

Chaotic 431

Chapter 431: Returning to the East

“What was that mysterious item if it could let someone escape more than fifteen kilometers away?” Jian Chen questioned with confusion. He was truly curious on what method the elder patriarch had used to escape from the area. Just what was that jade piece he had crushed?

Jian Chen began to think about the elder patriarch’s words, “Guardian clan? It seems that the Yangji Sect is truly as he said. There’s something that’s not as it seems, but no matter what faction that has me as their enemy, it is nothing significant. The Saint Rulers of the world are seclusive by habit and would not come out of hiding to come to such a small area for a personal vendetta. The chances of them coming here are far too low to consider.”

After thinking considering what happened, Jian Chen began to calm down. Looking at the desolate area beneath him, Jian Chen immediately thought about the shattered Saint Weapon of Sans and immediately flared with killing intent. “Yangji Sect, as of today, you are no more. The debt that your sect owed has been paid back a thousand times over.” Jian Chen boomed before closing his eyes as dozens of trees exploded. They filled the air with the azure and violet splinters before raining down everywhere, all around the disciples of the Yangji Sect. There were so many splinters that the entire sky was almost covered. They shot down with the intensity of a barrage of arrows.

There was no way for the remaining disciples to defend themselves against such a strong attack. In an instant, they all died from the barrage before they had time to even think about just what debt they were involved in. Some of the men barely had time to even cry out in pain before their deaths.

The entire area was a slaughter ground, and with Jian Chen’s omnipresence ability to detect anything within fifteen kilometers, no one was outside of his perception. Even an ant could be detected by him, so the disciples had no chance of escaping with their lives intact. The wooden splinters locked onto each disciple and provided them no chance of survival.

Even the current patriarch and several other Earth Saint Masters were able to barely survive. In an instant, they tried to surround their bodies with Saint Force, but the splinters shattered it and perforated their bodies with holes, much to their shock.

Within several moments, the entire Yangji Sect’s mountain was littered with the corpses of a thousand disciples. Each corpse possessed a multitude of holes that bled blood which dripped onto the ground below, causing a giant bloody river to form. The scent of blood quickly wafted into the air.

The glow in Jian Chen’s eyes began to slowly recede back to his normal eye color. As he regarded the sight in front of him, Jian Chen waved his hand and watched as the Space Rings of several of the higher ranking members floated up to him. With a quick count, Jian Chen grabbed all nineteen Space Rings with his hands.

Afterward, Jian Chen scoured the entire area for any cultivation manuals and monster cores. To Jian Chen, cultivation methods were a source of money and even the monster cores could be considered to be useful. Although it was not like the Pingyang Kingdom in terms of wealth, it was not that far off either. Each monster core from every level totaled up to 40,000. Included in this sum, were two Class 6 Monster Cores, three hundred Class 5 Monster Cores, and the rest were Class 4 and under.

Shortly after collecting every single monster core, Jian Chen let out a sigh. A few years ago, he had desperately fought magical beasts for their monster cores. Now after exterminating an entire sect, he had a bounty far more than he could count. This would surely help Jian Chen increase his strength.

Jian Chen began to calm down and flew toward the cracked stone fortress. Before the elder patriarch could use his Heaven Tier Battle Skill, Jian Chen had manipulated the earth elements into protecting the mother and son duo so that they would be unaffected by the battle. At such a distance, the Heaven Tier Battle Skill would have been enough to utterly destroy their bodies; this was something that he could not allow.

At a thought, the stone fortress cracked open without a sound, revealing the hidden mother and son. Both were extremely pale and were struggling to remain standing.

“Aunty, Sans, I have avenged you.” Jian Chen spoke to them both with a guilty expression. Because of him, Sans had been brought into this mess.

The mother and Sans looked at the sight in front of them with wide open eyes. The entire area was flatter and more desolate than they had seen before. There was a large fissure in the middle of the earth without any buildings in sight. Scars of battle could be seen inflicted everywhere, and just a decent distance away, a giant pile of corpses could be seen bleeding profusely.

At such a sight, both commoners couldn’t speak a single word. This was a shocking sight that neither of the two could ever predict. Jian Chen was somehow strong enough to cause the entire Yangji Sect to fall into ruins. For such a calamitous event to happen here, was this even the work of a man?

Still in utter shock at Jian Chen’s domineering strength, it was only now that they had both realized that his strength was far beyond anything they could possibly imagine.

“Aunty, Sans, let us return to the Gesun Kingdom. I will let you live in peace without any worry being able to come your way. I will not allow anyone within the Gesun Kingdom to bully you either.” Jian Chen spoke kindly.

Snapping out of her shock, the mother shook her head with a grateful look, “My lord, I appreciate your kindness. You’ve helped us far beyond than what we deserve, but we cannot keep imposing trouble on you. We’ve already inconvenienced you enough. I’ve already decided to leave with Sans to a faraway village to live our lives.”

“How could I let that happen? Aunty, please come with me. I, Jian Chen, vow to you. I will definitely have you live a peaceful and fortuitous life.” Jian Chen spoke in a hurry. He couldn’t let the family of Kendall live in such poverty again.

It was only after this second attempt that the mother and son accepted to return with him to the Gesun Kingdom, much to Jian Chen’s relief. Taking them through the air, the three of them left the Holy Yangji Mountain.

After they had left, the hidden disciples that had somehow managed to escape the slaughter wandered aimlessly around the ruins. The sect did not completely fall, several disciples had been fortunate enough to be outside the fifteen kilometer range before the massacre could even happen.

Despite several disciples still being alive, all of the higher ranking members had been completely annihilated, and the elder patriarch had escaped through some unknown means. The Yangji Sect was truly dead in all but name.

The Yangji Sect was also the number one sect within the Qiangan kingdom. Many people constantly stood by the gates to the Holy Yangji Mountain in hopes of becoming a disciple. Because of this constant stream of hopefuls, they had all heard of the ear-popping explosions that had taken place at the peak of the mountain. Already, many people were starting to point up at the no longer cloudy peak.

“Just what fortune did the Yangji Sect come across for them to set off firecrackers one after another?”

“That’s not right. I could clearly see the Holy Yangji Mountain go up in flames just a while ago. Take a look, even the clouds nearby have turned black.”

“Did something happen to the Yangji Sect? I feel as if some sort of challenger has caused trouble for them.”

“Have you gone senile? The Yangji Sect is far too strong, even the Qiangan Kingdom cannot compete with them.”

“The Yangji Sect is indeed the strongest sect in the kingdom; they even have the ears of the king. Within our Qiangan Kingdom, just who would dare challenge them?”

Many of the people who were trying to become disciples of the Yangji Sect had started to guess and conjecture at what had truly happened.

“Take a look, there’s someone flying from the mountain! That’s a Heaven Saint Master!” Suddenly, someone with sharp eyes pointed out a figure in shock.

“For a Heaven Saint Master to fly out of the Holy Yangji Sect, does that mean something has happened at the peak?” An intelligent person made the connection between the two events.

“Since there’s no one standing guard here, we should head up to take a look.”

Afterward, the crowd of people at the foot of the mountain quickly scaled the mountains. Upon reaching the gates, everyone instantly made a full stop with their eyes wide open at the shocking sight in front of them.

“The Yangji Sect has been destroyed!” After seemingly half the day, someone cried out in utter shock, startling everyone.

Such news like this could not be stifled. Like wildfire, news that the Yangji Sect had been destroyed spread through the Qiangan Kingdom.

That was no concern to Jian Chen as they continued to fly through the air for a couple of hours back to the eastern stronghold of the Gesun Kingdom.

Chapter 432: The Traveler Returning Home (One)

Two days after Jian Chen's departure, the Gesun Kingdom's eastern stronghold had stabilized. The Blue Wind Kingdom hadn't tried to attack a second time, so the rubble beneath the walls had been cleared away. Many of the blacksmiths and artisans had even repaired and refortified the walls.

Carrying the mother and son into the city, he instantly descended near the temporary inn for the army. Still light headed from the shock, the mother and son fell to the ground as if their legs were made of rubber.

The mother was not a cultivator and Sans had his cultivation crippled by the others, thus their fortitude was lacking. After flying through the air for an extended period of time, the two had felt their legs go numb.

Jian Chen's sudden descent caused all of the nearby soldiers to become alarmed. Immediately sounding the alarm, everyone swarmed to the area, but no one was brave enough to get close to see if he was a friend or foe.

The sudden change in the immediate surroundings caused the mother and son to be nervous, and they hid behind Jian Chen. The both of them were afraid that another massacre like what happened at the Yangji Sect would happen once more.

One of the men suddenly noticed Jian Chen's face and lit up straight away. Calling out to the other soldiers, he said, "What are you guys doing, this is the honored Imperial Protector! Hurry up and pay your respects to him!" Jian Chen's identity was known to this high ranking soldier, but the other foot soldiers were not able to recognize him straight away. Although Jian Chen's skill was known to everyone, very few knew what he looked like.

Hearing the commander speak, everyone let out a breath in relief and then cried out loud to Jian Chen, "We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector!" All the soldiers were curious on just when the Gesun Kingdom had such an Imperial Protector. Not only had they never heard of such an Imperial Protector, they had never seen him before either.

The commander walked up to Jian Chen and spoke with a respectful bow, "Honored Imperial Protector, this one is Lin Yan. How may I help the honored Imperial Protector?"

"Where is General Liu?" Jian Chen asked.

As soon as he spoke, Jian Chen looked toward the inn to see general Liu coincidentally come walking out. Upon seeing Jian Chen, the general gave a respectful bow, "Honored Imperial Protector, you've finally returned."

"What has happened while I was gone?" Jian Chen asked.

General Liu shook his head, "Nothing too major. However the information I've heard keeps on coming. Honored Imperial Protector, let us talk about this inside."

"That will do." Jian Chen nodded in agreement. Turning behind to Sans and his mother, he spoke kindly, "Aunty, Sans, you two should rest up for now. You haven't eaten all day, I'm sure you two are hungry."

When general Liu's eyes landed upon the two commoners, he saw them as nothing more than commoners of the lowest degree. They couldn't even look at him without shuddering in fear, causing

general Liu to be confused on what connection they had to an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom.

The mother hadn't objected to Jian Chen's words and spoke, "If my benefactor commands so."

Jian Chen let out a bitter smile, "What benefactor? Aunty, please call me Jian Chen."

"How... how could I do such a thing?" The mother was bewildered at such a request. Her entire life, she had been a commoner at the lowest rungs of society, but even she knew the proper etiquette of society. If even the high ranking general in front of her had to call him as an honored Imperial Protector, the idea of her calling him by the name Jian Chen absolutely terrified her.

Hearing Jian Chen's words, the general and the previous commander looked at each other in astonishment before looking back at the mother and son with a new expression.

Even they hadn't known the name of the Qinhuang Kingdom's Imperial Protector. Seeing how the high and mighty Imperial Protector allowed for the mother and son to call him by name, they looked at the two in a different light. Even general Liu couldn't help but feel excited at this. Although he couldn't personally make a connection with the Imperial Protector head on, he could do so through the mother and son.

Being an Imperial Protector was an especially prestigious status. If any family or clan could be involved with the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, it would be of a great boon to them. Even an inferior clan could become an existence that no other clan would dare provoke overnight.

Afterward, general Liu called for an officer to come. This officer was in fact another man of his family with the same background. Ordering him to treat the two like guests without any neglect, he then whispered several words to him discreetly.

Afterward, the officer's face lit up into a smile before respectfully inviting the mother and son. The two were utterly confused at the officer's cordial reception and walked away with him helplessly. After all, they were dealing with an army officer.

Next up, Jian Chen walked with the general into a soundproof room and began to talk about the information given to them by Xiao Tian, Khafir, and another Heaven Saint Master who had both flew to come here. Everyone began to report to him the information regarding the past two days.

"Honored Imperial Protector, yesterday morning, we've received intelligence from our northern and western strongholds. The Qiang and Hidden Dragon Kingdom have withdrawn their armies and have sent envoys in hopes that we are open to negotiations." The general said.

Hearing this, Jian Chen had a faint smile on his face. This piece of information was a good thing for the Gesun Kingdom. With two kingdoms retreating, the pressure would be significantly less.

"Then what of the southern stronghold?" Jian Chen asked.

"Honored Imperial Protector, yesterday we've heard that the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom have already reached the southern stronghold. Both sides were then brought into a giant battle where two of the Heaven Saint Masters from the Andreas Kingdom died. The rest were

immediately injured and retreated, forcing the army to temporarily retreat.” General Liu spoke with some excitement. The Gesun Kingdom was still alive for now.

Jian Chen nodded in satisfaction; an outcome like this was within his expectations. With five Imperial Advisors gathered at the south, Chang Wuji and two other Heaven Saint Masters from the Gesun Kingdom, there was a total of eight Heaven Saint Masters defending the southern stronghold. Unless there was some sort of unexpected development or the Andreas Kingdom dispatched all of their Heaven Saint Masters, the southern stronghold should be fine.

Because of the military might of the Qinhuang Kingdom, they could hold off anyone the same level as them with their Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

“General, there is an important report!” Suddenly, a loud voice called out from outside.

Hearing this, the general looked grim as he barked, “Enter!”

An armored commander came walking in as he bowed toward Jian Chen and the other three men. With a letter in his hand, he spoke, “General, the Blue Wind Kingdom have started to pull back their armies and sent a letter of surrender.”

General Liu’s face lit up in joy as he began to read through the letter. Smiling widely, he laughed, “Wonderful! How absolutely wonderful! This letter was personally written by the king of the Blue Wind Kingdom! Not only have they pulled their armies from our borders, but they are willing to compensate for the damages they’ve incurred! Their envoys are on the way in hopes that negotiations can be made with our kingdom!”

Upon hearing this, the headmaster of the Kargath Academy and the other Heaven Saint Master let out a look of pure relief that could not be contained.

By now, the eastern, western, and northern strongholds had been completely stabilized. Only the southern stronghold had the army of the Andreas Kingdom within their borders. However, no one was worried anymore. The southern stronghold had eight Heaven Saint Masters, meaning the experts were literally as numerous as the clouds. The Andreas Kingdom simply had no chance of winning against the eight, so their surrender was only a matter of time now.

As the four began to calm down, general Liu sat down, “Honored Imperial Protector, your trip to the Qiangan Kingdom went smoothly, I take it.”

“En!” Jian Chen nodded. “You needn’t worry about my trip to the Qiangan Kingdom, I’ve already solved the problem. Their kingdom has guaranteed that they will no longer act against the Gesun Kingdom.”

“That’s good, very good. This is all thanks to the honored Imperial Protector’s tireless work. Our country truly thanks you and will remember your deeds for all eternity.” General Liu spoke with gratitude.

With that, Khafir and the other Heaven Saint Master spoke of their thanks as well before leaving.

Jian Chen took the white tiger cub with him and arrived at the inn where the mother and son were staying. Only the officer, general Liu had ordered to pamper the two, was around. On the table, there was a wide assortment of exotic foods with sweet smelling fragrances that would make anyone hungry.

Chapter 433: Traveler Returning Home (Two)

Upon seeing Jian Chen, the officer cordially greeted Jian Chen.

After the officer left, Jian Chen spoke to the mother and son, "Aunty, Sans, is this place agreeable with you?"

"All is well. That officer was a little too enthusiastic, we've felt a little too pampered." The mother joked.

After she replied, Jian Chen exchanged several words with the mother and son before finally knowing their full names. The mother was called Shen Fang and was born in a small mountain village. Both of her parents had died long ago and Kendall was someone who had grown up with her. Even from the start, the two of them had felt an affinity for each other and had been married there in the village.

Sans' real name was Ken Xiaosan. The name was a little crude sounding, but the village elder had been unable to find a better sounding name. At Kendall's suggestion, Ken Xiaosan became Sans' name.

Kendall had been the strongest in the village, by the age of twenty-one, he had been able to form his Saint Weapon. As a result, he had often gone into the mountains to hunt for boar, thus earning the respect of the entire village. However, the village life did not suit him despite the comfort it provided. For the sake of improving his strength and making a better life for his son, he left the village by himself shortly after Sans was born to travel the continent.

For the next twenty years, Kendall would come back home every so often with plenty of money. The family situation back at home had slowly improved, and he even had several Class 1 Monster Cores for Sans to cultivate with. As their family life grew better, they eventually came to a Second Class City in the Qiangan Kingdom and opened up a small inn for ten years.

"My lord, our Kendall would always come back home at least two or three times every year. But in the recent years, he hasn't sent a letter back home or came back even once. My lord, please tell me. Where has my Kendall gone to?" The mother Shen Fang asked once more with a hopeful look.

Jian Chen gave a mental sigh as he wiped away any emotion on his face. "Aunty, a few years ago, uncle Kendall came across a very profitable mission and had to go to a far away kingdom. It's already been two years, so I'm sure he'll be home soon." Jian Chen didn't wish to worry the mother and quickly came up with an excuse. Although he knew that sooner or later the truth would come out, if he could delay it for now, then the two would come to terms that something had happened to him by themselves. They would at least be prepared, and when the time came for Jian Chen to tell them, they would not be as hurt.

Shen Fang had no reason to doubt Jian Chen's words and had a small smile on her face as she muttered, "No wonder he didn't come home after all this time, he's already gone far away."

After a while, Jian Chen left the place. He had already planned to take the two back to Lore City where the Changyang Manor was. With his identity, he had no doubt that no one would dare do anything to them.

For the sake of the two, Jian Chen waited another day to let them rest. Otherwise, he would have long since rushed to the Changyang Manor.

On the second morning, news from the southern stronghold reported that the Andreas Kingdom had finally fully withdrawn their entire army from the Gesun Kingdom. At the same time, they sent a letter

to the king of the Gesun Kingdom with a promise to compensate them for the war. Aside from this, the Andreas Kingdom had also sent the prime minister and prince to the Gesun Kingdom as a sign of good faith.

Simultaneously, general Liu received an edict from the king in hopes that all the generals of the strongholds could oversee the retreat of the enemy armies and maintain the strongholds once more.

By now, the war that had gone on for many months had finally come to an end, but this final conclusion was something that no one had expected. Many of the surrounding kingdoms that had remained impartial to the war sent men to find out what had happened.

Not too long afterward, shocking information made its way around. However only the major powers or leaders of each kingdom understood what the information meant, shocking them all.

The Gesun Kingdom had managed to build a relationship with one of the Eight Great Powers, the Qinhuang Kingdom. Although the distance between the two kingdoms was extremely far, the might of one of the Eight Great Powers could not be belittled.

Aside from this, the Gesun Kingdom also had a strange youth that was unbelievably strong. He had first appeared at the Pingyang Kingdom's imperial palace and taken the king himself captive. After that, he had gone to the Qiangan Kingdom and killed two experts over there before finally destroying the kingdom's Yangji Sect. He had also killed over a dozen Heaven Saint Masters from three different kingdoms, such an achievement was astounding.

"Did the Changyang clan's ancestor return? No one else but him could have such a strength."

"Has the ancestor of the Changyang clan made the breakthrough?"

Many experts who heard the news immediately thought of the same person.

After hearing that the Gesun Kingdom and the Qinhuang Kingdom were related, the news began to spread farther and farther away. Even the kingdoms countless of kilometers away heard the news and dispatched several envoys to come congratulate the Gesun Kingdom.

About half a hundred thousand kilometers away, the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom heard the news. The Heavenly Eagle Kingdom was one of the strongest kingdoms around and easily had double the population of the Gesun Kingdom. Within the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, there were sixteen Heaven Saint Masters.

Within the imperial palace of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, the monarch sat in a giant throne room with an elder and youth kneeling down before him.

Sitting upon the dragon throne, the king of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom gave a gentle sigh, "Who would have thought that the Gesun Kingdom would have become good enough friends with the Qinhuang Kingdom that they were given several Imperial Advisors for assistance? How inconceivable." The king looked down to the two people kneeling in front of him, "My son, prime minister Che, I've called you here today to give you an important mission. I want you to set out to the Gesun Kingdom tomorrow with gifts for them. Ascertain the relationship between the Gesun Kingdom and then the Qinhuang Kingdom. Prime minister Che, you should know what to do afterward."

“Your servant understands.” The elder spoke.

“Good!” The king muttered before speaking once more, “The lands that the Gesun Kingdom occupy are extremely fertile. Provided they are given time, they will sooner or later develop into a kingdom that is no weaker than our Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. No matter what relationship they hold with the Qinhuang Kingdom, it is worth our time to make friends with them to benefit us. I’ve heard that the king of the Gesun Kingdom dotes upon the princess Ge Lan who is rumored to be the most beautiful woman in the Gesun Kingdom. She even has a talent for cultivation as well. My son, your priority is have her hand in marriage so that our two kingdoms will be tied together by marriage.”

“Your son will follow father’s order!”

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With the great war coming to a close, all of the Heaven Saint Masters protecting the strongholds were withdrawn as well. By the second day, Jian Chen and the others planned to leave, but before they could do so, general Liu suddenly found them and said, “Honored Imperial Protector, we hope that your group will be able give us the honor of receiving you at the imperial palace.”

Without hesitation, Jian Chen replied, “I still have something important to do, Xiao Tian, you go in my stead.”

“Yes, Imperial Protector.” Xiao Tian bowed.

There was a regretful look on the general’s face, but he understood the meaning. It was beneath an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom to attend such a meeting, but having a regular Imperial Advisor was still more than enough face for the Gesun Kingdom.

“Imperial Protector, where should we go to find you afterward?” Xiao Tian spoke.

“Go to Lore city, I will be heading there in a short moment.” Jian Chen spoke.

“Lore City!” General Liu immediately made note to remember the name.

After the exchange, Jian Chen took both Shen Fang and Sans away from the city and speed off into the distance toward Lore City.

It was as if he had entered a whole new world where many years had passed. Jian Chen had left the Changyang Manor many years ago as a result of the Hua Yun Sect. Forced to hide his face, Jian Chen had to leave the Gesun Kingdom. When he was a young child he never would have thought that he would have made the transformation to become a triumphant hero.

Jian Chen flew through the air with the wind blowing past his face and whistling in his ears with a sharp sound.

The mother and son were protected by the wind element around them meaning they could freely fly without a problem.

Jian Chen had a strange look on his face as he looked forward and thought to himself.

“Changyang clan, will you still remember the name, Changyang Xiangtian?”

“Hua Yun Sect, how clearly do you remember the youth that you forced away?”

Chapter 434: Traveler Returning Home (Three)

Lore City was a First Class City of the Gesun Kingdom, but there were several other First Class Cities, so this city didn't have much weight to it.

Within Lore City, there was a total of four great powers. The Changyang clan, the Tianling Clan, the Cheng family, and the Yanshi clan. These four powers represented Lore City's strongest and were all separated within the four cardinal directions of the city. Out of the four of them, the Changyang clan had the grandest history. Going back to when the Gesun Kingdom had been established with the Changyang clan making their home here.

At that time within a fancy and sweet smelling room within the Changyang Manor in Lore City, several people could be seen talking to each other.

Within the room, a white robed woman around the age of thirty could be seen pacing the room restlessly. Despite the restless air around her, she still had an uncommon air that added to her personality and made her look very beautiful still.

“Fourth sister, are you here?” Suddenly, a knock on the door could be heard as a soft sounding voice made an appearance on the other side.

At the knock, the woman pacing inside the room opened the door only to see another beautiful woman around the age of thirty as well.

“Second sister.” Upon seeing the woman on the other side of the door, the woman wearing the white dress greeted the newcomer.

After being welcomed into the room by the white dress wearing woman, the second woman spoke, “Fourth sister, I've noticed that you've been pacing around frequently these days, has something happened?”

The fourth sister let out a sigh as she gathered her thoughts, “Second sister, I've felt restless these past few days. It's been quite difficult to calm down, but I don't know what's causing this feeling.”

The second sister's eyes lit up in realization as she let out a gentle sigh, “Fourth sister, are you thinking of Xiangtian again?”

At the name, the fourth sister immediately went quiet and tilted her head down in sorrow as tears began to appear in her eyes.

Seeing the state the fourth sister was in, the second sister could only mentally sigh to herself. “Fourth sister, please don't be too hard on yourself. Xiangtian was a genius that surpassed all others. The Heavens will surely protect him, it won't be long until he returns.” As she spoke, her voice began to fade away as if she herself was losing confidence in her own words. At the age of fifteen, Changyang Xiangtian had been forced to leave the Changyang Manor in order to escape the wrath of the Hua Yun Sect. It had already been several years since that event, and the clan had sent people to look for him, but they returned without any news of him. It was almost as if Changyang Xiangtian had disappeared

into thin air, and no matter how much they tried, nothing could be done. Thus, everyone within the manor had just assumed that Changyang Xiangtian had come across some sort of misfortune.

There was far too many dangers within the Tian Yuan Continent with murder being commonplace. Even if one was in a well-protected city, many ill-mannered mercenaries would often times still kill people. Without even a word, a fight could break out at any moment for any reason. A child that was only fifteen years old would find it hard to survive by himself in such a harsh environment.

The second sister's words made Bi Yuntian grieve even more. Her eyes began to well up with tears that slowly trailed down her face. Bi Yuntian's body began to shake uncontrollably as she sobbed, "I have no idea where my Xiang'er is, nor if he will even return." After so long without any news, Bi Yuntian had been extremely worried about her only child.

The second sister lead Bi Yuntian to her bed and sighed, "Fourth sister, don't be too hard on yourself. You and I both wish for the same thing. Mingyue's temper was too much. After her dissatisfaction over her engagement a year ago, she ran away in the middle of the night. Up to even now, I don't know where that silly daughter of mine has gone. As a single female drifter, I can't help but feel just as worried."

"Then there's eldest sister Ling Long, she must be more brokenhearted than the both of us. Ah Hu had all four of his limbs cut off, making life extremely difficult for him. He can only be a cripple for the rest of his life. That must be unbearable for him. I can only hope that when Ah Hu wakes up, he will not decide to commit suicide."

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Outside of Lore City, an azure and violet light could be seen quickly descending toward the ground before disappearing within the forest. After several hours of traveling, Jian Chen finally arrived with both Shen Fang and Sans in Lore City.

Jian Chen slowly walked in between several trees as he looked at the nearby city walls. His expression was quite complex, but that was because right around here was the home of his family.

Although several years had past, Lore City was still the same as it always was. Even the ancient scars from time, and past battles had remained where they were. Outside the city gates, plenty of people could be seen traveling in and out. Perhaps it was because of the war, but there was plenty of men heading into the city. There was only the elderly since all of the able-bodied men had already been recruited for the war effort.

Jian Chen looked at the closeby Lore City for a moment before walking with Shen Fang and Sans to the city gates.

Now that the war was all but over, Jian Chen had been able to enter the city without any obstructions. After leaving Shen Fang and Sans at an inn for the time being, Jian Chen left almost impatiently for the Changyang Manor.

Shortly after that, Jian Chen arrived at the clan's manor. There wasn't any noticeable changes to the Changyang Manor from a few years back. The same red wall continued to circle the Changyang Manor

with several trees planted around it. Their lush green leaves fell at random intervals, painting a beautiful scene.

Jian Chen walked toward the gates to the manor only to see it shut tight. Neither guards could be seen nor could any sounds could be heard. It was almost as if it was completely quiet in the world.

Jian Chen spread out his omnipresence to cover the insides of the manor so that he could see the scenery inside the manor in his mind.

There were very few people to be seen inside. Only fifty soldiers could be seen scattered about with a decent amount of servants and maids scurrying about. In the past, there had been well over a thousand people always busy within the manor, but now the manor was like a shrine. The elderly man that Jian Chen had never been able to gauge the strength of before came into sight. Now, Jian Chen was finally able to see his strength; he was a Fourth Cycle Earth Saint Master and currently the only one around.

Walking up to the gates, Jian Chen's hand knocked against the doors with a loud reverberating sound.

Not too long after, the heavy gates began to open as an ordinary looking middle-aged man could be seen. Looking at Jian Chen with suspicion, he spoke, "Youngster, who are you?" Although he could not be considered courteous, his tone still retained some manners.

Jian Chen said nothing and instead pressed against the gates with a little more force. As a result, the heavy doors swung open, revealing the giant courtyards behind it.

"Who are you, what do you want?" The man's face grew a little accusatory and his voice even attracted the attention of a nearby squadron.

Jian Chen tilted his head up high and spoke to the man, "Do you remember the fourth master of the Changyang Clan, Changyang Xiangtian!" Absolutely no emotion could be detected upon his face.

"What fourth master, what Changyang Xiangtiang! Youngster, you are spewing rubbish! State your name immediately!" The man's eyes immediately hardened into a terrifying glare. At this moment, the squadron arrived by the gates. There were ten people in total, and aside from three middle-aged men, there was another thirty year old youth.

When those three soldiers heard the name 'Changyang Xiangtian', their faces immediately registered shock before quickly running forward. Intensely staring at Jian Chen, one of them spoke with impatience, "Who are you, have you seen the fourth master, Changyang Xiangtian?"

Those three soldiers had been soldiers for the Changyang clan for a decent amount of time. They had once seen Changyang Xiangtian before and had been involved in the search for him. Thus, when they heard the name, they were instantly familiar with the name.

Jian Chen remained silent and looked at the three soldiers that were eyeing him. He didn't recognize a single one of them, but in truth, with so many soldiers, it was impossible for him to recognize every single one of them.

The three soldiers couldn't help but intently scrutinize Jian Chen's face. Then, one of them immediately came to a realization and cried out, "You look exactly like the fourth master... yo-you... you're the fourth master, Changyang Xiangtian!"

Hearing this, the other two soldiers blanched with shock. Looking closer at Jian Chen, they were able to recognize the familiar characteristics to his face despite the years of aging. This youth in front of him was their fourth master, Changyang Xiangtian.

The man who had opened the gates could only look at Jian Chen skeptically. He hadn't been at the Changyang Manor for long and had never heard of such a name before.

Jian Chen felt a stab of pain his heart. He had left the manor several years ago and had thought that the entire clan would have forgotten about him. What he didn't think was that some of the guards would still remember him.

Chapter 435: The Clan Leader Has Returned

"You... you really are the fourth master?" One of the soldiers asked Jian Chen nervously. While the other two looked at him expectantly. Only the soldiers behind the three showed confused expressions on their faces.

Jian Chen nodded his head, "Correct, I am Changyang Xiangtian. I didn't think that after so long, people would still remember me."

"You... you really are the fourth master!"

"It's the real fourth master!"

"The fourth master has returned!"

The three soldiers all immediately cried out with emotions after his response. They had been dispatched many times to look for Changyang Xiangtian in the past years only to end up with no clues. Searching everywhere for an entire day, they had never come by any success. When each attempt ended in failure, they had begun to lose hope.

"Quickly tell the fourth lady!" One of the quick-minded soldiers immediately ordered, sending another soldier running.

Jian Chen walked through the gates with a light-hearted steps toward the room where his mother, Bi Yuntian was.

Now that he knew of Jian Chen's identity, the soldier who had opened the doors for him didn't dare block him. Secretly moving to the squadron, he asked beneath his breath, "Brothers, since when did the Changyang clan have a fourth master? Do you know who this Changyang Xiangtian is?"

The soldiers shook their head in a hurry, utterly clueless to who Changyang Xiangtian was.

"I've heard my uncle say that the clan leader had a fourth son. Aside from the eldest son, second miss and third master, there was still a fourth master. His name seemed to be Changyang Xiangtian. However, he had left the clan when he was still young and disappeared without anyone knowing where he went." A guard spoke.

Several of the soldiers felt shocked and looked to Jian Chen in a whole new light.

Within the courtyards, Bi Yuntian and Yu Fengyan were talking to each other with worried expressions. On Bi Yuntian's face, the tear stains were quite noticeable.

"Fourth sister, I can understand your feelings, so please don't be so worried. Xiangtian is a genius with unparalleled intellect. I'm sure that he is currently hiding without any danger in his way." Yu Fengyan spoke gently. She had already repeated these words many times before. Over the years, whenever Bi Yuntian was feeling down, it was Yu Fengyan who comforted her. She comforted her with the same words each time without any variety to what she said.

"Fourth lady, fourth lady!"

Suddenly, frantic cries could be heard coming from outside the courtyard. The sound of the gates being knocked on was quite loud, allowing everyone to know that someone was pounding on it with enough strength to break it down.

The two women were frightened by the sudden knocks on the door. From her seated position, Yu Fengyan spoke loudly, "Who's making so much racket? Have you forgotten your manners?"

Hearing Yu Fengyan's voice, the soldiers outside the gates quivered for a moment before instantly remembering just why they were making a huge racket. Putting down their fists, one of them spoke, "Fourth lady, fourth lady! There's a report! The fourth master, he has returned!"

Upon hearing mention of the fourth master, Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian both didn't know how to react. They were both stunned since even the fact that there was a fourth master was an unknown fact to most of the soldiers.

"Fourth master... fourth master... could it be...?" Yu Fengyan suddenly thought with a startling realization before revealing a doubtful expression.

"Xiang'er, it's Xiang'er!" Bi Yuntian cried out before quickly running from the room with surprising speed,

At the same time, the white robed Jian Chen had entered the courtyard. When the doors opened, he could only see a familiar face and quickly came to a grinding stop. His entire body froze still as he looked at the white robed figure of his mother, Bi Yuntian. Even he started to feel tears in his eyes.

Bi Yuntian saw Jian Chen turn the corner. Although Jian Chen's current appearance was drastically different from before, Bi Yuntian had watched Jian Chen grow up—she would be able to recognize him anywhere. The mother and son shared the same blood and were tied together with a single string of fate. Right now whether it was Jian Chen or Bi Yuntian, both sides could feel an indescribable feeling within them.

The separated mother and son were finally reunited once more.

Bi Yuntian could only stand right in front of her door with her eyes looking straight at the familiar, handsome face of Jian Chen. Her entire body began to shake with emotions as tears began to flow out from her eyes like a spring.

Yu Fengyan had walked out as well only to see Bi Yuntian standing still. The moment she saw Jian Chen, her face suddenly froze in astonishment and utter disbelief.

Jian Chen had left the Changyang clan when he was fifteen years old, meaning he was still an inexperienced child when he left. That age was not the proper age to head out into the world by oneself, especially with the Hua Yun Sect chasing after him. The probability of survival was practically zero

Furthermore, Jian Chen had disappeared without a trace as well. From that day forth, he hadn't left a single clue behind for even the Changyang clan to find him. Thus everyone had been convinced that Jian Chen had already been captured by the Hua Yun Sect and had died a destitute death in a nameless grave. When Jian Chen had left he was an inexperienced fifteen year old that had no bodyguards, how would he be able to escape from an experienced sect like the Hua Yun Sect?

Although Yu Fengyan had used all sorts of words at first to console Bi Yuntian, they had all been white lies since she too hadn't believed that Jian Chen would have been able to survive.

But now, the person that had left without a word had finally returned out of nowhere. This made Yu Fengyan feel as if she was dreaming—that this was not really happening.

Jian Chen's eyes had tears to them as he slowly moved toward Bi Yuntian. He could only feel anguish at the sallow face of his mother, "Mother, your child has finally returned home." Jian Chen's voice had a whimper to it as he finished speaking before tears finally began to flow down his cheeks.

Bi Yuntian quickly wrapped Jian Chen in a tear filled hug as she began to pour out the feelings she had felt over the years, "Xiang'er, Xiang'er! My child, You've finally come home! Your mother has missed you so much!"

"Mother, I'm sorry. Your child was unfilial." Jian Chen hugged his mother as the both of them continued to freely cry tears of joy.

"The fourth master has returned, he really has returned!"

"I didn't think that the fourth master was still alive, we all thought that he had come across trouble!"

Within the courtyards, more and more soldiers that knew about Jian Chen began to gather while even those soldiers who didn't know about him started to talk to each other in surprise.

Yu Fengyan finally snapped out of her delusion and looked at the two. She could only feel joy in her heart as she spoke, "Xiang'er, you've returned safe and sound. Your second aunt truly feels happy for you. Let's have the two of you come inside to talk."

After she spoke, Jian Chen and Bi Yuntian followed Yu Fengyan into the inner rooms before she left to give the two some privacy. There were many things to be said...

Within the manor, news that the fourth master had suddenly returned home spread through the place like wildfire. In some time, the entire manor was stunned. Even the eldest aunt Ling Long and the third aunt Bai Yushuang heard the news. Although they were shocked, the two of them did not go see him. Ling Long was looking after her child Changyang Hu and was still in a stupefied daze that did not care for Jian Chen's return at that given moment. Bai Yushuang's relationship with Jian Chen's mother hadn't been the best and so his return instead soured her mood.

Jian Chen remained in his mother's room and continued to speak of every single event that had transpired after he left the Changyang Manor. Several things were hidden from his mother since they

were far too shocking, and Jian Chen didn't think his mother would believe him if he told her of those events. If he said them now, the entire compound would come to hear about them and be surprised as well.

From day to dawn, Jian Chen did not step outside. The mother and son continued to talk for hours on end. Suddenly, a large group of magical beast mounts stopped outside the manor. The majority of the riders were all sturdy looking men that possessed powerful auras. In total, there were around 800 men that formed a giant line.

Stopping right outside the gates, two men immediately opened the doors and shouted, "The clan leader has returned, hurry and receive him!"

Changyang Ba stepped off his Class 4 Magical Beast mount and tidied up his messy clothes for a moment before striding to the gates. Right behind him, every rider started to dismount as well to follow him inside quietly and obediently.

As soon as he entered the gates, one of the servants came rushing over with a joyful expression. With a bow, he said, "Clan leader, good news! The fourth master has returned!"

Chapter 436: The Feeling of Returning Home

As soon as Changyang Ba entered the gates, one of the servants came rushing over with a joyful expression. With a bow, he said, "Clan leader, good news! The fourth master has returned!"

Changyang Ba looked stunned for a moment. He had gone for several years without hearing about the fourth master to the point where hearing about it felt a little foreign to him. Quickly, he snapped out of his befuddlement and his eyes became daggers as he spoke at the servant, "What did you just say?"

"Clan leader, the fourth master, he has returned!" The servant spoke once more with tears in his eyes.

Changyang Ba's eyes widened as he grew still and an incredulous look overtook his face. It had already been several years since his fourth son, Changyang Xiangtian had left the manor without any news or clues to his whereabouts. In his heart, he had secretly feared that he would never see his talented fourth son ever again, thus he had felt wounded. Now, the fourth son he had originally thought dead had unexpectedly returned! He was not prepared for such a feeling and could barely believe his ears.

"Are you speaking the truth, Xiang'er as returned?" Changyang Ba's eyes stared intensely at the servant as his voice began to tremble with longing and hope.

"Clan leader, my words are absolutely true! The fourth lady and second lady have already confirmed his identity, there can be no mistake." The servant replied.

Hearing that the fourth master, who had mysteriously vanished many years ago, had returned caused the soldiers behind Changyang Ba to become stupefied. Each one looked at each other in complete shock and confusion. Many of them were senior figures within the clan and had known about what had transpired in regards with the fourth master. In their hearts, they had already thought that the fourth master had already left this world, but not a single one of them had thought he would return just as suddenly as his departure.

“Where is Xiang’er?” Changyang Ba quickly asked. This sudden development was extremely important to him, after all, he was his father.

“The fourth master is currently in the fourth lady’s room.” The servant replied.

In an instant, Changyang Ba’s figure flickered away as he sped toward Bi Yuntian’s room.

At this moment, Jian Chen, his mother, and Yu Fengyan were sitting in the same room and talking to each other. The entire topic revolved around where Jian Chen had been the entire time he was gone. Although Jian Chen tried his best to water down the life or death situations he had experienced, the two women were still utterly frightened out of their skins. For her child, Bi Yuntian’s tears had stained her clothes a long time ago and her eyes were a puffy red.

The two women began to think about just how chaotic the outside world was. Neither of the two could imagine being out alone in such a world, or how torturous being in the terrifying Magical Beast Mountain Range would be. To be faced with so many life or death situations, both Bi Yuntian and Yu Fengyan felt their hearts about to shatter from fright.

“Bang!” Suddenly, the thick doors to the room slammed open as the black robed Changyang Ba stumbled into the room. Hurriedly looking around, he scoured the room in search for the figure of Jian Chen.

“My husband!”

“My husband!”

Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian stood up quickly and cried out in surprise.

Almost as if he hadn’t heard the two, Changyang Ba’s eyes landed upon Jian Chen’s body and instantly felt the emotions well up inside of him. His eyes began to flow with tears at the sight of Jian Chen’s figure. He could still recognize his son, despite the drastic changes.

Jian Chen looked to his father with just as much emotion. As soon as the two saw each other, Jian Chen’s lips began to move slightly, “Father!”

At the sound of being called ‘father’, Changyang Ba’s entire body was frozen in place before he stumbled closer to Jian Chen. Slowly, he studied Jian Chen’s entire figure before finally smiling, “Xiang’er, you’ve grown!” Finally, the tears that were pooled up in his eyes began to flow down.

Jian Chen and Changyang Ba had not seen each other for many years. After several words, Changyang Ba moved back to his own room, leaving Jian Chen behind with his mother and Yu Fengyan.

The war had just ended and the soldiers of the Changyang clan had only just returned. As the clan leader, Changyang Ba had many things to do and was thus very busy.

With the return of all the soldiers and a critical figure of the clan, the entire manor bustled with activities and light. Many of the rooms that had been empty for a long time were cleaned and filled with light. At the same time, news of Changyang Xiangtian’s return spread to each and every single one of the returning soldiers, much to their shock and surprise.

Jian Chen only left the room of his mother when it was night time. Personally accompanied by her back to his own room, he was then greeted by two maids.

Although Jian Chen hadn't been back in this room for a very long time, the room was in the same shape it had always been. There was not a single speck of dust to be seen, and even the arrangements to his room looked untouched.

"Xiang'er, it's getting late, you should get some rest." Bi Yuntian's eyes reflected with a motherly love as she looked at her child.

Jian Chen nodded his head, "Mother, you should rest up as well."

Afterward, Bi Yuntian left Jian Chen's room, leaving behind the two maids.

"Fourth master, please allow this servant to help you change your clothes." One of the maids spoke softly. Seeing just how handsome Jian Chen was, the two servant girls couldn't help but feel a little red in the face.

The two maids were around twenty to twenty-eight years old. Although their beauty was not outstanding, they were still quite pretty in regards to the entire Lore City. With how strong the Changyang clan was, just how could any regular person enter the illustrious clan?

Jian Chen looked around his room with a nostalgic eye before speaking up, "You two can leave for now. I'd like to rest for a moment. If there's not anything important, please leave me be."

"Yes!" The two maids spoke and left the room, but their eyes reflected their disappointment. Not only was Jian Chen the fourth master of the Changyang clan, but he was also very handsome. Both of the maids secretly wished to join beds with Jian Chen and perhaps make the leap to become a phoenix.

Jian Chen stood in the center of the room as he looked around at each and every single item he had left behind. His mind couldn't help but think back to life when he was younger. A series of memories continued to fly through his mind, causing Jian Chen to feel it hard to rest.

"Home. This is home, my home. I've finally returned!" Jian Chen couldn't help but mutter to himself in a stupefied manner and some pain. He waited for this day for a very long time. The very thought of coming home had occurred to him many times before, and now, his wish had finally come true, bringing peace to his mind.

For the sake of having today happen and reuniting with his Changyang clan, Jian Chen had sacrificed many things and done many herculean tasks. He had traveled the line between life and death many times and had nearly lost his life once. If it were not for the azure and violet Sword Spirits, he would have long since left this world, never to return.

He had used his own blood to mark the path back home.

Just thinking about the trail of memories that happened after he left, Jian Chen found them hard to stomach. Finally, his eyes let out a transparent but shiny teardrop.

"Mrrr..." As if sensing the unrest in Jian Chen's heart, the white tiger cub grabbed onto Jian Chen's neck and began to purr as it rubbed its head against Jian Chen's face. A purring sound could be heard as if trying to console Jian Chen.

Jian Chen slowly brought himself to his bed, and without any last thoughts, Jian Chen fell asleep.

That night, Jian Chen's rest was utterly peaceful and free from worry. This was the very first true period of sleep he had since leaving. It was very comforting. It was unlike the other times where he had to maintain a guarded composure.

The tiger cub didn't sleep at all and instead curled itself by Jian Chen's body. Its head continued to look left and right as it observed its surroundings.

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"Xiang'er, are you awake?"

By the second morning, Bi Yuntian came by Jian Chen's room. Waking up, Jian Chen felt his body refreshed and very light-hearted—a feeling he hadn't had in a very long time. Was this the feeling of returning home?

"Xiang'er, did you sleep well?" Bi Yuntian's motherly nature returned back to its original radiance as she asked her child. Jian Chen's return caused her to feel extremely cheerful, and her entire body seemed to shine, indicating she had slept well for once.

Jian Chen and his mother spoke several words before leaving his room toward the eating hall for breakfast.

As the two walked to the eating hall, Jian Chen could only think about the memories of back then. Every day he had followed his mother to eat breakfast as well, this feeling he was having felt extremely consoling.

As Jian Chen and his mother entered the eating hall, the second aunt Yu Fengyan and third aunt Bai Yushuang were already eating their meals. By Bai Yushuang's side, a noble looking youth could be seen. His age was not all that different from Jian Chen—it was Jian Chen's elder brother, Changyang Ke.

After several years of not seeing each other, the third aunt's face did not change much. However, Changyang Ke's face seemed to have dropped slightly as his eyes looked to Jian Chen. His appearance was quite majestic with his pale skin, and although his age was far enough away from Jian Chen, his own appearance could match him.

"Xiang'er has returned, third aunt, take a look! After so many years, Xiang'er has grown even more handsome, he could practically charm any woman under the heavens." Yu Fengyan laughed as she looked at Jian Chen with some concern.

Chapter 437: Family Dispute

Bi Yuntian could only smile at Yu Fengyan's words. When it came to her child, she loved him dearly.

Bai Yushuang looked at Jian Chen with furrowed eyes, "Xiangtian, just what reason did you come back? The Hua Yun Sect isn't someone our Changyang clan can go against, just what trouble are you trying to give us?"

Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian were both shocked by Bai Yushuang's words. She essentially objected to Jian Chen's return almost as if she never wanted him to return at all.

The third aunt's words caused Jian Chen to feel slightly angry, but before he could say anything, Yu Fengyan beat him to it.

"Third sister, your words are completely unnecessary. Although the Hua Yun Sect is indeed very strong, our Changyang clan is not an easy target to bully. We have Chang Bai with us—you must know of the fact that he was able to kill many Heaven Saint Masters at the northern stronghold. As long as Chang Bai is here, the Hua Yun Sect will not have an easy time moving against us."

"Xiangtian forced to leave his home, and for the past few years had endure much suffering in the outside world. Now that Xiangtian has returned, we should be happy, not throwing cold words at him."

Bai Yushuang gave a cold snort before speaking ominously, "Xiangtian has never been an obedient child and always enjoyed causing trouble. A few years ago, he hurt my Ke'er, and later caused trouble with the Hua Yun Sect despite only being there for a short amount of time. Now that he has returned, who knows what other trouble he has brought with him."

Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian both looked speechless. They never would have thought that Bai Yushuang thought that way about Jian Chen.

Jian Chen was a little angry at this. His eyes began to shine dangerously with a sharp light, making Bai Yushuang a little afraid to look at him.

"Third aunt, I know that you object to my being here, but you needn't trouble yourself with my concerns. Whatever trouble I cause, I will naturally absolve them so that they will not burden the clan." Jian Chen spoke.

"With just you?!" Bai Yushuang gave a look of loathing before speaking eccentrically, "Fine then. You can show us just what you've learn from the outside world! Let's see you resolve the matter with the Hua Yun Sect, do not let the clan suffer for your troubles."

"The debt the Hua Yun Sect has with me will naturally be returned." Jian Chen spoke emotionlessly.

Jian Chen's words were brassy and arrogant in the eyes of Bai Yushuang, infuriating her. Mockingly, she spat out, "Xiangtian, this is not me belittling you, but the words of truth. Think about how strong the Hua Yun Sect is, have you forgotten about them so quickly? Going against the Hua Yun Sect by yourself? Hmph, even imbeciles can dream, I suppose."

Jian Chen's head tilted with a dangerous gleam in his eyes. He had truly been angered by Bai Yushuang's words, but in the end, she was still his aunt and elder. Jian Chen had no wish to have any ill will with any of his family members. Since he truly cherished his entire family as a whole, he kept his mouth shut.

His status was far different than what it is was several years ago. Not only was he stronger than any Heaven Saint Master, he was also the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom. With such a status, a trifling matter like this wasn't worth splitting hairs over, but Bai Yushuang's words and attitude was burned into Jian Chen's memory.

"Third sister, you're older than this, there is no need to cause such difficulty toward a child." Yu Fengyan's eyes narrowed with anger.

“What difficulty, my words are completely true.” Bai Yushuang squinted to look at Yu Fengyan without conceding her point at all.

Yu Fengyan began to grow even angrier, her chest began to swell with fury as she looked at Bai Yushuang, “Third sister, you...”

“Second aunt, there’s no need for this.” Jian Chen interrupted before giving a cold stare to Bai Yushuang. The stare caused Bai Yushuang to feel a little timid and instantly looked away from him.

“Third aunt, I respect you as my aunt and elder, so I will not dwell on your words. But in the future, I hope you do not regret your words today.” Jian Chen suddenly spoke.

“Aaah? Take a look everyone, look! He dares threaten me.” Bai Yushuang immediately seized an opportunity to speak against Jian Chen even more. With her hands at her waist, she pressed on, “Regret? What will I regret? Changyang Xiangtian, are you going to use your own hands to teach your third aunt a lesson? Everyone look closely! See how this child talks, how he doesn’t respect his elders. His delusional words, just how outrageous is he?”

Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian’s face hardened with anger.

At that moment, a strong and firm voice could suddenly be heard, “Haha, how lively it is today, everyone seems happy.” A simply dressed Changyang Ba could be seen walking into the hall with a cheerful smile, indicating just how happy he was.

Changyang Ba was a forty year old middle-aged man with the facial appearance of a thirty year old. Despite his age, he still had the handsome appearance from his earlier youth and his presence had a unique air to him.

“My husband!”

“Father!”

Everyone immediately spoke at his appearance.

Changyang Ba was extremely happy today. The moment he walked in, his eyes had immediately landed upon the figure of his fourth child, Xiangtian. Looking closely, the smile on his face only grew even wider since in his eyes, his fourth child was not only handsome, but a man that was not to be trifled with. Truly, Changyang Ba thought him to be a dragon among men and someone that would seize the opportunity to win at any moment. This combination of factors left Changyang Ba extremely happy and he laughed out loud. This laughter expressed just how joyous he felt. With such an emotion, what more could a father want?

After calming down, Changyang Ba sat beside Jian Chen, “Xiang’er, you must have felt wronged after all these years.”

Jian Chen immediately felt warm at his father’s words and replied, “Not even a little. Your child has learned many things from the outside world.”

“Good! Very good! Xiang’er is a true scholar!” Changyang Ba could only use those words to describe just how happy he was with Jian Chen. Seeing just how calm, well-tempered, and handsome Jian Chen was, he couldn’t feel any more gratified. He knew that his youngest child had truly grown up.

Seeing how Changyang Ba was treating Jian Chen, the nearby Bai Yushuang looked extremely unhappy. Since Changyang Ba was concentrating on Jian Chen, he naturally missed Bai Yushuang's face.

"Ai!" Turning around, Changyang Ba suddenly remembered something painful and the joy faded away from his face, only for a pained filled expression to replace it. "Unfortunately, A'Hu..."

At his words, Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian both sighed as well, feeling for Changyang Hu's disaster.

Jian Chen immediately thought to his elder brother Changyang Hu and instantly felt sad, "Father, your child wishes to see eldest brother."

Changyang Ba shook his head slightly without saying a word.

Jian Chen could understand that his father was in deep pain, how could he not? Jian Chen and Changyang Hu were extremely good friends, but now that Changyang Hu was in such a serious state, Jian Chen couldn't help but feel pained as well.

"Father, your child knows what has happened to eldest brother. Please don't worry, he will recover, he will definitely be healed." Jian Chen spoke.

Changyang Ba shook his head once more and sighed, "It is easier said than done. To regrow his limbs, it would require a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master. Within the Tian Yuan Continent, not only are they exceedingly rare and hard to find, but we do not have any power to invite one even if we found one. A person like that is a person in a world different from ours."

Jian Chen knew just how esteemed a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master was. They were an existence that was as high as a Saint Ruler. Radiant Saint Masters were rare, and it was also hard for them to advance in rank. They were not like their fighting counterparts, and so a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master was an extremely high-class existence.

"Father, your child wishes to see eldest brother." Jian Chen stated once more.

"Fine then!" Changyang Ba finally agreed. Without eating, he immediately walked to where Changyang Hu was with Jian Chen and the other three aunts.

Jian Chen walked behind Changyang Ba into the room. Right now, Changyang Hu was motionless on his bed, staring silently at the ceiling above him. On his motionless body, four bloodied bandages could be seen wrapped around his limbs.

Changyang Hu's mother Ling Long sat dejectedly by his side. Her hair was a mess and her face sallow. Both eyes were bloodshot and tear stains could be seen on her face, evidence that she had not washed her face in many days.

"My lady, I beg of you, please eat something. You've gone several days without food!" By her side, several maids were crying out to her with several plates of food and a washing bowl ready.

Changyang Ba sighed and waved the maids away. Standing by the bed with a sorrowful look, he glanced down at his eldest son. Changyang Hu had all four limbs cut off and wasn't even able to eat or drink by himself. A life like this was worse than death.

Chapter 438: Class 6 Radiant Saint Master

Jian Chen slowly walked to the side of the bed and faced Changyang Hu. Gently whispering, he spoke, "Big brother, do you recognize me? I am your fourth brother, Changyang Xiangtian."

Changyang Hu's listless eyes regained a dim spirit to them as he slowly looked to Jian Chen's figure. With little emotion to his face, Changyang Hu let out a pained smile before speaking with a rough voice, "Fo... fourth brother... you've... you've finally... returned..."

Jian Chen let out a small smile. He and Changyang Hu had been good friends since they were small, but seeing him as he was now caused Jian Chen's heart to pang with grief.

Jian Chen turned around to look at the people behind him, "Father, eldest aunt, I have a few words I want to say to eldest brother. Would it be possible to be alone for a moment?"

Changyang Ba nodded slightly, "Xiangtian, you placate your eldest brother now, okay?" With that, Changyang Ba left with the other two aunts, leaving behind Changyang Hu's mother Ling Long who was still standing there with a dejected look.

Jian Chen walked up to Ling Long's side and spoke softly, "Eldest aunt, you needn't worry. I will definitely let eldest brother recover. Please let me console eldest brother for now, I have a method to help him recover. I first must have everyone out of the room so I can speak to him."

Hearing this, Ling Long's eyes swiveled to him with a look of realization. Her arms trembled as she reached to grab at his hands, "Xiangtian, your aunt begs of you, you must console your brother. Help him. Help him want to live, your aunt begs you." Ling Long's face was filled with a pleading expression. She knew clearly what condition her son was in, and she knew that he had already lost his will to live. He couldn't take care of himself, drink or eat by himself, so he simply wanted to die. Living in such a fashion was a tormenting experience.

Jian Chen nodded his head, "Eldest aunt, you needn't worry. I won't let you down." Jian Chen spoke firmly.

Jian Chen's words were enough for the eldest aunt, causing Ling Long to clutch at the straws of hope. Her originally waning spirit finally rekindled once more as she left the room, leaving behind Jian Chen and Changyang Hu.

Seeing such a familiar face, Changyang Hu's eyes began to tear up as he thought back to the memories he had of the times in Kargath Academy. He could clearly remember when he had been bullied by Cheng Mingxiang of the Hua Yun Sect who had hurt him until he was bruised. His fourth brother had taken revenge for him by fighting Cheng Mingxiang and a dozen other students. In the end, Cheng Mingxiang's arm had been cut off, forcing Jian Chen to leave his home against his will.

The events from those years haunted Changyang Hu's heart. He knew that he had been the cause that had forced his youngest brother to flee from his home. It was his fault that his fourth brother had fallen to such disgrace. This had always made Changyang Hu feel guilty, since he was the one that implicated his own brother.

When his fourth brother had gone silent for years after leaving, Changyang Hu's heart had begun to think of the worst. Now that his fourth brother had finally returned, Changyang Hu couldn't help but feel relieved, and that relief nearly helped him forget about his own wounds.

Jian Chen sat by Changyang Hu's side. "Eldest brother, I know what you are feeling, but you must pull yourself together. Give me some time, and your fourth brother will definitely help restore your limbs."

At those words, Changyang Hu's face grew dim. Sighing, he replied, "Fourth brother, you don't understand. In order to regrow a limb, one must have the strength of a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master. Your eldest brother will never be able to stand again." Changyang Hu's face grew dark with grief and his eyes began to grow dim once more. Anyone could see that he was already starting to lose his strength to continue living.

Jian Chen didn't say another word, instead he extended his arm, and suddenly, all of the Radiant Saint Force in the area began to gather in between his hands. In a flash, it had formed a milky white glow that started to shine brighter and brighter in intensity. Dazzling the eyes, the shiny ball of light lit up the entire room.

If it were not for the fact that it was day, those on the outside would be able to see the strong rays of light radiating from the room.

On the other side of the door, Jian Chen's mother, Bi Yuntian, looked astonished at the Radiant Saint Force flying through the sky into the room Jian Chen and Changyang Hu were in. Astonished, the look on her face grew to reflect her shock.

"What a strong amount of Radiant Saint Force, who could be doing this? Could it be..." Bi Yuntian suddenly realized something. As a fellow Radiant Saint Master, she was able to detect the ripple of Radiant Saint Force and the intensity in which it was gathering at. What startled her even more was the fact that she had never seen such a fast or strong gathering rate before. Only a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master would be able to accomplish such a feat at the very least.

After leaving Changyang Hu's room, Changyang Ba and the other aunts were still feeling remorseful, so they had not yet noticed Bi Yuntian's sudden change in expression.

Inside the room, Changyang Hu could only stare in utter shock at the white light in between Jian Chen's hands. He couldn't believe what he was seeing, but he knew that this type of light was the Radiant Saint Force that only Radiant Saint Masters could wield.

Jian Chen's hands began to press down as the ball of Radiant Saint Force started to converge around Changyang Hu's body. After being surrounded by such a pure amount of Radiant Saint Force, Changyang Hu suddenly felt something he had never felt before. It made him feel comfortable. This type of feeling was something that the low class Radiant Saint Masters would never be able to accomplish.

After a brief period of time, Jian Chen finally put down his hands and stopped the Radiant Saint Force from flowing. Experiencing the comfortable bubble of Radiant Saint Force, Changyang Hu's previously pale face had some semblance of color to it. Even the wounds around his limbs had healed. In such a small amount of time, Jian Chen had accomplished something none of the other Radiant Saint Masters had been able to do.

Changyang Hu couldn't even speak because of all the shock he was feeling. He could only look at Jian Chen for an extremely long amount of time in silence.

Jian Chen sat back down. Seeing the look of shock on his brother's face, Jian Chen had a faint look of contentment. "Eldest brother, you may not know this, but not only is your fourth brother a fighter, but I am also a Radiant Saint Master. I am only a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master, but there is only a few steps away until I reach the Class 7 realm. Given some time, I will heal your body."

Changyang Hu's face immediately began to surge with emotion while tearing up. His voice began to quaver as he spoke, "Fourth brother, are... are your words... are they true? Are you really a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master?" At this moment, Changyang Hu finally felt the strength to continue on living.

Jian Chen gave a faint smile, "Eldest brother, did you not feel it? The Radiant Saint Force I can control is far stronger than any Radiant Saint Master that treated you in the past."

"Eldest brother. You needn't worry anymore. In some time, I will be able to regrow your limbs and make you normal once more. You must promise me to live until that day comes."

Changyang Hu couldn't find any words to describe the feeling in his heart. At Jian Chen's words, Changyang Hu had flung away any thoughts about wanting to die and his hope to live had burst with a new fire. "Fourth brother, don't worry. Your eldest brother will definitely wait for you. Your eldest brother will definitely continue to live."

Seeing the shadows of death disappear from his eldest brother, Jian Chen had a happy smile on his face before calling out to the people outside.

Changyang Ba and Ling Long both walked in, only to discover Changyang Hu lying in the bed in high spirits. All of the depression he had initially felt had been wiped away without a single trace of remnants. This change shocked and confused everyone on just what Jian Chen had said to create such an effect.

Bi Yuntian's eyes looked to her child with a loving look, having already guessed what had just happened.

"Ah'Hu, are you okay?" Ling Long had noticed the change in her son's expression and spoke in concern.

Seeing his mother's sallow face, Changyang Hu couldn't help but tear up as he whimpered, "Mother. Don't worry anymore. Your child is fine now. Your child will definitely continue to live."

At those words coming from her child, Ling Long suddenly felt the giant boulder weighing down on her rise up. Laying on the bed, she began to wail with tears.

Just at that moment, a group of a thousand men entered Lore City. Many of them carried a bright yellow banner that floated in the wind. On those flags, the giant words "Hua Yun Sect" could be seen.

Now that the war had finally died down, all of the major powers that had took part in the war had returned home. The Hua Yun Sect had been returning from the southern stronghold and were passing through Lore City to reach their sect monastery. Leading the group was a middle-aged man, this was the current patriarch of the Hua Yun Sect—Cheng Fei and was also Cheng Mingxiang's father.

At that moment, a figure in pure black quickly ran over and reached the Hua Yun Sect's group before being blocked by the two magical beast riders at the front.

The patriarch immediately recognized the man and said, "Let him pass."

The two middle-aged men who blocked the man immediately split way to let the black robed figure run past. Getting close to the patriarch, he began to whisper something to him.

Suddenly, Cheng Fei's eyes shined nastily as he barked out, "Changyang Xiangtian has returned home? Is that true?"

"It is absolutely true!" The figure spoke honestly.

Cheng Fei's eyes grew bright as he waved his hand, "Advance! Continue toward Changyang Manor!"

The Hua Yun Sect immediately changed path and started to trek toward the Changyang clan.

Chapter 439: The Hua Yun Sect at the Gates

Changyang Manor.

Jian Chen and the rest were still in Changyang Hu's room talking to each other when a sound could be heard outside.

"Clan leader, there is an urgent report for you!"

At this, Changyang Ba gave the signal for the maid to open the door. Upon the doors opening up, one of the housekeepers immediately came frantically running in, "Clan leader, something major has happened. The Hua Yun Sect is nearing our Changyang Manor!"

Changyang Ba's face immediately drained of color as he waved his servant away and wrinkled his eyebrows nervously. "If Xiang'er's return was leaked and they caught wind of it. That means they still have not forgotten about the ordeal."

Aside from Jian Chen, everyone else turned white, Bi Yuntian the most. Hurriedly grabbing at Jian Chen's hands, her face began to show her worry for him. After being apart for so many years before finally being able to see her child again, Bi Yuntian did not want Jian Chen to be forced to be a wanderer once more.

Jian Chen guessed at what his mother was thinking. Feeling a small twinge of pain in his heart, he spoke, "Mother, don't worry. Your child won't repeat the actions of the past."

"My husband, quickly, call Chang Bai! We heard what Chang Bai was able to do at the northern stronghold. With their two experts, I'm sure even the Hua Yun Sect won't act rashly." Yu Fengyang spoke with some panic and worry.

Changyang Ba shook his head, "Chang Bai and all of the other Heaven Saint Masters are currently at the imperial palace with the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom. This is a crucial time for them to improve relations with a superior kingdom, who would give up such a chance? I believe that Chang Bai won't be back for some time."

"Then what do we do? Chang Bai is our only Heaven Saint Master, with him not around, how can we deal with the Hua Yun Sect? Now that they are in Lore City, it won't be long until they arrive." Yu Fengyan spoke with concern. Jian Chen wasn't her child, but she was extremely worried for him nonetheless.

“Second aunt, you needn’t be concerned. I will take care of the Hua Yun Sect myself.” Jian Chen said.

“Silly child, don’t speak such foolish words. The Hua Yun Sect is far too strong for you to deal with by yourself.” Bi Yuntian looked to Jian Chen and held him in her arms, afraid that he’d leave once more.

“Mother, your child is not afraid of the Hua Yun Sect.” Jian Chen explained. Being at home warmed his heart and made him feel like a child again, almost forgetting about the troubles from the outside.

Changyang Ba spoke, “Xiang’er, you don’t have to worry. Our Changyang clan has a precious secret that has improved our strength to more than what it was several years ago. Although we’ve lost many men from the war, the Hua Yun Sect lost just as many. With Chang Bai’s Heaven Tier Battle Skill, our strength isn’t all that far away from the Hua Yun Sect. You stay here and let me deal with the Hua Yun Sect.”

“Hmph, the Hua Yun Sect is the number one sect in our Gesun Kingdom and has a power that even the imperial family is afraid of going against. Xiangtian cut off the arm of their only child, Cheng Mingxiang. This is something the Hua Yun Sect won’t reconcile over. If we don’t bring out Changyang Xiangtian out, our clan will be in deep trouble. We are not at an advantage here, we should have Xiangtian run away now. Do not let him involve our entire clan and cause the needless death of many.” Bai Yushuang spoke with a displeased look.

“How could we do that? Xiangtian has already wandered the outside world for many years and suffered more than enough for nine lives. He has only just returned, how could we usher him back out into the cruel world so soon?” Yu Fengyan spoke.

Bai Yushuang snorted before looking at Yu Fengyan with a justified look, “Open your eyes to see who stands by you. He is still alive and well, is he not? It matters not what he experienced on the outside, he is still living and obviously endured what little dangers he came across. If he continues to stay here, our entire clan will be in danger. Second aunt, I know you worry for Xiangtian, but I am only looking out for the entire clan.”

“Everyone here will stay their mouths!” Changyang Ba boomed, shocking everyone. He gave a hard look to Bai Yushuang that did nothing to conceal his anger, “No one make another sound, I’ve already made my decision. The Hua Yun Sect may be strong, but our Changyang clan is not a clan that can easily be bullied. Xiang’er, you stay here and do not leave. I will call some men and we shall see how savage the Hua Yun Sect really is. The Changyang clan will no longer fear them.” Flicking the sleeves to his robe, Changyang Ba left the area.

Quickly, the peaceful compound grew frantic once more as everyone heard the news with shocked breaths. Confused steps ran across the compound as the servants and maids ran to call every single warrior.

Bai Yushuang glared angrily at Jian Chen, “You truly are the evil omen of our Changyang clan. Ever since your birth, you’ve caused nothing but trouble, and now our Changyang clan will be led to ruin because of you.”

Yu Fengyan and Bi Yuntian both grew hard in the face, Bai Yushuang’s words invoked anger in them.

Even Changyang Hu turned his head to look at Bai Yushuang icily, "Third aunt, how could you say such words to fourth brother? It was Cheng Mingxiang's fault, not our fourth brother's fault. Fourth brother took revenge as a substitute for me for my problems. If there is anyone to blame, it is me."

"Third sister, Ah' Hu is correct. Xiangtian is not to blame for the past. As a Primary Saint, he was able to cut off the arm of a Great Saint. This type of strength is not something the Gesun Kingdom sees often. We should be happy at his skill and not angered." Ling Long spoke. In the past, she had treated Jian Chen indifferently, but now that Jian Chen had saved her son, she was especially grateful and had a better opinion of him.

Seeing the three sisters standing by Jian Chen's side, Bai Yushuang knew continuing on would be pointless. With a last snort, she left the area.

Ling Long walked up to Jian Chen's side and grabbed Jian Chen's hand, "Xiangtian, please don't take any offense and ignore your third aunt's words. The matter with the Hua Yun Sect needn't be something to worry about. As long as Chang Bai is here, they will not dare be too presumptuous. However, that Chang Bai is truly a secretive person. I had no idea that he was that strong. If it weren't for the news from the northern stronghold, we never would have known. If we had known earlier, we would never have dared to let you run away. These years have truly been harsh for you." Ling Long spoke with an apologetic voice.

Jian Chen had a faint smile to his face, "Eldest aunt, you needn't worry. Xiangtian is not someone that is easily bullied. Third aunt will sooner or later regret her words."

"Mother, you underestimate fourth brother. My fourth brother is a genius among geniuses. As an older brother, I am far beneath his power." Changyang Hu smiled from his bed. In his heart, he was truly cheerful because he knew that his fourth brother was a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master. No one had ever heard of one within the Gesun Kingdom before, and it was still rare among the entire continent.

Seeing her child's face have such a happy smile, Ling Long felt happy as well. She knew that during Jian Chen's talk with Changyang Hu, he had somehow thrown away the despair he was feeling, causing him to want to live once more. So, her gratitude for Jian Chen had grown immensely.

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At the same time in the imperial palace of the Gesun Kingdom, five of the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom gathered at a dining table. There were more than ten people gathered there. Aside from the king, the other people were the other Heaven Saint Masters from the rest of kingdom. This was a gathering that no regular person could attend, and even the prince of the Gesun Kingdom was no exception.

At the banquet, all of the experts of the Gesun Kingdom were giving toast to the five Imperial Advisors with extremely respectful attitudes that reflected their attempts to curry favor with them.

Although everyone was of the same tier of strength, their statuses were completely different and the power they wielded was just as different. These men were all well known figures that could fight with any other same ranking person easily. Their strengths were enough to defeat anyone a rank higher than them. Combined with the Heaven Tier Battle Skills they each had, their military might was on a whole nother level which richly described their existence quite clearly.

“Honored Imperial Advisors, this king truly thanks the Qinhuang Kingdom for their assistance. If the Qinhuang Kingdom has any use for our lands, we shall do our best to provide it. Although our Gesun Kingdom is quite weak, we will work as hard as an oxen.” The king spoke.

The five Imperial Advisors gave a polite smile at his words, but none of them knew just what connection the Imperial Protector had with the Gesun Kingdom. They knew not which power he was friendly with, so they didn’t dare offend anyone here. In the case they offended someone Jian Chen was friendly with, they would suffer the consequences for it. The five of them had followed Jian Chen from the Qinhuang Kingdom in hopes of improving their relationship with him, not a single one of them had wanted that to all go to waste.

At that moment, the headmaster of Kargath Academy, Khafir, spoke. “Honored Imperial Advisors. This one has a question I wish to ask. When this one was at the northern stronghold, this one heard that your distinguished kingdom had an Imperial Protector that came to save us. Might this one ask just who that honored figure is, or if the honored Imperial Advisors can speak just how he knows the Gesun Kingdom?”

Chapter 440: The Strength of the Changyang Clan

At that moment, the headmaster of Kargath Academy, Khafir, spoke. “Honored Imperial Advisors. This one has a question I wish to ask. When this one was at the northern stronghold, this one heard that your distinguished kingdom had an Imperial Protector that came to save us. Might this one ask just who that honored figure is, or if the honored Imperial Advisors can speak just how he knows the Gesun Kingdom?”

Hearing the question, everyone seated at the table immediately looked to the gathered Qinhuang Kingdom’s Imperial Advisors. Khafir had asked the question that was on everyone’s mind. Each one of them knew that as an Imperial Advisor for the Qinhuang Kingdom, there should be no connection with the Gesun Kingdom.

The five Imperial Advisors looked at each other as if to say something silently. They were all high ranking members, so if it had been just any regular person inquiring about their Imperial Protector, they would have been extremely displeased. Earlier they hadn’t dared reveal any discontent to the specific group in front of them for fear of offending one of the groups their Imperial Protector was friends with. However, this was a good opportunity to find out more about their Imperial Protector.

The five Imperial Protectors were silent for a moment before Xiao Tian spoke, “Our Imperial Protector’s name is Jian Chen, might one of you recognize the name?”

At the name of Jian Chen, everyone revealed confused looks. They had never heard of such a name before.

Seeing everyone’s faces, the five Imperial Advisors all felt some confusion themselves. With their eyes, they could see that everyone was not familiar with such a name. This result had made them feel curious as well, was there really a connection between the Gesun Kingdom and their Imperial Protector?

In another splendid palace hall, there was a loud clamor as many armored men were eating with joy and laughing with each other. Not only were there high ranking commanders, there were also many

representatives of the major powers to the kingdom. Even two of the king's sons were seated there as they gave toasts.

Among them, the most prominent looking figure was a youth in white robes. The youth looked to be around twenty-seven years old, and although he wasn't a part of the royal family, every single person within the halls was toasting him. Even the two princes were actively talking with the youth without any arrogance. If anyone who didn't know them had witnessed this sight, they would have assumed that the three of them were good friends.

This youth was Ming Dong. He had originally been with the Changyang Clan at the western stronghold. Originally, he had planned on going back with the Changyang clan after the war ended, but at the request of the king, he had found it hard to decline coming to participate in this feast.

"Jian Chen, it's been half a year since you should have left the Holy Lands. Tomorrow I'll head to the Changyang clan and wait for your return. I don't doubt that we'll see each other soon, then, we'll leave for the Tian Yuan Continent and defeat our foes!" Ming Dong thought to himself back to the days when he and Jian Chen were together. Not only did Ming Dong feel a brotherly camaraderie with Jian Chen, but he was also indebted to him. If it were not for Jian Chen saving his life way back before, he wouldn't have such power or Jian Chen's assistance now.

If he hadn't meet Jian Chen, he wouldn't have been able to go with Jian Chen to Mercenary City and meet his uncle Tian. If he had not met his uncle Tian, he would have never been able to walk the path toward the heavens.

After the feast ended, Ming Dong was invited to stay at the imperial palace for the night. Ever since the Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom had found out there was no connection between the Gesun Kingdom and Jian Chen, they had lost any interest on staying here. So when the feast ended, they declined to stay and immediately left the imperial palace.

When the five Imperial Advisors left, the experts of the Gesun Kingdom had no desire to stay either and began to return home.

Xiao Tian and the other four walked on the streets away from the palace for a while before Qing Xiaofan spoke, "What should we do next, where do we find the Imperial Protector?"

"To Lore City!" Xiao Tian spoke. "Before he left, the Imperial Protector said that he would be staying in Lore City for a while, let's go there."

"That works. However, I have a proposal. Since we don't get to do this often, why don't we go at our own pace. In any case, the war is over and it's unlikely anything bad will happen to the Imperial Protector, so let us go at our own pace." Tian Luo spoke.

After the other four men agreed, one of them spoke, "En, Tian Luo has a good idea. Since we are in no rush, we may as well take our time. Let us see the homeland where our Imperial Protector grew up and see just what environment this was to bring about such a genius."

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Lore City's Changyang clan.

The Hua Yun Sect had already gathered outside the Changyang clan's gates. Inside, several hundred soldiers were gathered by ready to fight.

The leader of the Changyang clan, Chengyang Ba, stood calmly in front of the crowd from the Hua Yun Sect. Right behind him, several elders of the clan stood by with frosty glares toward their enemy.

In front of them, the Hua Yun Sect's patriarch Cheng Fei had a dozen men behind him as well. Their eyes were sharp like swords and they were all Earth Saint Masters, but the scars on their faces made them seem even more intimidating.

"Changyang Ba, our Hua Yun Sect does not wish to quarrel with you, but Changyang Xiangtian cut off the arm of my child which is a sin I cannot forgive. If you do not hand him over to the Hua Yun Sect, my Hua Yun Sect will be forced to make a move." Cheng Fei spoke as he glared at Changyang Ba coldly.

Changyang Ba snorted, "Cheng Fei, that year has long since past. It was clearly your son Cheng Mingxiang's fault after he inflicted heavy wounds upon my own child, Ah'Hu. The troubles that happened afterward came from the trouble that Cheng Mingxiang caused himself. If you wish to blame someone, then blame your own child for his lack of skill. A Great Saint having his arm cut off by a Primary Saint." Now that the strength of the Changyang clan was far greater than before, Changyang Ba was not afraid of the Hua Yun Sect. So when it came to them, Changyang Ba freely spoke his mind without any filter.

Cheng Fei's face grew dark as he regarded Changyang Ba with a dangerous voice, "Changyang Ba, could it be that you wish to wage war with my Hua Yun Sect?"

"Although the patriarch is not here, our Changyang clan will not stand to be bullied. If you wish to force our hand, then we will naturally fight against you. Let us see just which power is stronger, your Hua Yun Sect, or my Changyang clan." Changyang Ba spoke without any semblance of humor being heard in his voice.

"It is true that our patriarch is gone, but do not think our Changyang clan will be bullied like this. We will uphold the strength that our patriarch left behind and right the wrongs that we have once committed those years ago." Another elder said.

Cheng Fei's face grew even darker as he spoke, "Do you not understand the consequence of offending our Hua Yun Sect? For the sake of a single person, the entire Changyang clan will fall, do you truly want that?" Within Cheng Fei's heart, he didn't wish to fight with the Changyang clan since he had heard of Chang Wuji's strength at the northern stronghold. At his current level, even if the two Heaven Saint Masters from the Hua Yun Sect were to join hands, it would be unclear on whether or not their sect could win.

"Hmph. Even if our Changyang clan falls and becomes a minor clan, the Hua Yun Sect will not be much better off." Changyang Ba laughed coldly.

The two sides remained still for a moment, both of them had a little fear in their hearts since both clans knew that their strengths were nearly equal. In the case that a fight broke out, both sides would take a loss and lose power.

After four hours of deadlock, a sudden energy could be seen flying from beyond the horizon. A small speck drew closer toward the Changyang clan before slowly descending down from the sky. Slowly, it arrived right in front of the Hua Yun Sect.

This was an elder with a fiery red robe and white hair that accentuated his elderly face.

Seeing this elder, the Hua Yun Sect's patriarch Cheng Fei immediately looked excited. Speaking with hesitation, he spoke, "Ma-master... have you broke through?"

The elder nodded his head with a faint smile and excitement. "The heavens have not forgotten about me. I never would have guessed that at the final moment, I would suddenly grasp the concepts of the mysteries of the world and make the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master."