded with a furious rage as he pointed at Jian Chen with a quivering finger. If it were not for Mercenary City, he would have long since tried to strangle Jian Chen.

The third elder's expression grew dim as his eyes gained an unholy light to them. Then, while he was thinking, he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood and began to write on the air with his blood, forming a complicated looking array after some time.

With an explosive shout, the third elder pressed against the core of the formation, "Seal of Treasure Mountain, return!"

As soon as he spoke, Jian Chen's expression grew startled as he felt the Seal of Treasure Mountain within his Space Ring suddenly begin to tremble and shake as if trying to separate itself from the Space Ring.

Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat; he hadn't thought that there would be such a summoning skill. Fortunately, the attractive force was not all that strong, otherwise Jian Chen was afraid that the Space Ring would be unable to hold it in.

Jian Chen clenched the Space Ring tightly so that the Seal of Treasure Mountain wouldn't escape.

The bloody formation slowly began to grow faint before disappearing from view completely. However, the third elder who had drawn the formation grew pale in the face. It would appear that this secret skill had used up a lot of his energy.

"Jian Chen, you cannot deceive us, it is still within your possession. You should hand it over to us so we may return home without any further conflict." The third elder's expression was weaker than before, but the honest face was still there.

As it was now, Jian Chen didn't bother to hide anymore secrets and spoke, "Seniors, you should go home."

"Are you certain that you will not return the Seal of Treasure Mountain? It will only bring you more trouble." The third elder asked Jian Chen once more for confirmation.

"That is not your business to worry about." Jian Chen didn't plan to return the Seal of Treasure Mountain. In fact, he would rather give it to someone else rather than return it to the Shi family. He knew that even if he were to give it back, the family would still not forgive him. He was already well experienced in matters like this.

The third elder sighed before taking out an embroidered pouch, "Jian Chen, do you know what this is?" When Jian Chen didn't answer, the third elder continued to speak, "This is a poison I spent a dear sum of money to purchase from a friend. Inside is what is known as the Hundred Poisons Powder. Its poison is

extremely toxic and is the amalgamation of hundreds of poisons. It is without flavor or color and can be spread through the air. As long as this poison enters the body, then even a Heaven Saint Master will not escape unharmed. Aside from a specially made antidote, this poison is incurable.”

Hearing this, even the fourth elder had become surprised. “Third elder, you truly are a mastermind! How admirable, no wonder you had me eat a pill early, that was the antidote?”

The third elder laughed and nodded his head before looking at Jian Chen smugly, confident that he had power over Jian Chen’s life now.

Jian Chen also smiled as he looked at the elder, “Third elder, if you could tell me, am I poisoned?”

“Correct!” The third elder nodded his head, “Jian Chen, ever since we entered the room, I used this powder to send poison through the air, spreading it throughout the room. You’ve already breathed in the poison, but you weren’t able to detect it.”

Unable to stop himself from laughing, Jian Chen threw his head up carelessly for a moment before looking back to the indescribable faces of the third and fourth elders.

“Third elder, I’ve neglected to tell you, but my body is immune to many things. Your poison holds no power over me.” Jian Chen laughed as if he had shared a funny joke.

The third elder’s face looked as if he had suffered a terrible blow as his expression immediately scrunched up to look rather vicious and ugly like. Originally, he had thought he had finally cornered Jian Chen, but Jian Chen had somehow managed to cross the wall he had put up without any effort at all.

“Fourth elder, we’re going!” With a swish of his robes, the third elder returned the powder to his sleeves and turned around.

The fourth elder glared coldly at Jian Chen, “Youngster, you had best stay within Mercenary City for the rest of your life.” With that, the fourth elder left the building.

That night, while Jian Chen had noticed that there were no more uninvited guests, countless of hidden eyes had started to look at Jian Chen around the clock.

Jian Chen knew that both the Jiede clan and Shi family were now monitoring him in an effort to prevent him from escaping from under their eyes and take their Ruler Armament away with him.

#### Chapter 350: Departing with Ease

As for the Jiede clan monitoring him, Jian Chen didn’t care at all. This sort of development was something he had predicted a long time ago.

On the second day, Jian Chen left his room to stroll around the streets of Mercenary City. He walked east, he wandered west, there was no definite location in sight. But right behind him, several groups of men followed him from a decent ways away. Since they no longer feared being detected by Jian Chen, they didn’t care for being stealthy.

Jian Chen led the group on a day long walk before finally returning back to his inn for the night. On the day after, Jian Chen left the inn once more. When he left, the attendants behind him followed Jian Chen thirty meters away.

Not even caring to look at the group of people behind him, Jian Chen wandered around Mercenary City once more. This time, staring toward the east while walking toward the west as if to enjoy the scenery around him.

Soon, Jian Chen came across a gambling house. With a smile that seemed ready to crack a joke, Jian Chen walked into the place with the people behind him following him in.

Within the gambling house countless men were enthusiastically making noise. Those who had won money were crying out in joy while those who had lost were all sighing with regret.

Jian Chen swiftly traveled through a group of people to an even larger crowd before blending in with the other gamblers. His figure instantly disappeared from the gambling house, leaving his stalkers to anxiously look around themselves.

Emerging from the gambling house, Jian Chen immediately switched streets and looked for a different inn to hide himself in.

But by that night, Jian Chen was found out once more as his stalkers surrounded the inn.

“What an annoying group of flies.” Jian Chen sighed to himself without any choice. With this group of people constantly chasing him, Jian Chen couldn’t leave Mercenary City. In the case the Jiede clan and Shi family leaders found out that he had left and his whereabouts, he would most likely be killed.

The next day, Jian Chen left his room and headed for the plaza where the palace was in Mercenary City. This area was where the inner city was connected to the outer road and the outside world.

Since Jian Chen was the King of Mercenaries, his special identity allowed him to enter this place without any obstructions. However, a middle-aged man came to meet him this time instead.

“Senior, this one would like to see the elders, would that be possible?” Jian Chen asked him politely.

The man shook his head, “Out of the question, seeing the elders is not something that can be so easily done. Your ceremony has long since passed, unless the elders wish to see you first, you cannot see them.”

Jian Chen had a dejected look on his face, but he asked, “Then would it be possible for me to leave Mercenary City via the Space Gate?”

“Our Mercenary City’s Space Gate is for entering the city which can only be used by the inner members. As for exiting the city via the Space Gate, you must have the permission of the elders, otherwise, even the inner members are forbidden from using it.” The man explained.

Depressed, Jian Chen left the area. If he had known about this earlier, he would have asked the Eighth Elder for permission to leave the city during his time in the holy land.

Wandering around the streets of Mercenary City once more, Jian Chen began to think of an escape plan. After he had used the gambling house to escape his stalkers, they were now cautious of a second escape plan. Even the distance had decreased from twenty meters to a measly five meters. Even more audaciously, the group were now following Jian Chen with an unbridled amount of arrogance, causing Jian Chen no small amount of annoyance. If it were not for the fact that Mercenary City forbade violence, then Jian Chen would have beaten them all up long ago for their arrogance.

Jian Chen knew that shaking them off at such a close distance would be too difficult. Even if he were to use the Illusionary Flash, if there were any wind attribute cultivators who were Earth Saint Masters, then at least two of them would be able to catch up with him.

That night, Jian Chen entered a random inn and ordered a meal and a room for the night to rest. The ones that were still following him had stumbled in as well and booked the adjacent rooms. The other group of men surrounded the inn in tight proximity to avoid Jian Chen from escaping from them.

The following morning, Jian Chen left his room once more after eating an early breakfast. Then, he walked back into his room and began to cultivate.

For the next couple of days, Jian Chen hadn't left his room at all other than to eat a meal. The rest of his time was spent studying the Illusionary Flash. While the men outside his room still kept up a vigilant watch, they all realized that Jian Chen was most likely planning to stay where he was for a long time, so they were now relatively relaxed. They needn't be on guard as they were a few days ago, but they still maintained a strong watch over Jian Chen. No matter if it was day or night, there would still be someone watching, so it was as if there was a giant net being placed over the inn.

In a flash, ten days had passed by with Jian Chen spending most of his time researching the Illusionary Flash. If he could understand the fragments of the profound mysteries of the world within his mind, then his comprehension of the Illusionary Flash would multiply several times over. He had already mastered the basics, allowing his speed to be double that of when he was in the Gathering of the Mercenaries. By now, Jian Chen was almost comparable in speed to a Sixth Cycle wind attributed Earth Saint Master. At the very least, he could survive against a Heaven Saint Master.

Of course, this was only just a conservative guess. He had only mastered the basics, so he could only guess how fast he was. Just how fast he was exactly, he didn't know since he hadn't been able to test it out yet.

Early one morning, Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes from his meditative posture and looked at the blooming skies. Muttering to himself, he spoke, "It's about time to leave." With that, Jian Chen got off his bed and allowed a faint glow of azure and violet to be emitted from his finger. Floating overhead, it reached the wooden ceiling and immediately bore a hole into it, causing the wooden ceiling to shred apart like tofu. With a gentle push, Jian Chen removed the half a meter long circumference hole from the ceiling, revealing a single hole.

Seeing the large hole, Jian Chen cracked a smile before putting the wooden hole back in place for the meanwhile and then he left the room.

As per usual, Jian Chen walked down for an early breakfast. After finishing, he walked back to his room and closed the doors and windows. Immediately, he began to take out a variety of herbs from within his Space Ring to begin to paint his face.

Half an hour later, Jian Chen lifted his head to reveal a completely different face than before. By now, his face was that of an ordinary looking middle-aged man with several cut marks and even a beard, giving him a fierce look.

Looking at his own reflection, Jian Chen nodded his head. Suddenly, a cracking sound could be heard as Jian Chen's stature suddenly grew thicker and even his height was increased. In no time at all, Jian Chen's physique had grown burly, the complete opposite of what he was before.

Adorning a black robe from within his Space Belt, Jian Chen once more cut off the long hair that had trailed down his shoulders, leaving behind a greatly diminished amount.

Once this had been done, Jian Chen was a completely different person in appearance with absolutely nothing that could link the two together. Even Ming Dong and Qin Xiao who were both friends with Jian Chen would not have been able to tell that this burly looking man was him.

Inspecting his face once more, Jian Chen made sure nothing had been overlooked before taking out the wooden hole cover from the ceiling. With a tiny leap, he immediately landed in the room above before replacing the hole. Closing the door to the room, Jian Chen walked outside.

And just like that, Jian Chen had been able to avoid the eyes and ears of everyone else. As he strutted his way out, not a single person doubted him, let alone looked at him.

As a result of the past few days, Jian Chen had deliberately allowed everyone to become accustomed to his habits. After his morning meal, he would shut himself up in his room in order to cultivate. Not a single one of them had figured that Jian Chen would change his appearances and try to leave.

Walking onto the streets, Jian Chen walked himself into a bustling inn that had plenty of people already inside. After ordering a room, Jian Chen disguised himself once more as a thin looking middle-aged man before leaving the building.

With all of this done, Jian Chen walked to a store where he bought a map and several other items necessary for living in the rural areas. Then, he walked to an isolated alleyway and changed his appearances once more.

This time, Jian Chen disguised himself as a prominent son of a powerful clan. With a wig on his head and a Class 3 Magical Beast, Jian Chen rode the magical beast toward the merchant's gate outside of the city where he took a leading position in front of a merchant group that was just getting ready to leave. This way, he was able to make the facade that he was the leader of the caravan group.