

Chaotic 411

Chapter 411: Seize The King

Within the northern stronghold of the Gesun Kingdom, it was temporarily quiet. Every soldier was starting to treat their wounds while a few Radiant Saint Masters continued to treat everyone as much as they could with their Radiant Saint Force. On the wall, several of the bandaged soldiers were out patrolling the area; with the heads of nine enemy Heaven Saint Masters mounted on the wall, the morale of the soldiers was at an all time high.

On both sides of the wall, many blacksmiths could be seen at work trying to mend it with a variety of items laid out a meter around them. As they stripped away the damaged pieces and replaced them with newer ones.

Outside the stronghold, several soldiers from the Gesun Kingdom were digging holes and burying the bodies of the dead soldiers in it. Right about now, the army from the Pingyang Kingdom were fifteen kilometers away and stood completely still without making any intentions of moving forward. After seeing the Heaven Saint Masters die right in front of them, they were far too shocked to continue attacking.

Within the stronghold, thirty armored commanders were convened together with a serious expression.

“Everyone, I’ve just received a messenger pigeon from the other three forts. As of now, the enemy army has broken through them and are now making their way toward the imperial city. We have taken serious casualties, and a Heaven Saint Master has died at the hands of the enemy with the other Heaven Saint Masters taking heavy damage. As it is, we are in a dire situation.” An elder spoke grimly.

Everyone’s faces hardened as they listened. With the other three strongholds breached, if there was no more further attempts at stopping them, the imperial city would be attacked and the Gesun Kingdom would truly be over.

“In my opinion, even with the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom helping us, it will be of no use. The difference in strength between both sides are too vast, and with just five people, it won’t do much.” Another commander spoke.

“I hope that the Imperial Advisors’ strength will be enough to intimidate the enemy. It is in my belief that they won’t dare offend the Qinhuang Kingdom or else risk a million elite soldiers from the Qinhuang Kingdom destroying their kingdoms.”

“I don’t believe the situation is that simple to resolve. Everyone knows that the Qinhuang Kingdom is a large distance away from us; there isn’t a significant relationship between the two kingdoms either. I bet that the enemy will believe that the five Imperial Advisors are faking their identities and are only just hired help for the Gesun Kingdom.”

“You have a fair point, I can see that scenario happening. Despite the Qinhuang Kingdom’s magnificent power and prestige, it won’t matter much to our situation if our imperial city is invaded. Our defense of this stronghold would be of no use and would just lead to our surrender.

The commanders began to talk among each other passionately as everyone spoke about their perspective on the matter with a tone of panic.

“What about this. We will send several squadrons to the other three forts to provide assistance. Everyone, what do you think?” An elder proposed.

Hearing this, everyone’s eyes narrowed before another person spoke. “But our soldier reserves are currently three million strong with practically everyone injured or tired. Furthermore, there are countless of mercenaries with absolutely no discipline at all. I believe we should send the vanguards over to the other forts only.”

“This is our only possible solution, I agree to this proposal.”

“That’s correct. This is our only course of action now that the northern stronghold has been stabilized. The Pingyang Kingdom is down eight Heaven Saint Masters with only two of them protecting the imperial palace. I can bet that they won’t make any rash moves and will move their army to the other three strongholds. While we cannot defend against the attack, we can at least delay them.”

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After a fierce deliberation, the commanders finally came to a conclusion. The strongest and uninjured commanders would lead two million soldiers and split into three paths toward the strongholds. Even the Radiant Saint Masters were split into groups of three.

Not too long after, the two Heaven Saint Masters in the northern stronghold obtained new information. Before Chang Wuji and Khafir could fully recover, the two immediately traveled to the eastern stronghold with the rest of the Changyang clan members.

With two million soldiers leaving, the northern stronghold was all but empty now. All that was left were several hundred thousand; however, many of them were injured and/or disabled.

The two million soldier strong army standing right outside the northern stronghold had a dozen of its commanders gathered together with a furious look. Many of the commanders here had a senior that was one of the Heaven Saint Masters that were killed.

“General Hong, what are you hesitating for? There’s only the crippled and injured left in the stronghold. If you can signal the invasion, then we will be able to successfully invade the stronghold! Then, those Heaven Saint Masters of the Gesun Kingdom will lose their heads in revenge for our ancestor.”

“No. Our Pingyang Kingdom has already lost a devastating amount of power as a result of those eight Heaven Saint Masters dying. Our strength isn’t even a half of what it used to be; therefore, we should be thinking about how to defend ourselves from the Gesun Kingdom instead of how to invade it.” An armored elder spoke seriously. The Pingyang Kingdom had lost eight Heaven Saint Masters, these were the pinnacle fighters of their nation, and so their deaths made their kingdom utterly powerless.

At the elder’s words, another person opened his mouth. “General Hong is correct. Right now our Heaven Saint Masters are down to two—both of them are back within the imperial palace. If the Hidden Dragon Kingdom, Blue Wind Kingdom, and the Andreas Kingdom were to invade the Gesun Kingdom, who will guarantee us that they will not take advantage of our weakness and turn on our own kingdom?”

“Could you mean that the death of our ancestor won’t be avenged?” Another commander spoke with a heavy glower.

“Don’t worry. This time, the Gesun Kingdom will surely fall. Those Heaven Saint Masters will die soon as well. When they die, your ancestor will be avenged. Don’t tell me you wish to try and kill a Heaven Saint Master with your Earth Saint Master strength?” General Hong spoke coldly.

At this, the general with the slain ancestor sighed. He knew that he did not possess the strength to do such a thing.

The army of the Pingyang Kingdom had no reason to attack the Gesun Kingdom’s stronghold. All they could do was to stand thirty kilometers away and wait.

Not too long however, the Pingyang Kingdom’s stronghold finally came with some information from the imperial palace. The report said that an unknown Heaven Saint Master had entered the borders of the Pingyang Kingdom and had started to lay waste to the imperial palace.

The moment this piece of information was announced to everyone, the commanders let out aghast looks before quickly ushering the army back as quickly as they could.

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In the underground labyrinth, the king of the Pingyang Kingdom and his several bodyguards were looking closely at a sealed space where a jade table could be seen. This jade was an oddity within the continent, and was called the Jades of the Motherly Twins. There was two pieces to this set, and in the case one of them broke, then the other piece would disintegrate quickly afterward.

One of the jade pieces was located in the underground labyrinth while the other was in a top secret location. Only a select few knew of its existence, and once the danger to the kingdom was removed, then the men on the outside would destroy the jade piece and notify the hidden king.

Right now, every single one of the bodyguards and the king were desperately waiting for the jade table to shatter into pieces.

Suddenly, the king and his bodyguards could hear a strange noise heading in their direction. As they turned to look, the steel wall protecting them suddenly began to glow with an azure and violet ray of light.

Everyone immediately paled in fear and despair as they looked at the lights. They didn’t know just what they were, but a deep premonition began to well up within them, “What is that?” Even the king found it hard to maintain his calm composure.

Not a single person answered the king however. Hidden away in their spots, they could only stare intensely at the hole in front of them.

The azure and violet gleams of light began to move around before spreading out all over the steel wall. As the light washed over the walls, cracks could be seen spreading throughout the steel material.

“No, he’s breaking the walls even more!” One of the soldiers cried out in pure fear. The steel wall was built to be ten meters thick and could withstand even a Heaven Saint Master. But right now, it had already been smashed apart by their enemy. Just how strong was this invader?

The soldiers and king began to stagger back in fear as they watched the two lights continue to destroy the steel wall in front of them.

“Impossible, this isn’t any regular wall to be destroyed! Is our enemy a Saint Ruler?” The king couldn’t hide any of his trepidation now with his voice struggling to stay coherent.

“Bang!”

At the moment the king had spoken, another explosion could be heard as pieces of the wall came flying off before crumbling to the ground. A fierce shockwave could be felt as each steel piece slammed into the ground, and the wall suddenly gained a two meter tall hole.

The crisp sounds of footsteps could be heard walking toward them. A figure dressed in a white robe with blood on it slowly came into view. This person wasn’t old by any means and could be no older than his early twenties. There was barely an inch of hair on him, but there was a regal air to his figure.

The king and the other soldiers all looked at the figure in fear while their legs continued to bring them backward.

“Wh... who are you?” The king asked.

Jian Chen said no words and stalked toward the king with his cold eyes piercing straight into him. The king of the Pingyang Kingdom was a senile old man with a purple and gold dragon robe and crown; he had even a noble air to him, but under the piercing eyes of Jian Chen, he was absolutely cowed.

Striding forward, Jian Chen was soon at the corner the group was hiding in.

“Protect the king!” One of the guards cried out before throwing away his fear and charging at Jian Chen.

With one man leading the charge, the others dared not fall behind. With one final breath of hesitation, they too flew at Jian Chen.

Chapter 412: Pillaging the Treasury

Without any rush, Jian Chen formed a bright blade of Sword Qi on his finger and completely massacred all of the Great Saint Masters. From this group, there were only three Earth Saint Masters that were fortunate enough to survive the initial attack.

“Your Majesty, please escape! We will hold him off!” The three Earth Saint Masters were by no means cowards. They were willing to throw away their lives in order to try and stop Jian Chen from attacking their king.

But the king only looked at the three soldiers willing to die for him with remorse. He had no intentions of running since he knew that escaping now was futile and would only expend energy needlessly.

“Stop!” The king suddenly called out to the three soldiers powerlessly. Looking to Jian Chen with a grieved look, he spoke, “This king has already been forced into a state where I cannot run away. If you could please tell me just who you are, then I will be content to die.”

Jian Chen stared passively at the king for a moment before speaking, “Who I am is not important. Just know that I am from the Gesun Kingdom.”

“As I expected, you really are from the Gesun Kingdom.” The king sighed before looking back to Jian Chen. “It seems this king’s decision on joining the other three kingdoms to attack the Gesun Kingdom

was the wrong choice to make. I had been 90% sure that the Gesun Kingdom wouldn't have such a hidden talent who could storm my Pingyang Kingdom's imperial palace and cause me to be end up like this. Ai~~~~" The king looked even more ragged than before as if he had spontaneously aged.

"This king has already fallen, do as you seem fit as punishment, whether that is to kill or torture me. This king can only humbly request that you forgive these soldiers; they are innocent of my crimes." The king pleaded humbly.

"Your Majesty! This servant's only mission in life is to protect your wellbeing! We three do not fear death!" The three soldiers immediately protested, kneeling in front of him and Jian Chen without concern for their life.

The king shook his head, "This war is a sin that I must bear alone. The decision of going to war does not fall upon your shoulders. Furthermore, you have your own family to take care of."

Upon being reminded of their families, the three soldiers immediately stiffened with their eyes filling up with tears.

The look in Jian Chen's eyes grew dark for a moment. When the king had mentioned family, Jian Chen couldn't help but think to his own family.

The king pleaded to Jian Chen once more, "Everything is the mistake of this king. I will call my armies back immediately, so please spare my three guards."

Jian Chen looked to the pale three soldiers kneeling nearby. They had already been injured by his initial attacks, so Jian Chen hesitated for a moment. "I will forgive them, but if they dare try to exploit the Gesun Kingdom in any way, I will not be so kind then."

The king let out a sigh in relief. Each one of the three guards had been with him for twenty years at the very least and had protected him without question. Although he was their king and they were his servants, they had a deep friendship with each other. Thus, the king had naturally tried his best to insure that the three guards would not die with him. The king knew that Jian Chen was a Heaven Saint Master, so sending these three Earth Saint Masters would accomplish nothing but their deaths.

Instead of killing the king, Jian Chen grabbed him by the shoulders and took him away, leaving behind the three guards still kneeling with miserable looks.

"Your Majesty!" The three guards began to tear up as they watched their king get dragged further and further away. Although they wished to go with him, they lacked the power to do so.

Jian Chen quickly left the underground palace with the king, re-emerging into the palace hall. By now, there were many armored men of high status along with other officials gathered nearby.

Seeing Jian Chen walk out, the palace grew tense with anxiety as several men took out their Saint Weapons. Even if it cost them their lives, they wanted to stop Jian Chen since they knew that soon, the army attacking the border would return.

But when a certain purple and gold robed elder came walking out, everyone was stunned. It didn't take much to tell that the king had been captured by Jian Chen.

Seeing all of the gathered high ranking officials here, the captured king could only sigh before quickly ordering them to stand down. Then, without needing to be ordered to by Jian Chen, the king immediately issued out an imperial edict to bring back all of the soldiers stationed by the Gesun Kingdom's northern stronghold.

After the edict, the king turned to Jian Chen, "What do you wish for this old king to do now?" Jian Chen's strength had already caused the king to give up any chance of escaping. He knew that if he didn't cooperate, his entire army would suffer. The palace would be washed with the blood of his people; an event like this was common enough within the continent.

"Take me to the treasury!" Jian Chen spoke.

At this, everyone's face blanched before a blunt elder spoke, "Impossible! The treasury is where the root of our kingdom's finances lie, if it is robbed, then our kingdom would..."

"Pcht!"

The elder immediately grew silent as Jian Chen's azure and violet Sword Qi shot out and struck through his head, killing him instantly.

"Prime minister...!"

Countless of people began to mourn out for the death of this person while others glared furiously at Jian Chen.

"Grandfather!" A few young military officers cried out in grief. Then pulling out their Saint Weapons, they cried out in a righteous fury, "Fight me to your death!" And with that, they charged straight toward Jian Chen.

"No! Retreat, all of you!" The king barked, but unfortunately he had spoke far too late. Jian Chen instantly moved into action, shooting his Sword Qi straight through their throats and splashing the halls with their blood.

"Get back, everyone get back! He is not someone you can face against!" The king spoke. These people within the kingdom were all the highest ranking spot holders of the kingdom. Without their existence, then the Pingyang Kingdom truly would be gone in all but name. With renewed fear, he turned to Jian Chen before the rest of the people would be killed, "This king will take you to the treasury! Everyone, stand down or be beheaded!"

Afterward, the king of the Pingyang Kingdom guided Jian Chen to the kingdom's treasury. Right behind them, the entire crowd of officials and soldiers followed with anxious faces.

Quickly, Jian Chen and the king arrived at the treasury. By the order of the king, the soldiers immediately opened the gates and allowed them entry.

The treasury was situated underground in the middle of the palace and was split into several different areas where items of every shape and size could be seen.

Jian Chen had the king first show him where the monster cores were being held. It was an expansive area with several different boxes laid out. There was a strange energy that could be seen flowing from the boxes, and when opened, several dozen Space Belts could be seen arranged inside.

Sweeping past them, he disregarded the boxes that contained the Class 1 and Class 2 Monster Cores since there were far too many to be counted.

Arriving at the later boxes, Jian Chen picked up a Space Belt. Each one of these Space Belts had several words written on them denoting just how many monster cores there were in each one.

“500 Class 3 Monster Cores.”

“621 Class 3 Monster Cores.”

“1000 Class 3 Monster Cores.”

“600 Class 4 Monster Cores.”

“530 Class 4 Monster Cores.”

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Each one of the Space Belts had been categorized between Class 3, Class 4, and Class 5 Monster Cores with at least five hundred cores within them. There was at the very least, sixty or seventy thousand Class 3 Monster Cores, ten thousand Class 4 Monster Cores, and around four hundred Class 5 Monster Cores.

Looking at the numbers written on the Space Belts, even Jian Chen couldn't help but sigh at the extraordinary amount. The amount here had far exceeded what he had anticipated and had left him tongue-tied.

However, when he thought about how the Pingyang Kingdom had well over 700 million people, he began to calm down a bit. This was the treasury of the entire kingdom, and if he were to take out several piles of monster cores, it would cause no big ripple among the kingdom. Perhaps this depository of monster cores was the result of dozens of years of collection.

Jian Chen decided to take every Space Belt into his Space Ring; even the Class 1 and Class 2 Monster Cores had not been spared. Since he had several Space Rings with sufficient space, there was no harm in taking them all.

Seeing how Jian Chen was taking every single Monster Core, the king had a look of absolute anger, but even if he wanted to cry in grief, he wouldn't be capable of shedding a tear. With a mental sigh, he knew from this moment on; if the Pingyang Kingdom did not collapse, then it would most certainly fall in power for a very long time.

Afterward, Jian Chen arrived at the area of the treasury where the money was contained. After cleaning up the entire place, Jian Chen now had a large sum of purple coins. If he calculated the sum, there would probably be well over a hundred million purple coins in total since this was the liquidated assets of the entire kingdom.

Chapter 413: The Return

By now, Jian Chen had already plundered the entirety of the treasury. The Pingyang Kingdom was not financially unstable now nor had the entire economy halted, and this was better than killing every single high ranking official and able bodied person. After all, these officials were still the strongest in the kingdom and without them, there would be no one to supervise the fallout from the looting. In such a

politically, financially, and physically unstable state, it was truly a terrifying situation to be in, especially in a world that revered strength as power.

After taking all of the purple coins, Jian Chen turned around and began to look into every single remaining thing of interest left in the treasury.

Soon enough, Jian Chen left the treasury and walked outside where a large group of strong looking soldiers and officials stood still, not fearing to stand their ground.

“Sire, you’ve cleaned out the treasury and ordered the troops to return from the borders, shouldn’t you release His Majesty?” A general cried out in anger.

Jian Chen smiled, “Who said I would let him go? He has caused millions of people from my Gesun Kingdom to die; if I were to let him go, those who have died in this war would never be able to rest in peace. Those parents who lost their children will never forgive me for this wasted opportunity.”

Jian Chen’s response caused everyone else to instantly go into an uproar. “Do you wish to execute His Majesty then?! Do you not fear the wrath of us all? Or the entire might of the army invading your Gesun Kingdom?!”

Jian Chen’s eyes narrowed dangerously as killing intent began to leak out of him, permeating the area. With an icy voice, he spoke, “Do you wish to see whether or not I will slaughter everyone in this palace down to the last dog?”

At this, the generals froze up, fearing to say anything that could make the matter worse. In their eyes, a hint of fear could be seen as they realized the consequence of their words. If Jian Chen were to truly massacre all of the inhabitants of the palace, then there would be no one here able to stop him. After all, he was an individual that had easily killed two Heaven Saint Masters.

Without speaking anymore words, Jian Chen grabbed the king by his shoulder and flew into the air. In an instant, he disappeared into the sky, causing everyone to look at him go with wide eyes, shocked at how their very own king had been taken prisoner. Even worse, they had no power to stop it.

The group of generals stared angrily at the speck that was Jian Chen with their eyes smoldering with hatred. After a long moment, they could only sigh with pessimistic expressions.

Although their Pingyang Kingdom was not considered a superpower, their population of 700 million was not a small amount either. But on this very day, a single youth had been able to storm into the palace and take the king right in front of everyone’s eyes. No matter how much they would try to scrub and wash, this was a mark of humiliation that would never fade.

Jian Chen continued to fly through the air with the king in hand. He had originally planned to kill every single human in the palace, but the words the king had said in the underground labyrinth had resonated with him. They allowed him to remember that even the soldiers had their own children and parents. Although killing him would quite literally only take a moment to think about, this one thought would also lead to many orphans being created, and just as many parents seeing their own children die before them. Because of this and what elder Xiu had spoken to him about, back in the village, Jian Chen had changed his mind. Instead of starting a massacre, he had given up on the idea. Furthermore, Jian Chen did not wish to have the blood of innocents on his hands.

Continuing to fly through several villages, it took them another two hours before Jian Chen and the king arrived back at the northern stronghold. Then, in front of the surprised looks of all the soldiers on the stronghold wall, they descended.

As soon as Jian Chen descended, a group of injured soldiers immediately sprung up to surround him with anxious eyes. Each one was afraid that Jian Chen was an enemy.

One of the generals left protecting the stronghold immediately rushed on over to take charge of the anxious situation. All of the experts of the stronghold had just left, and a new Heaven Saint Master suddenly arrived! If this was an enemy, then there would be no way for them to stop this man from overtaking the entire stronghold.

The elder's eyes swept over Jian Chen for a moment before quickly landing upon the king of the Pingyang Kingdom with a startled look. "The king of the Pingyang Kingdom? Just what reason are you here, state your reason for arrival." The general's eyes hardened as he took on an unwelcoming look to the two newcomers.

Knowing that the general was misunderstanding the situation, he waved his hands, "The general misunderstands, I have captured the king of the Pingyang Kingdom. He is nothing more than a prisoner now."

"What, the king of the Pingyang Kingdom is your prisoner?" The general was confused, but shocked.

"Correct, he is now our prisoner. Where might the five Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom be?"

At the mention of the five Imperial Advisors, the general looked shocked once more before thinking with a panicked hurry, "Could sire know the five Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom?"

"Those five and I came here from the Qinhuang Kingdom together. We only split roads half way here; while they assisted the kingdom, I went to the neighboring Pingyang Kingdom." Jian Chen spoke.

The general immediately smiled with a great big smile on his face. "Could you be the youth that killed the four Heaven Saint Masters from the Pingyang Kingdom?"

Jian Chen nodded, "Correct, that is me."

With this confirmation, the general's face split into a smile and immediately loosened from his tense state; even the look he was giving Jian Chen changed. When the soldiers realized that this youth was no enemy, they too let out sighs in relief and also smiled. They welcomed any allied Heaven Saint Master since they were extremely crucial in such a moment. It was in a battle that their true worth came out and inspired soldiers with their strength.

The only one with a sour expression was the king of the Pingyang Kingdom. The situation had grown far more dire than he had thought; he had no idea that the Gesun Kingdom had somehow managed to become friends with one of the Eight Great Powers: the Qinhuang Kingdom. For that kingdom to even be willing to dispatch Imperial Advisors to help was already bad news for their enemies. Furthermore, to hear that his four Heaven Saint Masters that were sent here were killed was a devastating blow.

“How many Heaven Saint Masters from the Pingyang Kingdom died?” Despite being a captive, the king of the Pingyang Kingdom couldn’t help but ask still. A Heaven Saint Master was an extremely important factor to a kingdom. A loss of just a single one was already a tremendous blow that the Pingyang Kingdom couldn’t afford to take.

The general of the northern stronghold began to laugh out loud, “My dear king, allow me to explain this to you. Three days ago, senior Chang Wuji was able to kill two of your Heaven Saint Masters with his Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Later, senior Chang Wuji had also been able to come back from the Pingyang Kingdom’s fort with the heads of four more Heaven Saint Masters. Then, he later killed another with his battle skill. The last one had been killed along with the others from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom, thanks to the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom. Their heads now adorn the stronghold walls!”

Hearing this, the king of the Pingyang Kingdom began to sway slightly before falling to the ground. His Pingyang Kingdom had ten Heaven Saint Masters, and eight of them had been killed as a result of war. If he added the two that died back in the palace, then that meant all ten of his Heaven Saint Masters had been killed. This was a monumental loss for the kingdom, one that the king barely avoided fainting from after hearing the news.

The general’s eyes gleamed as he looked at the king before cupping his hands and bowing to Jian Chen. “Fellow brother, in what way might you suggest punishing this king here?”

Jian Chen waved his hands and spoke, “Do as you please with him.”

With a great big smile, he called out to several soldiers to tie up the king until further notice with an enthusiastic voice.

Afterward, the general explained the situation to Jian Chen. Despite being treated like a guest, Jian Chen managed to have every single remaining high ranking officer come and greet him. Once they realized that he was the mysterious entity that had killed four Heaven Saint Masters and brought back the king of the Pingyang Kingdom as a captive, they all looked at Jian Chen with adoration.

Sitting on a stool, Jian Chen looked at the nearby gates with a complex look. His eyes could reveal a glint of anticipation as well as some anxiety.

The general was very good at discerning body language and so he was curious at what caused such a reaction from Jian Chen. Without giving away his curiosity, he smiled, “Fellow brother, might I ask if you are an Imperial Advisor from the Qinhuang Kingdom?”

Absentmindedly, Jian Chen nodded his head before speaking, “General, is there anyone from the Changyang clan here?”

With a confused look, the general shook his head, “I’m afraid to disappoint, but because of the situation in the other three strongholds, the Changyang clan has all been mobilized. Even the two Heaven Saint Masters from this stronghold were relocated to help mediate the problems.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a disappointed look. “Then where might the young lord of the Changyang clan be?”

At this question, the general couldn't help but look at Jian Chen oddly. "The young master of the Changyang clan had his limbs severed. He was escorted back to Lore City to recover with several people this afternoon."

Jian Chen's question caused the general to feel skeptical; the Gesun Kingdom and the Qinhuang Kingdom had no relations to each other as far as he knew. But today, the Qinhuang Kingdom's Imperial Advisors had come by to provide assistance for them. Furthermore, this youth was also an Imperial Advisor but had also some sort of connection to the Changyang clan. Connecting the two together, the general couldn't help but think, could this youth in front of him be responsible for the Qinhuang Kingdom coming to the Gesun Kingdom for assistance?

Although he was skeptical, the general didn't ask too many questions. He knew it wasn't his place to ask.

Upon hearing that the Changyang clan had left the area, Jian Chen could barely contain his disappointment. The general could see the range of emotions flashing through his face and could use that to confirm his suspicions.

Chapter 414: Hurry to the West

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Upon hearing that the Changyang clan had left the area, Jian Chen could barely contain his disappointment. The general could see the range of emotions flashing through his face and could use that to confirm his suspicions.

"Imperial Advisor, although our northern stronghold is stabilized, the other three strongholds are still in dire straits. The enemy is nearly at the imperial city, meaning our Gesun Kingdom is in mortal danger. If you could assist us, our Gesun Kingdom will survive this ordeal!" The elder pleaded. Although Jian Chen's strength wasn't something he was clear on, Chang Wuji's words and Jian Chen's capture of the Pingyang Kingdom's king was more than enough for him to trust Jian Chen's ability.

His words caused Jian Chen to look grim with hesitation. Then with another sigh, he began to inquire about the state of the other three strongholds. That same night Jian Chen left, headed to the western stronghold, since it was the closest one from his current location and the most precarious one as well.

Although Jian Chen wanted to go back home now that he was in the Gesun Kingdom, there was a war to fight. Without delay, he knew he had to help the Gesun Kingdom resolve this issue, so he resisted the urge to return home for a moment longer. When everything was stabilized, he would go back home.

The northern stronghold wasn't all that far away from the western stronghold. After four hours of traveling, Jian Chen arrived at his destination, but the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had already invaded the area and the stronghold had the banners of the enemy kingdom flying overhead. Over a million soldiers were garrisoned inside while steady streams of supplies and soldiers were streaming toward the Gesun Kingdom's imperial city.

The army of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had already broke through into the Gesun Kingdom's territory. By now, the stronghold was only serving as their temporary supply station, so there were no Heaven Saint Masters there.

Jian Chen was at least a thousand meters in the air and was concealed by the darkness, so the soldiers down below wouldn't have been able to detect the fact that a Heaven Saint Master was overhead.

Without any more hesitation, Jian Chen wrapped himself with the wind element before continuing to fly farther into the Gesun Kingdom.

An hour later, Jian Chen arrived at a Second Class City. By now, it had been completely occupied by the army of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom's Army and the flags from the Gesun Kingdom had been replaced with the Hidden Dragon Kingdom.

Jian Chen's eyes gleamed brightly for a moment with a noticeable light before heading in the direction of the path the army was traveling.

After flying for several minutes, a single cannon shot could be heard before a bright burst of light could be seen. A single Magical Crystal Cannon had exploded, shooting a burst of magic through the dark sky before impacting the ground with a loud bang. With this loud bang, the Hidden Dragon Kingdom and the Gesun Kingdom were ushered into another battle.

Not even bothering to conceal himself, Jian Chen instantly shot past the Hidden Dragon Kingdom's army tents and toward another city.

The soldiers that had evacuated from the western stronghold were now holed up in a First Class City and relied upon the superior walls it boasted in order to defend themselves from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom.

Jian Chen's figure shot over the walls of the First Class City, but before his legs could even land on the ground, a dozen of arm thick crossbolts shot toward him. Each one of the Gesun Kingdom soldiers thought him to be an enemy, so they did not hold back in trying to kill him.

With a single thought, Jian Chen forced the crossbolts to stop three meters away from him and float harmlessly in midair. Afterward, they lost any source of support and fell back down onto the city walls with a loud clanging sound.

Suddenly, two Heaven Saint Masters flew forward in a burst of red and yellow light. But when they saw Jian Chen's figure, their faces had looks of joy to them before hurriedly cupping their hands, "We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector."

These two men were Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom called Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin, a Fourth Cycle Heaven Saint Master and a Third Cycle Heaven Saint Master.

Both of these Heaven Saint Masters were known to the soldiers on the city walls, so when they saw the two paying their respects to Jian Chen, they instantly realized that he was not an enemy. Straight away, a relieved look could be seen on their faces as they stared at Jian Chen with new looks of interest.

Noticing just how pale both Heaven Saint Masters were, Jian Chen grew serious, "Are you two injured?"

The two nodded their heads, before Dongyi Junbai spoke, "Imperial Protector, the two experts located at the western stronghold were already killed by the Hidden Dragon Kingdom. Only one expert remains alive with serious injuries.

However, at this point in time, his fighting strength isn't even at half strength, moreover, the Hidden Dragon Kingdom has five Heaven Saint Masters. Not too long ago, the two of us went against those five; while they were forced back, the both of us were injured as a result."

Jian Chen nodded his head and headed inside one of the more luxurious inns in the city. This inn was previously for private usage, but because of the battle, it had been temporarily repurposed for the use of the army. Transformed into a strategy room, Dongyi Junbai, Cao Keqin and the injured Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom were the ones providing leadership over the soldiers in this area.

With the Imperial Protector personally coming here, every single high ranking officer paid their respects to Jian Chen. Even the injured Heaven Saint Master stopped his healing treatment in order to go see Jian Chen without saying a word.

Although Jian Chen looked to be around twenty years old, his status was still quite high ranking. With both the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom revering him, none of the others could see him as a mere twenty year old youth. Within the Tian Yuan Continent, secret methods to recover one's youth were not impossible.

Many of the officers rose up to greet Jian Chen with loud respectful greetings in a careful manner as if afraid of saying the wrong thing. Even the Heaven Saint Master looked at Jian Chen with a respectful but enthusiastic look.

Among the chatter, Jian Chen recognized this Heaven Saint Master as someone from the imperial palace. He was once a commander named Tian Xing. However, after making the break through to become a Heaven Saint Master, his status had immediately elevated, promoting him to an Imperial Advisor of the Gesun Kingdom.

After giving several words of greeting to everyone, he immediately assumed the leading position and began to converse with everyone about the situation.

"Imperial Protector, the enemy army triumphs us in terms of number, meaning our own army will lose without a doubt. If we wish to score a victory, then we must completely annihilate the enemy Heaven Saint Masters."

"Correct, the Heaven Saint Masters are the pillars of support for the enemy side. If they were to die, then those soldiers would be irrevocably affected by their loss. And if they were to all die, then our soldiers would feel less pressure than before. As a result, it may be possible for us to turn the tides and deliver a crushing victory."

Several commanders began to give their own perspective of the situation.

"Imperial Protector, the enemy side has five Heaven Saint Masters. Two Second Cycle, two Third Cycle, and a single Fourth Cycle Heaven Saint Master. If we join together and use our Heaven Tier Battle Skills, then we may be able to kill them all in one blow." Cao Keqin proposed.

"I agree. Cao Keqin and I were able to fight the five of them to a standstill. If we were to add the Imperial Protector to the mix, then we would be able to kill them all without a problem." Dongyi Junbai agreed.

Hearing the two Imperial Advisors speak, the commanders sitting around the table were all stunned. If the five enemy Heaven Saint Masters were to all truly be killed, they would be able to transform a crushing defeat into a stunning victory.

Jian Chen nodded his head slightly at this, making everyone believe that he too was thinking of the same plan and wished to do so. But then Jian Chen slowly stood up. "Dongyi Junbai, Cao Keqin, you two go down and recover your strength. After you are healed, head for the eastern stronghold."

"Imperial Protector, do you plan to go against the five Heaven Saint Masters by yourself?" Cao Keqin spoke with surprise.

"Imperial Advisor, the enemy has five people! Although they do not possess a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, but their combined might is still no easy force to contend with. The three of us could easily kill them." Dongyi Junbai spoke seriously.

Jian Chen shook his head, "There's no need. I will go alone. In this moment, the other two strongholds are in bigger danger than this city, thus you two need to hurry to help out."

Jian Chen's words stunned the entire table in silence. For him to go against five Heaven Saint Masters by himself, this Imperial Protector had to be truly strong! To have an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom personally come to help out the Gesun Kingdom, everyone was so happy that they felt as if they were dreaming.

At his words, Cao Keqin and Dongyi Junbai spoke no more and went down to recover their wounds.

Afterward, Jian Chen left the inn and flew in the direction of the stronghold. By now, the five Heaven Saint Masters from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom were injured, meaning killing them would be an easy task.

Chapter 415: The Midnight Battle

It was an extraordinarily dark night, one wouldn't be able to see their hand even if they looked right at it. The dark clouds completely hide the moon and plunged the earth into a world of darkness. There was no moonlight to be seen.

The battle down below was extremely fierce. No matter where one looked, all one would be able to see would be a sea of torches as the Gesun Kingdom and the Hidden Dragon Kingdom clashed. Each and every second another person fell, leading to the ground being dyed red with blood and the city walls to be riddled with holes. A little farther away, a pile of bodies could be seen stacked on top of each other like a mountain.

Bang! Bang! Bang!....

The Magical Crystal Cannons fixed atop the city walls continued to sound off, sending bursts of magical power with each explosion. Each shot impacted a dense group of soldiers, killing dozens with each one. Some of the enemy soldiers lost their limbs or were reduced to nothing but charcoal, leaving them all in either deep pain or death.

The Hidden Dragon Kingdom and the Gesun Kingdom had been fighting for an entire day now. Both sides had lost a catastrophic amount, totalling up to well over 200,000 soldiers lost in this battle alone.

“Charge...”

“Kill...!”

The roaring of the soldiers could be constantly heard as another wave of 10,000 soldiers from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom charged at the wall.

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh...”

Countless bolts began to fly through the air and struck down the enemy soldiers one after another. Their piercing power was far too strong, and they were able to penetrate through several soldiers at once. With great big cries, soldiers fell to the ground in droves.

But the crossbows could only fire several more barrages before coming to an end. After such a long and intensive battle, the Gesun Kingdom had already used up all of their bolts and the monster cores for their Magical Crystal Cannons. The bolts they were firing now were created from the artisans and blacksmiths throughout the war. This meant that they could only shoot a few barrages before they would run out again.

Suddenly, an explosion could be heard from the other side of the city wall before a part of the wall suddenly collapsed. The wall collapsed burying countless soldiers underneath the rubble and a hole was now exposed.

“Bang!”

Another explosion could be heard as yet another blast from a Magical Crystal Cannon was fired straight at the city gates. The already slightly deformed gates were instantly blown back, crushing several soldiers right behind them.

The loud roars of soldiers rang through the air as the army of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom began to flood past the gates, into the damaged city.

Immediately rallying up an army of soldiers to protect the city gates, the soldiers of the Gesun Kingdom tried to fend off the invaders so they could not gain access to the city. In a flash, another battle broke out with the vanguards of both sides slashing and stabbing at each other fiercely.

At that moment, a faint azure light streaked forward before coming to a halt several meters above the city walls. As soon as the light appeared, a large, powerful aura began to cover the entire area.

Faced with so much power, the space around the light began to distort. Almost as if the air was being removed from the atmosphere, the fighting soldiers down below began to feel as if there was a large boulder placed on top of their chests, making it hard for them to breathe.

The power released by a Heaven Saint Master would be hard for an Earth Saint Master to be able to withstand. These soldier were only ordinary civilians, so when the aura suddenly appeared, both sides were brought to a temporary ceasefire. Unable to even look up, their faces began to grow red from the exertion of trying to move.

Jian Chen floated in mid air before looking up at the sky. A loud whistling sound could be heard throughout the area. Suddenly, the clouds thinned as if they had been blasted away from the sound, revealing the many stars hidden behind them.

The soldiers down below were affected as well. The loud thunderous sound vibrated their eardrums, making them ring long after.

“Heaven Saint Masters of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom, come out to die!” Jian Chen thundered. Enveloping himself with the wind element, he flew across the sky like an azure shooting star in the direction of the barracks of the enemy.

As if responding to Jian Chen’s challenge, five large ripples of power exploded through the air before colliding against Jian Chen. In the next moment, five figures began to float through the air.

Back in the city, the still recuperating Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin both landed on top of the walls with their eyes gleaming with lightning. Their eyes looked capable of illuminating the darkness and allowed them to see wherever they looked in a crystal clear manner. Even the heavily injured Tian Xing was unable to sit around and met them on the city walls. The three of them were truly curious to see just how strong the Imperial Protector was in order for him to be able to kill five Heaven Saint Masters by himself. Aside from those three, the generals of the Gesun Kingdom gathered around as well, concentrating deeply on the battle yet to come.

Jian Chen’s figure was like an arrow that had been shot toward the incoming five Heaven Saint Masters with a great amount of killing intent.

“Hmph, you say such words, but you’ve never even measured yourself to us.” A loud voice could be heard as a Heaven Saint Master from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom called out in contempt.

Without another word, Jian Chen’s eyes gained an electrifying glow to them as he continued to shoot toward the five Heaven Saint Masters. A glow of azure and violet Sword Qi could be seen from his fingers, and killing intent leaked from his entire body. In a flash, he began to form the Origin energy with the sole intention to kill the Heaven Saint Masters as soon as possible.

“Since you’ve come here to die, allow me to do you the honors.” A Heaven Saint Master spoke as he charged at him with his own Saint Weapon.

Beneath them, the multitude of soldiers had forgotten about the enemy in front of them. Instead, every one of them looked up to the sky to watch the intense battle overhead. These soldiers felt an undeniable attractive force toward the Heaven Saint Masters, since each one of them knew in such a high stakes battle, whichever side won would directly impact the outcome of this overall battle.

Three men quickly met in midair as two Heaven Saint Masters slashed at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons without mercy.

The Origin energy sword that was in Jian Chen’s hand quickly shot forward, clashing with the two other Saint Weapons. Upon contact, a great explosion could be heard as the Saint Force flew off from the two Heaven Saint Masters and covered all three men within the shockwave.

The two Heaven Saint Masters from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom were naturally unaware of the Origin energy of the Sword Spirits. So when the two sides made contact, the Heaven Saint Masters immediately found themselves at a loss and their Saint Weapons earned a new jagged crack. Because of this, they too felt themselves injured; with a look of shock, their mouths began to bleed blood.

Taking advantage of their stupefied shock, Jian Chen's hand shot forward once more. The Origin energy streaked through the dark night once more, catching one of the two Heaven Saint Masters off guard. In the next moment, his head was cut off and his soul instantly vanquished by Jian Chen.

At this moment, the other Heaven Saint Master regained his bearings just in time to see his comrade die right beside him. Frightened, he gave up the idea of fighting Jian Chen and tried to fly back toward the other three Heaven Saint Masters, "Everyone forward! Be careful of his Saint Weapon and make sure yours doesn't touch his!"

At the cry for help, the three other Heaven Saint Masters that were originally intending on just watching were surprised. But without hesitation, they instantly leaped into the fray and began to fight Jian Chen as a team of four.

With the four Heaven Saint Masters against him, Jian Chen continued to wave his Origin energy made sword around. The azure and violet Sword Qi continued to shine brightly in the night sky, dancing along with the Origin energy.

The four Heaven Saint Masters were now been cautious about crossing swords with Jian Chen. Thus, their strikes avoided Jian Chen's weapon, always making sure to dodge it, ultimately bringing them to a state of annoyance.

"Advanced Earth Tier Battle Skill—Gale Massacre!" An explosive voice called out as a Heaven Saint Master began to use his battle skill.

The wind in the air began to pick up quickly before enveloping Jian Chen in a giant gale. Within the cyclone of wind, a bright blade of wind appeared before cutting apart at Jian Chen from every angle.

Seeing the restricted Jian Chen, the other three Heaven Saint Masters quickly began to use their battle skills as well.

"Advanced Earth Tier Battle Skill—Abyssal Sword Law!"

"Third Secret of Water Control—Water to Ice Creation!"

"Fifth Form of the Heavy Sword — Void Splitter!"

With the four shouts, the four Heaven Saint Masters finally used their Earth Tier Battle Skills in an attempt to lock Jian Chen in place with their pressure.

With a snort, Jian Chen's eyes began to gleam as he began to control the wind around him. With his stronger thoughts, he was able to tame the great winds and shot the Origin energy of the sword straight at the other three battle skills.

"Bang!"

Following a loud explosion, a ripple of energy washed over the area with a destructive force far stronger than the gale. There was no force that could stop it, and the soldiers underneath were heavily affected, many of the barracks of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom were damaged.

"Protect the city walls!" Dongyi Junbai cried out before he and Cao Keqin activated a barrier of Saint Force which appeared over the city walls.

By now the First Class City had been struck many times over by many energy waves and other damaging objects. With so many people on it, if it were to collapse, the casualties would be horrendous.

Chapter 416: Killing Five Heaven Saint Masters One After Another

Just as Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin finished spreading out their Saint Force to protect the city walls, there was a strong ripple of energy that diffused over the walls from the impact of the four Heaven Saint Master's battle skills. Combined with the fact that it had not been all that far away, the barrier put up by the two began to sway, causing the two to find it difficult to maintain.

Although they were both Heaven Saint Masters of a high level, the energy required to protect the walls was far too much for them to handle. If Jian Chen had been fighting the four any closer than they were now, even Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin would not be able to protect the city walls.

With the five men fighting in midair, not a single of the five were able to defend against the energy shockwave. Each one of them continued to fly back due to the blast, but the blast itself was not of any extreme danger to them. Since each one of them were flying in midair without any support, it was hard to maintain stable footing.

The four Heaven Saint Masters flew back with some blood coming out from their mouths. With pale faces and heavy wounds, each one of them looked down at their Saint Weapons only to see the jagged parts of their blades from where Jian Chen's Origin energy had struck.

"What power does he possess for it to be this terrifying?"

"Be careful, no matter what you cannot allow your Saint Weapon to come in contact with his own weapon."

The Heaven Saint Masters continued to call out in warning to each other while trying to hold back their fear.

Jian Chen's eyes had already transformed to glow azure and violet in color. His left eye flashed with violet while his right eye shined with azure. This sight made him look like a phantom who did not have the eyes of a regular human.

Unexpectedly, all of the bloody bolts and pieces of rubble on the ground began to levitate with a strange power. Floating up, they began to glow azure and violet in color. Like moths to a flame, they instantly shot toward the Hidden Dragon Kingdom's Heaven Saint Masters like bolts of lightning.

Still completely intoxicated with the damaged parts of their Saint Weapons, the Heaven Saint Masters hadn't even realized what was happening underneath them. Caught off guard, their bodies were riddled with holes, causing them to cough out copious amounts of blood.

Upon being inflicted with such pain, each one of the four Heaven Saint Masters let out a cry of shock and looked down only to be aghast at the things coming at them.

"Blast it all, what's all this?" One of them couldn't help but curse out loud. Without any hesitation, he flew into the air and began to rotate the Saint Force around his body as a way to protect his body from the flying objects down below.

When the bolts and shattered pieces of stone made contact with the protective covering, it only managed to shake for a moment before the covering began to crack. At this stage, the Saint Force only managed to slow down the advances of the bolts and stones.

“Earth Armor!” The earth attributed elder roared as he began to collect all of the earth element within the world around his body to form a sturdy armor. Since it was made from the sturdiest earth element, its defensive properties were extremely strong and could withstand the attacks coming at him.

Jian Chen’s left hand spread out open in the air, causing three thick bolts to hover besides him for a moment. The azure and violet Sword Qi began to envelop the three even more before spiralling toward the earth armor elder with a faster speed than before.

The elder’s ears began to twitch as he discovered the source and hastily moved to protect himself from the three bolts with his Saint Weapon.

Ding ding ding!

Three clear sounds could be heard as the elder knocked away the three crossbolts. However, the ferocity of the crossbolts was strong enough to cause the elder’s body to waver and fly back. At the same time, Jian Chen’s right hand had formed the Origin energy once more. With a flash of light, it quickly flew toward the elder’s head right in between his eyebrows.

At such a close distance, the elder was unable to dodge. Without any other choice, he could only use his own Saint Weapon to try and block the attack.

Both sides collided against each other as the elder’s Saint Weapon earned a new jagged chip and he lost another mouthful of blood. With this, his fighting strength was greatly hampered.

Taking advantage of this, Jian Chen struck out once more with the Origin energy straight through the elder’s head, extinguishing his soul straight away.

Jian Chen’s left hand was like lightning as it took the elder’s Space Ring from his hand. Then turning back to the other three, he slashed out at them once more. By now, his Origin energy served to replace the blade of the Light Wind Sword.

“Pcht!”

Another Heaven Saint Master had his head separated from his shoulders. He tumbled through the air but was suddenly enveloped in a bubble of air and flew away from the area.

“Fifth Form of the Heavy Sword — Void Splitter!”

“Third Secret of Water Control — Water to Ice Creation!”

The remaining two Heaven Saint Masters used their battle skills once more in hopes of killing Jian Chen so that the beheaded Heaven Saint Master could escape and recuperate later.

Jian Chen let out a sneer in disdain before flashing his Origin energy sword. Blocking the two attacks, he let another bolt shoot straight at the escaping Heaven Saint Master. With a shot through the space between the eyebrows, the man had his soul destroyed, causing him to die completely.

“Bang!”

Another squall of energy exploded outward as the Origin energy smashed against the two other battle skills. Engulfing the three men, the Saint Force continued to spread further away.

Jian Chen’s eyes flashed once more as he continued to control several bolts, shooting them toward the remaining two Heaven Saint Masters. At the same time, Jian Chen began to glow with an azure light as the wind element surrounded his body. Flying straight out of the energy shockwave, he flew toward the two Heaven Saint Masters and cut off their heads while they were distracted with the bolts. In the next moment, he destroyed their spirits with a stab through their heads.

The five Heaven Saint Masters of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had been completely annihilated.

Back over at the Gesun Kingdom’s city. Dongyi Junbai, Cao Keqin and Tian Xing had been utterly amazed. Each one looked at the levitating Jian Chen without a word to be said.

After a while, Tian Xing had let out a sigh as he muttered, “The Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom is truly strong. I never would have imagined that within such a short amount of time, five of the Heaven Saint Masters from the Hidden Dragon Kingdom would be killed. With such a strength like this, then even a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master would pose no challenge to him.”

At this, Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin let out a sigh as well; neither of the two could believe just how strong Jian Chen was. They were fully aware of the circumstance behind him and that he wasn’t as old as everyone thought he was. He was truly a young man that couldn’t even possibly be thought to be older than thirty.

“I never imagined that the Imperial Protector’s strength would exceed our anticipations that much. His talent is truly something to be feared.” Cao Keqin spoke with a tremble to his voice.

Dongyi Junbai let out a sigh as well as he spoke in a quiet voice to Cao Keqin to hear. “The Imperial Protector was able to become a Heaven Saint Master at such a young age; that alone was enough to amaze us. But I never anticipated that he would be able to kill five Heaven Saint Masters so quickly. Perhaps in some amount of time, the Imperial Protector will become a true Saint Ruler; who knows what method he uses to cultivate?” At the mention of Saint Ruler, Dongyi Junbai had an envious look on his face.

Jian Chen continued to float in the midnight air; waving his hand, several Space Rings began to float up to him before he took them into his hand. Collecting them, Jian Chen began to stretch out his omnipresence before locating the commander in charge of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom’s army.

Chapter 417: Leaving for the East

Shrouding himself with the wind element, Jian Chen transformed into a bright ray of azure light headed in the direction of the commander of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom.

Upon seeing Jian Chen fly over, the generals of the army instantly paled as one of them shouted out, “Crap, he’s heading for the commander!”

“Protect the commander!”

“Run away, commander!”

As several generals cried out in warning, a man in armor, who looked around sixty years old, began to run away with several other men protecting him.

The surrounding army began to remember just where they were. Despite five Heaven Saint Masters being killed and their morale taking a hit, they were still invigorated enough to fight and protect the commander's retreat.

Seeing the hurried reactions of the enemy army, Jian Chen could only snort in contempt. Those generals were only Earth Saint Masters in strength, there was just no way for them to be able to protect the commander of the army like that.

In an instant he drew far too close. With his finger, the Sword Qi began to jut out before instantly killing all of the Earth Saint Masters around. Without remorse, Jian Chen took advantage of the chaos to grab the shoulder of the commander and bring him back to the city that housed the Gesun Kingdom soldiers right in front of everyone's surprised eyes.

Although there were plenty of Earth Saint Master generals, they were no match for a Heaven Saint Master. They could only watch as their commander was carried away with a vehement glare.

When Jian Chen dropped the commander onto the city walls, the soldiers of the Gesun Kingdom all let out a victorious war cry. Many of them had begun to cry with tears.

The difference between the two armies in terms of numbers and amount of experts had been far too wide. Thus, the Gesun Kingdom soldiers felt pressured by the Hidden Dragon Kingdom and could only rely on the terrain for support. At first, everyone had thought that the Gesun Kingdom would lose, causing many soldiers to fall into despair.

What no one could have imagined was the fact that in such a short amount of time, the tides would turn almost instantaneously. The five Heaven Saint Masters of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had been killed and the commander of the army had been captured. This was a joy that every soldier from the Gesun Kingdom couldn't contain.

As for the soldiers of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom, they had fallen into disarray and became unmotivated. The Heaven Saint Masters were unbelievably strong experts and were their moral support. With those moral supports gone, they were no longer ferocious and unafraid of death. Even their generals had been stupefied and shocked. The death of those five Heaven Saint Masters was an undeniably tremendous blow for their kingdom. Combined with the fact that their commander was gone, this situation had gone from a simple snowstorm to a snowstorm with a hailstorm on top of it.

On top of the damaged city walls, many of the high ranking military officers began to congratulate Jian Chen with loud and happy voices. Although Jian Chen looked around twenty years old, not a single one of them thought he was actually that young and believed that he was actually several hundred years old.

Despite being captured by Jian Chen, the commander of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom was in no way afraid. Staring angrily at Jian Chen, he spoke, "Imperial Protector? Just which kingdom are you an Imperial Protector for? Since you stuck your nose into the affairs of our four combined kingdoms, are you not afraid that we would crush your affiliated kingdom?" The death of their five Heaven Saint Masters was too heavy of a blow for the Hidden Dragon Kingdom, thus the commander felt an inextinguishable hatred for Jian Chen.

At this remark, everyone from the Gesun Kingdom could only jeer in laughter at the commander. Compared to the Qinhuang Kingdom which was one of the Eight Great Powers, the four allied kingdoms were nothing more than a piece of tofu that wouldn't even last for a single hit.

"Careful there commander. Speak to the honored Imperial Protector with your most respectful voice, otherwise, you risk the wrath of the Qinhuang Kingdom upon your kingdom." A general laughed.

Hearing this, the commander of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom instantly blanched in fear. "Qinhuang Kingdom? Don't tell me you are speaking of one of the Eight Great Powers, that Qinhuang Kingdom?"

"Correct!" The general spoke mockingly and proudly. To be able to have the Qinhuang Kingdom's support was something that the Gesun Kingdom could say was a good thing.

The commander sneered unconvinced. "Don't think that you can scare me. I know all about your Gesun Kingdom. Just how would it be possible for your Gesun Kingdom to attract the friendship of such a powerful kingdom like the Qinhuang Kingdom? Hmph, to naively think that I would be frightened by such an obvious lie. Do you take I, Xi Yunfei, to be a three year old child?"

Furious, the general of the Gesun Kingdom immediately bowed to Jian Chen, "The enemy army's strongest have all been killed, just what should we do next, sire?"

The other generals didn't dare dilly dally behind and assumed respectful bows toward Jian Chen.

Handing over the commander of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom to the generals, Jian Chen turned to Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin. "You two hurry up and rest then head over to the southern stronghold."

"Right away!" Dongyi Junbai and Cao Keqin instantly replied. Their opinions of Jian Chen had changed drastically to the point of reverence.

Whatever happened next was beneath Jian Chen's concerns. He had done what needed to be done, the rest would have to be taken care of by the Gesun Kingdom's generals.

Returning to his inn to rest up for now, he blocked up the door so that none of the officers or chiefs that were trying to get to know him could get in.

That same night, the city walls rang with noise as the generals continued to use words to intimidate the Hidden Dragon Kingdom's army and called out for their retreat. The highest ranking officer of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had already been captured by the Gesun Kingdom, irritating many soldiers of the enemy side.

The death of their five Heaven Saint Masters and the capture of their commander was something that caused the morale of the Hidden Dragon Kingdom soldiers to hit rock bottom. Their fighting strength waned off which forced the generals to discuss their plan of action. They deliberated for a moment before finally signalling a full retreat. They knew that since they had no more Heaven Saint Masters, in the case that the Gesun Kingdom were to use their Heaven Saint Masters to fight the army, there would be no one to stop them. In the end, all they would be doing is marching to their deaths.

Jian Chen's arrival blunted the danger that the Gesun Kingdom was facing for the time being. This feat caused many of the generals to feel complete respect. They had wanted to toast him, but he had declined.

With the danger gone temporarily, the Gesun Kingdom soldiers began to nurse their wounds for the time being. Many artisans and blacksmiths continued to repair the damage around the walls so that they could protect themselves from the next invasion.

By the afternoon of the second day, Cao Keqin and Dongyi Junbai had been fully healed by the ten Heaven Saint Masters looking after them. With their wounds fully healed, they immediately followed Jian Chen's command to fly to the southern stronghold.

It was remarkably calm afterward. Jian Chen stayed for another two days so that the wounds of Tian Xing would be fully healed before he left to the eastern stronghold. The Hidden Dragon Kingdom had nine Heaven Saint Masters. Four of them had been killed at the northern stronghold and another five over at this stronghold; this meant that the Hidden Dragon Kingdom had no more Heaven Saint Masters to spare. With Tian Xing as the sole remaining Heaven Saint Master, there was no threat to the Gesun Kingdom at this moment.

The distance between the eastern and western strongholds was extremely vast and was basically the entire length of the Gesun Kingdom itself. With so many kilometers in between, it would take Jian Chen six to eight hours before he would arrive at his destination.

The eastern stronghold had been attacked by the Blue Wind Kingdom. Chasing after the stragglers of the Gesun Kingdom, the Blue Wind Kingdom had encroached deeply within the Gesun Kingdom's territory.

After flying for four hours, Jian Chen stopped about 3000 kilometers away from the eastern stronghold. That was because not too far away from him at a giant city, a dozen Heaven Saint Masters were currently fighting intensely with a sound that shook the heavens itself.

Jian Chen's eyes continued to stare deeply at the fighters so that he could make the combatants. In the next moment, his eyes narrowed in coldness.

In total, there were fifteen men fighting. It was eleven people against four. Among the four, Jian Chen recognized two of them: Khafir of Kargath Academy and Xiao Han the Imperial Advisor. The other two he didn't know, but they had to be from the Gesun Kingdom. The difference between the two sides was massive. Three of the Gesun Kingdom fighters were heavily injured and bloody, leaving Xiao Han to fight with five people by himself. Thus, his injuries were the most severe out of the four of them. A single hole could be seen in his chest with blood flowing freely from it.

At this sight, Jian Chen's eyes frosted over as killing intent began to radiate from his body before he flew toward the fight. At the same time, several stones began to levitate from the dozen people fighting. Glowing brightly with azure and violet light, they flew at the eleven Heaven Saint Masters and gave the remaining four men less pressure to deal with.

"Imperial Protector!" Xiao Han cried out with relief.

Chapter 418: Sneak Attack

Seeing the surprised look on Xiao Tian's face, the group from the Blue Wind Kingdom immediately knew that Jian Chen was related to the Gesun Kingdom. However, their expression didn't change too much as they knew that the difference between the two sides was far too huge for a single person to make much of a difference.

But the Gesun Kingdom men were all joyous. Being an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom must mean that, that person had a tremendous amount of power. Possibly enough for him to beat back the rest by himself.

The sand and stones in the air continued to fly at the Heaven Saint Masters from the Blue Wind Kingdom, much to the disdain of those very same Heaven Saint Masters. Ignoring them, they only allowed a shroud of Saint Force to cover their bodies to protect themselves from them before charging straight at the newest arrival with merciless stares.

Suddenly, the sands that were traveling at them instantly penetrated through their Saint Force and perforated every single one of their bodies full of holes.

The group of Heaven Saint Masters from the Blue Wind Kingdom instantly grew shocked. They quickly threw up another barrier of Saint Force to protect their bodies. They then pushed out the sand, and were no longer careless with the sand that invaded the air. They tried to protect their bodies from the widespread attack, but still found it difficult to defend against. Their Saint Force constantly wavered from the attempt to do so and looked as if they were in danger at any given moment.

At the same time, a strong amount of pressure filled the air before transforming into a bright gleam of fire that gathered and wrapped around Xiao Tian's head.

"It's a Heaven Tier Battle Skill! Quick, don't let him use it!"

"A Heaven Tier Battle Skill? He actually had one?!"

The eleven Heaven Saint Masters were quickly sent into disarray as they gawked at Xiao Tian. Knowing just how strong a Heaven Tier Battle Skill was, their elderly faces grew pale and immediately ignored Jian Chen as their opponent. Ignoring the azure and violet sands that were attacking them, they all immediately flew for Xiao Tian in an attempt to kill him before he could use his battle skill.

Seeing the eleven Heaven Saint Masters come charging at him, Xiao Tian let out a cruel sneer. With a low roar, the pressure in the world instantly tripled, locking everyone in place before waving his hand violently.

The bright red ray of light instantly flashed once before the sword in Xiao Tian's hand exploded with fiery light and washed over the eleven Heaven Saint Masters. There was a faint crack in the sky that could be seen from where the sword trailed behind. This was the might of a Heaven Tier Battle Skill; so strong that it could break the limits of the world itself and could fracture the sky.

The eleven Heaven Saint Masters desperately tried to use their own strongest battle skill. However, their highest one was only an Advanced Earth Tier Battle Skill, a far cry away from a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

"Bang!"

Following a loud explosive bang that seemed as if the horizon itself had exploded, a shockwave rang the ears of everyone around. For a short moment, everyone was unable to hear anything that was happening around them.

Shortly afterward, an extremely massive amount of energy capable of toppling mountains rolled into the world with terrifying power. With all of the energy billowing outward, the entire ground beneath them began to crack into a series of spider webs before the earth was pressed deeper down, folding into itself.

Xiao Tian's Heaven Tier Battle Skill was of no low rank, and combined with his Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master strength, the total power was at a terrifyingly high volume. The berserk energy could be seen exceeding several kilometers as hundreds of soldiers from the Blue Wind Kingdom were destroyed by the energy without any chance of survival.

Even the First Class City behind them took a generous amount of damage. Several parts of the city walls collapsed, burying some soldiers underneath the rubble and causing a terrific amount of damage. Several of the buildings and homes within the city toppled over, leaving the city in a mess.

Even Jian Chen's body was sent flying back for several kilometers before he could stabilize himself. He could only see a bright flash of fire in front of him, nothing else.

Spreading out his omnipresence, Jian Chen noted with some joy that the flames did not affect his ability. After spreading it out fifteen kilometers around the fallout, he easily spotted everyone's position. Thanks to the battle skill, everyone had been offset from their original positions.

Because of the collaborated effort of the eleven Heaven Saint Masters, they did not die from the Heaven Tier Battle Skill. At most, they were heavily injured and had pale faces, but nothing life threatening.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed brightly as he began to control the fire element to form three separate arrows made of pure fire. With a whistling sound, they began to travel toward the closest three Heaven Saint Masters.

As the arrow flew through the air, Jian Chen followed close behind in the direction of the next closest group.

The three Heaven Saint Masters were all heavily injured and weren't expecting any attack to come directly after that battle skill. Unable to evade the attack or even detect it, the three arrows slammed into their heads. With an explosive bang, their heads exploded, killing them instantly along with their souls.

Seeing just how easily they were killed, even Jian Chen thought that it would have been harder to do so. However, he had to concede that right now was the perfect time for a sneak attack. Unwilling to miss another opportunity, he formed another three arrows made of fire before shooting them for the next three Heaven Saint Masters.

All of the Heaven Saint Masters were deeply injured and the fallout from the battle skill had still not yet stabilized, hampering their vision still. Their situational awareness was at their lowest point along with their strength. Thus when Jian Chen unleashed his attack, they were killed without a problem.

In a single moment, Jian Chen had killed six Heaven Saint masters without their notice. However, Jian Chen still continued to summon another three arrows to bring down the next trio of enemies.

By this point the energy from the battle skill had died down. Jian Chen's fire arrows were no longer an undetected presence and immediately flared up on everyone's radar. A single elder took notice and cried out, "Be careful everyone!" Before bringing up his Saint Weapon to defend himself.

Hearing the startled shout, everyone instantly went on guard. But out of the three people that Jian Chen had targeted, only two of them managed to bring up their Saint Weapons in time while the weaker third one succumbed to the arrow and died.

Using the opportunity from the battle skill to strike, Jian Chen had covertly killed seven Heaven Saint Masters in the blink of an eye. This was by far a monumental blow to the Blue Wind Kingdom who only had four Heaven Saint Masters remaining, who had all been heavily injured by Xiao Tian.

Xiao Tian's figure began to waver in midair before he closed his eyes and began to plummet downward. Because of his serious wounds and his usage of the Heaven Tier Battle Skill, he was all out of Saint Force. Combined with his blood loss, he was already on the verge of fainting.

Startled, Jian Chen ignored the remaining few Heaven Saint Masters and instantly flew to Xiao Tian.

The Blue Wind Kingdom had only four heavily injured people left while the other side had a mysterious youth with a strange power. After such an outcome, they had no desire to stay and fight. Mustering the last of their energy, the remaining four men all fled the area, instantly disappearing from sight.

Jian Chen only glared at them icily without making an attempt to follow them. Instead, he flew to Xiao Tian and immediately took out several Radiant Spirit Pills from his Space Ring and fed them to him.

At this moment, the three Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom all flew toward Jian Chen curiously. Although they hadn't met Jian Chen before, they had heard what Xiao Tian had called him.

To be called an Imperial Protector by Xiao Tian of the Qinhuang Kingdom, that was by no means a low status.

Among the three, Khafir had a vacant look on his face. He had learned of the relationship between the Gesun Kingdom and the Qinhuang Kingdom back at the northern stronghold about how it was all because of this Imperial Protector. Xiao Tian had called this youth an Imperial Protector. Was he truly the one helping the Gesun Kingdom?

But no matter how much Khafir looked at the youth, he could not make the connection between the two and thus felt a little confused.

Despite the confusion weighing heavily on his mind, Khafir could only speak, "Honored Imperial Protector, I represent the Gesun Kingdom wholeheartedly when I thank you for your assistance. Are elder Xiao Tian's injuries serious?"

Slowly standing up, Jian Chen looked at the headmaster of Kargath Academy with a series of mixed feelings. Several years ago, the headmaster had been an entity that he could barely hope to reach and could only stand to look up at. But now, this figure he had looked up to was now speaking to him in an extremely courteous manner. This was a feeling Jian Chen would never get used to.

"He is quite heavily injured, but it is nothing life threatening." Jian Chen spoke.

“Honored Imperial Protector, why not bring Imperial Advisor Xiao Tian back to the city, we’ll have the strongest Radiant Saint Masters treat his wounds.” Khafir spoke.

Jian Chen nodded his head, “That will do!”

Chapter 419: Interference of the Qiangan Kingdom

After the impact between Xiao Tian’s Heaven Tier Battle Skill and the eleven Heaven Saint Masters, the First Class City known as Benevolence City had several kilometers of their wall collapse. Not only were the casualties high, but if they did not spend several months rebuilding the wall, the city would be doomed for sure.

In this battle, the three Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom and Xiao Tian were all badly injured. But compared to the loss of the Blue Wind Kingdom, the Gesun Kingdom’s injuries were inconsequential. With seven Heaven Saint Masters dead and the remaining four fleeing from the city, the Blue Wind Kingdom’s army had no desire to stay behind as well. The loss weighed heavily on their morale, and without any Heaven Saint Masters to protect them, the army didn’t dare continue the invasion.

Benevolence City was a First Class City with the city lord’s mansion thirty kilometers away from any given entrance to the city. The commander of the army defending the city walls adopted the same methods from the western stronghold and transformed a nearby inn into a temporary strategy room.

Within the inn, the Gesun Kingdom’s Radiant Saint Masters were hurriedly trying to heal the four heavily injured Heaven Saint Masters.

Jian Chen’s status as an Imperial Protector was very high rank, therefore the general treated Jian Chen extremely well along with the commander of the army.

After a brief conversation with them, Jian Chen understood the current situation of the eastern stronghold. At times, he inquired about the Changyang clan but to his disappointment, instead of coming to the eastern stronghold, they were at another stronghold. Thus, Jian Chen’s attempt at seeing his family was fruitless once more.

At this moment, Jian Chen had a serious look on his face, “General Liu, how many Heaven Saint Masters does the Blue Wind Kingdom even have? There were eleven Heaven Saint Masters at the eastern stronghold, does that mean they sent every single one of them to attack?” General Liu was the highest ranking official of the eastern stronghold.

General Liu sighed for a moment before revealing a concerned look, “Honored Imperial Protector, this is an answer I do not have. From the eleven Heaven Saint Masters you saw, five of them were from the Qiangan Kingdom.”

“Qiangan Kingdom!” Jian Chen growled with a dangerous glint as he spoke, “Could it be that the Qiangan Kingdom has decided to throw their lot into this war?”

General Liu nodded grimly at Jian Chen, “That may be true. Although the Qiangan Kingdom has sent no army over, five of the Heaven Saint Masters you saw today were indeed from their kingdom.”

With this answer, Jian Chen went silent for a moment as he began to think. Occasionally, the glint in his eyes flashed ominously.

“General Liu, do you think you can tell me how many experts the Qiangang and Blue Wind Kingdom have and which ones were killed today?” Jian Chen’s voice was oddly monotonous.

Nodding, general Liu replied, “Honored Imperial Protector, after inspecting their clothes, we have determined that three of them are from the Qiangang Kingdom while the remaining four are from the Blue Wind Kingdom. The Blue Wind Kingdom should have eight Heaven Saint Masters, meaning there should theoretically be four left. The Qiangang Kingdom also has eight Heaven Saint Masters, meaning there should be five left.”

Jian Chen nodded his head as he pondered, “You needn’t worry about those Heaven Saint masters then. I will take care of them. General Liu, if there is nothing left to discuss, feel free to head out first.”

Without any hint of disappointment on his face, the general stood up from the table and bowed to Jian Chen. “Yes, honored Imperial Protector. If the Imperial Protector needs anything, please call upon Liu Mou.” With that, general Liu walked out of the room.

“Bang!”

Just as general Liu was about to leave the room, the door swung back open before falling off its hinges. In the next moment, a white blur shot into the room and onto Jian Chen’s chest.

For a moment, Jian Chen was stunned, but a rare smile greeted his face as he began to caress the white figure that was buried against his chest.

The sudden white figure that had appeared in the room was the white tiger cub he had nearly forgotten about by the edge of the Qiangang Kingdom.

Seeing how Jian Chen was familiar with the white tiger cub, the initial anger that was on general Liu’s face instantly disappeared. He had seen Xiao Tian bring the cub, so he was not unfamiliar with it.

“Honored Imperial Protector, seeing how the door is broken, I shall send someone over to fix it straight away.” General Liu spoke before leaving the room.

“Mrrrrrowrr...” The tiger cub had tears in its eyes as it looked at Jian Chen with a look of sorrow. Both of its claws sank into Jian Chen’s clothes, rendering the clothes nearly useless; both actions were a sign of its dissatisfaction with Jian Chen.

Continuing to pet the head of the tiger cub affectionately, Jian Chen spoke a word of apology to it softly. Then, as if to console the cub, he took out several thousand year ginseng for the tiger cub to eat.

The tiger cub was confused momentarily before brightening up. As if forgetting about its unhappiness, it gobbled up the ginseng with a happy purr before yawning when it was finished. In a few moments, it fell asleep on Jian Chen’s lap.

Seeing the tiger cub in such a cute fashion, Jian Chen couldn’t help but smile fondly. It had only been now that he had realized just how deep the tiger cub had come to like him.

In a flash, three days went by. During three days, Jian Chen continued to feed the tiger cub several heavenly resources in hopes that it would mature even faster. Jian Chen had not forgotten elder Xiu's words and tried to hasten its growth as soon as possible.

Jian Chen knew that elder Xiu was not a person of empty words. Perhaps in the near future, there would definitely be some trouble for the tiger cub.

After three days, Xiao Tian and the three other Heaven Saint Masters were fully recovered from their wounds. Upon seeing Jian Chen, the three Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom naturally gave him their heartfelt gratitude.

"Imperial Protector, it is a good thing you came at the time you did. Otherwise, my life would have been ended here." Xiao Tian laughed without any lingering fear in his voice.

"Xiao Tian, in such a situation, even if you could not beat your enemies, I have full faith that you would at least be able to run away." Jian Chen laughed. Being an Imperial Advisor of the Qinhuang Kingdom was completely different than being an Imperial Protector of any regular kingdom. They were carefully selected and were worlds beyond those of the other kingdoms. It was only if they were up against an entity of unbelievable power that they would die easily.

Jian Chen knew that Xiao Tian was several hundred years old and was a Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master. His talent could only be described as terrifying and was virtually close to breaking through to the Saint Ruler realm. Jian Chen didn't believe that Xiao Tian didn't have some sort of life saving trump card since not a single Imperial Advisor would die that easily.

After speaking with the other men for a while, Jian Chen arrived at the crux of the problem. "By now, the Gesun Kingdom has been attacked by the Qiangan Kingdom as well. With the two sides combined, they have nine Heaven Saint Masters which is a major problem to the Gesun Kingdom as a whole. Xiao Tian, defend the eastern stronghold for the next few days in case they try for another invasion."

"Honored Imperial Protector, are you going to be leaving?" Xiao Tian spoke with a slightly hesitant voice.

Jian Chen nodded, "I will personally go to the Qiangan Kingdom. Now that they have meddled in our war, we cannot let them off easily." Jian Chen's eyes flashed with a bright glow of killing intent. If he was not in this fight, Chang Bai would be in danger.

Chapter 420: Disturbance in the Inn (One)

Upon hearing of Jian Chen's plan to go to the Qiangan Kingdom by himself, the three Heaven Saint Masters of the Gesun Kingdom were amazed. They didn't understand the situation at all, with Jian Chen being an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, just what made him so angry at the Qiangan Kingdom? Although the Qiangan Kingdom had indeed interfered with the war, this was not something that could warrant Jian Chen's current plan.

Despite feeling confusion, they didn't dare ask due to Jian Chen's status and could only suppress their questions.

"Honored Imperial Protector, please allow me to go with you." Xiao Tian spoke. Since Jian Chen was not yet at the Saint Ruler realm, he was afraid that trouble might come for Jian Chen.

Jian Chen shook his head, "No need, I alone will be enough. Xiao Tian, be sure to protect this city well just in case the Blue Wind Kingdom strikes again."

Xiao Tian revealed a helpless look on his face at such a response, "Then the Imperial Protector must take care of himself. Although the Qiangan Kingdom has lost several men, they still have plenty more."

With that, Jian Chen left Benevolence city by himself. Flying a thousand meters into the air, he began to fly toward the Qiangan Kingdom. Wrapped around his chest was the cat sized white tiger cub.

Originally, Jian Chen hadn't planned on bringing the tiger cub, but the cub had been unmoveable when he left earlier, therefore he had no other choice but to bring the cub along. He had faith in his strength to go against the Heaven Saint Masters and was also confident in protecting the cub at the same time.

In a flash, the day transformed into night. Within a Second Class City in Qiangan Kingdom, the previously bustling streets finally began to lessen in density and people.

By the city gates, a high ranking officer looked up at the setting sun and spoke to the people beneath him. "It's time, close the gates."

Immediately, a dozen men began to push the gates shut.

"One moment!" A loud cry could be heard right outside the city gates as a white figure could be seen shooting past. In the next moment, a young youth with a white tiger cub could be seen entering the city before the gates closed.

The guards had not bothered to even stop the youth. They spend entire days looking after men and magical beasts of all shapes and sizes. Thus, they had gained a discerning eye, and from what they could see, this youth was extremely strong; he was at the very least a Heaven Saint Master.

This youth was Jian Chen. It was already night time, and Jian Chen had no desire to enter the Qiangan Kingdom late at night. Thus, he planned to rest up for the night and continue early in the morning.

Carrying the quiet tiger cub, Jian Chen walked along the now cold streets while looking for any open inns. Most of them had been filled to the brim with reservations without any opening.

At that moment, Jian Chen entered a smaller looking inn, "Shopkeeper, is there a room for the night?"

"Yes yes yes, how many rooms does sire want?" Immediately, a twenty year old youth came walking out from the back with a smile on his face.

Seeing the appearance of the youth, Jian Chen looked slightly stunned for a moment as a familiar face floated up into his mind. However he quickly cleared his mind of any wandering thoughts and said, "Your best room would suffice. Bring along a plate of roasted beef as well." Jian Chen waved his hand and handed a single gold coin to the youth.

Taking the gold coin, the youth smiled widely at him, "Dear customer, please sit down and I'll have a meal served up straight away." With that, he quickly walked into the back of the inn.

Looking at the youth walk into the back of the inn, Jian Chen began to think for a moment before sitting down at a nearby table. His mind couldn't help but think back on the appearance of Kendall from his past.

“Honored customer, your meal has arrived.” Not too long later, a single voice snapped Jian Chen out of his thoughts as the very same youth brought a large platter of roasted beef onto Jian Chen’s table.

“Mrrr...” The cub let out a happy cry as it leaped onto the table and began to devour the meal.

Seeing the white tiger cub’s actions, Jian Chen couldn’t help but force out a smile, “I’ll have another platter of roasted beef then.”

“No problem, honored customer!” The youth smiled enthusiastically before walking back to the kitchen.

Jian Chen began to look around the inn, taking notice of how small it was. There were only twenty or so tables adorned around the inn, but they were clean and sparkled with bright light. At another table, a middle-aged woman that seemed to be the shopkeeper looked intently at her abacus as she tallied up the day’s finances. The sounds of the abacus could be heard clacking continuously while the male youth stood off somewhere else. Aside from the three of them, there seemed to be no one else around.

At this moment, several burly looking men came walking into the inn. With a loud voice, one of them spoke, “Proprietress, it’s time. Hurry up and hand over what you owe.”

At the man’s voice, the woman calculating her finances with the abacus looked up at the men with an embarrassed expression. For a while, she spoke several words of hesitation before taking out a stack of silver coins. “Dear gentlemen, this month’s business has been quite rough. We can barely manage our living expenses and can’t even afford any hired help. This is all we can give for this month.”

“What is this, 135 silver coins? Do you think we’re looking for a meal? We don’t care about your business, you owe us three gold coins a month!” The man cried out in anger as he prepared to cause trouble.

Without any other choice, the woman took out another stack of silver coins helplessly. In total there were 300 silver coins.

Counting up the coins to make sure there wasn’t any shortage in the stack, the men left without any further trouble.

As they left, the youth came walking out with a platter of roasted beef, “Mother, did they come to collect their fees again?”

“That’s right.” The middle-aged woman sighed with a helpless and worried expression.

“Mother, we can’t go on like this. We only earn so much per month, with these costs, we can’t afford to even live.” The youth spoke indignantly.

The woman sighed once more, “There’s no other options. We have no one to help us, no matter where we go, it’ll be the same.”

At this, the youth’s head dropped down in resignation.

“Shopkeeper, why might they be collecting a fee? Could it be all the stores here have to pay a tax?” Jian Chen suddenly asked from his table.

The youth began to wipe one of the tables with a towel before lifting his head to speak up, "There's obviously a protection fee. Each month they force us to pay three gold coins. Even our small store can only earn several gold coins a month, but combined with the five gold coin tax to the city lord, there's not much left. We can only make do as is."

"Do all the stores have to pay this tax?" Jian Chen continued to ask.

Shaking his head, the youth said, "The tax from the city lord is a mandatory thing for all stores, but these men are from a mercenary group. They've formed their own group within the city and have a specialized group to go after those stores without any powerful backers to have them cough up protection tax."

Jian Chen was silent for a moment. He knew that something like this was a common event, especially in a world where the strong ate the weak. Those without power would always be bullied by those with power. This was just another natural law of the world.

"Shopkeeper, are there any more rooms for the night?" Suddenly, another voice called out from outside as a white robed youth came walking in.

Seeing the new customer, the youth quickly came up to greet him with a smile, "Yes yes yes, there's definitely room. How many rooms might the honored customer need?"

The other youths behind him began to look around the place before narrowing his eyes in dissatisfaction. "This inn is quite lacking, is this place even suitable for the young lord?"

"We came here too late, all the other inns are completely filled up. This place should do for now." Another person spoke.

"How about this, shopkeeper, we'll reserve the entire inn. Throw out all those unrelated men." A youth spoke arrogantly.

Hearing this, the waiter and the shopkeeper had embarrassed looks on their faces. Clearing her throat, the woman spoke, "Honored customers, our inn has plenty of room and should be enough for your needs."

"Spare me your words. I told you to do what I ask, or are you afraid our Yangji Sect will not pay?" The white robed youth spoke out haughtily.

Upon hearing the name of the Yangji Sect, the shopkeeper's face instantly fell. Without any other look, she walked up to the second floor and began to explain the situation to the guests. In the next moment, the second floor burst into a cacophony of anger and curses.

"F*ck, is this how your inn does business? I've already paid money, just how can you cheat me like this! Do you want your store to close down? I'm from the Bloodsting Mercenary group!" From the second floor, a roar could be heard. But in the next moment, the voice instantly changed, "What? The Yangji Sect? Nevermind, I didn't say a word."

With that, a burly looking man quickly walked out of the inn.

Afterward, a steady stream of men quickly walked out of the inn. Although many of them were indignant, when they heard the name of the Yangji Sect, they could only tighten their throats and walk out of the inn obediently with some fear.

Quickly, the inn was completely cleaned out, leaving behind only the man and magical beast noisily eating the roasted beef in front of them without a care in the world.

“Honored customer, I am truly sorry but you will have to find a new inn for the night. The roasted beef will be free of charge; we sincerely hope that the honored customer will forgive us.” The youth returned the gold coin back to Jian Chen with an apologetic look.