

Chaotic 391

Chapter 391: Provocation

Jian Chen hadn't any desire to decline Qin Ji's request, so he agreed to it quite enthusiastically.

As a result, Jian Chen came to live within the Qinhuang Palace with the lifestyle of an Immortal, but this was not the lifestyle that Jian Chen was accustomed to. At night, he would sleep within one of the guest rooms with several armored guards and even some maids waiting outside. The first were to guard Jian Chen while the latter were to serve him. Even when he walked around the palace, several guards and maids would follow from behind.

If it weren't for the fact that Jian Chen knew that all wealthy men had such a privileged life like this, he would have assumed that they were here to supervise him for any dangerous activity toward the palace.

On the second day, Qin Ji had woken up Jian Chen early in the morning before taking him on a stroll around the palace. On the stroll, he pointed out many of the different types of scenery within the place. Jian Chen never brought the tiger cub with him since he didn't wish for the cub to be subjected to the eyes of a lord. So, to ensure that the cub was safe, he would feed it a large amount of heavenly resources and would wait for it to fall into a deep sleep before walking out.

The palace was extraordinarily large, and even after walking for almost the entire day, they had only managed to travel two thirds of it. Some of the remaining areas were forbidden to outsiders however. In the meanwhile, Qin Ji had introduced Jian Chen to many different lords and the daughters of the nobles. Their ages weren't all that too far away from the two, but whenever Qin Ji introduced Jian Chen, he only said that Jian Chen was a friend made from a personal friendship. Thus, the lords gave Jian Chen contemptuous looks. Maintaining a look of resoluteness, Jian Chen said nothing. However, the illustrious daughters of the nobles often times gave him strange looks; some of them even spoke to Jian Chen with a friendly manner and exposed their intent to be friends clearly.

However this newfound popularity of Jian Chen had earned the ire of even more nobles. The majority of them had already started to give Jian Chen envious and heated looks.

Straight after Qin Ji and Jian Chen had split ways, many of the nobles had already ordered for someone to inquire about Jian Chen's identity and background. In the end, many of them couldn't help but sigh in relief as they heard that Jian Chen wasn't a part of any political power and was an unknown entity. In accordance to their guesses, even if Jian Chen had some type of background, the party behind him was far too inferior to be talked about in public.

In the evening, Jian Chen had finished the daytime activities and returned to Qin Ji's palace to eat a meal. This was his personal abode and was suited with many different facilities for his every need.

Just as Qin Ji and Jian Chen were enjoying their meal, an armored soldier suddenly came into the palace and knelt to the ground respectfully. "A report for the third prince! Princess Qin Shuang, princess Qin Yubing and the princess of Funan have arrived at the Flowing Clouds Palace!" The Flowing Clouds Palace was the name of Qin Ji's palace.

Hearing this, Qin Ji's eyebrows furrowed together as he muttered, "Strange, what are they up to?" Then, as if coming to a realization, he gave a meaningful look to Jian Chen and laughed, "Then, let them in!"

“Yes, third prince!” The guard spoke before retreating outside.

After the guard had left, Qin Ji toasted a cup with Jian Chen, “Brother Jian Chen, the relationship between the three of them and me is not anything significant. This is the first time they’ve come to my palace, it seems that it’s because of you.”

Jian Chen cleaned off the wine cup with a bitter smile, “Brother Qin Ji, you speak so sarcastically.”

Widening his eyes, Qin Ji spoke sternly, “Sarcasm? I am not. Jian Chen, if you don’t believe me, then just wait and see.”

Very soon, three beautiful flower like women walked into the palace. These three young princesses were the three princesses he had met in the imperial palace during the day.

Princess Qin Shuang gave an unruly wink toward Qin Ji as she spoke, “Elder brother, Qin Shuang has grown so much, and yet you’re not welcoming me into your palace for the first time?”

Laughing, Qin Ji spoke, “Welcome, welcome. How could I not welcome you? Sisters, princess of Funan, please come sit and eat. Maid! Another three sets of dinnerware!”

The two princesses and the princess of Funan were all outspoken women, but their words were filled with noble auras and they spoke of their thanks to Qin Ji.

As the three sat down, Qin Yubing cast a glance toward Jian Chen before speaking to Qin Ji, “Ah, elder brother, you haven’t introduced your sister to your friend here. Your sister is very curious, just how did you two meet?”

Giving a quick wink to Jian Chen, he laughed and explained, “There’s no harm in telling you. Brother Jian Chen and I actually met at the Gathering of the Mercenaries. The two of us became close friends straight away. Furthermore, this brother of mine is actually the King of Mercenaries!”

“Ah, so he is the Jian Chen who won first place at the Gathering of the Mercenaries...” The three princesses looked on in shock. Their opinion of Jian Chen had changed drastically, their eyes shining strangely bright.

Seeing how the princess’s eyes were starting to sparkle, Jian Chen couldn’t help but give a small smile before glaring at Qin Ji. Pretending to not have seen it, Qin Ji’s lips curled into a small smile as he continued to eat the meal on the table with a relished gusto.

“Wah, so you’re really strong, Jian Chen! If you were able to become the first place ranker at the Gathering of the Mercenaries, then that means you’re stronger than our elder brother! Come, I, Situ Yan, toast you!” The princess of Funan immediately raised a glass as she spoke to Jian Chen with a chivalrous tone.

Following Situ Yan’s example, Qin Shuang and Qin Yubing both raised their glasses as well as they toasted Jian Chen.

Unwilling to shirk away from this, Jian Chen stood up and held up his own glass in response to the three princess’ kind words. Touching cups with the there, he was just about to bring it up to his own math before a loud cry came out from outside.

“Lord Xiao Han, you can’t go in! Without the permission of the third prince, no one can enter the Flowing Clouds Palace...”

“Lord Xiao Han, please don’t make things difficult for us. Without the third prince’s permission, you cannot enter this place...”

“Step aside! Who do you think I am? Visiting the third prince should warrant no notice!”

All of a sudden, a twenty-five year old youth came bursting into the palace in a grandiose manner. He wore a magnificent cyan robe and his eyebrows were creased into a fierce state, giving everyone the idea that he was the type to treat all those under the heavens as someone to be scorned.

As he entered, two more armored soldiers came running in as an attempt to block him. But because of the high status of the youth, the two soldiers didn’t dare use violence in order to stop him.

“Third prince, please forgive us!” The two soldiers cried out helplessly in forgiveness.

Looking expressionlessly at the youth that had just ran in, he waved his hand at the two guards, “You two may leave!”

“Yes, third prince!” The two cried out graciously before retreating away.

Qin Ji looked at the youth hard and spoke, “What business do you have for you to just barge into my Flowing Clouds Palace?”

Laughing, Xiao Han cupped his hands in greeting, “Third prince, tomorrow is His Majesty’s 50th birthday. I came here today to discuss of tomorrow’s gift to him, if I have disturbed you, then please forgive me for my transgressions.” Looking to the side at Qin Shuang, Qin Yubing, and the princess of Funan, his expression grew flabbergasted as he cried, “Ah, the two princesses and the princess of Funan are here too? How coincidental! Dear princesses, what might you three be doing here?” Xiao Han looked at the four cups being raised in the air, but a sight like this didn’t require an idiot to figure out the situation.

Xiao Han’s eyes held an undisguised amount of envy, but he managed to let out a smile, “Dear princesses, could it be that you three are giving a toast to the third prince’s friend?”

Qin Shuang, Qin Yubing, and the princess of Funan looked at him with a look of utter loathing as if they were all equally disgusted by him.

Qin Yubing didn’t even spare him another glance and turned back to Jian Chen with the cup raised, “Let us toast!” Her voice was exceedingly gentle and would cause any male to feel happy to hear it.

After her suggestion, Qin Shuang and the princess of Funan raised their glasses up with a smile.

At this sight, Xiao Han’s fury burst with envy as he promptly shouted, “This cannot do! Three princesses worth their weight of gold and all of illustrious backgrounds drinking wine with a stranger? Have you lost your identity?”

Straight away, Qin Ji exploded with anger as well. His previously expressionless eyes grew icy cold as he thundered, “Xiao Han, what is the meaning of your words? Could it be that a friend of I, Qin Ji, is not worthy of drinking with these three princesses?”

Giving an apologetic smile, he spoke with a moderate tone, “Third prince, please quell your anger. What I said is nothing but the truth. These three princesses have such an illustrious background, and while the friend of the third prince is no ordinary status, he is neither anyone with any special relations. Thus, it is inappropriate for them to drink with him.”

Chapter 392: Using Chopsticks as Weapons

Xiao Han’s words caused Qin Ji’s face to instantly grow dangerous. But before he could say anything, Qin Yubing spoke out toward Xiao Han with an icy glow, “Xiao Han, whomever we drink with is of no concern to you.”

“That’s correct. Xiao Han, you are overstepping your boundaries. Whatever we wish to do has nothing to do with you.” Qin Shuang said.

“Xiao Han, you think too highly of yourself. If it were not for your grandfather, you wouldn’t even be qualified to step within the Qinhuang palace. You think that you are amazing, or terrific even so that even elder brother is below your station? Your grandfather has wasted all those magical panaceas, but you are only a Great Saint Master, what a waste!” The princess of Funan lashed out verbally, not caring for Xiao Han’s honor.

Hearing this, Xiao Han’s face began to grow darker and darker and his eyes frosted over. Qin Shuang and Qin Yubing were both princesses of grace and beauty—woman that he had constantly chased after. Once he had even announced his affection for the two, but he had been rejected without mercy. Xiao Han did not give up his pursuit because he believed that with his position within the Qinhuang Kingdom, it was only a matter of time before he and one of the two would be engaged. Having his grandfather propose to His Majesty for this arranged marriage would not be too difficult. He had never thought that the two people he had always chased after would unexpectedly go with a stranger unknown to him and speak such unpleasant words for him to hear. To the boisterous noble, this was an unwashable insult.

The princess of Funan had especially spoke words that were as sharp as a sword before piercing into his heart. It was a deep insult to him, causing him to grow speechless and pale.

Seeing how offended Xiao Han was, Qin Ji began to smile in delight as he spoke, “Xiao Han, right now my brother and the three princesses are eating a meal. I’ve already planned for my father’s present, so there is no need to discuss it. You may leave!” With that, Qin Ji looked outside, “Take Xiao Han back to his place!”

Immediately two maids came forward and courteously brought Xiao Han away from the palace, “Lord Xiao Han, if you please!”

Xiao Han let out a violent snort of air as the anger within his heart combusted. All of his extreme anger and envy was forced straight upon Jian Chen’s head and had already reached the highest point of anger.

“Good, good, good! Princess Funan, you say that I am not equal to the third prince, I, Xiao Han, recognize that. That is because compared to the heaven gifted genius like the third prince, I am inferior, but let me ask you. Could that stranger right there be any more amazing? He has only his looks to fall upon. His status, his position, his power, where does he compare to against me?” Xiao Han spoke, emphasizing each word, his anger and envy had already caused him to lose all reasoning.

The princess of Funan revealed a sneer as she looked at Xiao Han with scorn, "Xiao Han, your position only came to be because of your grandfather and not your own strength. As for strength..." She paused for a moment as her vibrant eyes turned to look at Jian Chen while ignoring Xiao Han, "As for this man's strength, if you cannot compare to the third prince, then you cannot even hope to stand against Jian Chen."

"Hmph, he is nothing. I won't believe that he is stronger than me." Xiao Han snorted in anger as he stared at Jian Chen vehemently, "Kid, I, Xiao Han, challenge you. Do you dare to accept?"

Jian Chen's eyebrows furrowed together. This Xiao Han was not at all pleasant to talk to.

At this moment, Qin Ji spoke, "Xiao Han, the princess of Funan speaks the truth. You are not an opponent for my brother, so save yourself the disgrace. You two take lord Xiao Han back." Qin Ji spoke flatly toward the maids. He too did not have a favorable impression of Xiao Han and didn't bother to honor him.

"Yes, third prince. Lord Xiao Han..."

"Scram!"

The two maids tried to lead Xiao Han out of the palace but he immediately pushed them aside and glared dangerously at Jian Chen. A strong amount of Saint Force began to form around his right hand before forming a giant broadsword before pointing the tip at Jian Chen, "Do you dare accept?"

Xiao Han's provocation caused Qin Ji to explode with anger. Slamming the table, he exploded, "Xiao Han, the Flowing Clouds Palace will not accept this behavior. If you continue this behavior, then don't blame Qin Ji for not sparing your face."

Xiao Han had already lost his reasoning to his anger so the third prince's words had gone in one ear and out the other. Pointing his sword at Jian Chen, he repeated, "Do you dare accept!"

"Impudence!" Qin Ji's palm slammed on the table once more in anger as if he was about to prepare to deal with this himself.

Jian Chen lifted his hand to stop Qin Ji as he stared at Xiao Han. "Brother Qin Ji, if this brother here wishes to challenge me, then I will comply."

Qin Ji hesitated for a moment before nodding his head, "Brother Jian Chen, then please do be lenient."

"Please be what? Hah, teach him a good lesson. He annoys us everyday to death almost!" Qin Shuang spoke in discontent.

"That's right, I hate him." Qin Yubing had a look filled with disgust.

Jian Chen looked at Xiao Han, "Make your move then."

"Let's go outside. This palace is too small and I have no desire to destroy the third prince's palace." He snorted.

"No need," Jian Chen shook his head. "I don't feel like moving. You may rest assured, we won't be breaking any part of this place."

Jian Chen's casual attitude toward him caused Xiao Han's anger to explode three times over, "How arrogant, I'll make sure you pay the price then." With that, he raised his giant Saint Weapon and charged straight toward Jian Chen.

Qin Shuang, Qin Yubing and the Princess of Funan let out a small cry of alarm as they tried to move back to avoid the energy wave.

With a snort, Jian Chen waved his hand. The chopstick from the table began to float up into the air with an azure and violet glow to it before shooting straight toward Xiao Han.

"Ah!" Following a miserable cry of pain, the chopstick burrowed its way into Xiao Han's right arm to where the bone was, rendering mobility in it impossible.

"Wa, Jian Chen is quite amazing..."

"Too amazing, just too amazing. Jian Chen, how strong are you if you could use a single chopstick to beat a Great Saint Master?"

"Jian Chen, you absolutely must teach me..."

The three princesses all clapped their hands in adoration of Jian Chen, their eyes were already seeing stars.

Seeing the wound on Xiao Han's body, Qin Ji had let out a sigh in relief. This was the man that the Shi family and the Jiede clan had their young lords killed by. Because of that, he was worried that Jian Chen would have taken Xiao Han's life in a fit of anger.

"Take Xiao Han to treat his wounds." Qin Ji waved his hand for the two maids to take him.

Xiao Han was unable to take the pain in his arm and could only stare poisonously at Jian Chen. Without another look back, he walked out from the palace, even his honor would not allow him to stay here.

After Xiao Han had left, Jian Chen looked to Qin Ji, "Brother Qin Ji, just who is this Xiao Han?"

Qin Ji sat back down, "Xiao Han's position is truly quite unique. Within the palace, there are very few that are equal to the stature of the princes. His grandfather is the imperial tutor and has an illustrious position as a result. His grandfather's status could rival even my father's. Xiao Han's father was also the imperial army's captain five years ago. One time when my father had been a target of a raid, it was Xiao Han's father who had taken the blow for an attempt on his life, causing his death. Because of this, my father has come to love Xiao Han dearly, causing his status to rise up to the rank of a prince."

"So that's the story. What realm has Xiao Han's grandfather reached?" Jian Chen asked.

"Heaven Saint Master! He is a Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master!" Qin Ji spoke seriously.

"A genius that has reached the Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master realm." Jian Chen muttered with a gentle smile.

After the meal, the three princesses finally parted paths with Jian Chen, allowing him to return to his own place to rest. Sitting on top of the bed to think, he knew that it would be the celebration of His Majesty's birthday. He didn't know just what type of present to give to a king.

Aside from a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, heavenly resources, and a Class 6 Monster Core, Jian Chen had essentially nothing to give. The Heaven Tier Battle Skill was definitely not an item to be gifted, and a Class 6 Monster Core would not be an item worthy of being gifted to a king of the Qinhuang Kingdom.

At this moment, a light went off in Jian Chen's mind as his hand blurred, causing a small pill to appear in his hand. This was the second Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill given to him by Elder Xiu. He wasn't too willing to part with it just yet, so he began to debate on what to do.

"But this Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill is the only item I could give." Jian Chen muttered. His Radiant Saint Force was far away from being equal to a Class 8 Radiant Saint Force. Plus, with his controlling method, it would be impossible for him to mass produce them anyways.

Chapter 393: Birthday Present

The next day, the birthday of the Qinghuang Kingdom's king had officially begun. Jian Chen was woken up early by Qin Ji, and the two left together to congratulate him.

The palace was especially lively today. Many influential lords and nobles came to personally congratulate the king on this happy occasion. All sorts of political leaders and major powers came and in short, everyone was of some importance.

The Qinhuang Kingdom held a lot of power and was second only to the Three Great Empires. Within the continent, the Qinhuang Kingdom was already considered one of the highest powers. Thus, every single territory within the kingdom and even the subsiding powers bordering the kingdom had sent men with gifts in order to celebrate this happy occasion. If it were not a lord or princess, it was a prime minister that came, even several Imperial Advisors had come to pay their respects.

Directly walking toward the main palace hall, Jian Chen and Qin Ji both saw well over a thousand people standing around. Each one wore gorgeous robes or were figures that were well known throughout the kingdom.

A wave of maids could be seen walking around the place with small platters of food in order to serve the guests.

"We greet the third prince!"

"We greet the third prince!"

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Upon seeing Qin Ji arrive, many of the people there began to cup their hands in salute with extremely respectful greetings.

Greeting them all with a kind smile, Qin Ji responded amiably without any sense of arrogance.

Jian Chen followed behind Qin Ji silently. He was perfectly content not being in the limelight and did not wish for the spotlight to be put onto him.

The nobles within the palace naturally paid very little attention to him. The vast majority only believed that Jian Chen was an attendant to Qin Ji and didn't spare him a second glance. The other part of the crowd took a neutral stance, but some noticed that Jian Chen was not any ordinary person. He was

neither servile or overbearing in nature and carried himself with a graceful manner. Despite his age, he walked with a steady step that even a mountain could not attest to. Some of the stronger men in the room could even tell there was a strong pressure coming from him, causing them to look on in shock.

“Strange, why is it that I feel as if I’ve seen that man walking behind the third prince before? Just where did this feeling come from?” One of the more richly dressed men stared suspiciously at Jian Chen as he muttered to himself.

He was not the only person to have this hunch. Several other men within the palace had this same exact suspicion. They felt that he was a stranger, but they still couldn’t shake off this feeling.

“Brother Jian Chen, feel free to go rest somewhere, I still have several people to greet.” Qin Ji spoke apologetically toward Jian Chen.

Today was the 50th birthday of his father so the king could not greet any of the people himself. However, these men were all high ranking people, some from the surrounding kingdoms. They couldn’t be received by just anyone, so the children would have to take up the mantle.

Even this was considered to be a good opportunity for the prince to get to know people. It was with that excuse that they could make a foundation for political support when the time came to fight for the throne.

Jian Chen was neither a child nor an ignorant farmer from the thatched villages. He understood clearly just how important this gathering was for Qin Ji and did not argue. Taking a small snack to eat, he began to stroll to the closest corner of the room before enjoying the delicious tasting pastries.

Just then, a cyan robed middle-aged man sat down right next to Jian Chen. Nodding with a smile toward the eating Jian Chen, he spoke, “Fellow brother, have we seen each other somewhere before?”

Jian Chen lifted his head to look at the man. Seeing that the man was unfamiliar to him, he shook his head, “You must be mistaken. Perhaps I look like someone else?”

Still skeptical, the man nodded his head, “Perhaps so. My name is Tie Muzhuang, what might your name be?”

Jian Chen laughed, “This one is just a nobody and not even a member of the Qinhuang Kingdom. My name won’t be recognizable by sire even if this one speaks of it.” Jian Chen finished off the pastry and left to go get a new one.

After Jian Chen had left, Tie Muzhuang narrowed his eyes in doubt, “An unknown nobody? Is that really the truth? Why do I feel that I’ve seen you from somewhere?” Even with his mutterings, he had been unable to think of an answer, so Tie Muzhuang had no other choice but to leave as well.

“His Majesty the king has arrived!”

At that moment, a long drawn out voice could be heard announcing the arrival of the king. The noise within the palace instantly died out as everyone turned to look in the direction the cry came from.

Everyone could see a golden, purple-dragon robed middle-aged man walking into the palace with an intimidating air. Right behind him was a single elder with a crane styled hairdo.

The king was turning fifty years old, but his appearance made him look as if he was forty instead. He was smiling widely with eyes that flickered with vigor and wisdom. The Qinhuang Kingdom's king had twelve children. Seven of them were princes and the other five were princesses. The eldest was already thirty years old and the youngest was only six. At this moment, those twelve children were walking right behind him.

"Greet His Majesty and wish him a long life and glory to the Qinhuang Kingdom!"

The entire palace began to speak out the words, "Long live and a thousand years!" Within the Tian Yuan Continent, these were the highest words of celebration that generally only the nobility of countries could hear.

That was because a thousand years was the lifespan of a Heaven Saint Master. Saint Rulers and Saint Kings weren't even able to live past ten thousand years and were generally within the thousands.

Afterward, everyone began to give the gifts they had prepared. The vast majority of the items were all vastly valuable, some of them were even beyond the scope of what money could be. Apart from this, there was plenty of antique pottery and vases from several people as well as plenty of heavenly resources that were aged well over a thousand years.

After the majority of the men had presented their gifts, Jian Chen came walking forward with a purple and gold box. Striding forward, he presented it to the king with a smile, "There is a Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill within this box. I present this to His Majesty in congratulations on his birthday." Jian Chen spoke succinctly without any flowery words.

"A Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill? I've heard only a Seventh Class Radiant Saint Master would be able to produce such a pill. It is a pill that is fully deserving of being called a true healing catholicon! Not only can it purify any venom, but it could even rescue a person from the jaws of death!"

"A Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill can be rarely seen within the entire continent. This would make even hermits drool at the mouth to have such a life saving treasure."

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Upon hearing the words 'Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill', the entire palace began to burst into commotion and admiration at this item. They all looked at the purple and golden box within Jian Chen's hands. Each one believed that such a high leveled Radiant Spirit Pill had gone extinct since the only Radiant Saint Masters capable of making one were as rare as a phoenix feather. Furthermore, creating just one of these would require a tremendous amount of energy from them.

The Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill had moved even the king. If he wanted to obtain some sort of heavenly resource or any other priceless treasure, it was not at all difficult for him. A Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill was a different matter. That was because items that could save one's life were far too priceless to be obtained.

Following a stare from the king, a white robed elder immediately came forth from the crowd. Taking the box from Jian Chen's hands, he took out the bottle from within and then began to inspect the thumb sized pill from it.

This elder was a Radiant Saint Master that would be able to tell how rich the Radiant Saint Force was within the pill. After making sure he wasn't wrong, the elder's face lit up in delight as he carefully put the pill back into the box and cupped his hands to the king. "Your Majesty, this is truly a Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill!" The elder's voice held an emotional tone to it since he knew just how rare it was to see such a high leveled pill.

Standing right behind the king, Qin Ji sent an appreciative glance to Jian Chen. Even he knew just how priceless a Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill was. For Jian Chen to unexpectedly gift such a pill to the king, the meaning would be loud and clear, allowing Qin Ji to feel happy.

Even the other people standing by the king's side began to change their opinion of Jian Chen by smiling and nodding. A Class 8 Radiant Spirit Pill couldn't be given by just anyone. This action from Jian Chen had inadvertently solidified his status among everyone in the crowd.

Hearing the confirmation from the elder, the king immediately began to laugh as he regarded Jian Chen in a new light. "Remarkable brother, it only takes one look to know that you are a giant among the men here. I admit to knowing no noble that would relinquish such a priceless gift, but I am truly grateful."

"Father, he is called Jian Chen, a friend I have made from the outside." Before Jian Chen could even say anything, Qin Ji spoke out respectfully to his father.

As soon as Qin Ji spoke, several other men began to cry out.

"Jian Chen! He's Jian Chen, it's no wonder I thought he looked familiar!"

"Could he be that very same Jian Chen who became the King of Mercenaries at the last Gathering of the Mercenaries? His strength was on par with a Heaven Saint Master, it's no wonder I felt that there was something to him."

"I've got it! He's that Jian Chen who became the King of Mercenaries! I was there for the event, so no wonder I had thought he was familiar looking! It's because his hair is nearly gone so that I was unable to recognize him!"

"Even his eyelashes are gone..."

Chapter 394: Attacks that Influence even the Nobility

Hearing the chatter regarding Jian Chen, the influential officials all had flabbergasted expressions on their faces as they stared at Jian Chen one by one in disbelief.

Everyone knew that the King of Mercenaries was named Jian Chen, but those who had personally seen what Jian Chen had looked like were a small amount. No one could have imagined that Jian Chen was actually very young—even younger than the third prince.

In simple math, Jian Chen spent less time cultivating than the third prince, but he was even stronger than him. This led everyone to believe that Jian Chen was a genius of unsurpassed prowess.

The king of the Qinhuang Kingdom boomed with laughter as he looked at Jian Chen with surprise, "Good! Very good! I did not judge you wrongly then. Jian Chen, you are truly a giant among men if you were able to become the King of Mercenaries at such a young age. Your future has no limits, and my son will benefit greatly from being acquainted with you."

Xiao Han stood within the crowd of people with a look of utter fury at Jian Chen. Biting his lip, he muttered angrily under his breath, "I didn't think you would be that nonsensical King of Mercenaries. Hmph, it doesn't matter who you are, I, Xiao Han, will not let you off easily."

Hearing the mutters of Xiao Han, a cyan robed middle-aged man asked, "Xiao Han, could this be the one that humiliated and injured you yesterday?"

"Correct, uncle Mu Zhaye, you must help me teach him a lesson. Otherwise, this is something I will never be able to swallow." Xiao Han spoke. Mu Zhaye was an apprentice to his grandfather and was close to him.

Mu Zhaye's eyebrows creased together as he thought, "I'm afraid it won't be easy. I had no idea that he would be the King of Mercenaries. Although I do not know of his strength, he surely has to be stronger than the third prince by a good amount. Furthermore, he has earned the favor His Majesty. If I were to act against him, I would earn the ire of His Majesty in return."

"Uncle Mu Zhaye, he is only so old. Even if the third prince is no match to him, it doesn't mean that Jian Chen may have used some sort of way to scrape out an unexpected success to become the King of Mercenaries. You could challenge him in public and then humiliate him. As for His Majesty, I will naturally let my grandfather take care of that." Xiao Han spoke.

Nodding his head slightly, Mu Zhaye spoke, "Fine, I was wanting to test his strength anyways. I'd like to see just how strong the rumors say the King of Mercenaries is."

After knowing that Jian Chen was the King of Mercenaries, the king's attitude toward him was far more friendly. On the contrast, when the other princes had heard that Jian Chen was the friend of the third prince, they had all contorted with annoyance. Only two of the younger princes had been able to keep their cool as if the matter had nothing to do with them.

Jian Chen and the king managed to exchange several more words before returning to the crowd. However, at this moment, every single noble and major powers had begun to treat Jian Chen vastly different from before. Charging at him, each one of them tried to get within Jian Chen's good graces.

That was because in the past, every single King of the Mercenaries had been at the very least a Heaven Saint Master. At the highest, they had been able to make the breakthrough to become a Saint Ruler.

When it came to these people, Jian Chen only politely responded to them without any deeper meaning to his words.

Suddenly, a grand voice could be heard reverberating through the halls, causing all of the noise in the hall to stop instantly.

"Your Majesty, our Qinhuang Kingdom was founded by the military since the ancient past and defended our country with our military might. Today is the birthday of His Majesty, but why is there a shortage of martial might? This humble servant's hand itches and wishes to compare notes with the King of Mercenaries, Jian Chen! At the same time, I wish to use this show of martial prowess to be the gift to His Majesty. Your Majesty, if you could please allow this!"

Everyone's head began to turn as they looked at a cyan robed man kneel to the ground as he spoke respectfully to the king.

Hearing this, the king had a faint smile as he introduced Jian Chen to him. "Jian Chen, this is the imperial army captain, Mu Zhaye."

The king had neither denied nor accepted Mu Zhaye's request and instead gave the right to Jian Chen. In the end, he too wanted to see just how strong Jian Chen was.

Laughing, Jian Chen strode forward and cupped his hands, "If captain Mu Zhaye wishes to compare notes with this one and put on a show for the king, then let us make this a great present to the king."

Laughing joyously, the king spoke, "Very well! If this is your answer, then let us all cheer you both on."

With that, the king and an elder walked out of the halls with the entire crowd following after them.

Within a large open space, everyone gathered around to watch Jian Chen and Mu Zhaye fight and were in an extremely jubilant mood. A fight between the imperial army captain and the King of Mercenaries would definitely be a glorious spectacle. And in everyone's heart, they had wished to see just who would be the winner of the two. Only a few men had seen the King of Mercenaries fight and so they had a profound smile on their faces as they watched.

Mu Zhaye held his cyan colored pike in his hands as he stared at Jian Chen fixedly. Although Jian Chen was quite young, being the King of Mercenaries did not give Mu Zhaye the luxury of underestimating him.

Jian Chen stood thirty meters away with a smile. Staring at the captain, he spoke, "Captain Mu Zhaye, if you would please start it off."

Seeing how Jian Chen had not yet taken out his Saint Weapon to fight, Mu Zhaye's eyebrows creased together with a small glint of fury. In his eyes, seeing Jian Chen barehanded was an insult to him.

Casting a cold glare and a snort, his legs stamped across the ground as he flew toward Jian Chen. At the same time, the pike in his hands began to glow with the wind attributed Saint Force as he thrust it forward.

Jian Chen's face had a slight smile as his right leg stamped on the ground. A thumb sized stone suddenly shot up before being grabbed by Jian Chen with ease. His hand shook for a moment before the pebble then began to glow with an azure and violet light. The pebble shot straight toward the incoming Mu Zhaye.

"Ding!"

A crisp sound could be heard as the thumb sized stone collided against the tip of Mu Zhaye's pike. Following the inconceivably strong impact, Mu Zhaye's arm and pike began to tremble from the force.

Looking greatly shocked, the force of the blow had caused Mu Zhaye to stop for a moment before staggering backward several steps. Both of the hands that were carrying the pike were shaking violently and a small amount of blood could be seen from the web of his hand.

Turning pale with fright, Mu Zhaye turned his head to look at Jian Chen. Despite all of his strength, a pebble thrown by Jian Chen had been able to force him back, this was far too much for Mu Zhaye to accept.

Seeing how a single stone thrown by Jian Chen had caused Mu Zhaye's hand to bleed, the spectators had gone into an uproar. Each one looked on in disbelief, this display of strength had been nearly as great on their hearts as it was for Mu Zhaye.

"Could this be a battle skill of Jian Chen's?" Some people began to ask.

Even the king sighed in admiration. He looked at Jian Chen in disbelief for a moment before turning to give a look to the elder beside him.

A single pebble had been enough for the captain of the imperial army to stagger backward. This was more than enough to let the king know that Jian Chen's strength was far stronger than he initially thought. An Earth Saint Master would not be enough to gauge Jian Chen's true strength, so he planned on bringing out a stronger person to do so instead.

The elder standing next to the king nodded before walking out, "Jian Chen, allow this old man to try." Before giving Jian Chen any option, the elder transformed into a blurry image as he charged toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's lips curled up with a faint smile as he pointed outward with a finger, causing an azure and violet Sword Qi to shoot toward the elder.

Knowing that Jian Chen was exceedingly strong, he didn't dare underestimate him. Forming a fist, he lashed out against the Sword Qi with a rippling amount of fire Saint Force.

The Sword Qi was scattered apart by the elder, but there was an eye catching wound left on top of the elder's hand.

Looking at the wound on his hand, the elder's face grew dim. Swiping at the air, the fire element within the world began to congregate around his hand before instantaneously forming a giant sword of fire.

At this sight, Jian Chen revealed a sneer before he raised his right hand as well. The fire elements in the world began to gather in his right hand at a faster rate than the elder and formed a giant sword of fire. No matter if it was color or by temperature, Jian Chen's sword seemed much stronger than the elder's.

"He has control of the energy of the world, how surprising is that...?"

"This is the magical power of controlling the energy of the world. Could he have reached the Heaven Saint Master realm...?"

Jian Chen's act of controlling the energy of the world had caused everyone to turn pale with fright. At this moment, everyone had truly believed that Jian Chen was many times stronger than Mu Zhaye. Even the lords and leaders had their eyes wide open as they look at Jian Chen in silent disbelief.

A Heaven Saint Master wasn't a new sight to them. However, a Heaven Saint Master this young was something they had never heard of before.

"How... how is this possible? Jian Chen has made the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master?" Even Qin Ji had a look of surprise as he muttered to himself.

The king of the Qinhuang Kingdom let out a breath of air as he slowly calmed his nerves. At this moment, he could feel his heart beating rapidly at this sight. A twenty something year old Heaven Saint Master would surely ripple across the Tian Yuan Continent if news were to get out.

“Is he truly as young as he looks?” The Qinhuang Kingdom’s king spoke with some doubt.

Chapter 395: Midair Showdown

When the elder saw Jian Chen form a sword seemingly out of mid air, his face instantly blanched in shock. But without pause, he condensed his own fire red great sword and went at Jian Chen to try and slash him.

When the elder swung out, so did Jian Chen. Waving his right hand, the sword instantly shot toward the elder.

“Bang!”

When both fire red swords collided against each other, the two swords suddenly exploded with energy, causing an explosive bang to be heard as the entire sky washed over with flames. All around the two combatants, balls of fire could be seen flying everywhere at high speeds and high temperature.

“Run!”

“Get back!”

“Protect His Majesty!”

The surrounding spectators instantly spread out as they flew backward while at the same time, Saint Force of every color appeared to form a protective armor for themselves and anyone of major importance.

Seeing the sudden spread of the fire, even the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom was surprised. But a white figure suddenly shot towards him as a cyan colored man brought both the king and himself into the air by using his wind attributed Saint Force. With a grab of the king’s shoulder, the two of them flew away from the fire.

Movement could be seen coming from everywhere as an Earth Saint Master began to spread out his Saint Force all over the palace. Several armored soldiers immediately flew forward in a hurried manner to form a protective line.

At the same time, four elders and two middle-aged men strode forward from the crowd and circled around the ring of fire. Raising their hands, each one used a fierce blast of wind to curb and control the fire.

The sea of flames had already concealed both Jian Chen and the elder he was fighting, but even within the flames, their movements were not hindered in the slightest. Just as the flames sent flying back at them from the six men earlier, it was suddenly stopped by an invisible force just one meter away.

“Allow this old man to fight you from above!” The elder spoke as he flew five hundred meters up into the air, transforming into a speck the size of an ant. The faint element of fire could be seen enveloping his entire body.

Not willing to admit defeat, Jian Chen began to use the wind element in the world and gathered it around his body using his mind. Flying straight into the air, he quickly got within a hundred meters of the floating elder.

“What! Y-yo-you can control the wind element as well?” The elder spoke thunderstruck as he looked at the wind swivel around Jian Chen’s body.

The cyan colored light surrounding Jian Chen’s body had not gone unnoticed by the audience below. Each one of them cried out in shock, but not as loud as the several hidden Heaven Saint Masters within the crowd. It was almost as if they had seen a monster as their faces contorted in shock.

“How is this possible? He was clearly a fire attributed Saint Force cultivator, just how is he using the wind attribute?”

“Could he be a wind attributed Saint Force user instead of a fire attributed Saint Force user?”

“Impossible, there has never been anyone being able to use two different elements! He must be using some sort of strange method.”

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“Jian Chen, could it be that you are able to control both the fire and wind element?” The elder questioned in astonishment.

Smiling, Jian Chen replied honestly, “Correct, I am truly able to control both the fire and wind element.”

“No, that’s not possible! Just how could you control two elements? There has never been a single person who could do the same before on the continent!” The man cried out.

“There has never been anything that cannot be done. There are still many profound mysteries to the world, all that we know are merely the ones we have stepped into and understood.”

Although seeing Jian Chen take control of two elements in the world was extremely surprising, the elder calmed himself down quickly. “You speak correctly, there are still many things unknown to us in the world. It seems this old man has forgotten himself.” Pausing his breath, the fire sword appeared in his hand once more “Today, I shall find out for myself just how strong a wielder of two elements is.”

Smiling, Jian Chen raised both of his hands. Immediately, all of the pebbles within the nearby pond began to fly up as if a strange force was pulling it. Breaking through the water, the pebbles all floated around Jian Chen’s body ominously.

“What is the meaning of this, how did the stones suddenly fly up into the air...?”

“What power is this, how is he doing it?”

At this even stranger sight, everyone could only gasp in surprise.

Behind two Heaven Saint Master guards, the Qinhuang Kingdom king tilted his head to the sky, “This Jian Chen is truly beyond what I imagined. At such a young age, he has reached the Heaven Saint Master realm. A genius like this comes only once every thousand years.”

One of the Heaven Saint Masters looked surprised at that, "Why stop at a thousand years? A talent like his comes every ten thousand years! If his skill grows without any complication, he will be a Saint Ruler at the very least. Becoming a Saint King would be of no problem to him."

Hearing this, the king paused in surprise. Even the princes standing behind the king were frightened at this. Struggling to maintain their composure, they looked at Qin Ji with a mixture of admiration and jealousy.

As for Qin Ji, he had personally seen Jian Chen's amazing prowess with his own eyes before. His mind had already thought of Jian Chen to be stronger than what his own words could say.

By now, the Heaven Saint Master had thrown away all notions of belittling Jian Chen. Mustering all of his strength, the flames on his sword had begun to evaporate even the air around it.

Jian Chen floated in midair as steady as a mountain as the wind blew past his figure ferociously. Both of his hands had already formed a fist right in front of his chest as the pebbles floating around him began to meld into the form of a sword that radiated with azure and violet Sword Qi.

Chapter 396: Imperial Protector

"Watch my sword!" The elder shouted as he brought the giant sword down toward Jian Chen with an inferno replacing the blade.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed with a tint of the azure and violet shades of color. Right in front of him, the giant sword made from pebbles began to glow even brighter with the same color before shooting straight toward the elder.

"Bang!"

Another loud explosion could be heard as the elder's giant sword and the sword made from the pebbles clashed against each other. The flame like essence from the elder's sword began to slough off in a substantial amount, each piece transforming into shooting stars that spread out in every direction before exploding like a firework would.

The attack of the elder had caused some of the pebbles to be crushed into dust, but the remaining part of the sword continued its momentum and flew straight for the elder.

With this blocking his forward momentum, the elder suddenly came to a stop as he heard the ear whistling sound of the sword continue to fly. Staring seriously, he brandished his own sword and slashed out three more times with the flame sword, leaving behind an amazing streak of fire from its path as it struck against the pebbles.

Ordinarily, the pebbles flying straight for the elder would have been so weak that they would have disintegrated into dust. However, because of the azure and violet Sword Qi, the pebbles had been hardened beyond their normal durability. So when they crashed against the elder's sword, several explosions could be heard from the resulting strikes.

By now, the elder's body was like the flame and the pebbles the moths. Under Jian Chen's control, the pebbles struck at the elder in every direction possible.

“Just what is this devilish power?” The elder thought to himself. His entire body was already covered with the fire attributed Saint Force as he continued to swat the pebbles away while trying to find a way out. It was not like he had no desire to strike at Jian Chen, but the azure and violet Sword Qi surrounding the pebbles reinforced them so much that it was just too much for him to deal with. Even with the Saint Force covering his body, it was hard to defend against the strikes. With the constant barrage, just moving was difficult enough.

Clenching both hands in midair, all of the nearby fire elements in the world suddenly congregated within Jian Chen’s hands. In a flash, they transformed to become two swords with fire as the blade. Right as they formed, they transformed into a single streak of fire as it shot toward the elder with blinding speed and a fiery heat. The heat had been so intense that the surrounding air had turned pink from the distortion.

Staring seriously at the two blades shooting at him, the elder brought his own sword up and slammed down on the both of them.

Once more, flames burst out from the explosion and plumes of fire washed over the sky like a series of fireworks. The entire sky was replaced with a sea of flames as they spread from the elder. At this moment, the temperature in the surrounding area had already scaled up to a degree where even the king and the spectators felt as if they were in a steamer basket and were being steamed alive.

Jian Chen’s eyes continued to glow resplendently with a divine glow as the wind began to pick up in the area as if a howling storm was approaching. The sounds were like the screams of ghosts and blew the flames that were flying toward Jian Chen back toward the elder’s position. In an instant, the elder was concealed by the flames.

Jian Chen knew all too well that a flame of this magnitude would do nothing to a Heaven Saint Master class expert. At best, the elder would be worse for wear, but nothing more. Clutching at the sky once more, another sword of fire formed before flying at the elder’s position.

In an instant, the sword disappeared within the sea of flames without a trace. In the next, a fierce explosion could be heard as the flames suddenly blew apart.

A white figure could be seen flying out from the fire—it was the elder. There was no serious damage that could be seen on his body, but he looked disheveled and his breathing was ragged while his clothes were already threatening to tear at the seams. In all, the elder no longer looked as refined and calm as he did before the fight.

Floating in midair, the elder made no move to attack and instead continued to observe Jian Chen. Jian Chen made no move either, he knew that the elder was only testing for his strength and was not actually fighting to kill him in a do or die match.

The flames quickly receded from the skies, causing the temperature to drop as well. At the same time, the elder had a strange look on his face as if hesitating before finally sighing, “This old man admits his loss!”

Smiling, Jian Chen cupped his hands together, “Senior, you must be joking. This was only a test for my strength, your true strength was not even shown completely. If you were to go all out, the conclusion would have been entirely different.”

The elder waved his hands dismissively, "A loss is a loss. This old man is not someone that cannot accept a loss. Although I did not go all out, the amount of strength you're holding back would be stronger than mine still."

Continuing to smile, Jian Chen said no more in opposition to the man and slowly descended to the ground.

The two landed on the ground at the same time in front of the crowd, but not a single voice could be heard. Not even the king nor the relatives of the king dared make a sound and instead chose to look at the handsome face of the youngster in front of them.

Not only was Jian Chen the youngest Heaven Saint Master they knew, but his strength was also beyond anyone's imagination. Even one of the imperial advisors had admitted defeat.

At this moment, everyone felt their own strength completely dominated by Jian Chen. At the age of twenty something, he had already become a Heaven Saint Master. By the age of fifty, or even a hundred, just what realm would he step into?

"Wa, Jian Chen, you are truly amazing to be able to reach the Heaven Saint Master realm." Suddenly from the crowd, the princess of Funan began to clap and speak her praise.

Princess Qin Shuang and Qin Yubing both looked at Jian Chen with a strange look. Aside from those three, the other rich daughters of the other families all began to stare at Jian Chen with a look of adoration and worship. Some of the daughters had even looked utterly entranced by him.

Although Jian Chen's hair had all been burnt away, he still retained his handsome looks. Combined with his young age, power as a Heaven Saint Master, and the honor given to him by the king, he was the Prince Charming to all of the rich daughters here.

"Hahaha, good, good good! Jian Chen's strength has opened everyone's eyes here. Jian Chen, since you are the friend of Qin Ji, there is no need to see you as an outsider. If this king may, would I be so bold to call you a nephew?" The king laughed merrily.

Qin Ji had a gentle smile on his as he stood behind the king. At this moment, he could feel a strange feeling of happiness along with some shock. Jian Chen being a Heaven Saint Master was something he was shocked by as well. That was because with Jian Chen's actual age, this was a world shaking revelation.

Accepting the goodwill expressed by the king, Jian Chen accepted this without hesitation. This was something that was more beneficial than harmful so he cupped his hands together, "It would be an honor for this one."

Looking pleased, the king spoke with a great smile, "Now that this battle is finished, let us all go back. Nephew Jian Chen, let us return to the palace." With that, he led Jian Chen with a friendly wave back toward the palace. On the way, he asked about Jian Chen's wellbeing and constantly treated him well.

Hidden within the crowd, Xiao Han could only look at Jian Chen blankly. After a while, his entire face suddenly slackened.

“N... no way! There’s no way! Just how... how is he a Heaven Saint Master? This has to be an illusion.” Xiao Han sputtered as he muttered to himself, he was just in too much disbelief.

At that moment, the still pale Mu Zhaye walked up to Xiao Han. Seeing the slackened face of surprise, Mu Zhaye sighed with some blame to his voice, “You’ve offended a person—someone you cannot afford to offend. Even imperial advisor Pu Ta wasn’t his opponent; it seems that even your grandfather would not be able to win against him. This won’t do, I must report this situation to your grandfather.”

Hearing this, Xiao Han’s face blanched as he pulled on Mu Zhaye’s arm hopefully, “Uncle Mu Zhaye, do you think grandfather will try and get justice for me?”

Hearing this, Mu Zhaye whipped around to look at Xiao Han fiercely, “How could you be so muddle headed? Don’t bring up this again and be careful of what you say. Jian Chen is a Heaven Saint Master with unparalleled skill. He has curried favor with His Majesty and wouldn’t be threatened by your grandfather at all. If you don’t know what it means to repent, then even your grandfather will be hurt by this.”

Turning white, Xiao Han asked with a trembling voice, “Uncle Mu Zhaye, what do you think I should do then?”

Sighing, Mu Zhaye spoke, “You should go apologize to Jian Chen. I must report this matter to your grandfather. By the end, I hope we transform this major problem into no problem.”

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Quickly, everyone returned to the previous palace hall. The king led Jian Chen to the front before sitting on the imperial throne. Ordering the maid to bring a luxurious chair for Jian Chen to sit on, he began to treat him as if Jian Chen was a treasured son.

This conduct toward Jian Chen had not gone unnoticed by the other princes. Each one began to smile and express their goodwill toward him as if it was only right that Jian Chen should have been treated like this to begin with.

Unable to conceal his glee, the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom looked around before clearing his throat. “Now that everyone is here, your king would like to order a decree. As of now, I appoint Jian Chen to be the Imperial Protector, does anyone object?”

Chapter 397: Status

Unable to conceal his glee, the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom looked around before clearing his throat. “Now that everyone is here, your king would like to order a decree. As of now, I appoint Jian Chen to be the Imperial Protector, does anyone object?”

As the king gave his decree, the entire hall descended into a quiet calm. Each one looked at the king in a mixture of astonishment and disbelief.

An Imperial Protector and Imperial Advisor were two different ranks. An Imperial Protector was higher in power and authority than an Imperial Advisor. An Imperial Protector could mobilize the army at a whim and even order the Imperial Advisors to manage any affair. Another terrifying power that an

Imperial Protector had was the ability to behead an incapable ruler or any incompetent official. This was to say that their power was even above that of the nobility of the kingdom.

The king of the Qinhuang Kingdom had seen what potential Jian Chen had, so he appointed him to be the Imperial Protector.

The decree of the king not only stunned the audience, but even Qin Ji who was standing next to him. There was a look of utter shock on his face and a blankness had entered his mind.

Half a moment later, the silence was broken as a white haired elder came forward with his hands cupped together, "You majesty, this cannot do. Jian Chen is deserving of a spot as an Imperial Advisor, but an Imperial Protector is not appropriate."

Prime minister Kirill speaks correctly. The title of an Imperial Protector is far too high for a decision to be made this quickly. It would be more proper for Jian Chen to take the title as an Imperial Advisor for now." Another elder spoke.

"Your Majesty, the title of an Imperial Protector cannot be made too rashly. This should be talked with the entire Imperial Advisors or perhaps even some of the revered Imperial Protectors to see if he is qualified." Another simply dressed person spoke. This man exuded a large amount of air and was a general that commanded plenty of power himself.

"Your Majesty..."

A countless stream of opposition could be heard from the audience. Although Jian Chen was a genius they had never seen before, the title of an Imperial Protector was truly far too great of a position. Many of the nobles were especially vocal, with Jian Chen's age, they didn't dare let him be an Imperial Protector. At the same time, there were also a large amount of supporters of the king.

At that moment, twenty people suddenly appeared in the palace. The majority of them were elders, but some were middle-aged and three were thirty year old women.

These people quietly walked up to the back of the palace without a word or anyone noticing them.

When the king saw the group of people standing behind the crowd, he revealed a small smile, "That's correct, the title of an Imperial Protector is not something a King could appoint. This power goes to the Imperial Advisors and four Imperial Protectors themselves." With that, the king stood up from his throne, "With that, I would like to invite the Imperial Advisors to investigate. Does Jian Chen have the ability to be one?"

"I agree to appoint Jian Chen to be an Imperial Protector." One of the elders spoke out in agreement. Smiling, he cupped his hands together in salute to Jian Chen, "I pay my respects to the Imperial Protector!"

"Your Majesty, with just a few Imperial Advisors agreeing, it will be hard to convince the crowd. If His Majesty wishes for Jian Chen to be an Imperial Protector, then all of us Imperial Advisors need to consent." An elder spoke.

Smiling, the king replied, "Commander Shu speaks the truth. Now then, Imperial Advisors, what do you think?"

“We all give our consent to allow Jian Chen to be an Imperial Protector!” An elderly voice called out from the back, causing everyone to turn around. When the crowd saw just who these twenty people were, they all looked at them with shocked eyes and open mouths.

Each one of these people held influential positions and were all Imperial Advisors in their own rights. At this current moment, all of the Imperial Advisors were already gathered here.

The group of twenty Imperial Advisors began to walk forward, the entire crowd splitting apart to form a road for them. In a quick moment, they arrived right in front of Jian Chen before everyone cupped their hands, “We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector!”

At this sight, the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom began to laugh without holding back. On the contrary, the crowd contained to look on in shock as if trying to comprehend what had just happened.

One of the Imperial Advisors spoke out loud, “Everyone doesn’t need to worry. The appointment of Jian Chen to become an Imperial Protector was also approved by the four Imperial Protectors as well. The twenty of us just recently made contact with those four before we gathered here. If anyone has any suspicions, they can go to any of the Imperial Protectors for proof.”

With that, the entire audience began to grow noisy once more.

The Imperial Advisors of the Qinhuang Kingdom were all Heaven Saint Masters, so when they saluted Jian Chen, he was knocked in for a loop. At a loss for what to do, Jian Chen didn’t know what to think—in no time at all, he had been inducted to become one of the Imperial Protectors of the Qinhuang Kingdom.

“Your Majesty, this one’s experience is still quite lacking, I’m afraid that I may fail to please.” Jian Chen bowed to the king.

Laughing, the king replied, “Nephew Jian Chen, appointing you as the Imperial Protector is something that the four Imperial Protectors have consented to. With this, this king cannot make any decision.”

There was some hesitation on his face, becoming an Imperial Protector for the Qinhuang Kingdom was no small matter. However, because of how fast this situation had developed, Jian Chen had no time to figure the benefits and detriments and could not come to a resolution.

Seeing the look of hesitation on Jian Chen’s face, Qin Ji’s own face had a minute amount of worry to it. He and Jian Chen had only a regular relationship for now, but he was absolutely willing to have Jian Chen be an Imperial Protector since it would be a tremendously good thing for him.

But this expression from Qin Ji had gone unnoticed by Jian Chen since he was currently stuck in a dilemma. Although the title of an Imperial Protector was indeed high, but he didn’t wish to be tied down by it.

The entire palace began to grow in noise as everyone looked toward Jian Chen. Xiao Han on the other hand had gone as white as paper before shaking all over.

The authority of an Imperial Protector far outstripped the powers of his grandfather. It could even be said his grandfather would be a subordinate to Jian Chen.

Qin Ji's face grew more and more panicked as he feared that Jian Chen would not accept the title of an Imperial Protector. In the end, he couldn't hold it anymore and spoke, "Jian Chen, being an Imperial Protector of our Qinhuang Kingdom means that you would be able to use the Space Gate of our kingdom without any limitations and our resources. Even your authority would be comparable to the king!"

Upon hearing the ability of being able to use the Space Gate, Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat before he spoke, "Your Majesty, if I were to become an Imperial Protector, would I have to limit my movements?"

"Of course not. Nephew Jian Chen, you will not be limited in your travels as our Imperial Protector. We only wish that in our moment of need, you will come to help us and to not work against us." The king smiled.

With that, Jian Chen came to a conclusion. This was a deal that was almost all benefit with no detriment. With the Qinhuang Kingdom's strength, the chance of it being in danger was practically nil.

With that thought in mind, Jian Chen no longer hesitated and agreed to be an Imperial Protector.

"We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector!"

After Jian Chen's consent, every single person within the audience began to swoop in to give their respects. The title of an Imperial Protector was extremely illustrious and was far more powerful than even the lord and sometimes even the king of the kingdom. With at least half of the Imperial Protectors agreement, a noble could be removed from his position without even the king being able to overturn it or risk a large war.

From this, it could be seen that an Imperial Protector was a powerful entity.

Afterward, the nobles and the Imperial Advisors began to congratulate and pull Jian Chen into their good graces. Although Jian Chen's young age had caused everyone to belittle him at first, his potential was not ignorable to anyone. His future was something no one would be able to predict, and even the four Imperial Protectors were astounded by him.

Jian Chen becoming an Imperial Protector made Qin Ji extremely happy. His smile could illuminate the night and could not be masked.

Jian Chen's appearance had truly taken the spotlight for the events of today. It was originally a day of celebration for the king's 50th birthday, but instead of the king being the main character, the great winds had been stolen by Jian Chen. However, the king wasn't sad in the very least, the smile on his face could not be said to be unhappy at all.

For the king to be able to make a great genius become their Imperial Protector, this was a great honor for the Qinhuang Kingdom. In the future, it could be possible that the Qinhuang Kingdom would be able to stand alongside the Three Great Empires of the Tian Yuan Continent.

Chapter 398: A Gorgeous Exit

The 50th birthday celebration for the king of the Qinhuang Kingdom quickly came to the end. When the nobles and officials had all bade their farewells to Jian Chen, he immediately went for his own room.

Now that Jian Chen was an Imperial Protector for the Qinhuang Kingdom, his status was far different than from when he first came. He had been given a splendid new palace to live in called the “Qin Heaven Palace”. The Qin Heaven Palace was where only Imperial Protectors were permitted to live in. Not only was it grand in scale, but even the interior furnishing and arrangements were superior to Qin Ji’s Flowing Cloud Palace.

Carrying the still sleeping Heavenly Tiger God, Jian Chen followed the palace maid to the Qin Heaven Palace. Looking all around at the splendor of the palace, Jian Chen was momentarily speechless. The Qin Heaven Palace was so splendid that Jian Chen could swear that he had never seen such a grand palace before.

“Great Imperial Protector, allow this servant to help you bathe and your other needs!” The beautiful maids accompanying Jian Chen spoke with expectant faces. The female maids were all carefully selected by the king and were around the age of twenty as well. Not only were they extremely beautiful, but they were also virgins.

Still looking around the resplendent palace, he waved a hand toward the maids behind him, “You may leave!”

“Great Imperial Master, could it be this servant is not suitable for your needs?” The maids cried out miserably to Jian Chen, their faces were a mixture of desire and misery. Not only was Jian Chen very handsome, but with a glorious title of an Imperial Protector, it would be a great honor to spend time with him.

“You can go, I am not used to being served on. If I have something to ask for, I will call for one of you.” Jian Chen spoke calmly before walking with the tiger cub.

Seeing Jian Chen disappear, all of the carefully selected beautiful women had disappointed looks on their faces and walked out with sorrow seen clearly on their faces.

On the outside of the palace, five hundred armored soldiers stood quietly as if they were statues. With solemn expressions on their faces, they looked extremely impressive as befitting their positions as the guards of an Imperial Protector. To them, this was the greatest honor they could receive, no other guard would be as well respected as them. Aside from the other guards protecting the other Imperial Protectors, no other palace guard could compare to them, or even the army.

All of these palace guards were Great Saint Masters at the very least with five Earth Saint Masters captains led by a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master. All of this could be said to be Jian Chen’s personal army that served only the Imperial Protector and even the king wouldn’t be able to command them.

The night quickly passed without incident, and by the next morning, one of the palace captain assembled outside, “A report for the Imperial Protector, the third prince wishes to see you!”

Once he had made the leap to become an Imperial Protector, Jian Chen’s status had suddenly surpassed Qin Ji’s own status. Now, if Qin Ji wished to enter the Qin Heaven Palace, he would need to ask for Jian Chen’s permission.

Quickly, Jian Chen walked out to greet Qin Ji and personally led him in. Touched by this gesture, Qin Ji followed Jian Chen in with some joy.

Within the palace, Jian Chen had commanded the servants to move away so the two could have a talk in private. Congratulating Jian Chen on his promotion to become an Imperial Protector, Qin Ji had truly felt happy to see Jian Chen's status go up.

Talking cordially with Qin Ji, Jian Chen felt that despite the sudden winds of change blowing in his favor, his friendship with Qin Ji should remain unaffected. He should treat him as he had before this, since if it were not for Qin Ji, then Jian Chen wouldn't have this honor in the first place.

"Jian Chen, now that you are the Imperial Protector of our Qinhuang Kingdom, the Space Gate is open for you to use at any time. However, I hope that you could stay here for a little longer." Qin Ji smiled.

Jian Chen shook his head gravely, "I'm sorry, but I must hurry on over. Now that I can use the Space Gate at any time, I must go now. The longer I wait, the more anxious I feel."

"Jian Chen, could you tell me just what matter has gotten you so anxious? Would I be able to help you in any way?" Qin Ji asked in concern. Now that Jian Chen's status had changed, he was even more prepared to help him.

Hesitating for a small moment, Jian Chen relented, "My homeland is on the verge of a war, I must hurry on over there or else I'm afraid something terrible may happen."

Growing serious, Qin Ji asked about the nature of the war and the finer details of the situation. After listening to everything, his face dropped in seriousness and smiled, "A small matter then, with such a small region declaring war, our Qinhuang Kingdom will be able to resolve it without question. Jian Chen, you can mobilize any of the elite masters in our army, do you wish to use them?"

"That won't be necessary, my homeland is still quite some distance away even after the Space Gate. With my speed, it should take two or three months to arrive, but with an army, the speed would be drastically slower. By the time the army gets there, it would take at least a year." Jian Chen replied.

"Then take some of the Imperial Advisors at the very least. With your position, you could take all of the Imperial Advisors without opposition or question. Don't worry, our Qinhuang Kingdom has four unbelievably strong Imperial Protectors to remain here to defend the place without worry."

Jian Chen hesitated as he listened, he knew that the Gesun Kingdom had a dozen Heaven Saint Masters at the most, and the other four Great Kingdoms had at least twenty-three of them. This difference in strength was far too great.

Seeing the look of hesitation on Jian Chen's face, Qin Ji knew of the conundrum within his mind. Encouraging him, Qin Ji spoke, "Jian Chen, don't hesitate and don't forget your power, you have the authority to mobilize such a force."

After some consideration, Jian Chen had finally consented to Qin Ji's proposal. For the sake of insurance, Jian Chen would bring some of the Imperial Advisors with him.

"Jian Chen, you need not worry about the limits. With your command, you needn't even report this to the king personally. Have the palace guards gather some of the Imperial Advisors and convene here." Qin Ji spoke since he knew Jian Chen wasn't as knowledgeable about his newfound authority yet.

Afterward, Jian Chen had followed Qin Ji's proposal and had the palace guards gather up the Imperial Advisors. In a flash, twenty varying aged Imperial Advisors had convened at the Qin Heaven Palace. Although Jian Chen was quite young, his strength had already earned the respect of all the Imperial Advisors. Despite the position between them and Jian Chen wasn't too far apart, they wished to become friends with Jian Chen. In their hearts, they knew that not only was Jian Chen accepted by the four Imperial Protectors, Jian Chen would sooner or later step into the realm of the Saint Rulers and even the Saint King realm. By then, they would want to be in his good graces, so this was the time to increase their connections.

Once Jian Chen had explained his reason and plan to the twenty Imperial Advisors, each one of them had readily agreed to go with him. Seeing just how enthusiastic they were in replying, Jian Chen had doubted the space in power between an Imperial Advisor and Imperial Protector. In fact, he had begun to question whether or not if it was him being asked for help from the Imperial Advisors instead.

Just then, a refined looking elder walked forward with his hands cupped in salute, "Great Imperial Protector, this one is Xiao Tian, the grandfather of Xiao Han. I've heard yesterday that my dunce grandchild has offended you, I can only hope that you will forgive my unworthy grandchild. I've already taught him a lesson and locked him in as punishment. This journey with you will serve as a part my atonement for my grandchild. I hope that you will forgive him."

Jian Chen looked at Xiao Tian as if to study him. Xiao Tian was wearing a white robe in a refined manner and his white hair was tied up around his head. There was a heroic spirit to him, and justice could easily be used to describe his aura.

"Is this the Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master Qin Ji told me about?" Jian Chen thought. Knowing who Xiao Tian was was completely different from actually meeting him. After seeing him just once however, Jian Chen had a feeling that Xiao Tian was an extremely righteous person.

This type of open and straightforward person was a clear cut contrast to his grandchild Xiao Han.

After some quick thinking, Jian Chen cupped his hands with a smile, "Mister Xiao Han, you must be joking. The matter with your grandchild I have already forgotten about. If mister Xiao Han wishes to come with me, then I have no objections. Nonetheless, I am grateful for your support."

Smiling widely, Xiao Tian spoke, "You are too modest, to be able to accompany an Imperial Protector is a great honor to me."

Then after selecting the four strongest and most reliable individuals, he began to prepare to leave for the Gesun Kingdom from the Qin Heaven palace and soon headed toward the Space Gate with Qin Ji leading the way.

Leading the five Imperial Advisors with Xiao Tian as the strongest one there, the other four Imperial Advisors were two Fourth Cycles and two Third Cycle Heaven Saint Masters. Although they weren't the strongest of the Imperial Advisors, Jian Chen had faith in them.

The Space Gate was in the center of the palace, and with Jian Chen's status, he didn't require notifying anyone before using it. Taking the five Imperial Advisors to it, he handed several Class 5 Monster Cores and began to locate the desired destination. Then, in a single line, they crossed through the Space Gate.

Chapter 399: Return of a King

In a single stride, Jian Chen traveled countless of miles away from the Qinhuang Kingdom. For the five Imperial Advisors, they had traveled into a strange new area.

The Space Gate they had traveled from slowly disappeared from view as Jian Chen took the tiger cub ahead and started to scout the area out. No matter where he turned his head to, he could see no signs of plant life or anything else, the entire place was a barren land.

“Great Imperial Protector, where is this place?” One of the Imperial Advisors spoke with a questioning look as if trying to figure out what place this was.

“Qing Shaofan, you should stay behind the Imperial Protector and speak less rubbish.” Another Imperial Advisor spoke.

Forcing out a smile, Qing Shaofan laughed in embarrassment, “I’m just very curious.”

From the five Imperial Advisors that followed Jian Chen, there was Xiao Tian, Qing Shaofan, Dongyi Junbai, Cao Keqin, and Tian Luo. Two of the elders were Qing Shaofan and Dongyi Junbai who were both Fourth Cycle Heaven Saint Masters. Cao Keqin and Tian Luo were both Third Cycle Heaven Saint Masters, but all five of these men were already over a hundred years old.

It was at this moment the tiger cub had suddenly awoke by opening its bright eyes in curiosity at the strange new place it was in.

Taking notice of the cub, Jian Chen placed it on the ground. The cub was already decently big and was already the size of a mature dog. By this point, it wasn’t suitable for the tiger to be around Jian Chen’s chest.

On the ground, the tiger cub started to run around merrily while everyone watched it revolve in a circle. From time to time, it would sniff each one of the five Imperial Advisors.

Taking out a map from his Space Ring, Jian Chen scoured over it before looking dejected as he glanced around. “I don’t have a map of this area, so I have no idea where we are. Let us find a nearby road.” Jian Chen didn’t have the most accurate coordinates of the Gesun Kingdom, so the Space Gate had only sent them to an approximate area near it. Right now, Jian Chen didn’t even know if he was in the Gesun Kingdom or not.

Qing Shaofan cupped his hands together, “Then please guide us well, Imperial Protector.”

“Well then, let’s leave this place.” Jian Chen waved his hand, causing a large bubble of wind to envelop the tiger cub and levitated it into the air.

“Mrrr... mrrrrr...” The cub began to growl in discontent as it flew into the air. It was as if it wanted to be held by Jian Chen instead. Both of its eyes looked pitifully toward Jian Chen as tears began to well up in them.

“Haha, Imperial Protector, this magical beast of yours is quite intelligent. It has to be a high leveled magical beast.” Qing Shaofan spoke.

Laughing, Jian Chen chose not to explain anything and instead patted the cub's head with his hand. "You've grown far too big for me to carry anymore, allow me to bring you through the air with my wind element instead. Don't worry, I won't let you fall."

As if the tiger cub understood Jian Chen's words, it continued to shake its head as tears continued to roll down its face as if wanting to be put down on the ground. In the next moment, its entire body began to shrink at a rapid pace before turning into the size of a tiny cat. It looked adorable.

"Eh? This magical beast can manipulate its body size? How extraordinary." One of the five Imperial Advisors looked beyond surprised at the cub.

Even Jian Chen had a surprised look on his face, but he knew of the tigers identity already and so he quickly calmed down. Shooting a glance at the five Imperial Advisors to his side, he smiled, "This white tiger is vastly different from the other ones, being able to change its body size is its innate ability."

"That sounds about right. This tiger like magical beast even has wings on its back. This must be a Variant. Some of the magical beast Variants have unknown abilities that can allow a good amount of the magical beasts to be able to transform their body." Dongyi Junbai spoke up. He was the oldest out of everyone here and so his experience wasn't lacking.

After that, no one had bothered to investigate the tiger's identity, allowing Jian Chen to breathe out a breath in relief. Holding the tiger to his chest, Jian Chen began to fly through the air.

An hour later, the group of travelers had already flew for a long distance. At this moment, a tiny city suddenly came into view.

With his eyes shining brightly, Jian Chen hastened his way over there with the group of men behind him shooting along into the city with him.

This was a Second Class City so it wasn't too large. The moment Jian Chen walked in with the other five Imperial Advisors, the cat sized tiger c*cked its head all around as it took in the sights.

Walking into the largest store in the city, Jian Chen bought the most expansive and detailed map of the surrounding area. In a quick moment, he had located the coordinates of the Gesun Kingdom in comparison to where he was. Right now, there was 15,000 kilometers of distance to travel and two kingdoms to go through.

"Shopkeeper, might I ask, do you know if there is a war or anything happening within the Gesun Kingdom?" Jian Chen asked.

"The current state of the Gesun Kingdom is a mystery to me since it's too far away. However, some news did travel here that a war had broken out three months ago. I believe there were four kingdoms that united against the Gesun Kingdom, ai, that kingdom is finished." The shopkeeper sighed.

Paling, Jian Chen quickly tossed a purple coin onto the table and walked out with the map. After distinguishing the way, Jian Chen flew into the air in the direction of the Gesun Kingdom.

Straight away, the five other Imperial Advisors flew into the air in pursuit, leaving the rest of the streets in silent awe at the six figures. In half a day, the entire streets exploded with gossip relating to them.

Within a Second Class City, an Earth Saint Master was already hard to spot, but a single Heaven Saint Master was even more rare. With six of them suddenly appearing out of nowhere, it would lead to a huge uproar for everyone.

For the rest of the day and night, Jian Chen continued to fly without stopping. Finally on the morning of the second day, they finally arrived at the bordering kingdom of Qiangan Kingdom's stronghold, stopping there in order to obtain some information. He had to make sure of the current state of affairs and make a contingency plan.

Chapter 400: Seething Anger

During the peak hours to eat breakfast, Jian Chen had taken the tiger cub and the five Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom into the best restaurant in a city. The six men crowded around a table and began to enjoy the best meals the place had to offer.

The tiger cub on the other hand, was voraciously eating a special plate of delicious smelling barbecued beef. With a content purr, it continued to swallow the pieces of meat one after another while the rest of the inn gave the table a strange look.

Jian Chen sat at the table and listened around for the nearby chatter without eating a bite.

The Qiangan Kingdom was especially close to the Gesun Kingdom so Jian Chen was able to make discreet inquiries about the current state of the Gesun Kingdom. As for information that was spread by mercenaries, the information they told would be both fast in spreading and reliable in truth.

"The Gesun Kingdom is done for. The four kingdoms combined have well over two million people at the moment while the Gesun Kingdom has only several hundred thousands men. How could they stop that?"

"The Gesun Kingdom has the most fertile territory out of every kingdom nearby, so the other kingdoms have long since been eyeing it like candy."

"Right now, the Gesun Kingdom is relying on the strongholds to buy them some time, but their army will break down after some time. I heard that the Gesun Kingdom had originally six million people, but now they were below a million. By now, the kingdom surely must be recruiting soldiers in a frenzy."

"There's only two hundred Middle Tier Magical Crystal Cannons supporting them, but their supply of monster cores are already at an all time low. Even the national treasury is nearly empty so the major and minor powers of the kingdom are supplying the monster cores."

"Half a month ago ten of the cannons had exploded after being used too frequently. I heard they had blown up one stronghold and caused thousands to die."

"The difference between the Gesun Kingdom and the four allied kingdoms is far too much. Even if they were to convene all the soldiers and employ mercenaries, their fighting power wouldn't exceed three million. The four allied kingdoms have well over triple that amount if they wanted to. Furthermore, the Gesun Kingdom doesn't have half the amount of experts the other side has, this time, the Gesun Kingdom will fall."

“I’ve heard that two Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom have already died and another three sustained serious injuries. The four allied kingdoms on the other hand, have a single Heaven Saint Master on the verge of dying. But rumors say a Radiant Saint Master brought him back to full health and healed the others, that means they suffered virtually no damages.”

After hearing these bits of information, Jian Chen grew even more pale in the face. Although things had not yet reached the worst case scenario, the situation was looking bleak for the entire kingdom with the difference in military might.

“You guys won’t know this but three days ago, I came back from the Yanyan Kingdom. From there, I heard rumors about a terrifying Heaven Saint Master from the Gesun Kingdom. Going against six other Heaven Saint Masters by himself and sustaining serious injuries, he used some sort of supernatural Heaven Tier Battle Skill to kill two of the Heaven Saint Masters and heavily injuring another three. The remaining survivors lost their courage and fled from him!”

“Ah, I heard about that too. People say that even among the Gesun Kingdom, he was a Heaven Saint Master that was extremely low profiled. Not being counted in the top ten experts and with even fewer people knowing his existence, it is only now that people have started to notice him. I think his name is...Chang Wuji?”

Then, another one of the travel weary mercenaries spoke out to the previous person that spoke, “So what? That Chang Wuji must be an expert at the very pinnacle of his realm, otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to employ such a strength. Let me tell you an even more shocking piece of information. From the battle three days ago, an Earth Saint Master was able to severely injure one of the Heaven Saint Masters from the Blue Wind Kingdom.”

“Impossible, just how could an Earth Saint Master be a match for a Heaven Saint Master?”

“I don’t believe it, why don’t you go and trick a demon before trying us?”

The entire inn began to burst into chatter without anyone believing what the mercenary had said.

“Ha, I wouldn’t lie. They say that the Earth Saint Master used some sort of Heaven Tier Battle Skill and heavily injured the Heaven Saint Master. If not for the intervention of another Heaven Saint Master, the Earth Saint Master would have killed the Heaven Saint Master. Tsk tsk, that battlefield was a spectacular sight. When a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was used, the sky would turn a different color and black clouds would roll in. With the sands and stones flying through the air, it would be difficult to see anything and hear nothing but the Earth Saint Master using his Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Each time he did, the earth shook, including the Gesun Kingdom’s stronghold. At that point, everyone had been scared witless.”

“No wonder I felt something was amiss three days ago, but could this really be true? That’d be terrifying! The Gesun Kingdom’s stronghold is only a thousand kilometers away from this place, that’s not far away at all.”

“For the tremors caused by a Heaven Tier Battle Skill to be felt here? That’s impossible.”

The man continued to speak, “That’s not all. People say that this Earth Saint Master was a wind attributed Saint Force user with an impeccably fast speed. Even after contending with the Heaven Saint Master for half the day, the two Heaven Saint Masters did not manage to chase him down and kill him.”

“That’s pretty amazing, is he even an Earth Saint Master?”

Several people from the inn began to murmur in surprise at this supposed Earth Saint Master’s strength.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a slight smile on his face, he had already guessed that this speed could only belong to the Heaven Tier Battle Skill wielder Ming Dong who was also an Earth Saint Master.

But the man hadn’t finished saying all that he knew on the subject. “The fall of two Heaven Saint Masters hadn’t gone unnoticed by the four allied kingdoms. Two days later, the four kingdoms employed two million soldiers to the northern stronghold to engage in a day and night battle. The sounds of the war had deafened the ears of everyone and the blood of the fallen dyed the ground a permanent red with the bodies stacked up on top of a mountain. By that point, the northern stronghold of the Gesun Kingdom could not longer keep up with the battle. Even the reinforced tempered steel gate had been broken down with both sides nursing heavy losses. I heard a Heaven Saint Master from the Pingyang Kingdom had even captured a high ranking officer. Cutting off both arms and legs, the Pingyang Kingdom then had him strung up on top of the walls of the Pingyang Kingdom’s stronghold.”

“How savage! Did the Pingyang Kingdom have some sort of intense grudge with that officer? Even with the advantage they had, did they have to act in such a manner?”

“For both his arms and legs to be severed, that person must be an illustrious general then.”

The inn started to chatter once more with this new piece of information with an interested fervor.

Smiling, the man shook his head, “You guess wrongly. That person was no illustrious general, he was just some nobody called Changyang Hu, I believe. He was merely just a frontline commander.”

Seated from not too far away, Jian Chen’s entire body froze up as his face suddenly turned pale to a terrifying degree. In an instant, he had disappeared and reappeared right in front of the man who spoke. Both of his hands grabbed onto the clothes of the speaker and lifted him straight out of his stool as Jian Chen thundered, “What did you just say? Who was the person that had their limbs amputated and strung up on the walls?” Jian Chen’s eyes grew extremely red and a killing intent could be felt from him.

“Bastard, are you trying to die?!” The elder exploded in rage as he grabbed at Jian Chen’s neck with his own hands.

“Speak!” Jian Chen roared like how a furious lion would. His voice had caused the entire inn to shake as his eyes grew even colder. The spark in his eyes was almost like a sharp sword that could pierce into the man’s own eyes, terrifying him so much he couldn’t look at Jian Chen directly.

At the same time, an extremely formidable amount of killing intent exuded from Jian Chen’s body, causing everyone in the inn to feel like they had been dropped into a vat of icy cold water, chilling them down to their very bones.

The previously noisy inn had instantly turned quiet. Everyone’s eyes turned toward the furious Jian Chen with their bodies trembling in fear. Not a single one of them had dared to move since from the youngster’s aura, they could all feel a terrifying amount of power within him.

Even the man that Jian Chen had grabbed hold of had been stunned into silence. Without another outburst, his face had turned pale and his entire body began to tremble fiercely. Jian Chen’s entire killing

aura had covered the place, but it had affected him the most. With the aura, the man felt himself unable to breathe and slowly suffocating to death.

“D... don’t... don’t kill me. Wh... what di... did you want to know? I... I... I’ve... I’ve already said everything... I know...” The man stuttered in fear. By now, he had begun to treat Jian Chen as a terrifying death god that caused even his soul to quake.

Jian Chen’s eyes grew in ferocity as he stared at the man with unconcealed bloodlust. “Who had his arms and legs amputated before being strung up on the wall? You better not lie to me, or I’ll let you die a pauper’s death.” With his last sentence, Jian Chen’s words had already devolved into a primal growl that combined scarily with his bloodshot eyes.

“I... I said... tha... that person was... Changyang... Changyang Hu. He... he was captured by a Heaven... Heaven Saint Master in the Pingyang Kingdom. Al... All four limbs were cut... cut off... and then... and then strung up on the wall... for an entire da... day.” The man stammered.