

Chaotic 501

Chapter 501: Saint Tier Battle Skill

“Master, Artefacts are extremely powerful. This howlite is a precious material that can be used to make the Azure and Violet Twin Swords. When you manage to make both, you will come to understand the power of Artefacts.” Ziying spoke.

At a thought, a happy feeling spread through Jian Chen’s chest. “If I can remake the Azure and Violet Twin Swords, that would be excellent and would make up for my lack of weapon.” With that, Jian Chen stopped talking for a moment before immediately asking, “Ziying, Qingsuo, just what needs to be done in order to reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords? Would this howlite be enough to make the weapons extremely strong?”

“Naturally not. Howlite is only a material. In order to make an Artefact strong, it requires even more materials and items that require careful selection. However, master needn’t worry about this problem, Qingsuo and Ziying will take care of it.” Ziying spoke with pride.

“Then when will the Azure and Violet Twin Swords be finished!” Jian Chen was somewhat impatient. To him, a sword was an extremely important thing. Ever since his own Light Wind Sword had been destroyed, his heart’s longing for a sword had never been quenched. Because of his strength as a Heaven Saint Master, he was afraid that any weapon he used wouldn’t be sufficient enough to handle his abuse. Thus, he had never looked for a replacement to use, but now that he knew of a weapon he could create even stronger than a Saint Weapon, the Azure and Violet Twin Swords, he could hardly contain his excitement.

Ziying and Qingsuo could clearly feel the intense longing for a sword in Jian Chen’s words, causing them to hesitate for a moment. Responding, Ziying spoke, “Master, forging the Azure and Violet Twin Swords is not a very difficult process. It only requires a few individuals that can control fire to help. However, the difficulty lies with the materials themselves and gathering them. The howlite is just one of the materials, but that is far from enough.”

“Then what materials are needed? I will have the Qinhuang Kingdom help me straight away.” Jian Chen’s heart couldn’t help but beat wildly. He had been brought into the strange land by Ziying and Qingsuo many times before, so his heart knew about the powerful weapon that were the Sword Spirits. Thus, he was very impatient about being able to use such a powerful weapon.

Although Jian Chen had the strength of a Heaven Saint Master, had the Origin Energy of the Sword Spirits, and was an uncontested existence among those in the Heaven Saint Master realm, Heaven Saint Masters did not stand at the pinnacle of the Tian Yuan Continent. Above them were the Saint Rulers and the many other paragon existences that lived as hermits.

Despite not knowing just how terrifying of an existence the Saint Rulers were, Jian Chen could make a rough estimate. Elder Xiu back in Longevity Valley had shown him that Saint Rulers were merely the tip of the iceberg. Even with his usage of the Origin Energy, he hadn’t been able to cause a speck of a threat to Elder Xiu.

Jian Chen had already started trouble with the Shi family and the Jiede clan, both of whom had Saint Rulers behind them. After destroying the treasured heirlooms that were the Ruler Armaments, Jian

Chen was sure that the two families would never let him go. In the case the Saint Rulers were to make a move, Jian Chen would have no way to defend himself.

Aside from the Shi family and Jiede clan, there was still the Huang family and the most recent Sect of Dragon and Tiger. Both parties were not easy to bully, and the Huang family knew that he was in possession of a Saint Ruler's Skeleton. Although he had once helped out the Huang family, there was no guarantee that the Huang Family would bite the hand that had once helped him in order to acquire the skeleton. After all, Saint Ruler Skeletons were extremely valuable.

As for the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, they were now another headache to deal with because of the mess that had occurred from the matter with the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. The Sect of Dragon and Tiger also had hidden hermits that did not fear the Qinhuang Kingdom. Although Jian Chen's status as the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom gave him some protection, there might be some Saint Rulers that were willing to give face to the Qinhuang Kingdom, but there could possibly be some that didn't. People who would actively chase after Jian Chen.

This was an extremely important matter, but Jian Chen didn't truly worry about them yet. Instead, what he was truly worried about was the white tiger cub. Because if he did not hand over the tiger cub, he would have to worry about the Gilligan clan in the Cross Mountains.

Thus, while Jian Chen looked to be without troubles, the amount of pressure on him was tremendous. This led to him to not bother with the matters of having a wife or kids. His only concern was to increase his own strength.

The problem was after the Heaven Saint Master realm, it was not easy to increase one's strength as before. If Jian Chen were to forego the Origin Energy of the azure and violet Sword Spirits, he wouldn't be strong at all. Therefore, when Jian Chen heard that he could reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords, his heart began to beat rapidly.

Ziying and Qingsuo both looked quite troubled. Growing silent for a while, they finally spoke, "Master, the materials needed to reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords have no fixed pattern. Furthermore, these materials will most likely be under a completely different name here on the Tian Yuan Continent. If we were to look for them on name alone, we would never be able to find them. Each and every material has a different characteristic, but they would still be hard to find."

"For example, this howlite looks to be nothing different from a regular stone. It is incredibly heavy, but that is it. On the Tian Yuan Continent, there will most likely be many other types of stone that share a similarity to the howlite. These minute differences may vary, and practically no one will be able to differentiate between them all. So having other people help look for them would be of no use either." Ziying spoke helplessly.

"Then does that mean that in order to find the materials needed to reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords, only you two will be able to?" Jian Chen asked.

"Yes, master. Aside from Qingsuo and I, I estimate that no one else would be able to tell these are materials for forging a weapon." Ziying replied.

Hearing this, Jian Chen began to grow disappointed. Originally he had thought he could immediately obtain an Artefact sword and resolve his vexed state of having no weapon. However, he didn't think that there would be this problem, leaving him empty-hearted.

Growing silent for a while longer, Jian Chen gradually began to regain his usual mood. Although he couldn't immediately reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords, he at least had a new hope for making a weapon. Furthermore, this new weapon would be the incredibly powerful Azure and Violet Sword.

After calming himself, Jian Chen continued to ask, "Ziyang, Qingsuo, just how many materials are needed to reforge the Azure and Violet Twin Swords?"

"Master, our blades were created using the highest grade materials in the past. There were nearly a thousand different things, each one of them being unmatched in their rarity and usage. But master doesn't need that type of blade, and neither does master require an usual type of flame to forge it. All master needs is another type of blade that only requires sixteen materials."

Terminating his talk with the Sword Spirits, Jian Chen immediately snapped back to his senses. At the same time, he realized the group, who had been walking behind him, had suddenly appeared right next to him.

"Jian Chen, just what about that stone is enough to make you get lost in thought? What is that stone even? Could it be it has some sort of strange use?" Ming Dong's voice could be heard asking Jian Chen.

Hearing this, Jian Chen muttered, "This stone is a material used to forge weapons. I've been in need of something like this."

Ming Dong's face grew extremely solemn when he heard Jian Chen speak. Jian Chen having his Saint Weapon destroyed was not an unknown fact to Ming Dong, since Jian Chen had explained his experience to him.

"Forge a weapon? Imperial Protector, what use do you have for that? Do you plan to use that material to forge yourself a weapon? Any regular weapon pales in comparison to a Saint Weapon in terms of durability and strength. In a battle between Heaven Saint Masters, an ordinary weapon would be as good as a chicken rib — utterly unfavorable." Qin Wujian asked curiously.

Jian Chen smiled, but he did not offer an explanation. Taking the howlite into his Space Ring, he spoke, "Everyone should take a stroll now. Since everything here belongs to us, take whatever you wish."

Afterward, everyone separated everywhere, pleased to see if there would be anyone they would want. As for the gold or silver pearls or other precious commodities, none of them felt inclined to take them, since none of them were exactly lacking in money.

The third level of the treasury was quite big. Jian Chen, by himself, strolled here and there to see if there would be anything else that would be of value to him. After they were done, the rest of the items would be given to the men below to manage or perhaps sell. In the case that he missed something particularly precious, it would be a great loss if it were to be accidentally sold.

Just as Jian Chen walked past a dusty table, his body suddenly came to a stop as he noticed a stone slab on the table.

The stone slab was a square in shape, about a meter long and an inch thick. It looked rather ordinary at first glance, but on the slab, there were several patterns etched in it. The patterns were illegible because of the layer of dust.

Picking up the stone slab from the table, Jian Chen blew off the dust to reveal the patterns etched underneath. However, the pattern was incomplete on the slab. All that could be seen was a single palm holding a blade as it chopped down. The blade was not completely visible because of the small dimensions of the slab, so the blade point could not be seen

When Jian Chen's eyes registered the pattern, his heart immediately felt great shock run through it. An extremely mysterious feeling came bursting forth into his mind, forcing Jian Chen to stare at the picture closely.

Although the pattern wasn't complete and only had a picture of a palm and a blade, Jian Chen felt the power of the world through this picture. In this downward chop, Jian Chen felt that it contained the world within it.

"Th-this is..." Jian Chen's eyes grew wide with utter shock and disbelief. This pattern was no stranger to him. Back in the holy lands of Mercenary City, he had come across a Saint Tier Battle Skill, a battle skill a tier above a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

This seemingly unspecial slab was actually the strongest battle skill on the Tian Yuan Continent — a Saint Tier Battle Skill.

Chapter 502: Roping in Ming Dong

Jian Chen's breathing turned coarse, a Saint Tier Battle Skill was definitely the most valuable battle skill on the Tian Yuan Continent. This was something that even a Saint Ruler would drool at the mouth for. Even among the Saint Rulers, very few had a Saint Tier Battle Skill.

What Jian Chen didn't expect was to find in the treasury of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom an actual Saint Tier Battle Skill. This to him was a gargantuan shock, but the only problem was that this one was broken — it was not a full and clear depiction.

Despite this, Jian Chen was still incomparably joyful. Even a broken Saint Tier Battle Skill was priceless since the profoundness hidden within the patterns still contained a great mystery. Back when Jian Chen had been in the holy lands of Mercenary City, he had been able to absorb some of the fragments of the mysteries of the world. From that, he was able to feel a resonance with the slab in front of him. It was from this resonance that he had been able to tell that this was a broken fragment of a Saint Tier Battle Skill.

Clutching at the stone slab, Jian Chen couldn't help but feel his body shake. This discovery was far too great. Although he was unable to practice any Saint Tier Battle Skills, the stone slab would still be able to help him comprehend the mysteries of the world. To Jian Chen, this stone slab would be the bridge that would take him to the world of Saint Rulers.

The excitement in his heart persisted for a while before Jian Chen was finally able to calm down. Gingerly putting the stone slab into his Space Ring, he pretended as if nothing had happened and continued to stroll around.

In about the time it took to make a cup of tea, everyone had already searched through the entirety of the treasury, but no one had discovered anything too out of the ordinary. Aside from the howlite and Saint Tier Battle Skill, Jian Chen hadn't received anything else. Despite this, Jian Chen only felt joy and uncontested bliss that couldn't be seen on his face. He knew all too clearly that a Saint Tier Battle Skill was definitely no small matter. If the several Imperial Advisors were to know that he had it, they would definitely try to remove it from him.

"Have everything here collected and taken away." Jian Chen commanded to the soldiers outside.

"Yes!" The few soldiers immediately headed into the third story with their Space Rings and began to collect everything in sight into them.

While the soldiers busied themselves inside, Jian Chen and the rest gathered around.

"Has anyone found anything of interest?" Jian Chen asked.

"While the items in here are quite extraordinary, nothing really caught my eye and was worth me taking." Qin Wuming shook his head.

"That's right, the decorations I put around back home would be better than the items in here by several amounts." Qin Wujian spoke. As a Heaven Saint Master and general of the Eastern Deity Swords, money and items like this weren't worth much in their eyes.

Ming Dong's Space Ring had several items of considerable monetary cost. With a chuckle, he spoke, "I'm not as rich as you all, so I've put some stuff in my ring for now. If I am ever short on money, I will sell them."

Hearing this, Jian Chen smiled, "Ming Dong, you are still afraid of being short on money despite your strength? If you ever lack money, go and kill several Class 5 Magical Beasts and sell the cores whenever."

Rolling his eyes at Jian Chen, Ming Dong's mouth twitched, "Do you really think a Class 5 Magical Beast is something an Earth Saint Master could easily kill, eh? Just going into the forest to find one would take forever."

"If our friend Ming Dong would like, then he is always welcome to join our Eastern Deity Swords. He would at the very least be able to become a general with a hundred thousand soldiers under him and a salary guaranteed to fit his uses. Would you be interested?" Qin Wuming laughed as he spoke to Ming Dong. He had seen through Ming Dong's hidden talent — not even thirty years old and he already a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master. With this talent, he wouldn't even be fifty years old before he made the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master; this was more than enough for people to wish to bring him in.

Ming Dong didn't hesitate to shake his head, "I'll be fine. I am a person that loves to spend his days traveling. Spending every day within your camps is something I am not suited for. Besides, I have already decided that I will travel with Jian Chen. Wherever he goes, I will go."

Qin Ji walked up to Ming Dong and held his shoulder, "I knew that brother Ming Dong would decline uncle's invitation. However, Ming Dong. We are brothers through good and bad, and brother Jian Chen is already the Imperial Protector of our Qinhuang Kingdom. We cannot have your own status too far down, so I have a proposal I wish for brother Ming Dong to agree to."

“What proposal? Say it. However, I can’t guarantee that I’ll agree to it.” Ming Dong spoke unflinching.

Qin Ji patted Ming Dong on the shoulder with a laugh, “It’s nothing major. I just hope that when brother Ming Dong makes the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master, he will take up a position as an Imperial Advisor for our Qinhuang Kingdom. Naturally, we will not limit your movements. Instead, we will provide assistance whenever needed, just like we do with Jian Chen.”

Ming Dong pondered the proposal for a moment, “No restriction on movement and even assistance is provided. It seems to me to have no shortcomings.”

Seeing Ming Dong be swayed, Qin Ji hurriedly moved to strike while the iron was hot, “Of course there are no disadvantages. Our Qinhuang Kingdom is one of the Eight Great Powers with many vassal states nearby and an incomparable amount of power. Even among the Eight Great Powers, our Qinhuang Kingdom ranks among the highest. We have not been in any wars for several hundreds of years, so your time as an Imperial Advisor with us would be filled with leisure time. There is no need for you to do any work.”

Ming Dong went silent for a moment. Then, he finally agreed to Qin Ji’s request, “Fine then, seeing that we are brothers, I’ll agree to this. When I become a Heaven Saint Master, I will become an Imperial Advisor for your Qinhuang Kingdom.”

“Then that’s that!” Qin Ji laughed joyfully. With Ming Dong agreeing to become an Imperial Advisor, he was far too happy. It meant he would gain an additional hand and power when the time came for the succession for the throne.

“My dear friend Ming Dong, my Gesun Kingdom is also in need of Imperial Advisors. Might you consider this as well?” The king of the Gesun Kingdom suddenly spoke up.

Ming Dong knew that the king of the Gesun Kingdom was Jian Chen’s future father-in-law, so he was basically family as well. With that, Ming Dong gave a quick and concise agreement to him as well, “The Gesun Kingdom is the homelands to my brother, it is naturally my duty to protect the Gesun Kingdom to the best of my ability. Your Majesty, please wait for me to make the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master before I become an Imperial Advisor to the Gesun Kingdom. Otherwise, my strength as an Earth Saint Master wouldn’t be enough to uphold the prestige of being an Imperial Advisor.”

“Hahaha, no problem, there is no problem at all.” The king laughed. He had planned long ago to bring Ming Dong into his graces, but because his starting relationship with him wasn’t all that familiar, he had been afraid of being declined straight away. He had put it off, day after day, waiting for his sons to become friends with Ming Dong to foster a friendly friendship. Only after that had been accomplished would he send a formal invitation.

Chapter 503: Dismantling the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom

In the blink of an eye, Ming Dong had become an Imperial Advisor for both the Qinhuang and Gesun Kingdom. Although he wasn’t officially one yet, it was just a matter of time before he was. In three years, he should be able to make the breakthrough to become a Heaven Saint Master and become one of the strongest individuals on the Tian Yuan Continent. At the same time, his change in identity would overturn the sky and earth around thanks to the huge change. That was because an Imperial Advisor for the Qinhuang Kingdom was a far greater luxury than being a Heaven Saint Master.

Ever since Ming Dong had followed Jian Chen to Mercenary City, he had made the figurative leap over the dragon's gate to become a magnificent dragon. If not for that one trip to Mercenary City, Ming Dong would never have been able to become a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master by the age of thirty or receive such treatment.

"Imperial Protector, all of the items have been placed within our Space Rings now." One of the soldiers in charge of managing the items made his way to Jian Chen before respectfully handing over several Space Rings in his hand over to him.

Jian Chen took the Space Rings and then spoke to Qin Wuming and the king of the Gesun Kingdom, "We will have a share to this. Let us wait for it all to be converted into purple coins before splitting it."

"There's no need!" Qin Wuming laughed, "Imperial Protector, the items in here aren't worth any consideration over. Although they add up to a decent sum of money, it isn't something we would even glance at. The Gesun Kingdom and your family have more need for it than we do."

"Then that's that. These items will be taken by our Gesun Kingdom." Jian Chen wasn't one to argue. He knew that Qin Wuming truly felt the money was not worth his notice, but the Gesun Kingdom and Changyang clan were a different matter altogether. Neither of the two were as wealthy as the Qinhuang Kingdom. Several hundred thousand purple coins was not a small sum of wealth to them. Furthermore, if the Gesun Kingdom and Changyang clan wished to expand, the support of the Qinhuang Kingdom wouldn't be enough and they would need money to expand.

Afterward, everyone left the treasury. They stood by the giant gates where Jian Chen looked at the many times reinforced steel building. With a slight mumble, he said, "This treasury is quite considerable in price, why don't we take this as well."

Hearing this, the eyes of the king lit up. He had long since thought of the same idea, but he knew that he wouldn't be able to do it himself. Hearing Jian Chen bring up the topic of wanting to take the treasury building, he struck while the iron was hot, "My dear nephew has an excellent proposal. This treasury is something this king has been looking at. It is made from steel that was reinforced a hundred times over and has a thickness of five meters. Even a Heaven Saint Master would need to spend a considerable amount of time to break past it. With such a building, this king estimates it weighs about half a million kilograms, making it priceless. Even compared to that tungsten alloy door, the cost wouldn't be that major."

"Yes, with the steel being reinforced so many times, the price becomes rather considerable. Something like this shouldn't remain here, we should take it with us. We should have some soldiers come and cut the treasury apart into smaller pieces before putting it into our Space Rings for easy transport." Ming Dong suggested.

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before finally nodding his head, "Fine then, we'll have the best artisans in the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom come over and have them cut down the treasury. Remember, offer high prices."

Hearing this, one of the quick-witted soldiers spoke up, "Honored Imperial Protector, this soldier will go make the arrangements."

Jian Chen looked up at the sky, "It's already getting late, we've worked hard today. Why not take a rest and talk about the next step tomorrow?"

Afterward, everyone took up residency in the palace of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom while the soldiers made camp outside. All of the two hundred Earth Saint Masters from the Eastern Deity Swords kept a tight watch around the entire palace while even farther away, a patrol could be seen every three steps and a whistle every five. The residential palaces were under strict guard with the defenses under heavy lock and key.

That evening, the bright circular moon rose high into the night sky. Sprinkling down on the ground with moonlight, the darkness on the earth was scattered while the stars filled the night sky. There were so many stars that it was useless to count as they blinked like children.

The night was extremely calm and the moon extremely beautiful. Within the palace of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, it was even more quiet. If one were to stand at the very top, they would be able to see the entire palace and all of the men standing quietly here and there as if they were stone statues. From the moonlight sprinkling down on them, one would be able to barely see the twinkling silver armor they wore.

Within the palace, princess You Yue sat by herself at a stone table in a flower garden. Both hands were propped under her chin as her little head was tilted up toward the night sky in a daze. Her face had a stupefied look, making it hard to understand what she was thinking about.

"Princess You Yue, you're still admiring the moon this late at night? Why haven't you slept yet?" A voice called out from behind as Jian Chen somehow arrived right behind the princess with a smile.

Tonight, Jian Chen swapped out his robes for a black-colored one. Hidden by the shadows of the night, his entire person seemed to blend in with the darkness. If one wasn't careful, they would ignore Jian Chen entirely.

Jian Chen's voice came out of nowhere, causing the dazed princess to let out a cry in surprise and her body shook violently in fright.

Rising up from her stone seat, the princess turned around with some anger and pouted, "You can't move about so silently behind someone's back and scare them like that."

Jian Chen laughed before cupping his hands together, "I apologize, I've let the princess become frightened."

Hearing Jian Chen call her by her title, princess You Yue's eyebrows furrowed together before complaining slightly, "Changyang Xiangtian, do you plan to continue on calling me princess?"

Jian Chen was taken back for a moment before quickly responding, "Then, I will call you You Yue from now on."

Princess You Yue seemed pleased at Jian Chen's answer, and with a faint smile, her beautiful eyes looked unflinchingly at Jian Chen's handsome and stalwart face, "With it being so late, were you not able to sleep either?"

Jian Chen shook his head slightly before walking to the stone table in front of the princess and spoke, "I'm not accustomed to sleeping much anymore. I have a problem that's causing me some difficulty even after trying to find a solution for half the day. That is why I'm here, to clear my mind."

The princess sat back down and stared at Jian Chen with some indulgence, "What is causing you so much trouble? If it's convenient, why not speak to me about it? Let me help you think."

"It pertains to the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom." Jian Chen summarized his thoughts before speaking, "Now that the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is pretty much dealt with, all that remains are the terrible shambles of the kingdom. Right now I am thinking about just what needs to be done to these terrible shambles. If the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom loses its ruler and government, the entire kingdom will fall into anarchy. Several of the sects or families with power will most definitely take advantage of this to seize control of the territory, and at that moment, the entire Heavenly Eagle Kingdom would be sent ablaze with the flames of war. Even the innocent would be affected by this."

The princess thought for a moment before responding, "Changyang Xiangtian, you speak correctly. Now that the Qinhuang Kingdom's army has suppressed the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, the other powers of the kingdom won't dare to make any movements. But the very moment the Qinhuang Kingdom leaves, they will act without fear. There is an extremely huge chance that things will unfurl as you say, but resolving this issue isn't too hard either."

"What solution are you proposing?" Jian Chen asked.

"Did you never think about controlling the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom yourself?" The princess suggested.

Jian Chen shook his head, "I've thought of that before, but I found it an inappropriate action. Behind the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is the Sect of Dragon and Tiger who are still watching. They themselves are strong and they don't fear the Qinhuang Kingdom either. If we were to bring some men to control the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, we don't even need to talk about the innocent civilians of the kingdom, but instead the headache that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger would cause with their interference. Another reason is that the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is too far away from our Gesun Kingdom. It wouldn't be convenient for a connection to be made. So controlling the kingdom wouldn't be that easy. After all, we are not as strong as the Qinhuang Kingdom."

"If that's the case, then we may as well disband the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. Split up the territory of the kingdom before bestowing it to the more powerful clans and sects on the condition of them swearing an oath of loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom and become a vassal. This will simultaneously avoid any internal struggle and ward off any attempt of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger seizing control of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom." The princess You Yue was far more used to these matters than Jian Chen, so she was easily able to find a decent enough plan.

Jian Chen hummed as he thought about princess You Yue's plan. Finally, an excited smile gradually appeared on his face, "This plan isn't bad. Not only would the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom fade away, but it would also be given to the sects and families to control without fear of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger seizing the central control. This is killing three birds with one stone. Not bad, not bad at all. It appears our choice to take a stroll tonight was an incredibly wise choice."

Hearing Jian Chen's praise, the princess revealed a sweet smile on her face. Having been able to help Jian Chen, this was an incredibly happy affair to her.

"You Yue, it's getting late. You should sleep first. Tomorrow morning I will begin to implement your plan. I believe that it will be a success." Jian Chen smiled to You Yue.

"En!" The princess replied obediently as she rose from her stone stool and walked toward her own room. Having Jian Chen call her by You Yue instead of princess had already changed her. Her heart was overjoyed, and the previous sadness in it was cleared away instantly.

Chapter 504: Seven Regions

The next afternoon, Jian Chen sat on the golden throne in the middle of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom's palace. By his two sides were Qin Wuming, Qin Wujian, Khafir, Ye Ming, and several other Heaven Saint Masters. Down below, two rows of soldiers from the Eastern Deity Swords stood on standby; each one of them was an Earth Saint Master in strength.

At that moment, several Imperial Advisors from the Qinhuang Kingdom came in with the seven captive Heaven Saint Masters from the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. Stopping in the center, the ten Imperial Advisors stood in a calm line behind the seven captives. Not a word was spoken, but each one of the seven captives felt a tremendous amount of pressure stifle their hearts.

Over twenty Heaven Saint Masters were congregated in this palace hall. Despite not a single word being spoken, the quietness of the palace made the atmosphere overwhelmingly oppressing.

Although the seven men from the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom were reduced to being prisoners, they were still ultimately Heaven Saint Masters. From their bones, a strong and proud power could be felt leaking out. Each one of them had their heads held high, and it was only when they looked at Jian Chen that a complicated look appeared on their faces.

From his talks with Hu Ba from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, Jian Chen's identity had already been revealed for everyone to hear. The Heaven Saint Masters fortunate enough to survive all now understood Jian Chen's status, but it had still been very hard for any one of them to believe that this was true and accept such a fact.

Calmly looking at the seven captives, Jian Chen didn't reveal any domineering aura from his body. He seemed like an ordinary person sitting there, and it was only after a moment that he finally broke the silence in the palace.

"Out of the fifteen Heaven Saint Masters of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, only you seven are left." Jian Chen's stated.

None of the seven Heaven Saint Masters said anything. The reason why they had surrendered in the first place was because they had no desire to throw away their lives in vain. After all, they had nothing to do with the anger that existed between the Gesun Kingdom and the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. Because they were dragged into this, they were all afraid of saying something that may cause Jian Chen to grow angry and lose their life.

The Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom far surpassed whatever entity they could safely anger. He was like a gigantic mountain that they wouldn't even be able to blow wind on. It was only because of

the support of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger that they had been brave enough to fight the Qinhuang Kingdom. With the Sect of Dragon and Tiger gone, there was absolutely no way that they would fight against the Qinhuang Kingdom now. All that would remain to them on that path was death.

Seeing that no one was talking, Jian Chen continued to speak, "Does everyone know why this one called you all here today?"

"Honored Imperial Protector, please explain!" One of the individuals respectfully cupped his hands together with an expression that revealed no dissatisfaction.

"The Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is currently occupied by us. I will speak the truth to you, the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom will not survive. The name needs to disappear from the Tian Yuan Continent. To prevent the Sect of Dragon and Tiger from taking control, we will dismantle the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom." With this, Jian Chen stopped speaking for a second and awaited the responses from the seven.

Sure enough, each one of the seven Heaven Saint Masters blanched. Looking at each other, expressions of worry overcame their face, but no one dared to say anything.

"You seven, you each must belong to a different faction, I assume." Jian Chen spoke.

The seven hesitated for a while before one of them finally spoke, "The honored Imperial Protector speaks correctly. We seven all belong to a different sect or clan."

"Now then, have the seven of you decided what you will do in the future? Will you pick death? Or will you continue to live?" Jian Chen asked.

"We hope that the honored Imperial Protector will point to us the path of life." One of the individuals spoke. To bow and scrape their knees for a youth in his twenties was rather embarrassing, but when under a roof, one couldn't help but bow their head.

"Then, I will tell you my plan. I hope that everyone will find it fitting." With that, Jian Chen took out a map from his Space Ring and gave it to the seven. "Now, I will split up the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom into seven regions for you seven to control. Each person will be responsible for their own region, and from here on out, there will be no such thing as the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. There will only be the regions that you seven will have jurisdiction over.

Hearing this, the seven of them had looks of disbelief on their faces. Some were pleasantly surprised, some were confused, and some were doubtful. They all knew in their hearts that the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom covered a vast amount of territory. If it were to truly be split up into seven regions for them to control, then they would each find their own power and influence increased several times over. This to them, was an incredibly huge surprise.

Although they all belonged to clans or sects that could be considered to be the strongest of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, the amount of territory they controlled wasn't exactly large. The fact that the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had fifteen Heaven Saint Masters and because of the kingdom's meticulous planning, each family only had enough influence to cover about the size of a mountain, and it was incredibly hard to increase that influence. With Jian Chen's actions, it was as if he had delivered a free meat pie for them to eat and increase their power.

However, the seven individuals were old and experienced. They knew that Jian Chen wouldn't so freely send them such a delicious treat. In an instant, they guessed Jian Chen's plan.

"Honored Imperial Protector, do you mean for us to swear our allegiances to you?" One of them asked.

Jian Chen laughed, "You are half-right. Correct, with such a great benefit, how could I just give this away to you for free, especially when you first tried to be enemies to the Qinhuang Kingdom?"

Jian Chen's later half of his speech caused the seven to blanch once more, but before they could say anything, Jian Chen continued, "I'll not mention what happened in the past for now. I'll say what I plan on doing. My request is rather simple. I wish for you seven to handle the work for the Qinhuang Kingdom and swear loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom to become external members of it. Would you agree to this request?"

Although Jian Chen wanted them to swear loyalty to himself, his current strength wasn't enough to make the Sect of Dragon and Tiger cower in fear. By tying these seven to the Qinhuang Kingdom, the Sect of Dragon and Tiger wouldn't act so rashly in case their plans backfired on them. Otherwise, he would be afraid of walking by himself and having the person behind the Sect of Dragon and Tiger interfere with the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom matter.

Plus, these seven swearing loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom or to Jian Chen wasn't too different. After all, his status as an Imperial Protector wasn't just for show. It was only that for the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, the might of the Qinhuang Kingdom was far more prominent than an Imperial Protector at the strength of a Heaven Saint Master.

"Fine, I agree. From today henceforth, my Returning Cloud Sect will swear loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom and handle its affairs."

"My Bucashana Clan agrees to swear loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom."

"The Hilo Clan agrees to swear loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom."

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This time, none of the seven members hesitated to respond. With a crisp response, their faces couldn't hide their excitement. Although they knew that Jian Chen wished to use this method to control the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, it wasn't too important to them. The more important thing was that they had a robust pillar of support behind them. Furthermore, being connected to the Qinhuang Kingdom was something that many kingdoms wouldn't be able to get even if they tried.

Chapter 505: An Injured Qin Wutian

The reactions of the seven was within Jian Chen's calculations. After all, this was a good chance to curry favor with the Qinhuang Kingdom. Only an idiot would give up this once in a lifetime event.

"From now on, you seven are men of the Qinhuang Kingdom. I will leave this affair to you seven. If the Sect of Dragon and Tiger come to make trouble, they will be making an enemy of the Qinhuang Kingdom. The Qinhuang Kingdom will not sit idly on the sidelines for this." Jian Chen spoke.

"Yes!" The seven obeyed.

“You seven may leave now. I’ve already split this kingdom into seven equal territories for you all. When you get back, prepare to clean up whatever needs to be done. As for what needs to be done, I don’t think that it’s necessary for me to tell you what to do.” Jian Chen smiled.

“We know what must be done, please rest assured Imperial Protector. We will not let you down for sure.” The seven vowed.

After they had left, Jian Chen looked back to Qin Wuming, “General Qin Wuming, would doing this give the Qinhuang Kingdom any future troubles?”

Qin Wuming let out a small chuckle as he listened to Jian Chen. “Imperial Protector, you underestimate our Qinhuang Kingdom. Although the Sect of Dragon and Tiger is quite strong, the Saint Ruler in their sect is the only one of importance. The rest of their individuals aren’t even within the eyes of the Qinhuang Kingdom, and with the vastness of our lands, we have many subsidiary kingdoms which means we have many Heaven Saint Masters within our ranks. As for the Saint Ruler himself, he won’t be too much of a problem unless he truly wishes to go against our four Imperial Protectors with his strength. Otherwise, the Saint Ruler won’t decide to go against the Qinhuang Kingdom for such a small matter.”

Qin Wuming’s words let Jian Chen feel at ease. He had at first been worried that the Qinhuang Kingdom would be inconvenienced by this matter, but looking at it now, it appeared that he had put too much thought into it...

After a satisfactory conclusion was met, Jian Chen felt quite at ease with himself. Standing up from the throne, he spoke, “Everyone, let us split up, but not return back home just yet. Stay for two days or so, so the remaining powers of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom will cower in fear while the seven do their best to stabilize their territories.”

After everyone left, the dissolution of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom made its way out of the imperial palace and left everyone that heard the news in shock. Soon, the news made its way to every single corner of the entire kingdom. In an instant, magical beasts capable of sending messages could be seen flying through the air in droves to reach any place the information might not have reached. Combined with this method of sending messages, within a day, practically everyone within the kingdom knew about the changes.

After the information was spread, all of the commoners of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had different reactions than those with power. The commoners of the kingdom were all shocked for a good while, but they stabilized after some time and continued on with their lives as if everything was normal. As long as the commoners could continue to survive on the Tian Yuan Continent, it didn’t matter if the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom existed or if the reign passed to someone else. This matter didn’t concern them, so they left it at that. Naturally, there were several patriotic groups loyal to the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom that felt indignant at this. They voiced that the kingdom existed if the citizens existed, rather than the kingdom died with its king. They were discontent with how the Qinhuang Kingdom had done things, but because these thoughts only belonged to the minority, they stirred no large wave.

As for the various powers, they all made the same actions without exception. Each and every single one of them recalled all of their members and prepared themselves for expansion and war to fight and conquer territory. They knew that with the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom separated, this was a chance that was rare to come by. If they did not capitalize on this chance and prepare the horses and banners of

war, once the other powers stabilized, there would be no chances left. This action was even taken up by the city rulers of several major cities. Some of the stronger cities had even established themselves as king of the mountain with attempts to annex the surrounding weaker cities nearby in hopes of establishing a new kingdom.

All in all, after news of the collapse of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom was spread, the equilibrium that was maintained in the kingdom was shattered. The entire kingdom was tense with anxiety, and although it had been relatively quiet for now, those with a keen mind and a sharp eye knew that this was only the calm before the storm.

Afterward, it didn't take long for news of several factions erupting into war. However, another piece of information made its way around the kingdom, serving as a wake up call to every single inhabitant within these lands. It also extinguished the ravenous flames of desire in their hearts.

The Bucashana Clan, the Hilo Clan, Bloodmoon Mercenaries, Worldly Sect, Windfall Mountain, Earthfyre School, and the Double Mystery Sect all declared complete control and authority over the remaining parts of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. At the same time, they declared their adherence and loyalty to the Qinhuang Kingdom.

With the surviving seven Heaven Saint Masters of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom all in their own respective factions, it was no exaggeration to say that these seven powers were fully deserving of being the seven strongest existences within the kingdom.

With the seven greatest powers stepping into this power struggle, the other families and clans didn't stand a chance. None of them had a Heaven Saint Master or the rapport of a kingdom as strong as the Qinhuang Kingdom. This meant the seven powers of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom possessed no chances of being defeated and would leave any opposing family without a single pocket of resistance.

This bit of information allowed the originally nervous Heavenly Eagle Kingdom to return to the previous calm from before. Everyone knew that while the kingdom itself had been dissolved, the Qinhuang Kingdom had simply served to replace them as the ruling party, only stronger in terms of control. What could be ascertained was the fact that should the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom ever give rise to another Heaven Saint Master, that one would never be able to challenge the seven powers due to the Qinhuang Kingdom backing them up. As long as the Qinhuang Kingdom gave shelter, the seven powers would never lose their position.

The seven territories of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom were already territories that could not be disputed over. When the seven Heaven Saint Masters returned to their respective families, clans, and sects, they had immediately sprung into action and moved to claim their rightful territories.

And with the backing of the Qinhuang Kingdom, the acquisition of the territories had gone by smoothly. All of the lesser clans and sects had immediately pledged allegiance to these seven powers, and some of them had even become a subsidiary power to them. This had allowed for the seven powers to completely control the entire Heavenly Eagle Kingdom in three short days.

Among the seven, the group that profited the most was the Bloodmoon Mercenaries. They were able to use their one Heaven Saint Master to keep up the front while all of their Earth Saint Masters were among the next strongest within the kingdom. Thus, they were quickly introduced as one of the

strongest powers of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, but because they were at the bottom of the group, they were only able to claim a second class city as their stronghold with a small potential for growth before the war.

But now, Jian Chen's order had practically given the Bloodmoon Mercenaries the power to grow to become the owners of one of the seven partitions. The amount of area they controlled had grown ten times over, giving no small excitement to the leader of the mercenaries.

It had been four days since the fragmentation of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. In the original palace of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, over a thousand artisans from the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had already dismantled the treasury to a pile of scrap almost. There was no longer a third story, and the materials used to build that third story had been reduced to material that was later absorbed into the Space Rings of the Eastern Deity Swords.

Jian Chen gave all authority over to the seven powers to deal with any problems that may arise after the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had been disbanded. This allowed him to a hands-free approach. All he did after that was quarter some soldiers around the area to act as a deterrence. The next few days were spent in leisure. All that was needed was for him to wait for the situation to stabilize before he and the army could return to the Gesun Kingdom.

At this moment, Jian Chen and princess You Yue were playing chess in the flower gardens in peace. Ever since You Yue had helped Jian Chen with the problem of what to do with the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, the relationship between the two had grown far more intimate. Or at least, it was unlike the indifference from before.

Just then, Xiao Tian came walking in a hurry to Jian Chen with a serious expression and spoke, "Imperial Protector, something bad has happened. After being sent out to the Sunset Kingdom to capture the second prince, Qin Wutian has come back. He's injured."

Startled, Jian Chen ignored his game of chess to look at Xiao Tian, "Just what happened out there!"

"Qin Wutian came across an attack and suffered serious injuries. The hundred elite soldiers accompanying him faced serious damage as well." Xiao Tian spoke grimly. His face was dark, this was an attack to the power that was the Qinhuang Kingdom.

Thinking for a moment, Jian Chen suddenly stood up before asking, "Where is Qin Wutian!"

"In the official hall!"

Bidding goodbye to the princess, Jian Chen hurriedly left the garden to rush to the official hall.

Just as Jian Chen arrived at the hall, all of the strongest people from the Qinhuang Kingdom had already congregated there. Each one of them had a dark expression filled with anger. On one of the chairs, a white-faced Qin Wutian sat weakly on it. His entire body was drenched with blood, and his silver armor had several cracks running through it. On his chest was a clear to see palm print.

Chapter 506: Leaving For the Sect of Dragon and Tiger

Seeing the injured state Qin Wutian was in, Jian Chen's eyes flashed with a dangerous light, "Just what in the world happened for you to be in such a state?" He asked with a low voice.

“Imperial Protector, we followed your orders to go to the Sunset Kingdom to find the runaway prince. When we finally found and captured the prince, we ran into four of the individuals from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger on the road back. They injured us and rescued the second prince. Although none of my hundred soldiers were killed, practically everyone was heavily injured.” Qin Wutian spoke weakly.

“How ridiculous is this? The Sect of Dragon and Tiger seemed to have eaten the guts of the leopard if they are willing to oppose our Qinhuang Kingdom.”

“We cannot let matters stand like this. We must ensure that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger pays a heavy price in return.”

“We absolutely cannot pardon them.”

“The conduct of their sect is clearly meaning that they do not bother putting our Qinhuang Kingdom in their eye. This is a clear provocation of us.”

Hearing this, several Imperial Advisors were furious beyond belief. Their hair flew up like the mane of a furious lion — the actions of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had enraged all of them.

“We will make sure that we repay them in kind. The palm of Heaven does not neglect anyone and would strike down anyone with their hand.” Qin Wuming was furious as well as he growled.

“Father speaks correctly. No matter who it was that hurt my elder brother, that hand will definitely move toward them.” Qin Wujian spoke dangerously, his eyes glinting with a dangerous killing intent.

Qin Wuming looked to Jian Chen, “Imperial Protector, please allow us to go to the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. This matter is important to the dignity of our Qinhuang Kingdom, we cannot let things stand like this.”

“Yes, Imperial Protector, this matter encroaches upon the dignity of our kingdom. Let alone the trifling Sect of Dragon and Tiger, even one of the other eight great powers would have to face justice if they committed such an act. The men of our Qinhuang Kingdom are not some easy target to bully.” One of the Imperial Advisors spoke virtuously.

“Everyone speaks correctly. This matter has to be responded to in kind. We cannot so easily pardon the Sect of Dragon and Tiger for this.” Jian Chen’s voice paused slightly as he turned to look at Qin Wutian.

“Qin Wutian, you go and recover your strength first. I will send someone to the imperial city to bring all of the Radiant Saint Masters over.”

Qi Wutian nodded without a word before allowing himself to be led away by two other soldiers to rest.

After Qin Wutian had left, Jian Chen’s eyes scoured over the others, “Let us all discuss our plan on dealing with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. What ideas or plans might everyone have?”

“The Sect of Dragon and Tiger is actually willing to make an enemy out of us, for such a small and insignificant prince. It appears that they are so reliant on their backings that they no longer fear the Qinhuang Kingdom. Other than that, the second prince has some sort of particular status that is beyond our estimations of him being a simple prince.” Cao Keqin speculated.

“Right. That line of thinking is not different from this old man’s own. However, I believe that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger isn’t actively working to have us as their enemy. They are working on the second

prince's behalf. Otherwise, the hundred soldiers wouldn't have just been heavily injured. With four Heaven Saint Masters, killing them all wouldn't have been difficult at all." Another Imperial Advisor gave his input.

"No matter what goal they have, we should still pay them a visit to regain the face we have lost to them, and ensure no other faction undermines our Qinhuang Kingdom."

Jian Chen hummed for a moment, "How about this, we wait until Qin Wutian's injuries have fully healed before we set out and see just what attitude their sect has toward us."

"Yes, that'll do. If need be, we can also have the other Imperial Protectors come spearhead this." Qin Wutian spoke.

After that, everyone split up. Simultaneously, all of the Radiant Saint Masters within the imperial city of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom were gathered to heal Qin Wutian's wounds. Radiant Saint Masters were extremely precious within the Tian Yuan Continent, meaning that they were sparse in numbers. Within such a large city like this one, there was roughly a dozen of them, and they were not particularly strong. The strongest was only at the Fourth Class, so with the scope of Qin Wutian's injuries, it took two whole days for him to completely recover.

After he had left the halls, Jian Chen immediately walked toward the resting room where the king of the Gesun Kingdom was. Within, the Heaven Saint Masters Khafir and Ye Ming were both inside.

The four sat by the table for a moment before Jian Chen spoke, "There is a clash between us and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. We are on the verge of walking toward their sect. Your Majesty, you and your army will return to the Gesun Kingdom tomorrow."

"Changyang Xiangtian. Allow Ye Ming and I to accompany you to where the Sect of Dragon and Tiger is. Although our strength pales in comparison to the Imperial Advisors of the Qinhuang Kingdom, we are still of help." Khafir spoke.

"That cannot do, headmaster. You and senior Ye Ming will both have to return with the king. The ten Imperial Advisors and the three generals from the Qinhuang Kingdom will go with me to exact justice on the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. There cannot be an individual not at the Heaven Saint Master rank within our list." Jian Chen didn't hesitate to shoot down Khafir's proposal. Although it would be difficult for the army of the Qinhuang Kingdom to come across danger, precautions had to be made, and Jian Chen had planned on having Ming Dong and the others to be sent back with the army since they offered the best security.

"Very well then. We will take charge of the well-being of the army then." Khafir understood Jian Chen's worries without another word to be said about the matter.

The king noticed the grim expression on Jian Chen's face, guessing that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had done something particularly repugnant. "My dear nephew, this matter with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, how serious is it?"

"Your Majesty, please rest assured. The Sect of Dragon and Tiger is quite strong, but they cannot be compared to the Qinhuang Kingdom. This time they have offended the Qinhuang Kingdom's honor, this is something the Qinhuang Kingdom won't idly stand by for. If need be, I believe the Saint Ruler of the

Qinhuang Kingdom will get involved as well.” Jian Chen spoke without worry. With the Origin Energy of the azure and violet Sword Spirits, Jian Chen didn’t fear any Heaven Saint Master. All he truly worried about was the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger.

Upon hearing the words ‘Saint Ruler’, Khafir and Ye Jing both let out a startled gasp. A layer of strength that high was something that was beyond their comprehension. Although a Saint Ruler was only one realm away from them, the distance between the two realms could never be made up, like a fly going against an elephant.

The Tian Yuan Continent had actually an ancient saying — under a Saint Ruler, all are ants.

“This is already something we cannot get involved in.” Ye Ming sighed.

“Ah!” Khafir sighed, “To think those years ago, the very first headmaster of Kargath Academy was a Saint Ruler. It is unfortunate he was a free-wanderer who loved to travel. I have no idea where he has gone, and it has already been hundreds of years since we last heard from him. If the headmaster were to continue watching over the Gesun Kingdom, then our kingdom would have soared a long time ago.”

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On the second morning, the army stationed in the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had prepared themselves to leave. A million of the soldiers had already gathered outside of the city in a clearing. All they needed was the order and they would set out immediately.

“Jian Chen, you must be careful.” Ming Dong regarded Jian Chen. He knew that Jian Chen would be going with a group of people to deal with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, but he was especially worried for him.

Jian Chen chuckled, “Why are you so grim? It is not like I won’t return, do not forget I represent the Qinhuang Kingdom, the Sect of Dragon and Tiger will not dare to act against me.”

At this time, You Yue took off one of the accessories she wore. Hesitating for a moment, she then personally handed it over to Jian Chen before speaking with a whisper, “Changyang Xiangtian, this is the Longevity Lock my mother gave to me. It can bring peace to a person, and now, I give it to you in hopes that you will be protected.” You Yue’s face had gone red, but she was still able to wrap the Longevity Lock around Jian Chen’s neck.

Jian Chen gave an embarrassed smile as he tucked the Longevity Lock on his neck behind his clothes. Feeling the warmth radiate from within the object, Jian Chen’s heart felt at peace.

“This Longevity Lock, I will treasure it for sure.” Jian Chen smiled gently to the princess as he pledged. This was the very first time he had been given something by a woman, and it was something to be worn very close as well.

“Xiang’er, finish your matter with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger and quickly come back. The restoration of the Changyang clan is nearly complete. You are an important figure to our clan, without you, the Changyang clan will be unable to continue with the ceremonies.” Changyang Ba spoke.

“I know, father. When my business with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger is done, I will return.” Jian Chen replied.

After bidding farewell to everyone, the Gesun Kingdom and the Qinhuang Kingdom's army departed. Aside from Jian Chen, the generals, and the Imperial Advisors of the Qinhuang Kingdom, all of the others followed the army of the Qinhuang Kingdom back to the Gesun Kingdom. All that was left were a hundred soldiers who would protect the treasury as the artisans continued to dismantle it.

Jian Chen watched the army leave before returning back to the imperial palace. However, the overly large palace was now empty without a single person to be seen, giving off the sense abandonment. Only the sounds of the tempered steel of the treasury could be heard being stripped from within, giving a small bit of life to the palace.

On the next day, Qin Wutian's injuries were fully recovered by the Radiant Saint Masters. Not willing to stay much longer, the group immediately set out for the Sect of Dragon and Tiger.

The Sect of Dragon and Tiger was situated on top of a large mountain relatively close to the Sunset Kingdom, but it was not a place where any country could define it as their own territory. The surrounding area wasn't under the jurisdiction of any kingdom and belonged solely to the Sect of Dragon and Tiger.

The Sect of Dragon and Tiger had existed for a thousand years at the very least, so their sect being located here was not a secret at all. Many people knew of this sect's existence, but only a small amount of individuals knew that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had a Saint Ruler as their strongest force of power.

Although the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had existed for many years, they were very strict in their standards for accepting disciples. Thus, they did not have many of them — not even ten thousand of them. However, among these numbers, each and every single one of them were gifted individuals who would spend years under the tutelage of a Saint Ruler. Because of that, the Sect of Dragon and Tiger would produce one strong individual after another, leading to the sect's continuous rise in power instead of it weakening.

Chapter 507: Might of a Saint Ruler (One)

There was a total of fourteen people with Jian Chen as they traveled day in and night out. Finally, they arrived at the giant mountain where the Sect of Dragon and Tiger was and descended down onto it.

"The leaders of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, come on out quickly now." After setting down, the general of the Eastern Deity Swords, Qin Wuming immediately boomed. His voice traveled like the rumbling sounds of thunder throughout the mountains, echoing loudly through the world.

Perhaps knowing that the Qinhuang Kingdom would come to start trouble, the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had already made their preparations. As soon as Qin Wuming's voice boomed out, a dozen individuals could be seen flying forth before stopping twenty meters away from those from the Qinhuang Kingdom.

There was a total of sixteen people from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. Aside from the prior ten people who had been in the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, there was still another six men that were new. From those six, there was a middle-aged couple, two middle-aged men, and another two elders who looked to be in their seventies.

"You all must be men from the Qinhuang Kingdom." A purple-robed elder cupped his hands as he spoke to them with an expressionless face.

“Correct. We are from the Qinhuang Kingdom. Sect of Dragon and Tiger, not only did several of your members take away a criminal we captured, but you even injured my son. What is the meaning of this? Could it be that you wish for an open war to take place between you and the Qinhuang Kingdom?” Qin Wutian glared dangerously at the group of people from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger.

“Sect of Dragon and Tiger, you must offer us compensation for this affair. Otherwise, our Qinhuang Kingdom and your sect will cross blades instead.” Qin Wujian spoke in a low voice.

Hearing the two men speak, the purple-robed elder gave a faint smile, “If you two could please calm down. This one is the sectmaster of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger — Kris. Pertaining to the event that happened several days ago, I know of it, but it was nothing more than a misunderstanding.”

“Hmph, what kind of of bullshit understanding is it? Sect of Dragon and Tiger, do not think you can shirk your responsibilities. Our men have been injured by your sect. Speak then, how should this matter be absolved?” Qin Wujian spoke dangerously. Despite being in front of the mountain gates to the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, he was not in the slightest bit afraid of them since he had the forces of the Qinhuang Kingdom ready to support him from behind.

Qin Wutian stepped forward with a sinister glare directed toward the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. “There is still the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. This man is someone our Imperial Protector wishes to capture. Yet, your men still dared to steal him away. This is simply a clear example of not willing to work with our Qinhuang Kingdom.”

The sectmaster of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, Kris, did not grow angry. Instead, there was still a faint smile on his face, “Our sect truly did offend your Qinhuang Kingdom several days ago; therefore I, Kris, wish to apologize. However, this second prince has a special identity since his mother is a member of our Sect of Dragon and Tiger. So the second prince is considered to be a member of our sect and not an outsider. As such, we naturally cannot allow your Qinhuang Kingdom to take him away.” Kris spoke with a gentle voice, but the meaning within his words was loud and clear. As long as he or she was a member of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, the Qinhuang Kingdom would have no right to take him or her away. The second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom included.

When the men from the Qinhuang Kingdom heard the implied meaning of what Kris had said, they all took on a rather hard look on their faces.

“Sectmaster Kris, what do you mean by your words?” This time, it was Xiao Tian who spoke with unbridled anger in his voice.

“Haha, this one doesn’t mean anything more. It is only that the second prince is of our sect. Our Sect of Dragon and Tiger will naturally protect him. This matter, I hope everyone will not be too forceful on. Although our Sect of Dragon and Tiger isn’t of the same level as your Qinhuang Kingdom, we are not that easy to bully either. This one offers an apologies for the injuries inflicted several days ago. Seeing that your Highness seems to have been fully healed, his injuries must not have been too grievous, meaning that it was not a big matter either.” Kris spoke. Although his words were kind sounding, he did not place any of the Qinhuang Kingdom in his eye. He only spoke several words of apologies that seemed to try and even out the situation where Qin Wutian had been injured.

“Hmph, your Sect of Dragon and Tiger dreams quite grandiosely. How could the injuries of my brother be so trifling that it could be placated with words?” Qin Wujian spoke angrily.

“Then what might your Highness propose we should do?” Kris asked Qin Wujian.

Qin Wujian held up two fingers, “Two conditions. First, you will hand over the second prince. Second, whomever injured my brother, we want his arm cut off.”

Hearing this, the sectmaster Kris had a flash of coldness go through his eyes. The previously warm expression in his face had transformed into a sinister one as he suddenly spoke, “Absolutely not.” Kris was resolute on his decision and held no leeway for discussion.

Jian Chen snorted as he strode forth. Unyielding, he spoke, “Then this means to say that there is no way we can compromise over this. Since it is like so, allow us to give our masterstroke here.”

“Men of the Qinhuang Kingdom, your bullying ways are too much. You truly do not give our Sect of Dragon and Tiger any options.” The middle-aged man next to Kris spoke angrily.

“What bullying? It was you that first gave us trouble. If you did not provoke us, then we would have eaten our fill and would have no quarrel to give with you.” Qing Xiaofan retorted.

“There is nothing more that needs to be said about this. Then please allow our Sect of Dragon and Tiger to see the masterstroke of the Qinhuang Kingdom.” The other middle-aged man growled before drawing out his Saint Weapon to charge at one of the Imperial Advisors.

Following the actions of the middle-aged men, the other individual of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger immediately sprung into action as well. Both sides joined the fray, and in some time, practically thirty Heaven Saint Masters were fighting right in front of the gates to the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. Huge waves of energy continued to burst wave after wave from both sides and destroy the surrounding area in the blink of an eye. The battle of the thirty Heaven Saint Masters was so strong that several of the surrounding giant trees were reduced to splinters and the ground was littered with craters.

As soon as the battle first started, a transparent barrier wordlessly appeared over the gates to the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. It enveloped the entirety of the sect inside and prevented it from being targeted. This barrier seemed weak, but with the battle residue of thirty Heaven Saint Masters flying about, the barrier hadn’t even wavered a bit.

Inside the sect, several thousand disciples had been alarmed by the battle taking place outside. Standing one by one on the higher points of the place, they stared at the faraway but spectacular battle. With the barrier protecting them, they weren’t in the least bit afraid of being hit by a shockwave from the battle.

Fighting up in the sky, Jian Chen himself fought against three men. Fighting him was the sectmaster of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, Kris, the vice sectmaster, Hu Ba, and a seventy year old man. Each one of them were extremely strong, Hu Ba and the elder were both at the Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master strength, and Kris was a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master. He had already reached the peak of the Heaven Saint Masters and thus had a battle strength that was astounding.

With him fighting against three people, Jian Chen had decided to take it seriously. From the get go, he had used the Origin energy of the Sword Spirits which was the thing he relied on the most.

These three had taken the initiative to attack Jian Chen. Hu Ba had clearly told the others of Jian Chen's identity, warning both Kris and the other elder of the dangers of the Origin energy. For that reason, they didn't dare to fight Jian Chen directly. Instead they had two people distract him while the third would find an opportunity to strike at Jian Chen from behind.

Chapter 508: Might of a Saint Ruler (Two)

The sky flashed with a violet light as Jian Chen maneuvered the azure and violet rays of light around his body. Because Jian Chen was moving far too fast, the Origin energy of the azure and violet Sword Spirits turned into a curtain of light that covered his body.

Although Jian Chen had lost his Saint Force, which resulted in him becoming several times slower than before, his muscles had been reinforced by the three wisps of Chaotic Force, strengthening his body. Even without the Saint Force supporting him, the power of his body had already boosted his speed to a considerable level.

Despite Kris, Hu Ba, and the third trying to defeat Jian Chen, they knew that they could not even touch the strange energy that Jian Chen held in his hand. Their Saint Weapons never dared to cross blades, so the three of them felt that they had an arm and a leg tied behind their backs. They couldn't fight to their best ability, and felt extremely sullen because of that.

But what really made them want to spit blood out was that no matter where they slashed at Jian Chen with their Saint Weapons, the Origin energy would come from every direction possible at the most critical moment to stop their attacks. It traveled without fear toward their Saint Weapons and forced them to abandon their attacks to evade it. Otherwise, they would be forced to take an unbearable amount of damage.

Seeing that all three of them were completely helpless in dealing with Jian Chen, the three of them felt extremely furious. Immediately, the sectmaster and the elder of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger let out a roar and simultaneously used their Battle Skills against Jian Chen.

The two Saint Weapons shined with an eye-stabbing amount of light and streaked through the sky with the speed of lightning. With their attacks came a pressure that seemed like it could squash the world.

Sensing the pressure press against his body, Jian Chen's lips curled into a sneer and spoke coldly, "You think a mere Earth Tier Battle Skill could injure me?!"

Whoosh! Whoosh!

As he spoke, Jian Chen let loose two stabs of his sword toward the two battle skills. Two simultaneous explosions could be heard as the energy from the Earth Tier Battle Skills exploded on contact. A storm of dust then concealed the figures of all four combatants.

Jian Chen's entire body began to glow with a dazzling light. At a thought, he began to bring the element of wind around his body and envelop himself within it, bringing about a squall of wind.

With a flash of azure light, the gradual pick up of the wind element carried Jian Chen's body forward. In the blink of an eye, he had arrived right in front of Kris; with a brandish of his right hand, the Origin energy in his began to lash out in a series of intricate sword slashes toward Kris.

Kris' face blanched, and he immediately retreated backward to avoid going against Jian Chen.

Right now, the other two fighters of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had been blown ten meters away because of the fierce explosion. They wouldn't be able to get to Kris in time. Jian Chen knew this was an excellent time to pick them off one by one, so there was no way he would lose this chance. Immediately charging ahead, he chased after Kris without abandon.

Although Kris was a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master, he was not of the wind element so his speed would not even be close to comparable with Jian Chen's. The distance between the two of them was quickly closed. In the blink of an eye, Jian Chen caught up to him. The entire sky was filled with the azure and violet light as it burst out from every part of Jian Chen's body, leaving no escape for Kris.

"Then allow me, Kris, to experience just how dangerous this mysterious power, Hu Ba said, is." Kris' eyes flashed dangerously. Without stepping back, he brought his sword down to stab at Jian Chen with all his might.

Kris' giant sword stabbed toward the spot in front of him with an irresistible force and without any bit of resistance. As his giant sword came close to Jian Chen's chest, there was a crisp sound of contact that occurred afterward.

"Ding!"

The Origin energy of the Sword Spirits made contact with Kris' Saint Weapon with the unfathomable sound of metal hitting metal. The Origin energy had been fully condensed, and although it was not the same type of substance as a Saint Weapon, it was already as durable as steel.

A moment after the sound rang out, Kris' face suddenly blanched before a mouthful of blood came spitting out from his lips.

Although Kris was a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master, the Saint Weapon was still intrinsically connected to its owner. If the Saint Weapon was hurt, then, no matter how strong the owner was, they would gain a proportional amount of damage. Even a Saint Ruler would be no exception.

"This power is indeed terrifying. Hu Ba was correct, we cannot go head to head against him." Kris exclaimed to himself in astonishment. After personally witnessing the terrifying power of the Origin energy, he now knew just how amazing it was.

As that line of thought ran across Kris' mind, Jian Chen brought two more sword slashes down onto Kris' Saint Weapon before he could bring it back.

Kris' body began to tremble violently as another two or three spurts of blood came flying out. His face became deathly pale as three new chips appeared on his sword, bringing his body to an even more injured state.

"Sectmaster!"

"Be careful sectmaster!"

Seeing Kris injured, Hu Ba and the other elder had let out identical cries of astonishment. Immediately flying forward with all their might, they tried to do their best to distract Jian Chen so that Kris would not be further injured or killed.

A damaged Saint Weapon would cause a grave amount of damage to the body. Kris' fighting ability had already been diminished to the point of being no concern. Since Jian Chen wasn't after Kris' life, he simply stopped fighting him. He changed his targets to Hu Ba and the other Fifth Cycle Heaven Saint Master and did his best to fight against them.

The pressure on Jian Chen had noticeably decreased with one Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master short in the battle. He was able to unleash an endless amount of refined sword moves one after another by using the Origin energy as his sword. With his attainments in the path of the sword, he quickly inflicted serious damage on both Hu Ba and the other, causing them both to spit out blood.

"Damn it all, what power is that for it to be so strong?" Hu Ba cursed while wiping the blood away from his mouth. The Origin energy of the Sword Spirits made him so afraid to act because of the thought of hurting himself. Despite the power in his body, he was completely unable and afraid of using it, which made him very sullen.

Just at that moment, a tremendous amount of energy suddenly filled the air. In that instant, the clouds in the skies had begun to swirl and the wind had transformed into a hissing gale that pierced the ears. Above everyone's heads, a black cloud had started to quickly form and blot out the surrounding sunlight and drain color away from the area.

"Heaven Tier Battle Skill!" Jian Chen exclaimed in realization. Turning his head to look in a certain direction, he could see Qin Wuming, Qin Wutian, and Qin Wujian all releasing their Heaven Tier Battle Skills at the same time. The three battle skills were identical, so when they used them all at the same time, there was a sort of resonance between the three. They harmonized and made the power of the Heaven Tier Battle Skill skyrocket.

"Don't think that you alone hold the monopoly on Heaven Tier Battle Skills. Our Sect of Dragon and Tiger are in no shortage of them either." An individual roared before a tremendous amount of power shot out from him as he used his own Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

After this announcement, three other members from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger used their own Heaven Tier Battle Skills. Although the effect of their battle skills didn't achieve the same level of effect as the three generals, there was an advantage in numbers which brought the overall power to a tie.

Seeing this sight, Kris suddenly blanched before crying out, "No! Stop!"

Seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills would bring about a tremendous amount of energy whiplash and could destroy the mountain quite easily. This was where the Sect of Dragon and Tiger lived, and while there was a barrier that could protect them from any danger, the mountain would not be shielded. In the case that the mountain was destroyed, then the foundations of the sect would be gone, and the aftermath of such a thing was not something sectmaster Kris had wanted.

Unfortunately because of the prior events, both sides had already been brought to a boiling point where they could not even think of the repercussions. Despite Kris opening his mouth in warning, he was far too late.

Jian Chen grew grim as well. Immediately retreating several kilometers, his mind moved into action and brought the earth element in the world toward him before ultimately wrapping it around his body to form a yellow armor. Against seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills, the amount of power that would result

from them was many times stronger than a single Heaven Tier Battle Skill. Jian Chen had to be as careful as he could. While the armor of the earth element would be like paper in front of a Heaven Saint Master, it could at least protect his clothes and prevent him from getting into a difficult situation. This would also give Jian Chen a shallow level of defense since he didn't have Saint Force protecting him like the others.

At this moment, the ten fighters from the Qinhuang Kingdom and the remaining members of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had ceased their fighting to get as far away from the five as they could. Their Saint Force had already bubbled out and formed a protective layering around them in preparation to withstand the aftermath from the seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills.

Just as everyone was preparing their defenses, the seven battle skills had finally finished their own preparations. Following a furious roar, all seven unleashed them at the same time. A strong energy ripped apart the space between them, creating several tiny cracks throughout it. Ten meters within these cracks, the space began to swirl and surge about.

In that instant, the seven battle skills clashed together. But it was what happened afterwards that had caused everyone to widen their eyes in shock and disbelief.

Just when the seven battle skills clashed, there wasn't even a single bit of sound afterward. Not a bit of energy could be seen washing over the area, and the energy that had wrapped around the seven Saint Weapons had disappeared without a trace. At this show, everyone was completely stunned.

"A barrier, a barrier is blocking them!" A voice cried out. Hearing this, everyone's eyes immediately locked onto a spot in between the seven people. Sure enough, there was a barrier that had appeared out of nowhere. It divided the Heaven Saint Masters from the Qinhuang Kingdom and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. But not only that, the Saint Weapons from the seven had been taken away as well.

At this sight everyone — Jian Chen included — let out a gasp in shock. Not a single one of them needed to think to know that the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had finally put his hand into this battle.

However, what they didn't think of was that the Saint Ruler would be strong enough to stop seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills by a barrier without a problem or letting any energy escape.

"Is that the might of a Saint Ruler?" Jian Chen's thoughts were in turmoil. In the past he conjectured about their strength many times over. Although he could admit that they were all an existence of unbelievable strength, he would never have imagined that their strength would be at such a terrifying level like this.

Under a Saint Ruler, all are ants. This saying was indeed not a false one.

Chapter 509: Might of a Saint Ruler (Three)

"It's the elder sectmaster! He has come!" Seeing the barrier that obstructed the people there, the sectmaster Kris felt a surge of emotions flash over his face, forcing him to cry out in astonishment.

The hidden Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had finally come out, causing the fighters from the sect to have a look of joy appear on their faces. The disaster that had nearly befallen them had been avoided at last. Seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills would have caused the entire mountain range to collapse

which would destroy the foundations of the sect that had been protected from being destroyed by a barrier. Although this wouldn't kill many disciples of the sect, the destruction of the sect itself would be an extreme sign of humiliation.

"The elder sectmaster is far too strong. Even without showing himself, he has managed to put down a barrier right in front of seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills. Is this the true extent of a Saint Ruler's strength? There is truly a tremendous gap between a Heaven Saint Master and a Saint Ruler." With a pale face, the heavily injured Hu Ba muttered to himself in a daze as he looked at the barrier. The elder sectmaster of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger spent all of his time hidden in the mountains cultivating and never appeared in front of anyone. Although many people knew that there was a Saint Ruler in the sect, no one had seen him for hundreds of years, nor had the Saint Ruler ever personally taken part of a battle.

The spectacle in front of him was a first for Hu Ba. From childhood to now, this was the very first time he had seen the hermit Saint Ruler taking action.

Seeing their elder sectmaster caused all of the individuals from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger to be overjoyed. To them, as long as the elder sectmaster came forward, then even the most problematic of problems would be neutralized. After all, a Saint Ruler was something even the Qinhuang Kingdom would have to take seriously.

On the other side, the ten members from the Qinhuang Kingdom and the three generals all displayed extremely grim expressions on their faces. There was no surprise however. They had expected the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger to make an appearance.

"Disciples of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, stand back!" Just at that moment, an elderly voice echoed across the sky. It was unknown just where this voice had come from, but it sounded calm despite the booming volume and echo.

"Yes, elder sectmaster!" The Heaven Saint Masters of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger flew toward the interior of their sect as obediently as a baby.

"Kris, Hu Ba, and Mospen. You three stay here." The elder sectmaster's voice could be heard once more as he called out for those three individuals.

Hearing this, the three that had been called were stunned. Their feet immediately halted as they stood in place without another sound. Not even a question was asked.

The vice sect leader Hu Ba had been extremely moved. He had not thought that the elder sectmaster would unexpectedly know his name. To him, the elder sectmaster knowing his name was an extremely glorious honor.

Everyone from the Qinhuang Kingdom stood still without a sound. Against a Saint Ruler, they all felt as if their movements and actions were limited. It was no longer as easy as it was when they were fighting against the Heaven Saint Masters.

When Jian Chen personally saw that the three people he had been fighting with were told to remain, his heart began to drop. He was already realizing that the situation was taking a turn for the worst.

These three men that had been told to stay behind were the ones who had their Saint Weapons chipped by the Origin energy and were heavily injured. If the Saint Ruler had told them to remain behind, could he plan to support them?

Quickly, the ten individuals from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger retreated into the sect. They were behind the barrier of the sect where they could continue observing. At this moment, the Saint Ruler's voice could be heard once more, "Men from the Qinhuang Kingdom. In spite of everything, you've decided to take action against my Sect of Dragon and Tiger. Did you take my sect to be that easy to bully?" As he spoke, the kindly voice he has used before transformed to gain a hint of steel.

"Senior of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, this business was started because of your sect. If we were to ignore the matter with the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, there is still the matter that happened several days ago. Our orders were to arrest a criminal from the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom and escort him back to us, but along the way, the individuals from your Sect of Dragon and Tiger ambushed us. Not only was the criminal rescued away from our Qinhuang Kingdom, your people also inflicted serious injuries upon my son. I would like to invite senior to come speak to us about this." Qin Wuming spoke righteously.

"Nonsense. What criminal of the Qinhuang Kingdom? The second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is one with our Sect of Dragon and Tiger. How could he be sent away like a criminal to your esteemed Qinhuang Kingdom? The Heavenly Eagle Kingdom had already been given to our sect to govern and became our territory to uphold. Likewise, if we were to ignore that your Qinhuang Kingdom were trying to seize the territory of ours, you still wish to capture one of our own men. What reason is there for that?" The vice sect leader Hu Ba roared.

Xiao Tian sneered. "Since when did the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom become one of yours. According to what we know, the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom has nothing to do with the Sect of Dragon and Tiger."

"Correct, Karlow is the second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, but his mother is the great-granddaughter of the sectmaster, Kris. Thus, Karlow is considered to be a direct descendant of our Sect of Dragon and Tiger. He is no outsider. As for the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, the king of the kingdom had decided to give it to our Sect of Dragon and Tiger for a long time ago, making that territory ours." This time it was Mospen that spoke. Despite his heavy injuries, his voice was still as exuberant as ever.

Soon, the two sides descended into an argumentative clamor before the Saint Ruler finally spoke, "Enough, no more squabbling!"

At a word, both the Sect of Dragon and Tiger and the Qinhuang Kingdom obediently closed their mouths. They dared to speak reason to the Saint Ruler, but not to go against him.

The Saint Ruler began to speak, "The second prince of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom is a member of our Sect of Dragon and Tiger. For such a small reason, we cannot hand him over to your Qinhuang Kingdom. Men from the Qinhuang Kingdom, you have squabbled, and you have fought. This business ends here. To make amends for the injuries inflicted upon you by our Sect of Dragon and Tiger, we shall offer you the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. Now, you may all leave."

Hearing this, everyone from the Qinhuang Kingdom revealed ugly looks on their faces. While the Saint Ruler's words could be considered to sound kind, his way of doing things was hegemonic in nature. Not

only was he protecting the second prince, he was also shifting the responsibilities of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger completely. The Heavenly Eagle Kingdom was already considered part of the Qinhuang Kingdom, so gifting it or not made no difference. Unless, the Sect of Dragon and Tiger was willing to fight the Qinhuang Kingdom for territory?

The still hidden Saint Ruler spoke again after that, "Now that the business between the Qinhuang Kingdom and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger is settled, there is still the problem of what happened to Kris and the other two. Their Saint Weapons were damaged, and although it can be healed, their vital energy has been injured as well. The youngster who damaged them three, it is time you offer your compensate to my Sect of Dragon and Tiger."

Jian Chen growled furiously, "I had no idea that senior would deal in such a manner like this."

The men from the Qinhuang Kingdom all blanched. Jian Chen was the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, but he had injured the three experts from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. To demand that the grand Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom give compensation, was simply a slap in the face to the Qinhuang Kingdom.

"Hmph. A mere Heaven Saint Master dares speak back to me." Unknowingly, the hidden Saint Ruler suddenly grew furious. At his words, a transparent barrier suddenly appeared around Jian Chen's body, trapping him inside like a prisoner. This barrier was personally created by a Saint Ruler and was far stronger than the barriers Jian Chen had seen used by the influential clan members back in the Gathering of the Mercenaries in Mercenary City. Even if a Heaven Saint Master were to use a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, it wouldn't be able to break apart this seemingly weak barrier.

Seeing that Jian Chen had been trapped by the Saint Ruler, everyone from the Qinhuang Kingdom grew indignant. Xiao Tian himself immediately shouted, "Senior, what is the meaning of this? Could it be that you wish to make our Qinhuang Kingdom an enemy?"

"Your Sect of Dragon and Tiger is too savage, do you wish to start a war?"

Everyone from the Qinhuang Kingdom felt indignant at this injustice. Each one of them was extremely angry at the Saint Ruler's conduct. If not for the fact that they were up against a Saint Ruler, they would have leaped into action a long time ago.

Jian Chen was angry as well. Although he was extremely afraid of the strength of a Saint Ruler, he was not such a man that would bow and scrape his head when bullied. Using the Origin energy of the Sword Spirits, he began to stab at the barrier without any hesitation.

Jian Chen wasn't certain if the Origin energy would be enough to break through the barrier that a Saint Ruler had personally put down, but now was fortunately a good time to test it out.

"Bo!"

Just as the Origin energy stabbed into the barrier, there was a light sound as the barrier surrounding Jian Chen completely shattered. The barrier that had been strong enough to withstand seven Heaven Tier Battle Skills seemed like a balloon popped with a needle in front of Jian Chen.

At this sight, everyone from both the Qinhuang Kingdom and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had been shocked into silence. Each one of them had a look of sheer disbelief on their faces.

“Eh?!” The still hidden Saint Ruler had let out a surprised cry. He was clearly astonished that Jian Chen was able to pierce through the barrier he had put down.

The entire place was quiet for some time before the Saint Ruler finally spoke once more. “Youngster, what power is that you have. Tell me how you obtained such a power and this old man will let you go.” The Origin energy of the azure and violet Sword Spirits caused even the Saint Ruler to covet it.

“Don’t think that I would tell you!” Jian Chen replied without hesitation.

“You seek death!” The Saint Ruler was furious. The entire horizon seemed to surge with energy as a tremendous amount of pressure came forth from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger toward Jian Chen.

Seeing that the Saint Ruler was about to make a move, Xiao Tian’s face drained of color before hurriedly shouting, “Halt! That is the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom. Do you think that you could act toward an Imperial Protector with success?”

The pressure in the sky quickly disappeared and the surge of energy on the horizon just as quickly calmed down as well. Xiao Tian’s words had stopped the Saint Ruler from doing anything to Jian Chen. An Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom was in particularly quite special. The Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger himself could not just injure one without reason. In the case that he did, then all pretense of cordiality between the Qinhuang Kingdom and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger would be dropped and the Qinhuang Kingdom would immediately march for them in open war.

“This youth is the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom?” The Saint Ruler asked, clearly not believing Jian Chen’s identity.

“Correct. Jian Chen is indeed the Imperial Protector of our Qinhuang Kingdom. His status is equivalent to the four honored Imperial Protectors of our Qinhuang Kingdom of the past.” Qing Xiaofan spoke, clearly describing just how sublime Jian Chen’s status was in the Qinhuang Kingdom.

This time, the Saint Ruler remained quiet for a very long time. Although Jian Chen was just a Heaven Saint Master, the fact that he was the Imperial Protector made the Saint Ruler afraid of the consequences. He knew in his heart that if he did not treat this matter with care, then the four Saint Rulers of the Qinhuang Kingdom would come themselves.

“You may go now!” The Saint Ruler’s voice boomed half a moment later.

Hearing this, the dark-faced Jian Chen and the others from the Qinhuang Kingdom gave each other a stare. With a faint nod, they left the area promptly. Everyone knew that with the Saint Ruler stepping out, it would make no sense for them to remain here any longer. It would be best to first leave and discuss things for the future.

Just as everyone rose into the air, the horizons boomed with the voice of the Saint Ruler once more. “Although you are an Imperial Protector, you have offended this old man nonetheless. If I do not teach you a lesson here, then there will be others who will take me to be an easy target to bully.” The space behind Jian Chen’s body suddenly began to surge and twist violently within itself. A tremendous amount of energy came spiraling out from the space and slammed ruthlessly into Jian Chen’s back.

Chapter 510: Heavy Damages

Just as everyone rose into the air, the horizons boomed with the voice of the Saint Ruler once more. "Although you are an Imperial Protector, you have offended this old man nonetheless. If I do not teach you a lesson here, then there will be others who will take me to be an easy target to bully." The space behind Jian Chen's body suddenly began to surge and twist violently within itself. A tremendous amount of energy came spiraling out from the space and slammed ruthlessly into Jian Chen's back

Although Jian Chen had felt something coming toward his back, he was not able to do anything to dodge because the space around him had frozen for a moment. His body was stuck rigidly in place and was powerless to move in any direction.

"Pfff!" Feeling an extremely large amount of energy slam into his back, Jian Chen spat out a large mouthful of blood and grew extremely pale in the face. The space that had frozen around him disappeared and returned to normal. Jian Chen's body flew forward like a bullet from the impact. Five hundred meters away he crashed into a nearby mountain peak. The entire area shattered, leaving Jian Chen in a hole for him to sink into.

Experiencing this fierce impact, the entire mountain shook for a moment and emphasized just how strong of a blow it had been.

"Imperial Protector!" The ten Imperial Advisors and the three generals from the Qinhuang Kingdom cried out before flying toward that mountain. It was Xiao Tian that went to where Jian Chen had fallen and supported him back up from the hole.

At this moment, Jian Chen's entire body hung on Xiao Tian's. Even standing was not a simple task for him at the time. His face was as pale as paper without any blood, and streams of blood had poured out from his mouth without stopping. The top part of his clothes had disappeared as if vaporized by the explosion. Not even a strip of cloth could be seen, leaving the entire part of his body bare.

The injured part of Jian Chen's back was a mangled mess without any unbroken skin left to be seen. It was a dreadful wound that had ripped at his internal organs. Even his bones and blood vessels had been split.

The strike of a Saint Ruler was capable of tearing apart space. Even if Jian Chen's body was tempered with the Chaotic Force, it would be the same as tofu in front of the Saint Ruler.

"Imperial Protector, are you okay? Take this Radiant Spirit Pill." Qin Wuming immediately took out a Radiant Spirit Pill from his Space Ring and administered it to Jian Chen in concern.

Although a Radiant Spirit Pill was by far not enough to heal Jian Chen's wounds, it would at least temporarily stabilize his wounds and prevent them from getting any worse.

Jian Chen gave several harsh coughs while spitting out several particles of parts from his body out from his mouth. Not only was the ground dyed red with blood, it had several bits of the ruptured parts of his internal organs.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes to look at Xiao Tian who was supporting him. Powerlessly, he sat down on a giant boulder and gasped for air. His entire body was devoid of strength for the time being because of the serious injuries. If his throat were to have something clogged in it, he would be powerless to say a word.

Seeing that Jian Chen had been seriously injured by the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, everyone from the Qinhuang Kingdom grew extremely dark in the face. A chilling glare could be seen as a fierce killing intent radiated from their eyes.

Although they and Jian Chen had not yet reached an extremely personal level, Jian Chen was an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom. He represented the face of the Qinhuang Kingdom. For the Saint Ruler to inflict such a wound onto him, this was akin to having him ruthlessly slap the Qinhuang Kingdom in the face without any regards.

“The Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger is far too unruly. This business can absolutely not be let go like this.” Qin Wutian snarled, fury emerging from his body.

“We will ensure that the Sect of Dragon and Tiger will pay a price for this. Let us return to the Qinhuang Kingdom to report this to the esteemed four Imperial Protectors. This concerns the face of our Qinhuang Kingdom and the millennia worth of reputation we have built up. Our Imperial Protectors will not sit idly for this.” Qing Shaofan spoke.

“Indeed. We must have the Imperial Protectors come on over. If we do not take back the prestige we lost, then our Qinhuang Kingdom will have none left to remain on the Tian Yuan Continent, let alone remain as one of the strongest eight.” Qin Wujian growled. Although the Sect of Dragon and Tiger was very far away, everyone was extremely angry. None of them were afraid that the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger would hear them.

Qin Wuming spoke, “We should leave this area first and discuss our next course of action on the road.”

“Yes, let’s leave this place first. The wounds of the Imperial Protector are very heavy. He can’t even rush down the roads, we must carry him.” Xiao Tian spoke.

Shortly afterward, Xiao Tian held up the injured Jian Chen and had the energy of the world surround him as they brought him into the air. As everyone was worried about the Saint Ruler attacking again, they surrounded him as they left. They all knew that Jian Chen was an extremely important figure to the Qinhuang Kingdom. This was a future Saint Ruler, so his well being was extremely crucial.

Two days later, everyone finally returned to the imperial palace of the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom. Although they had left days ago, the imperial palace was still extremely quiet. Only the sounds of the artisans working on the treasury could be heard. Without the express approval from the Qinhuang Kingdom, no person or power would dare enter the imperial palace.

Within the imperial palace, Xiao Tian escorted Jian Chen into a room to rest. Jian Chen lay powerlessly on the bed and the rest of the individuals from the Qinhuang Kingdom stood on the other side with a grave expression.

“I will be using a secret art to heal myself, please see yourself out. Do not disturb me while I am healing myself.” Jian Chen spoke weakly.

All thirteen of the Heaven Saint Masters bowed out from the room to allow Jian Chen to rest by himself in the secluded room.

Withdrawing from Jian Chen’s room, the thirteen Heaven Saint Masters all sat down in front of a circular table. Solemn in thought, Qin Wuming suddenly spoke out, “Qing Shaofan, you’re a wind-attributed

cultivator and faster than the rest of us. Head on back to the Qinhuang Kingdom and report to the Imperial Protectors what happened. No matter what, we must get back the honor we have lost.”

“No problem. Since there’s no time to lose, I’ll leave right away!” With that, Qing Shaofan stood up to leave.

“Hold on!” Qin Wuming took out a map from his Space Ring to give to Qing Shaofan. “The closest kingdom with a Space Gate near us is the Dazhou Kingdom. I’ve marked their location on the map, go to their kingdom and borrow their Space Gate to get back.”

Qing Shaofan took the map and observed it for a while before putting it away and leaving the palace.

After Qing Shaofan left, Qin Wuming’s eyes looked around the place before sighing, “Now we will have to wait here for any more information. The Saint Ruler is someone we alone cannot go against. We must await news from the Imperial Protectors.”

Afterward, the twelve Heaven Saint Masters remained within the imperial palace. However, no one dared disturb Jian Chen while he healed. He had the entire palace hall to recover in while the other twelve looked for their own palace halls to reside in around the entire place.

In his room, Jian Chen remained weakly on the bed. After he felt the twelve Heaven Saint Masters leave, he finally began to make use of his mind to gather all of the Radiant Saint Force in the world to begin his recovery.

Jian Chen was at the equivalent level of a Sixth Class Radiant Saint Master, so his ability to control the Radiant Saint Force was far stronger than before. In a moment, a condensed milky-white ball of Radiant Saint Force appeared in the room. The entire room was basked in its light. To the human eye, it was a dazzling glow of light that was soft to the sight, not hurtful. Even to the naked eye, it gave off a glow that was brighter than the sun, but did not hurt the eyes at all, instead, there was an especially comfortable feeling to it.

On the bed, Jian Chen was already completely basked in the Radiant Saint Force. He could see the Radiant Saint Force around him traveling within his body at a lightning quick speed. His body was a bottomless pit or a sponge that absorbed all of the Radiant Saint Force without pause.

Under the treatment of the Radiant Saint Force, Jian Chen’s injuries began to heal and recover at a rapid rate. The cracks over his skin and the injured internal organs in his body slowly began to recover. Even the fractured bones and blood vessels regrow at a rate that even the human eye could see.

Since Jian Chen had used the Chaotic Force to temper his body, his body’s strength was many times stronger than before. With it being many times stronger, the recovery of his body had grown more difficult. It was no longer as simple as it was before. This was because the Chaotic Force had tempered his body to become stronger, meaning more Radiant Saint Force would be required to recover his body to such a level.

Jian Chen knew his body situation extremely well and felt quite helpless in his heart. The Chaotic Force had truly made his body far stronger than before, but in the case of an injury, it made recovery far more difficult instead of being easy like it was in the past.

Jian Chen was willing to bet that the more he used the Chaotic Force to temper and strengthen his body, the more Radiant Saint Force and the more strenuous it would be for recovery. At the very end, the Radiant Saint Force would become useless in effect.

“It would appear I need to become a Seventh Class Radiant Saint Master. This way, I’ll be able to heal myself even after the Chaotic Force is used. Furthermore, there is still my brother’s arms and legs as well as the white tiger cub’s mother, Rum Guinness to heal.” Jian Chen thought to himself, but he himself knew that becoming a Seventh Class Radiant Saint Master was still a long path to travel on. It was a path that was perhaps longer than the path from a Heaven Saint Master to a Saint Ruler.