

Chaotic 51

Chapter 51: Class 4 Monster Core (One)

Quickly, over ten people passed the inspection. At this time, an unusual young man came up. This young man had tattered clothes but the arrogance between his brows was present as ever. When he came up to the table, he quickly brought out a huge pile of Monster Cores to place onto the table.

The old man in charge of the inspection obviously knew this young man and after counting the number of Monster Cores on the table, he said appraisingly, "There are a total of 93 Magic Cores. Pretty good, Cheng Mingxiang, your score is exceptionally good."

Hearing Cheng Mingxiang's name, Tie Ta, who was at the end of the line, looked at Cheng Mingxiang standing in front of the table, waiting for his evaluation to finish. Tie Ta's eyes were bright with battle spirit; he hadn't been able to forget his last unfinished fight against Cheng Mingxiang. At that time, he wasn't as strong as he was right now, especially after killing magical beasts in the forest for the past 3 days. Since he had also gained some pointers from Jian Chen, Tie Ta's current fighting abilities were far greater than they had been before. He believed that with his current strength, as well as his newly gained battle experience, he would be able to fully utilize his godly strength in the fight to make up for the difference in Saint Force between the two of them. There was definitely no way he'd lose to Cheng Mingxiang.

Although Tie Ta appeared to be thick-headed, he clearly understood that this was not the time to spar against Cheng Mingxiang, so he could only angrily glare at Cheng Mingxiang's back. Eventually, he managed to suppress his strong desire to fight Cheng Mingxiang.

Hearing the elder's praise, Cheng Mingxiang smiled, and his eyes showed pride and a hint of arrogance behind them.

The appraising elder recorded the value in his notebook, then continued, "93 Class 2 Monster Cores, huh! If nothing unexpected happens, then you will definitely be part of the top 3 places for Class 2 Monster Cores. In addition, you are the Cultivation Genius, so your future is boundless. Keep working hard."

"Thank you very much for your praise, Teacher Steve!"

The elder's compliments made Cheng Mingxiang's arrogant expression even more pronounced.

Afterwards, Cheng Mingxiang returned the academy Space Belt and retrieved his own as well as the badge of glory, before stepping off the platform.

After Cheng Mingxiang left, another student with similarly tattered clothes walked up to the table. He directly pulled out a large handful of monster cores; it seemed that he did not have any less monster cores than Chen Ming Xiang.

The appraising elder smiled and nodded, his gaze resting on the youth's face as he slowly said, "Not bad, Huang Dong. It seems that your harvest this time is quite plentiful."

Hearing Huang Dong's name, quite a few students below the platform exclaimed in shock. Jian Chen's expression also shifted, his gaze immediately locking onto that youth's figure. Jian Chen was no stranger

to Huang Dong's name; his strength was third on Kargath Academy's top 10 experts list. Jian Chen had heard that his power had already reached the peak Saint level last year, and he was only one step away from becoming a Great Saint. In addition, once he successfully broke through, it would signify that he could graduate.

Kargath Academy's top 10 experts list referred to the 10 strongest and most formidable students. All of them had already reached peak Saint level, and were not far from becoming Great Saints. Once they broke through, they would leave the top 10 experts circle.

In response to the elder's praise, Huang Dong only smiled, and did not reply.

Soon, the elder had already finished counting the monster cores on the table. Huang Dong had earned a total of 91 monster cores, 2 less than Cheng Mingxiang.

Once Huang Dong had left the platform, more people from the top 10 experts list appeared on the platform. Almost all of them had numerous monster cores, and the first ranked student on the top 10 experts list, Bogadi, had a total of 103 monster cores. However, among these top 10 experts, only 4 of them had completed the task; the other 6 had all been eliminated. They had encountered people of the same level as they were, but had lost to the opposite party due to a difference in numbers. Thus, their monster cores had been plundered.

Very quickly, all the people on the top 10 experts lists had already left the platform. The people remaining were all extremely well-known. At this point, the one who had displayed the highest number of monster cores so far was the first ranked on the top 10 experts list—Bogadi, with a total of 103 monster cores.

The person in second place was the fifth ranked, one of the top 10 experts list: Jing Ming Yue. She was also the sole female on the top 10 experts list. She had earned a total of 101 monster cores, 2 less than Bogadi had.

The person in third place was Cheng Mingxiang, with a total of 93 monster cores. Although he was not on the list of top 10 experts, his power had already reached the upper Saint levels, and he was also a higher-ranked elite at Kargath Academy. His abilities were not much lower than the people in the list of top 10 experts, and at Kargath Academy, he had acclaimed the title of the Cultivation Genius. His cultivation speed was much higher than most people's, and his abilities in battle couldn't be underestimated either.

After the three of them had left, all the people had already determined the top 3 winners, because the only people left in line were people who were not well-known in Kargath Academy. Their powers were all only primary or mid Saint levels, and there was, naturally, no way they could compare to the other three.

Changyang Hu's group of four had managed to pillage quite a few monster cores thanks to being with Jian Chen. Although the four of them had equally split half the cores, each one of them had still managed to get 30-40 of them. Even though this did not count as that plentiful of an amount, based on their strengths, this number was already quite good. After all, they were only primary level Saints.

Very soon, all the Saints had already finished their evaluations. Although there were people who had quite a few monster cores, none of them had more than the third place holder. Right now, the only 2 people remaining were Tie Ta and Jian Chen.

Currently, both the teachers on the platform and the students below it had their gazes locked onto Jian Chen and Tie Ta. The two of them weren't Saints yet, but they had reached the level at which they could kill Class 2 Magical Beasts. This made quite a few people feel intense jealousy and emotions of turmoil. At that moment, everyone was trying to guess how many monster cores were on these two, who hadn't condensed Saint Weapons yet. Of course, nobody dared to use the other upperclassmen as a basis for Jian Chen's and Tie Ta's earnings; they all guessed that the two of them wouldn't have that many Class 2 Monster Cores on them.

Jian Chen walked up to the appraising elder and removed his Space Belt. At this moment, the elder was looking at Jian Chen with an expression of praise; the previous prejudices he originally had towards Jian Chen had now completely disappeared. Although he was sure that Jian Chen and Tie Ta would definitely not have more than 10 Class 2 Monster Cores in their possessions, just the fact that the two of them had entered the 3rd region and slayed Class 2 Magical Beasts without being a Saint was already something that the elder had to have a whole new level of respect for. After all, this was the first time non-Saints had ever been able to kill Class 2 Magical Beasts in the history of Kargath Academy.

At that moment, the listless teachers sitting on the platform could not help but get excited. One by one, they turned their gaze towards Jian Chen.

Jian Chen calmly swept his gaze across the surrounding teachers. When he confirmed that the teachers were staring at him with eyes that were bright with anticipation, his previous indifferent expression could not help a subtle smile. He directly reached into his Space Belt and removed a handful of Class 2 Monster Cores and placed them on the table; there seemed to be around 10 of them.

After seeing Jian Chen take out the 10 Class 2 Monster Cores, many of the teachers on the platform had expressions of shock and disbelief. It was very obvious that this number had surpassed most of their expectations. After all, in terms of strength, the difference between Class 2 Magical Beasts and Class 1 Magical Beasts was extremely great. Based on their original assumptions, it would've been quite amazing if Jian Chen only had 3-4 Class 2 Monster Cores. However, they hadn't imagined that he would actually have 10 of them.

Following this, without waiting for the others' minds to form any more thoughts, Jian Chen once again withdrew a fistful of Class 2 Monster Cores from his Space Belt.

Currently, the number of Class 2 Monster Cores on the table had already reached over a dozen in number. This amount was already equal to the number of cores that some of the Saint students had gained the past 3 days.

Witnessing this scene, all the teachers on the platform showed incredulous expressions. Even the appraising elder could not help but be shocked speechless at the dozens of monster cores that Jian Chen had pulled out. Although there were only a few dozen Class 2 Monster Cores, this still made the teachers' emotions surge even more than when Jian Chen had pulled out around 100 Class 1 Monster Cores in a single breath. After all, these Class 2 Monster Cores had been pulled out by a person that hadn't reached Saint level yet.

At that moment, all the teachers suddenly realized that if those dozens of monster cores had been earned by Jian Chen personally killing Class 2 Magical Beasts, then his future achievements would be....

When the teachers thought of a student that was not yet a Saint killing Class 2 Magical Beasts, a dozen of them in fact, they could not help but find it incredible.

Vice headmaster Chang Bai En, who was sitting in the chairperson's spot, had a satisfied smile and murmured, "Not bad, not bad, not bad at all. The only thing that remains unknown is how many of these monster cores you were able to earn by killing magical beasts with your own strength. It seems this will have to be more closely investigated later."

After taking out dozens of Class 2 Monster Cores, Jian Chen's movements still did not stop. His hand once again reached into his Space Belt and pulled out another handful of monster cores. Afterwards, Jian Chen's movements continued to repeat, and under all the incredulous teachers' shocked gazes, he continued to pull out various sized Class 2 Monster Cores, until the whole table was completely covered.

Seeing the table full of Class 2 Monster Cores, all the teachers on the platform were stuck in a daze. Even the students below the platform that could see what was going on at the table had expressions of disbelief, as if they had just witnessed an unfathomable scene.

The appraising elder inhaled deeply, and tried to quell his emotions of shock as well as he could to calm himself down. The monster cores on the table were ones that he had never in his lifetime seen before, and he had seen many more higher-level monster cores before. Yet these Class 2 Monster Cores could not be described through ordinary means.

The appraising elder looked intensely at Jian Chen before lowering his head to count the monster cores. Soon, the assessment had finished. However, the elder had a shocked expression of disbelief on his face, as his emotions that had just calmed down now began to surge uncontrollably once more. He sat in front of the table in a daze, unable to open his mouth and report the number of monster cores.

A few breaths later, the vice headmaster Chang Bai En sitting in the chairperson's position could finally no longer wait any longer, and said, "Steve, hurry up and report the number of monster cores." Vice headmaster Bei En's tone trembled slightly with excitement, although his expression was extremely calm.

Hearing the vice headmaster's words, the appraising elder took a deep breath, before declaring, "Changyang Xiang Tian, number of Class 2 Monster Cores gained: 118."

Chapter 52: Class 4 Monster Core (Two)

After the appraising elder finished his statement, everyone inhaled sharply in shock. The whole arena instantly became so silent, that one would've been able to hear a pin drop.

This number made even the vice headmaster Chang Bei En speechless. His gaze locked onto the huge pile of Class 2 Monster Cores on the table with an expression of astonishment. This number far surpassed the amount of monster cores that the previous first place winner, Bogadi, had.

A while passed before a student couldn't help but shout out, "No way, that's definitely impossible. How could he, who isn't yet a Saint, be able to gain so many monster cores in the 3rd region, and have even

way more than the school's top-ranked expert. Bogadi? This is definitely impossible. He definitely brought these monster cores from an outside source."

The single input raised a flood of responses. As the student finished speaking, more and more cries of protest rang out. Jian Chen's nearly 100 Class 1 Monster Cores had already made many people jealous, and had made them feel that it was unfair. Now that he had taken out 118 Class 2 Monster Cores, which was an amount even greater than his Class 1 Monster Cores, the students were no longer able to accept it.

Under the platform, the currently number 1 expert in Kargath Academy's rankings, Bogadi, was staring at Jian Chen's back in shock as he murmured, "His strength is obviously not yet at Saint level; how could he have gotten so many Class 2 Monster Cores? Could it be that these monster cores really were taken from an outside source?" Bogadi also couldn't help but think the same way as the others. However, this assumption was immediately rejected by him, since before entering the forest, the school administration had completely confiscated all of the students' Space equipment, and the students had all gone through very strict inspections. In addition, the forest only had one entrance, so there was no chance for someone to sneak monster cores in from the outside.

Moreover, even if someone really did manage to bring them in, Bogadi believed that nobody would be stupid enough to present 100+ Class 2 Monster Cores at once. That would undoubtedly make the entire school shocked, and the administration would definitely hire people to investigate the situation.

Nearby, a gorgeous girl in tattered clothes looked absentmindedly at Jian Chen's figure on the platform and muttered, "How could that be? A freshman like him who isn't yet a Saint actually managed to get 100+ Class 2 Monster Cores?" The girl's melodious voice was filled with shock and incredulity.

On the other side, when he heard the appraising elder announce Jian Chen's monster core amount, Cheng Mingxiang gaped in shock as he stared disbelievingly at Jian Chen. However, his expression soon became gloomy, and eventually became completely replaced by wrath. This was because the person in third place for the monster cores competition received rewards. Although these rewards were not worth that much to those born in major clans, like him, instead it seen as a great honor, a verification of strength. Originally, Cheng Mingxiang had been placed as third, but now with Jian Chen in the picture, he had been forcibly pushed out of the top three. This made him extremely angry; what was even harder to accept was the fact that Jian Chen still wasn't even a Saint.

"Changyang Xiang Tian..." Shifting his gaze, Cheng Mingxiang's face became beyond gloomy as he looked at Jian Chen with a glare full of poisonous malice.

In the crowd, Luo Jia's expression was equally gloomy. He glared hatefully at Jian Chen, as if he could eat Jian Chen alive with his gaze alone.

Although Jian Chen's current strength was still quite weak, his "Spirit" was extremely powerful. Perhaps he wouldn't be able to notice an ordinary gaze, but once a particularly severe gaze was pointed towards him, his Soul could immediately detect it. Thus, Luo Jian's and Cheng Mingxiang's malice filled glares were immediately sensed by Jian Chen. He turned around and used the aid of his powerful Soul to track the glances' sources, and easily found Luo Jian buried in the crowd.

Seeing Luo Jian's dark expression, Jian Chen sneered, but did not pay any mind to it. He had swiped all of Luo Jian's monster cores from him, forcing him to fail the task. In addition, Jian Chen had injured Luo Jian as well, so it was completely normal for Luo Jian to hate Jian Chen so much.

However, as Jian Chen's vision shifted towards Cheng Mingxiang, his brows furrowed as he showed a helpless expression. He didn't have any enmity with Cheng Mingxiang; the previous incident in front of the library was so minor that it couldn't have been the cause of such fierce hatred. The main reason was the fact that Jian Chen had forcibly pushed Cheng Mingxiang out of the top 3.

After all, being able to place as the top 3 among the entire academy was an achievement that was an extreme glory. This was especially true for those born in noble clans, as this honor could directly increase their status by a large amount.

If it were any of the top 10 experts that had pushed Cheng Mingxiang out of the first 3 places, he definitely wouldn't have felt unhappy at all. However, since the one who had forced Cheng Mingxiang out of the top three wasn't even on the top 10 list, he was also only a freshman who did not even reach the Saint level yet, causing Cheng Mingxiang, Kargath Academy's cultivation genius, to feel humiliated. He couldn't imagine that a freshman that had just entered the school would end up reaching his level, and from this feeling, a hatred towards Jian Chen was born.

Although there was also Tie Ta, who was the headmaster's apprentice, and thus had a greater power behind him than Cheng Mingxiang had. Of course, Cheng Mingxiang wouldn't dare to casually offend the headmaster.

The appraising elder took a deep breath, forcing himself to calm down. He looked at Jian Chen profoundly, and smiled, "Changyang Xiang Tian, you've really made me shocked. I hadn't imagined that someone like you who isn't yet a Saint could actually gain so many Class 2 Monster Cores. You've already far surpassed the previous first place, Bogadi. It seems that this competition's first place has definitely been taken by you." The elder handed Jian Chen his own Space Belt and the badge of glory.

Jian Chen laughed, and reached out to accept the items. "Teacher's words are too much. Nobody can say yet who first place will be. After all, Tie Ta is still behind me. The number of monster cores he has is not any less than me." Saying this, Jian Chen re-stowed all of the monster cores into his Space Belt.

Hearing Jian Chen's words, the elder shot Jian Chen a deep glance, and he smiled wordlessly.

After Jian Chen had completely stored away all of the Class 2 Monster Cores on the table, he directly walked off the platform. Afterwards, Tie Ta walked up to the table, and began to take out his own Class 2 Monster Cores from his Space Belt.

Tie Ta had entered the 3rd region with Jian Chen, and they had equally distributed the monster cores. Thus, he had pretty much exactly the same amount of monster cores Jian Chen had. After the appraising elder finished counting, it was revealed that Tie Ta had a total of 119 Class 2 Monster Cores, only one more than Jian Chen.

After the appraising elder announced Tie Ta's total amount of monster cores, all of the people at the arena were once again shocked speechless.

Below the platform, the fifth ranked person on Kargath Academy's top 10 experts, Jing Ming Yue, was in a daze. From the look in her eyes, it seemed as if she had lost her spirit. She had suddenly been forced out of second place by two freshmen; this result was difficult for her to accept. After all, she had spent a lot of energy and effort earning those monster cores. She couldn't imagine how the two newly entered non-Saint freshmen could've gotten so many monster cores.

At that moment, an extremely beautiful girl walked up to Jing Ming Yue, and intimately hugged her arms around Jing Ming Yue's waist. Laughing, she said, "Sister Jing, you hadn't imagined that you would've been forced down from second place by two new freshmen, right?"

Jing Ming Yue sighed, and bitterly smiled, "It's really unfathomable. Those two freshmen haven't even reached Saint level, and yet they were able to gain so many monster cores. The two of them even forced Kargath Academy's number one expert, Bogadi, down to third place. I really have no clue how they got their hands on so many monster cores. Could it really be possible that they had brought them in from outside?"

The girl giggled in response, "Sister Jing, you've guessed wrongly. I believe that those Class 2 Monster Cores were earned from their own strength, not from outside as you suspect."

The girl's words made Jing Ming Yue start. Jing Ming Yue turned around and glance doubtfully at the girl, and asked in a curious tone, "Xiao Le, why do you say that?"

The girl smiled mysteriously, as she showed a prideful expression. In a low voice, she said, "Sister Jing, I encountered those two in the 2nd region, and even stayed with them for an entire day. You cannot underestimate them; they're both very formidable. Especially that Changyang Xiang Tian, he managed to kill quite a few Class 1 Magical Beasts with a lousy iron rod by piercing them directly through the throat."

"Really?" Jing Ming Yue asked in shock, obviously not believing it.

"Of course, I saw it with my own eyes. There's no way it'd be false." The girl puffed out her chest and said firmly, "Also, that night, we encountered a secret attack from 20+ Blue Wolves. The two of them effortlessly killed all of them."

"What? You said that the two of them managed to kill 20+ Blue Wolves by themselves?" Hearing this, Jing Ming Yue could no longer hide her shock. Although she was already a high level Saint, she would still flee if she faced 20+ Class 1 Magical Beasts, let alone kill them.

The girl vigorously nodded and said, "That's right, Sister Jing. I personally witnessed it. Although Changyang Xiang Tian and Tie Ta haven't condense their Saint Weapons, their strength is definitely not any weaker than a Saint's. That's why I can promise that the monster cores in their hands are definitely not brought in from the outside."

Hearing this, Jing Ming Yue lowered her head and thought it over seriously. Despite the fact that Jian Chen and Tie Ta had forced her out of the top 3 places, she didn't show a trace of dissatisfaction in her expression. From this alone, it could be seen that Jing Ming Yue was not a narrow-minded person.

After the evaluation had finished, the awards ceremony began. This time, the event's top 3 places for both Class 1 Monster Cores and Class 2 Monster Cores would receive the same rewards. The first place

reward was a Class 4 Monster Core and a medal of honor completely made from Purple Coins. Both second place and third place rewards included one Class 3 Monster core, and a medal of honor made from Gold Coins.

These medals weren't worth much money, but what they represented was of extraordinary significance. Thus, even the nobles that had powerful backgrounds couldn't keep their eyes from reddening at those medals of honor.

Jian Chen and Tie Ta had taken the first 2 places for both Class 1 Monster Cores and Class 2 Monster Cores, and thus earned twice the amount of rewards. Third place for Class 1 Monster Cores was still Mu Tian, and third place for Class 2 Monster Cores was Kargath Academy's number one expert, Bogadi.

After the awards ceremony had finished, Jian Chen could not help but smile excitedly at the surging, pure power in the Class 4 Monster Core he held in his hand. With the Class 4 Monster Core, as well as the 200+ monster cores in his Space Belt, he had enough to last him for a long time. Based on Jian Chen's calculations, he wouldn't have to worry about not having monster cores to use for at least a year.

Chapter 53: Becoming A Saint

After the award ceremony finished, the students at the sports field gradually began to leave, dispersing until there was absolutely nobody left. During the past 3 days of fighting against the magical beasts in the forest, almost all of the students had numerous injuries. Now that the award ceremony was over, everyone returned back to their own dorms to treat their injuries. The only people left in the sports field were the completely uninjured students that had given up on the task ages ago.

However, after experiencing this event, Jian Chen's and Tie Ta's reputations in Kargath Academy had reached its peak form. They had already become the greatest stars in the academy; no matter where one went, their names could be heard being discussed.

Jian Chen and Tie Ta, as well as Changyang Hu's group of three, bid each other farewell, and returned to their own dorms to treat their injuries as well.

In the center of the academy was a tall tower around 100 square meters large. Vice headmaster Chang Bai En was currently respectfully standing in the center of a room on the top of the tower. In front of him sat Kargath Academy's headmaster, lazily sitting in front of the office desk, with a smiling expression. His profound gaze also had hints of happiness and excitement reflected in them.

"Ah, Bai En, it seems that a genius really has appeared in Kargath Academy this time." The headmaster excitedly said with a smile.

Vice headmaster Chang Bai En nodded and smiled back, "Headmaster, that is not correct. This time, Kargath Academy has more than one genius; rather there are two. These two are Changyang Xiang Tian and Tie Ta."

The headmaster shook his head and smiled, "No, it isn't wrong. Tie Ta's talent is definitely extremely high, and he also has godly strength. However, compared to Changyang Xiang Tian, he still has a long ways to go."

Vice headmaster Chang Bai En was surprised at this response, and he asked doubtfully, "Headmaster, why do you say that?"

The headmaster let out a long sigh and said, "You definitely cannot underestimate Changyang Xiang Tian. He is quite a complicated person; no wonder the old fellow at Changyang clan kept praising him."

"Actually, yesterday afternoon, after I had heard the news that Changyang Xiang Tian and Tie Ta had killed a Class 2 Magical Beast in the 3rd region, I personally rushed over myself to secretly watch them. Although those 2 aren't Saints yet, their combat abilities cannot be underestimated. Especially Changyang Xiang Tian, with just a broken iron rod, he was pretty much invincible in the 3rd region. Not only are his movements incomparably fast, they are also extremely precise. His battle experience is not anything alike to a 15 year old youth's; on the contrary, it seems as if he's a person that has fought 100 battles already. The Class 2 Monster Cores in the two's hands were pretty much completely killed by Changyang Xiang Tian alone. Tie Ta was simply involved in the fights."

Hearing this, the vice headmaster Chang Bai En's gave an incredulous look and asked, "Headmaster, is Changyang Xiang Tian really as formidable as you say?"

The headmaster nodded and said, "If I hadn't personally witnessed it, I wouldn't believe that a 15 year old could have such powerful strength either. The most important part is his extensive battle experience and combat techniques. These are not something that can be learned just because one wants to learn it. Without experiencing hundreds of battles, these concepts just cannot be grasped. It's no wonder that old man Chang praised Changyang Xiang Tian so much; he really is an extremely talented genius. It seems these things were all taught by the old man."

The vice headmaster Chang Bai En looked relieved as he said, "Under the great master Chang's guidance, Changyang Xiang Tian would find it difficult to not be renowned."

The headmaster nodded and said, "Even if old man Chang is guiding from the sidelines, if Changyang Xiang Tian didn't originally have such outstanding talent, then even old man Chang wouldn't be able to teach him much, even under careful teaching. If Changyang Xiang Tian wasn't Changyang clan's fourth master, I would really make him my apprentice. After all, such geniuses are rare. If he continues to mature like this, it would be fortunate for Gesun Kingdom."

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After the awards ceremony, Jian Chen retrieved a new uniform and then took a shower to completely wash off all of the filth on his body that he had gained from the few days in the forest. After he wore the brand new uniform, he felt refreshed as he headed back the dorm. Although he had battled virtually every single moment during his 3 days in the forest, he didn't show any traces of exhaustion. In his previous world, he had experienced even worse conditions.

After returning to his room, Jian Chen sat cross-legged on his bed. He held a Class 1 Monster Core in each hand, and began to cultivate. Although Jian Chen's power had already reached the peak of the 10th Saint Force layer, he could clearly sense that the Saint Force in his body had not yet reached a state of saturation.

As he gradually began to absorb the energy within the monster cores, Jian Chen's Saint Force once again quickly rose. His speed of cultivation was ten times faster than when he absorbed World Essence.

For the next three days, aside from eating meals, Jian Chen used all of his time to cultivate in his room. Eventually, the Saint Force inside him had already reached a saturated state; no matter how much

further Jian Chen tried to absorb the monster cores' energies, his inner Saint Force would no longer continue to grow.

Jian Chen clearly understood that he needed to rush to Saint level and condense his Saint Weapon. Otherwise, the Saint Force within him would come to an eternal standstill.

In terms of condensing Saint Weapons, Jian Chen had long since clearly learned the procedures to becoming Saint from the school library. It used the principle of condensing all inner Saint Force and slowly shaping it into a Saint Weapon. In the end, one uses their 'Soul' to perfectly harmonize with it. Once the inner Saint Force is completely condensed into a weapon, then a person is officially a Saint.

Jian Chen didn't stop. He took out a Class 4 Monster Core from his Space Belt, preparing to use it if needed, and immediately began to condense a Saint Weapon and rush to Saint level.

The Saint Force in Jian Chen's dantian was firmly contained by his "Soul". In the presence of his powerful "Soul", Jian Chen had absolute control over the Saint Force in his dantian. Jian Chen used his mind to control all the Saint Force within his dantian and gradually began to gather it together. Slowly, he formed it into the shape of a sword, and he finally began to compress it.

Jian Chen's powerful Soul was brought over from his previous world. Since birth, it far surpassed other people's and under this power, the weak Saint Force had no way of resisting it. The Saint Force was firmly suppressed by Jian Chen, and he constantly compressed the sword-shaped Saint Force.

As the Saint Force was compressed smaller and smaller, Jian Chen's dantian that was originally filled with Saint Force quickly began to lessen as well. Despite this, the strength of his Saint Force continued to rise, and the makeshift sword became clearer in form as well. Eventually, it became an extremely tiny sword within his dantian.

At the same time, Jian Chen was still trying to condense it even more.

Although Jian Chen had already successfully gathered and condensed his Saint Force into a sword, this didn't mean that he had already become a Saint. There was still the last and most difficult step left; this step was precisely what blocked so many people in Tian Yun Continent from becoming Saints for the rest of their lives.

In this last step, he had to merge a part of his Soul into his dantian to completely condense and form the sword and create a spiritual relationship with it. At the same time, he would have to completely harmonize with the Saint Weapon. Although this seemed simple, it was extremely difficult to do in reality.

Although this step was difficult for most people, to those that had incomparably strong Souls like Jian Chen, this was something that could be smoothly performed. Jian Chen directly split a part of his Soul and began to merge it with the condensed Saint Weapon in his dantian. He then used his practiced control to quickly link the two together. Eventually, the two had completely harmonized; they were no longer separate entities.

It was at this moment that Jian Chen had finally become a legitimate Saint. This last step had provided absolutely no obstruction to him.

Just as Jian Chen had perfectly harmonized his Soul and his Saint Weapon, he suddenly felt something strange, as if the condensed sword within him had become his own limb. He could easily control it, and he could also clearly sense every single component of this sword.

Right now, Jian Chen's dantian didn't have a single trace of Saint Force remaining inside it. The only thing left was the condensed sword, which acted as the new energy source. The sword seemed extremely tiny; from its width and length, it didn't seem very different from an embroidery needle.

Now that he had condensed his Saint Weapon, Jian Chen could sense the powerful fluctuations from Saint Weapons far clearer than he had before. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that as an ordinary Saint, he could easily defeat a person at the peak of the 10th Saint Force layer. Unless some unexpected or special circumstances occurred, a person at the peak of the 10th layer would absolutely be no match for a Saint.

Both Jian Chen and Tie Ta were amazing. With Tie Ta's godly strength, as well as his extremely powerful body, even Jian Chen who had been training Saint Force since he was young was naturally not as powerful as Tie Ta. Tie Ta's abnormal strength in addition to his formidable defense was enough to make up for any lack of Saint Force. Unless the difference in strength was extremely large, there was no way he could be a match against Tie Ta. At most, they would be stuck at a standstill.

Jian Chen had previously used his power at the peak 10th layer to defeat a middle ranked Saint. Although he had completely relied on the experience and battle techniques from his past world, Jian Chen's quick sword techniques and his high accomplishments in the ways of the sword, as well as his fighting willpower gained from countless experiences from life-or-death battles in his previous world were enough to make him invincible to those at the same level as him. In addition, battles with ranks higher than him weren't even worth mentioning either.

At this moment, Jian Chen's expression suddenly changed. Immediately following, his dantian had surprisingly begun to tremble once more. His entire dantian began to fluctuate intensely in an unstable way. As soon as it began fluctuating, before Jian Chen could react, the World Essence began to frantically burst forth. The countless surrounding World Essence seemed to have been affected by some invisible attractive force, and gradually began to gather where Jian Chen was. At this moment, Jian Chen's body seemed to have left his control, and it felt as though all of his pores had suddenly opened. They frantically began absorbing the dense World Essence surrounding him.

The energy within the Monster Core in Jian Chen's hand also fiercely dropped, forming a stream of energy visible to the naked eye which flowed into Jian Chen's body.

At this moment, Jian Chen's body was like a bottomless pit. It didn't matter how strong the World Essence around him was, it was completely absorbed into his body like a whale swallowing water. At the same time, the energy of the Class four Monster Core in his hand rapidly diminished, and the speed at which it was being absorbed was unbelievable. The originally fist sized Monster Core was shrinking at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Chapter 54: Mutation of the Dantian

Jian Chen had no idea what was happening to his body at all. Since he had lost total control over his body, he was completely unable to stop the absorption of the World Essence around him. Feeling his

own body absorbing the World Essence at such a frightening speed, Jian Chen still maintained a determination of steel despite feeling slightly pressed for time. If his body continued to absorb the World Essence at this rate, it was unknown how much longer his body would be able to last before it exploded from the sudden increase of concentrated Qi. But what puzzled Jian Chen the most was that he had no idea how this happened to begin with. Why did his dantian suddenly start to absorb the World Essence out of the blue at such a remarkable speed? This left Jian Chen with no small amount of terror.

He knew in his heart that the World Essence around him was rapidly congregating and the area around him became like a storm as it flowed at a frantic speed. The gale of Qi roared and whistled throughout Kargath Academy as both leaves and loose rocks were sent flying into the air.

But when the World Essence entered Jian Chen's dantian, it was as if he threw a rock into the ocean, as the World Essence assimilated into his body leaving no indication that it was there to begin with. For that reason, Jian Chen let out a sigh of relief. Although he didn't know what had caused his dantian to go through such a dramatic change, he was glad that his body wouldn't explode from the World Essence.

At the same time within the high central tower of Kargath Academy, the headmaster of the academy suddenly cried out in shock, "What's happening? The World Essence is fluctuating in such a violent way!" As he spoke, the headmaster had already flew out of the window, leaving behind an after image. The moment he flew through the window, he soared into the sky at an extreme speed and immediately found himself at the dorm room of Jian Chen after a few seconds. He looked at the dorm with doubt and puzzlement as he continue to stare at the room.

Meanwhile, a streak of white light came blurring over and stopped a few hundred meters behind the headmaster. It was the vice headmaster, Bai En.

Even after the arrival of Bai En, another dozen people came flying over in rapid succession before coming to a stop behind Bai En to look at where the World Essence was congregating at.

They were all teachers of the academy with strength stronger than most, and so with the violent fluctuations of the World Essence, there would be no way at all for them to not notice.

Bai En looked at the amassed World Essence with amazement as he cried out in wonder, "Headmaster, what has happened here? Why has the World Essence gathered itself in this area?"

Although the headmaster's face looked focused, his eyes were staring blankly as he replied, "Even I don't know what has happened here, let's go find out."

With that, the headmaster plummeted down to the ground with Bai En following right behind him.

"The rest of you stay here, do not allow anyone else to come close." He called out to the teachers.

All the teachers wanted to follow the headmaster to find out the answer to this mystery, but with the words of Bai En, the teachers stopped their initial momentum and returned to their original spots obediently. When it came to Bai En, no teacher dared to violate his commands.

Quickly, both the headmaster and Bai En arrived outside of the door to Jian Chen's room, where the World Essence was inside.

As Bai En silently knocked onto the door, it suddenly smashed into pieces and the scene inside was projected towards the two.

Inside, they saw Jian Chen sitting crossed legged on his bed with his eyes closed as he continued to cultivate. The World Essence was still being absorbed into his dantian with such a terrifying speed that it made his body outline blurry as a fog concealed him slightly.

Seeing this phenomenon, both Bai En and the headmaster were speechless. They never would have thought that the World Essence being concentrated here was because of a single person's cultivation. Not only that, but they were stunned by the amazing speed at which Jian Chen was absorbing the World Essence.

"So it was Changyang Xiang Tian! How...how could this be possible, with his strength, how could he bring about such an effect like this?" Bai En cried out in shock as he watched what was inconceivable to him.

Even the headmaster was trembling as his eyes stared deeply at Jian Chen. After a good while, he let out a sigh, "This kid is not ordinary at all!"

Hearing the headmaster, Bai En nodded his head in complete belief in the headmaster. In his heart, he had always known that Jian Chen was never an ordinary student.

"Headmaster, what should we do now then?" He asked.

"We wait!" Came the reply.

And so, the headmaster and vice headmaster stood outside Jian Chen's room and waited for him to reawaken. They didn't enter his room, and didn't make a sound almost as if they were afraid of accidentally disturbing the cultivating Jian Chen.

Jian Chen had long since been aware that his door had been smashed apart, but he wasn't able to move both his body and mouth since he wasn't in control. And the Class 4 Monster Core gripped tightly in his hand was visibly smaller now to the naked eye, its size already roughly the same size of a ping pong ball.

All of the energy and World Essence that was being absorbed into Jian Chen's dantian disappeared like a stone falling into the ocean without leaving behind a single ripple of water behind.

Regarding this situation within his dantian, Jian Chen was absolutely clueless and didn't understand where all of the World Essence was going.

Soon after some time had passed, the energy in the Class 4 Monster Core was completely absorbed by him. Finally within his dantian a change was happening as light specks of both azure and violet started to appear. The moment the specks appeared, his dantian suddenly started to absorb the World Essence at an even faster rate, and even started to absorb World Essence from a farther distance. With the azure and violet light specks, World Essence from a dozen feet away felt the pull and began to rush towards Jian Chen before being absorbed through the pores in his body and into the glowing specks.

Because of Jian Chen's fast absorption rate of the World Essence, a faint white mist was clearly noticeable to the naked eye as it surrounded him. Because of this white mist, his own body was only faintly discernible, making both him and the area around him seem much more mysterious than before.

The increase in the rate of absorption did not go unnoticed by the two men standing outside of the door. Staring at each other in the eye, they were both astonished at what they were both seeing.

By this point, the entire Kargath Academy was aware of the sudden influx of World Essence, but aside from the teachers, each and every student took it to be a sudden gust of wind, and took no more notice to it.

Jian Chen's dantian continued to absorb the World Essence for half the day before finally stopping. Jian Chen completely absorbed all of the World Essence dozens of kilometers away. At the moment, aside from the completed sword made from his condensed Saint Force, Jian Chen's dantian also contained azure and violet specks of light. The specks were extremely small, and they had extremely faint glows as well. The way they flickered made it seem like they would burn out at any moment.

Probing the azure and violet specks of light that had just appeared within his dantian, Jian Chen's heart momentarily grew heavy. This was the first time he had ever encountered an uncontrollable circumstance within the dantian. He had no desire to encounter such an issue. However, what he could say for certain was that these azure and violet light specks were definitely related to the uncontrollably crazy absorption of the World Essence that he had experienced earlier.

"Could it be that these azure and violet lights are completely made of the World Essence from before?" Jian Chen secretly guessed. The great amount of World Essence that had entered his dantian before had completely disappeared without a trace, like a rock in the large sea. This was something completely unfathomable. In addition, after absorbing that vast amount of World Essence, these strange light specks had appeared within his dantian. This made it obvious to Jian Chen that the two events were connected.

However, what made Jian Chen really doubtful and worried was the question: what exactly were those strange light specks within his dantian, and what did they do? Would their existence be of any harm to him? These were the questions Jian Chen was currently most concerned about. The latter question particularly, made him feel unrest.

After hesitating for a bit, Jian Chen finally tried attempting to control the azure and violet lights. However, after a few experiments, his mood became more and more serious. After some internal inspections, although he could clearly "see" the specks of light, every time he tried to manipulate them, he would suddenly discover that the light specks existing within his dantian would become similar to mirages. He could easily pass through them, and was completely unable to grab ahold of them and put them under his control. It was as if they didn't really exist.

To every cultivating person, the dantian was an extremely important part of the body. Jian Chen definitely did not wish to see his dantian go through some situation beyond his control. Otherwise, for all he knew, it could prove to be fatal during some critical moment later.

"Ai, whatever. Whether it's good or bad, it's not like I can do anything about it. I'm a person who has died once already anyways. Why should I care about these things?" Jian Chen soon came to the conclusion that he wouldn't bother toiling over the strange changes in his dantian any longer. Since the circumstances were beyond his control, he could only calmly accept them.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes, his gaze perfectly calm. Although successfully becoming a Saint was an exciting achievement, because an uncontrollable circumstance had occurred within his dantian, he could not bring himself to be happy.

Just as Jian Chen opened his eyes, the headmaster and vice headmaster that had been waiting outside the whole time walked in together.

Seeing the headmaster walk in, Jian Chen quickly got off the bed and greeted them, "Headmaster, Vice Headmaster."

The headmaster had a wide smile across his face as he steadily looked at Jian Chen. "Changyang Xiang Tian, the World Essence you just released was abnormal. Did you encounter any problems during your cultivation? If so, don't hold yourself back and tell me. Perhaps I can help you." The headmaster said in a tone of great concern.

"Thank you for your concern, Headmaster. Everything has been going well, as I haven't yet encountered any problems." Jian Chen calmly said. He didn't think his dantian situation was something that the headmaster could resolve. Saying it would only stir up trouble, and it was better to just stay silent.

Chapter 55: The Emperor's Recognition

The headmaster laughed joyously, "Changyang Xiang Tian, it looks like you've broken through to become a Saint."

Jian Chen nodded his head slightly and said, "Yes, I have only just condensed my Saint Weapon."

"And yet, I am still not sure if you've become an Upper level Saint or a Middle level Saint." The headmaster beamed; to him, Jian Chen was at the very least the same strength as a Middle level Saint. After all, he had personally seen such a tremendous amount of World Essence be absorbed by him. Although he didn't know what type of method Jian Chen had used to absorb it all, but he at the very least understood that after absorbing this much World Essence, there was no way Jian Chen would only be at the Primary Saint level.

To see Jian Chen immediately cross over the Primary level to the Middle level of Sainthood, the headmaster couldn't help but be extremely happy. With this, his Kargath Academy could finally be proud of having such a talented student.

"Headmaster, I've only just condensed a Saint Weapon, so my strength should definitely be at the Primary level." Jian Chen knew that the headmaster believed he had completely absorbed all of the World Essence and asked him this question for that reason.

"Primary level!" A voice cried. This time it wasn't the headmaster who spoke, but Bai En who was standing behind him with a look of disbelief.

"How could that be, you've absorbed such an enormous amount of World Essence, so how could you only be at the Primary Saint level?"

"I also don't know." Jian Chen's face let out a bitter smile. He didn't intend to reveal the things that happened in his own dantian.

“Okay, since Changyang Xiang Tian is fine, then we should leave.” The headmaster’s gaze was directed at Jian Chen as he said, “Changyang Xiang Tian, right now you have just become a Saint, and you should properly familiarize yourself with your Saint Weapon’s uses.” After saying these words, the two people, headmaster and vice-headmaster, left Jian Chen’s room.

After leaving the dormitories, vice-headmaster Bai En with a face full of curiosity asked, “Headmaster, Changyang Xiang Tian obviously absorbed a colossal amount of World Essence, how could he still only stay at the Primary Saint level, this just doesn’t make sense.”

When he heard this, the headmaster slightly nodded his head and said, “Yes, it certainly doesn’t abide to common sense, or there might be a secret Changyang Xiang Tian has that we do not know of. Otherwise, how could he absorb all the World Essence dozens kilometers away? It’s obviously an impossible task.” After saying this, the headmaster paused for a moment, then continued, “This matter is something that we should not pry into. From now on, for any matters concerning Changyang Xiang Tian, as long as it doesn’t cause too much of a ruckus, we shouldn’t interfere. Let him grow as he wishes, as a genius’ path is usually made by himself. If they don’t weather the storm, they will never truly grow, and with only peaceful times, they will eventually wane.”

“Yes, Bai En understands.” the vice headmaster answered respectfully. His mind was clear, in order to cultivate a genius, this would do whatever Kargath Academy would have to do.

The headmaster stared off into the azure sky as he muttered to himself, “Changyang Xiang Tian is 15 years old this year; to reach Sainthood by his 15th year would cause quite a shock throughout the Tian Yuan continent. It really does look like Changyang Xiang Tian is a true genius, so I truly hope he continues down his path and does not die a premature death. Otherwise, this would be a heavy loss for our Gesun Kingdom. Ai, it’s a shame the ancestor of the Changyang Clan has been missing for a hundred years, if he was still alive, then his plan might have succeeded.”

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After the headmaster left, Jian Chen continued to sit cross legged on the bed once more and observed the azure and violet glow within his dantian. He let out a sigh, not only did he not know what was the matter with the glows, but he also had no control over them.

With another sigh, Jian Chen decided to forget about them since it would waste precious time if he did. He had already died once and already experienced many things. Aside from the maternal love he felt for his mother Bi Yuntian, there wasn’t much else Jian Chen cared about.

Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath and slowly calmed himself. Concentrating deeply on his right hand, his heart thumped before a strong source of energy flashed as a slender longsword appeared in his right hand.

The longsword was unusually thin and the entire body was a silver white almost like a mirror that reflected the surrounding area on the blade.

The sword was around 4 feet long and two fingers wide. Engraved on the blade next to the hilt were two words: “Light Wind”.

This sword's appearance was almost exactly like Jian Chen's treasured sword in his previous life. Even the name itself was the exact same one, called the Light Wind Sword.

Jian Chen's way of the sword placed a strong emphasis on quickness and agility. With the ability to strike in a thousand different ways, he was like the wind that 'came in without a shadow, and left without a footprint'.

Holding onto the Light Wind Sword, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile tremendously. At the moment where he grasped onto the sword, he felt the familiarity he had with his previous world come rushing back to him.

However, the only difference was that Jian Chen felt that the sword was like an extension of his arm; he didn't need to expend as much strength to control it. Jian Chen could also feel his "Soul" connecting with the sword to establish a perfect relationship between the two. The two were one and no longer divided. This was a feeling he had never felt before in his previous world.

Jian Chen jabbed out with his sword, letting the silver blade flash as it shot outwards.

"Ding!" A clear sound was heard as the Light Wind Sword whistled in the air. It would appear that this sword was on the same level as the ones refined from the finest of iron.

Jian Chen gently caressed the blade with his left hand joyfully as if the sword was his most favorite person.

To any true swordsman, the sword was the the item they were the most fond of and could not replace. The sword was their life and their soul, and Jian Chen was a firm believer of that as well.

When Jian Chen summoned the Light Wind Sword, it had disappeared from within his dantian and the energy had been completely concentrated onto his hand to form the blade in real life. Not only was this sword able to deal out major damage, but this was also the source of Jian Chen's energy and replaced his dantian as the source.

Jian Chen's heart thumped once more as the sword started to disappear and return to his dantian as the mini version of the Light Wind Sword.

Two days after Jian Chen had broken through to Sainthood, he had spent the time observing the two colored glows within his dantian. Other than that, he spent most of the time in the library in order to find a book that would help shed some light on the situation with his dantian—however, he always came up empty handed.

During those two days, Jian Chen's breakthrough to Sainthood had been passed around through the academy like a great wave since they all knew Jian Chen had gotten to that level too fast. Every student at Kargath Academy knew that he had joined the academy a few months ago at the 8th Saint Force layer. And after those few months, he had suddenly broken through to become a Saint, this type of cultivation speed was far too fast, causing everyone to cry out in astonishment. This record had completely squashed out the previous number 1 cultivation genius Cheng Mingxiang.

Far away from Kargath Academy in a splendid dazzling palace, a jewel embedded robe wearing middle aged man sat in the middle of the study room while reading a book.

“Your majesty, a message courier has arrived.” A respectful but deep voice called out from outside the room.

Hearing that, the middle aged man slowly put down his book and looked towards the entrance of his room. “Come in.” He stated. This middle aged man was the emperor of the Gesun Kingdom—Ka De Sen.

As the emperor spoke, the doors to the study room opened, and a man wearing a black pao entered. He was approximately 30 years old and quickly walked into the room; when he was within 30 steps away from the emperor he immediately stopped where he was and knelt down onto his knees, “Your majesty, a letter just came from headmaster Khafir in Kargath Academy.”

Originally, the emperor didn’t care at all for the letter, but the moment he had heard the name Khafir, his face immediately grew solemn and placed the book down onto the table. “Bring me the message now.”

“Yes! Your Majesty!” A nearby bodyguard standing next to the emperor respectfully responded. He immediately took the letter in his hand, and closely inspected it. Only after confirming there were no problems with it did he walk up and hand it over to the emperor.

The emperor took the letter and immediately opened it. His calm face gradually began to form a smile, as he murmured, “This Changyang Xiang Tian is indeed a heavenly genius. Not only did he defeat a Saint while being at the 8th Saint Force layer, he also managed to defeat a middle-ranked Saint when he was only at the 10th layer. Moreover, he had successfully condensed his Saint Weapon at the age of 15. This is definitely a genius; it’s no wonder that he received so much praise from Uncle. With Uncle’s insight, he naturally can distinguish certain people. If Uncle recommends Changyang Xiang Tian to this extent, then I should be doing something about it as well.”

“Changyang Xiang Tian has the Changyang clan backing him, even more so since he’s the fourth master. It looks like getting ahold of him will be impossible. In that case, I can only try my hardest to seduce him. Although the Changyang clan has already been silent for a dozen years, the inside information about their clan is still true; their strength cannot be underestimated, and is enough for me to act. Since it is so, I’ll just do this.” The emperor seemed to have decided on something as he immediately said, “Servants, fetch me pen and ink.”

Soon afterwards, the chamberlain arrived with the pen and ink ready. The emperor grasped the pen and began to smoothly write out his words. He delicately picked up the paper and reread the words written on it, before slowly folding it up and leaving the study.

With the scroll in hand, the emperor was escorted by a group of guards sticking tightly to him through layers after layers of halls, before finally entering a beautiful courtyard.

When the emperor had just stepped into the courtyard, a 50-60 year old elder came out from a room within the courtyard. He calmly looked at the emperor and smiled, “So it was Your Majesty that had arrived. Please come in.”

The emperor walked up to the elder, not yet entering the room. He handed the scroll in his hand to the elder, and solemnly said, “Senior Ye Ming, this is an extremely important letter that I want you to personally deliver to Lore City’s Changyang clan.”

Hearing this, the elder's face grew more serious. He reached out to receive the scroll from the emperor's hand and said, "Your Majesty, don't worry. I will definitely deliver this letter." The elder clearly understood that since he was being sent to personally deliver the letter, it definitely was not just about a simple matter.

After the letter in his hand was sent out, the emperor inwardly sighed, as he thought to himself, "Yue Er, for the sake of our kingdom's development, for the sake of our kingdom's future, your father has no choice but to sacrifice you."

Chapter 56: 7th Level of the Library

Early next morning, the cross legged Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes. He had not been cultivating for the past 2 days, and instead was spending his days at the library reading books. Every night, he immersed himself with trying to understand the sword within his dantian, in order to learn to use his Saint Weapon as efficiently as possible.

After all, Jian Chen had only recently broken through to Sainthood, and even though the Saint Weapon within him was connected to his mind, he still didn't know how to use the Saint Weapon to perfection. Jian Chen, who had experience from the previous world, still found the Saint Weapon in this world a fresh new experience. If he didn't spend his time familiarizing himself with it, then even connecting his soul with his Saint Weapon like he did with the tree branch, it would still be very hard to show off the pinnacle of his strength.

The reason for this was the same as a person had a severed arm for ten to twenty years, but the arm suddenly grew back. Since that person was familiar with living with a severed arm and now had to face the newly grown arm, they would also be a bit unfamiliar to his condition. This development required time to slowly accept and become comfortable with.

Standing up from his bed, Jian Chen walked out of his room and headed towards the dining halls. Then as per usual, after eating, he headed to the library.

The doors to the library were already open, but there weren't many people inside; just the regular janitorial lady.

Jian Chen looked at the nearly empty library and then walked towards the 5th level of the library. For the past few days, all of the books he had been interested in, from the first to fourth level, have all been completely read by him.

The library had a total of 7 levels. The first two levels could be accessed by anyone below the Saint level while the 3rd and 4th levels would be opened to those who broke through to the Saint level. The 5th level of the library wasn't open to any student except for the Freshman Champion, so for those who wanted to read the books from that level, they would have to be a teacher from the academy. The 6th and 7th layer of the library was protected by very strong bindings, and only the headmaster and vice headmaster could enter. For those who wanted to enter, they would need the strict approval of either the headmaster or vice headmaster first.

Even though the fifth story of the library wasn't open to the students, Jian Chen, who had achieved the first place in the Freshman Competition, could freely enter the fifth level.

The amount of space the fifth level occupied wasn't really that big, and the number of books weren't very many either. If you added them all up, the number was barely a hundred, which was incomparable to the ten thousands of books that the first level had.

But Jian Chen knew that any one of these hundred books, had a value far greater than any of the books he had ever read before.

The fifth level of the library was very quiet. Although not many people visited it, Jian Chen could see that this place was cleaned by someone very often. The entire room was clean; one wouldn't be able to find a single speck of dust in it.

Jian Chen walked towards the bookshelves and selected a book on cultivation before walking back towards the table. The contents of the book were only about cultivation. Although he didn't know if the contents of the book would help him with his problem, it would at least enrich his mind with other information he deemed helpful.

Jian Chen was extremely invested in reading, to the point of addiction. Although the information recorded inside the book had almost nothing that could help him, it still helped open his eyes and broadened his horizons to a whole new world of cultivation. The information he saw was about things he could never think about before in his past life.

The information on cultivation written inside the book wasn't too profound and only had a few dozen pages, so he quickly finished the book. After reading it, Jian Chen placed the book back onto the bookshelves and started to mutter to himself, as if he was trying to commit the knowledge to memory.

After carefully putting the book back in its original location, Jian Chen grabbed another book and started to repeat the process of reading once more. Within the 5th level of the library, practically all of the books were left behind by predecessors to help people with cultivation techniques. However, the majority of these cultivation techniques were not too strong; most of them were barely above the Primary Earth Tier level.

The time slowly went by, as Jian Chen resided on the 5th level to read book after book. He had completely forgotten about the time, he hadn't noticed that he was no longer alone, as two other middle aged men appeared. Just one look at the two was enough to tell that these were teachers of the academy.

The two middle-aged men appeared to know Jian Chen; when they saw him, their eyes let out a very surprised look. However, they did not make a sound to avoid disturbing him.

Just then, an old man wearing a light blue and luxurious chang pao walked up from below. He looked to be in his fifties or sixties. His hair was as white as a crane but his appearance was like that of a young man. He had a mysterious expression that constantly flashed in his eyes.

The 5th level of the library wasn't too big, and so after the elderly man entered the 5th level of the library, he promptly walked to the side to get to the staircase that would lead to the 6th layer. All of a sudden, he had noticed a young child out of the corner of his eye.

The elderly man came to a sudden stop as he sized up the child in his head. Immediately recognizing the academy uniform on the tall but slender child, he realized with a start, "Changyang Xiang Tian!"

Jian Chen was immediately brought back to his senses and looked back to the old man who had called him. His face was a little sluggish before he jolted to his feet with a smile, "Headmaster, why have you come here?"

This man was the headmaster of Kargath Academy.

The headmaster's voice had simultaneously startled the two teachers. The moment they saw the headmaster, they looked startled and placed their books down onto the table before standing up. Cupping their hands to salute the headmaster, they called out respectfully, "We greet the headmaster."

The headmaster of Kargath Academy was a well known figure whose name resounded throughout the Gesun Kingdom. His strength was on the level of a Heaven Saint Master, and he was one of the 6 strongest individuals of the Gesun Kingdom.

A Heaven Saint Master on the Tian Yuan Continent was still regarded as a very strong and valiant person.

The headmaster's gaze swept across the two middle aged men and waved his hand as he said, "Don't mind me, please continue reading your books."

"Yes, headmaster." The two middle aged men immediately sat down again, though they didn't have the spirit to concentrate on the books in their hands.

The headmaster's eyes glanced over the book within Jian Chen's hand. With a smile as he nodded his head in satisfaction, he said with a gratified tone, "Changyang Xiang Tian, do you like this library?"

Jian Chen nodded his head without hesitation, "That's right; from this library, I can learn many different things. Even if the information here provides little to no help to someone, it'll still increase one's knowledge."

Hearing Jian Chen, the headmaster looked at him with admiration. "Good, good. Changyang Xiang Tian, someone with your understanding and logic is hard to come by. Since you enjoy being in this library, then let me help you. Come with me." Turning around, the headmaster started to walk towards the stairway to the 6th level.

Seeing the direction that the headmaster was heading in, Jian Chen fully understood the old man's meaning and was overjoyed. He immediately returned the book in his hand to the original position and followed behind the headmaster toward the sixth level of the library.

Seeing Jian Chen disappear off into the staircase, the two teachers looked at his direction with some envy. The 6th and 7th levels of the library could only be accessed by the headmaster and the vice headmaster. Those who wanted access needed the approval of one of the two first. When it came to the 6th and 7th levels of the library, these were the areas that every single teacher of the academy wanted to go to, mostly because those two levels contained high level techniques. Not only that, but the other books in that level had rich information pertaining to many other fields. Most importantly, on the 6th and 7th levels of the library, there were records of many of the different types of spiritual treasures on the Tian Yuan Continent.

Very quickly, Jian Chen followed the headmaster to the entrance of the sixth level. Jian Chen could clearly see the transparent bindings keeping the door shut.

“The bindings of the sixth level and the seventh level are all arranged by the previous generations of headmasters. The defence is very strong, and even if it is a Heaven Saint Master, it is impossible to break it within a short period of time.” The headmaster’s tone carried a bit a pride, and he immediately took out a token constructed from Purple Coin. The token had very complicated markings on it, and it seemed to be a design of some sort.

The Purple Coin token in the headmaster’s hands released a faint purple glow, and soon the purple glow grew more and more bright. At last, a ray of light like a material substance shot out and directly landed on the bindings.

The transparent bindings slowly rippled twice like water, and the center slowly split apart to form a large hole that a person could easily enter through

“Changyang Xiang Tian, follow me inside.” The headmaster called out to Jian Chen, and directly walked inside.

Jian Chen followed behind the headmaster, and they walked straight through the sixth level onto the seventh level. The library’s seventh level was very empty. It was only the size of a typical room, and there was a single wooden table placed in the center. In front of the table was a small bookshelf that had a few thin books. There were two boxes on top of the bookshelf; one of the boxes was completely made of extremely precious jade, while the other was entirely made of Purple Coin. Both of their values were not at all lacking, and it could be seen that the items within these boxes had to be extremely important.

“Ever since Kargath Academy was first established, this library has always existed. Up until now, it’s been here for hundreds of years already. These past few centuries, the number of people aside from the headmaster of each era that have come to this library’s seventh level hasn’t been small. However, every single one of them was an extremely influential power, if not an impressive expert from the Tian Yun Continent. You are the first Kargath Academy student to have entered the seventh level these past few centuries.” The headmaster explained slowly, with an extremely calm tone.

“Changyang Xiang Tian, this library’s seventh level is where my Kargath Academy’s riches are contained. The entire seventh level is enveloped by a layer of powerful bindings. This layer of bindings were painstakingly created by the Saint Ruler, Brian, the first generation’s headmaster. The items within all have special tracers; as long as the bindings aren’t broken, there is no way they can be brought outside. In addition, the books inside here were all the books about cultivation methods that Headmaster Brian had collected himself, if not personally written by him. These are Kargath Academy’s greatest riches.”

Hearing this, Jian Chen’s expression became extremely serious. He hadn’t imagined that the library’s seventh level would be so important. The fact that Kargath Academy’s first generation headmaster had actually been a Saint Ruler that was an exceptional expert was also shocking to Jian Chen.

The headmaster’s gaze brightly looked at Jian Chen, and his expression changed and he said with a strict tone, “Changyang Xiang Tian, right now I use my authority as the headmaster to allow you to read any book except the one inside the jade box. You only have this one chance, I hope you properly utilize it.”

Jian Chen solemnly nodded his head, “I thank the headmaster for the help.”

“The jade box contains items that would not be of any use to the current you, and it may even obstruct your growth. Therefore, you must not look at the items within the jade box. However, the Purple Coin box contains a Primary Heaven Tier cultivation technique that you can read however much you want. However, your Changyang clan’s family heirloom Law of Yang Qi isn’t any weaker than the Collecting Heart Sutra. Therefore, choosing whatever cultivation method you use isn’t something you should be too hasty with.”

“Okay, you can stay here by yourself and take your time to read them. Remember, you only have this once chance to enter the seventh floor of the library, I hope you treasure it. The bindings at the entrance will only prevent the people who are trying to enter, if you want to leave, you can leave directly.” After finishing, the headmaster immediately turned and left the place, disappearing outside the bindings on the seventh floor, leaving Jian Chen standing there dazed.

Chapter 57: Arranged Marriage

Jian Chen took in a deep breath to calm himself down before walking towards the bookshelves. His eyes swept over the shelves one by one before finally taking out a single book. He walked towards the center of the floor to a table and sat down. The book was for those who gained insights as well as techniques for breaking through a bottleneck. Even Earth Saint Masters could benefit from the notes clearly written on it

Although there weren’t many books on this level, but the quality of the content inside was of the utmost quality. If any one of these books were to be released to the common populace, then it would cause a widespread reign of carnage for it.

Jian Chen slowly flipped the pages of the book one by one as he read it. Soon the book was finished off by him, causing Jian Chen to sink into meditation. Whatever book he grabbed had led to his eyes being opened wide to the world of possibilities. The cultivation system in this world had already long since toppled the system in his previous world. With this book, Jian Chen felt like he had a stronger understanding of this world’s cultivation system now.

Not too long after, Jian Chen had finished reading a dozen book from the shelves. Half of the books talked about insights on cultivation as well as the problems a cultivator might experience. The other half were books about cultivation techniques, but the strongest of these techniques were only at the Upper Earth Tier level. What Jian Chen had found most helpful was the personal letter from Kargath Academy’s first headmaster Brian.

Jian Chen’s eyes swept over to the Purple Coin box; according to the headmaster, the Purple Coin box contained a Primary Heaven Tier technique. Although Jian Chen didn’t have a clear idea of how valuable a Heaven Tier technique was, but he did know that it was still quite the priceless treasure.

After all, the Heaven Tier techniques was the second strongest type of technique on the Tian Yuan continent. There was only one other tier higher than it—Saint Tier.

Jian Chen slowly opened the Purple Coin box only to see a hand sized book inside. On top of the cover of the book had words—Collecting Heart Sutra written on it in bold cursive. The moment the book touched his hand, Jian Chen felt a soft sensation enter his arm. It was almost as if there was a sense of warmth to the book despite it never being touched before.

The book was made of some kind of magical beast leather. It was extremely supple and strong, and hard to damage in any way.

He slowly took the book out of the box and carefully started to flip through the pages to read it. He was reading it with a serious face since Jian Chen knew that such a strong cultivational technique was extremely rare to come by. Although he didn't initially plan to practice this technique, just looking at it would bring him some benefits at the very least. Though he wasn't sure if he would be able to find something of value within the book to help him with his problem.

4 hours later, Jian Chen's eyes finally moved away from the book as he bowed his head in contemplation. After he was sure he committed the contents of the book to memory, he returned it to the original box and then walked back to the table.

His eyes looked at the bookshelves before he let out a sigh. With no small amount of regret, he began to head down the stairs, however, Jian Chen had profited greatly today in the 7th level of the library.

On his way down, Jian Chen took a look at the 6th level of the library. Although the books within the 6th level was not as valuable as the 7th level, the profits in the knowledge gained from them were still great. To Jian Chen, the predecessors had imparted their knowledge and insights in those books, so the knowledge would prove to be extremely beneficial.

Jian Chen had learned much about the many different spiritual treasures of the Tian Yuan continent, something that couldn't be found anywhere on the first 5 levels of the library.

By the time Jian Chen had walked out of the library, the sky had already darkened. Unknowingly, he had already spent the entire day inside the library. He'd even forgotten to eat.

"Growl...." At that moment, Jian Chen's stomach unexpectedly made a loud sound.

Jian Chen reached down to rub his stomach that was currently so empty that it had begun to hurt a bit. He smiled helplessly, and then started to walk towards the dining hall.

After quickly finishing his dinner, Jian Chen went straight back to the dorms. En route, he managed to attract quite a few students' gazes; there were envious, respectful, jealous, and all other types of expressions in their looks.

Jian Chen didn't pay any mind to the surrounding attention, and walked to the dorm without a sideways glance. After he entered the dorms, he could see that in the distance, there was a familiar figure standing in front of his room. He felt relieved as he realized it was his older brother, Changyang Hu.

"It's so late, and yet Big Brother is waiting for me to return here. Could it be he has something urgent that he really needs to tell me?" Jian Chen inwardly guessed. He quickened his pace, and rushed over.

"Big brother, it's already so late. Why are you waiting for me here? What is there that cannot wait until tomorrow to discuss?" Jian Chen asked as he walked up to Changyang Hu.

Seeing Jian Chen approach, Changyang Hu's face turned bitter, and he said with a sigh, "Ai...fourth brother, you've finally returned. Where did you run off to today? I pretty much searched the entire school, yet I couldn't find you, so I have been waiting here for the entire day now."

Jian Chen said apologetically, "Big brother, were you looking for me for something extremely important?"

Hearing this, Changyang Hu smiled happily and said in an excited voice, "Of course there's something. Moreover, it's something major. Come, fourth brother, let's enter the room to talk."

Jian Chen nodded, and took out the key from his Space Belt to open the room's door. This room's door was newly replaced, since the old one had been turned to rubble by the vice headmaster.

Immediately after they entered the room, Changyang Hu closed the door, and then urgently said, "Fourth brother, the clan just sent a message. You're so lucky, your big brother is really envious of you."

Hearing this, Jian Chen was puzzled, and he asked in confusion, "Big brother, exactly what has happened?"

Changyang Hu sat down on Jian Chen's bed, and said with a happy smile, "Fourth brother, I guess you don't know yet. Father has already arranged for your marriage."

Hearing this, Jian Chen's expression clearly became startled. After finally returning to his senses, he asked in an incredulous and shocked tone, "What! An arranged marriage?!"

Changyang Hu fiercely nodded, and excitedly replied, "That's right, fourth brother. Moreover, your partner is the emperor's third princess — Princess Ge Lan. I've heard that this arranged marriage had even been the emperor's own suggestion."

Hearing this, Jian Chen's expression immediately grew more serious. He felt that this situation was extremely abnormal, and moreover, he hadn't agreed to it. He felt dissatisfied by the fact that his own marriage had been decided by his clan without him. Having such a fate decided by others made Jian Chen feel extremely disgusted.

Seeing Jian Chen's expression, Changyang Hu thought that Jian Chen was worrying over Princess Ge Lan's appearance. He couldn't help but laugh, "Fourth brother, don't worry. Although I've never seen Princess Ge Lan, I've heard quite a few things about her. Princess Ge Lan is the emperor's third daughter. She's naturally beautiful, and her looks are enough for cities to fight over her. Since she was young, she's been a gifted genius. She has not only mastered the four fine arts, she's also quite a well-known talent in cultivation. At the age of 15, Princess Ge Lan had reached the 7th Saint Force layer. She has been doted on quite a lot by the emperor; she is the emperor's beloved person, the emperor loves her dearly in every possible way."

Hearing this Changyang Hu sighed, "Princess Ge Lan's identity isn't her only good point. With just her gift at cultivation, even your own older brother couldn't compete with her. Fourth Brother, His Majesty has betrothed the princess to you; this is a stroke of good fortune, so don't have such a sour look on your face."

Jian Chen could only let out a sigh inwardly, Changyang Hu couldn't understand his thoughts at all. Despite Princess Ge Lan's beauty, Jian Chen wasn't moved at all. All he wanted to do right now was to improve his own strength, he couldn't afford to waste time with a girl at the moment. Jian Chen also knew that the emperor was aware of his own achievements within Kargath Academy, otherwise, there was no way the emperor would have been so firm on his decision to betroth his daughter to him.

Because this arranged marriage was proposed by the emperor, Jian Chen was absolutely powerless to go against the marriage. His parents wouldn't even dare to give up the chance to establish a friendship with the royal family, let alone a relationship with them. Aside from the emperor taking back the proposal, there would be no way for Jian Chen to refuse it, so he would have to quietly accept it.

The only thing that put Jian Chen to ease was the fact that this decision was only just recently made. The official date for the marriage had not yet been announced, meaning the marriage was being put off indefinitely for the time being. This gave him a good time period to breathe. Jian Chen after all did not want to talk about this at all; in his previous life, Jian Chen was a wanderer who loved traveling around the world. Without a permanent residence to live in and using the mother earth as his bed, with another person by his side, he wouldn't be able to continue to that lifestyle anymore.

After Changyang Hu left, Jian Chen sat on the bed by himself and contemplated deeply. One had to admit that the news from his clan had been too sudden, catching Jian Chen unprepared.

"Ai, I might as well spend the rest of my time cultivating. Power in the end decides everything after all. When my strength grows strong enough, even the emperor would not be able to say anything." Jian Chen sighed as he continued to cultivate.

Jian Chen took out a Class 1 Monster Core from the pile of them within his Space Ring. He slowly closed his eyes, and began to absorb the power from within the monster core to cultivate it. Ever since he had broken through Sainthood 2 days ago, this was the first time he was cultivating. The past 2 evenings, he had been familiarizing himself with how to use and control the Saint Weapon.

Just as Jian Chen started to absorb the energy from within the monster cores, the speed in which the monster core was being absorbed from him was growing faster and faster; almost as if all control was lost as the energy rushed into him. As the energy frantically rushed into him, the rate had instantly increased to a speed several hundred times faster than normal.

The sudden rush in cultivation speed caused Jian Chen's face to twitch in surprise. Although every cultivator greatly desired for their cultivation speed to be increased, but Jian Chen's cultivation speed had already reached a frightening level. With this absorption rate of the energy from the monster core, Jian Chen simply didn't have enough time to refine it which serve no purpose for him at all since energy that wasn't refined by him was not controllable and would only serve to rebel against him within his own body. An end result like that would lead to consequences in which Jian Chen would have a tough time resolving.

Jian Chen immediately stopped absorbing the power from the monster core. The only thing worth rejoicing about was that his process of stopping his absorption of the monster core's energy had gone very smoothly. No frightening and uncontrollable scene had occurred. Otherwise, he was afraid that he really would've gotten into deep trouble.

Chapter 58: Annoyance From the Dantian

Jian Chen let out a long breath to still his emotions, as he glanced at the monster core in his hand. Although he hadn't been absorbing the energy from within the monster core for very long, he could clearly tell that the energy within the Class 1 Monster Core was substantially less than before; the monster core had even shrunk in size.

Jian Chen inhaled sharply in astonishment at this new change. Although a Class 1 Monster Core did not have a large amount of energy, before he had become a Saint, completely absorbing all of the energy within a Class 1 Monster Core would require him at least 3 nights. In the short amount of time that he had spent absorbing the energy from the Class 1 Monster Core, the amount of energy inside had already decreased significantly. Jian Chen couldn't possibly dare to imagine just how much energy he had absorbed into his body in that short amount of time.

Afterwards, Jian Chen immediately inspected his inner body once more. However, to his surprise, he couldn't detect any of the energy he had just absorbed at all. His dantian didn't show any change, and the energy inside had no indication of growth either; it was almost as if the entire show just now was merely an illusion that hadn't occurred at all.

If it weren't for the fact that Jian Chen could clearly feel that the energy in the monster core was now less than before, then Jian Chen would have thought this situation had all been in his head; this situation was far too weird to understand.

His eyes creased together in deep thought, but no matter how much he thought about it, Jian Chen was completely confused. In the end, Jian Chen could only put aside the problem and begin to cultivate the absorbed energy. However, after experiencing that rapid rate of absorption, Jian Chen was very careful now and paid attention to his entire body in order to avoid the same situation as last time.

But then who would have thought the moment he started to cultivate, the same event as last time would happen once more. The monster core in his hand emitted a faint glow as the energy inside coursed out of it at an inconceivable speed, before dissipating inside the meridians in his arms.

Jian Chen went as rigid as a stone statue on his bed, without the smallest of movements taking place. Right now, he had finally confirmed that this was happening for real, and it was not just some sort of illusion. Just as Jian Chen was going to stop absorbing the monster core's energy, he immediately changed his mind. His entire mind was elevated to the highest level of concentration he could muster as he tried to familiarize himself with this situation. He wanted to clearly understand what was happening within his body, and what the reason was for the sudden terrifying increase in absorption. Moreover, Jian Chen wanted to know why the energy had simply disappeared into his dantian like a stone in the ocean, leaving behind no traces.

The monster core within Jian Chen's hands had noticeably shrunken, and the energy inside had been steadily flowing into the meridians of his arms via his pores. With such a great flow of energy rushing into his arm, Jian Chen's skin was starting to feel a little sore from the barrage.

When he was absorbing the World Essence two days ago, its state had been much gentler, so the fast rate of absorption hadn't bothered him too much. But the monster core was different; the monster core had the energy of a magical beast condensed within it. No matter how strong the energy or how pure the soul was, it was far superior to the abilities of the World Essence. The monster core also contained a berserk element inside, so when Jian Chen was absorbing the energy from within, he had felt a backlash.

Jian Chen paid no attention to the pain at all, and instead completely focused his attention on the situation happening inside himself. The majority of the energy from within the monster core headed towards his dantian and trickled away; only a small portion of it was assimilated into his body.

However when Jian Chen discovered where the energy was going, his face grew bright, as the energy was flowing towards the azure and violet glows within his dantian. The energy had unexpectedly been completely absorbed by the two glowing balls.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes as he stared heavily at the monster core in his hands. Throwing it away, he shut his eyes closed once more, and began to cultivate the World Essence as he usually did.

The World Essence began to flow towards him in a steady stream, faster and faster. Although the speed was at least a dozen times faster than his regular speed, about 99% of the World Essence was being absorbed by the two glows of light within his dantian, while he was only absorbing 1% of the remaining amount into his body.

After realizing this, Jian Chen decided to rely on cultivating using the World Essence. However, the speed at which he was cultivating and refining the World Essence was ten times slower than his normal speed.

With this conclusion, Jian Chen's expression grew ugly. His own personal cultivation rate was cut down to a tenth of his original rate, something he did not want at all. He hadn't imagined that the two glows in his dantian would be such an annoyance.

Afterwards, Jian Chen tried to absorb the monster core's energy once more. His solemn face gradually loosened up as he began to think. If he were to cultivate using the energy from the monster core, then his cultivation rate wouldn't be as slow as before he became a Saint; instead, it would be three times as fast. The most major flaw was that the amount it took to absorb the energy in this way required a lot of effort; Jian Chen had even started to sweat from the exertion.

Stopping his cultivation after a while, he looked outside the window to see the pitch dark skies and helplessly sighed. If the glows in his dantian were to forcibly take his energy each and every time he cultivated, then the variables in his future would only get more difficult. After all, just relying on absorbing the World Essence gave him a tenth of his cultivation speed. Absorbing the energy from the monster core tripled his speed, while also consuming more of his personal energy and focus, something Jian Chen couldn't endure.

A single Class 1 Monster Core originally took Jian Chen 3 nights to absorb. Right now, absorbing that same Class 1 Monster Core required the same amount of time it took to make and drink a cup of tea. This meant that in a single night, Jian Chen could absorb 50 Class 1 Monster Cores. Even if Jian Chen was made of money, it would be difficult to say if Jian Chen could keep up with this new rate of consumption and absorption.

TL Note: 10 minutes per Class 1 Monster Core

Jian Chen immediately composed himself. According to his knowledge, he knew that this little bump on the road wasn't too hard to overcome. "Ai, a step is a step. If I don't have anymore monster cores, then I'll go out and hunt for more. It's not like the energy will always be taken away from me like this in the future." With this thought in mind, Jian Chen took out a batch of monster cores from within his space belt, and continued to cultivate once more.

The night passed quickly. The second morning arrived, concluding Jian Chen's daily cultivation period. Taking inventory of the amount of monster cores he used, he sucked in a sharp breath in shock. In the span of a single night, he had unexpectedly consumed the energy from 56 Class 1 Monster Cores.

Jian Chen smiled bitterly. Even though his Space Belt contained a wealthy amount of monster cores, with this rate of consumption, the monster cores wouldn't last for more than a few days. When there were no more to absorb, Jian Chen would then be forced to rely on the World Essence. Right now, Jian Chen could only hope that his dantian and the two glows of light inside would become saturated with energy, and stop taking it from him when he cultivated.

"It looks like I'll have to make a trip to the magical beast forest for some monster cores later." Jian Chen muttered under his breath.

With a pacified heart, Jian Chen departed from his room and walked towards the grove outside of the academy to help teach his older brother with some techniques regarding fighting, as well as helping him gain some battle experience. As the sun rose, Jian Chen worked hard to teach Changyang Hu. Eventually, as the sun was at its highest point, Jian Chen concluded his explanations.

"Big brother, we'll stop here for now. As far as using and transforming your energy, you'll have to spend some time on getting it down. But when it comes to battle experience, you'll just have to fight with others to slowly improve, so there's no point in practicing by yourself so meticulously." Jian Chen said to his older brother. For the past few days, Jian Chen had spent his mornings teaching Changyang Hu various aspects of techniques and fighting.

Changyang Hu nodded his head, "I understand, fourth brother." Right now, Changyang Hu did not think that learning from his fourth brother was an odd occurrence. He didn't know what Jian Chen's lifestyle was like back at the Changyang Mansion, but he could tell that his own brother was a talented genius. Receiving some special attention would have been normal, so it wasn't that far fetched to think that Jian Chen had learned these things from the clan elders. In addition, Changyang Hu knew that Jian Chen loved to read books, frequently spending entire days inside the academy's library.. So it was possible that some of the things he knew came from the library as well.

"Big brother, you should slowly practice by yourself. I'll be leaving first." With that, Jian Chen exited the grove, leaving his brother to continue training by himself.

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In the middle of one of the academy training grounds, two youths wearing the same academy uniform were fiercely fighting against each other. One of them held a giant blade burning a fiery red as it emitted a sizzling Qi. The owner of such a strong weapon was the gifted cultivation genius of Kargath Academy—Cheng Mingxiang.

Cheng Mingxiang's opponent was holding a giant sword that was blue in color. He looked to be older than Cheng Mingxiang. However, his face was dripping with sweat as he concentrated on the fight.

They fought ferociously, but a perceptive person would have been able to tell that the blue sword wielder was being forced to blindly defend against the red sword wielder.

"My lord, I concede. I cannot defend myself any longer." The blue sword holder cried out.

Hearing him, Cheng Mingxiang immediately paused and let the sword in his hand disappear. "Sha La, it seems like the duration that you can defend yourself for is getting shorter and shorter. Looks like you have to work harder in the future; the current you is weaker than in the past."

The youth gave a bitter smile as he laughed, "My lord, it is not that my strength is getting worse, but that your strength is growing faster than mine. I am no longer a suitable opponent for you."

Cheng Mingxiang looked proud at himself when he heard these words.

At that moment, another student wearing the academy uniform came running over towards Cheng Mingxiang with an envelope in his hand. "Lord Cheng, a letter from the clan elders have come!"

Chapter 59: Revenge

Cheng Mingxiang's face became serious as he heard the student yell. Taking the letter from him, Cheng Mingxiang began to rip open the letter.

As he read the contents of the letter, Cheng Mingxiang's face grew darker and darker as his eyes began to show a raging anger within them.

Seeing Cheng Mingxiang's reaction, the youth who had just sparred with him asked cautiously, "Lord Cheng, what is the matter, has something bad happened over at the sect?"

Clenching his hand together to become a fist, the letter became a crumpled up ball of paper as Cheng Mingxiang grew angrier and angrier. The look in his eye had already evolved to contain a look of extreme hatred.

"Changyang Xiang Tian..." Cheng Mingxiang gnashed at his teeth as his fingers clenched tightly into his palms. Just by looking at him one could tell just how angry he was.

Hearing Cheng Mingxiang mentioned Changyang Xiang Tian's name, the youth grew even more confused. Opening his mouth to ask once more, he said, "Lord Cheng, what in the world has happened?"

Cheng Mingxiang growled with a dark voice, "His Majesty has just betrothed Princess Ge Lan to Changyang Xiang Tian, and has already officiated it."

The youth's face changed when he heard him. He knew that Cheng Mingxiang had fond feelings for the princess. Ever since Cheng Mingxiang had first seen her at the imperial palace, he had essentially placed her beauty on the same level as a goddess and developed a deep crush on her. Since then, he had been unable to get over those feelings.

Within Cheng Mingxiang's own heart, he had already marked Princess Ge Lan as his own. After all, within the Gesun Kingdom, he was the only suitable match for a princess like her. Whether it be familial background or his own cultivation talent, Cheng Mingxiang was not at all lacking in these 2 fields. With his Hua Yun Sect, they had power that almost rivaled the power of the royal family of the Gesun Kingdom. Within the sect itself, Cheng Mingxiang's status was majestic beyond any other person.

In the past, Cheng Mingxiang had wanted his parents to ask for the princess's hand in marriage from the emperor multiple times, but his parents had continuously wanted him to focus on cultivation instead. They didn't want his cultivation to be interrupted by a girl in the end.

His parents refusal to help him propose to the princess had made him resentful, but he didn't say anything. For in his mind, Cheng Mingxiang had decided that Princess Ge Lan was already his and that no one else would be able to snatch her away from him. After all, within the Gesun Kingdom, there was no one else worthy of Princess Ge Lan, causing him to feel safe.

But he didn't expect at all to meet someone else in Kargath Academy that was no weaker than himself. Changyang Xiang Tian's gift at cultivation had exceeded his own, and he had even taken over Cheng Mingxiang's title of Kargath Academy's number 1 cultivation genius. Not only did he steal that, but Changyang Xiang Tian had even stolen away his one love, causing Cheng Mingxiang to be unable to endure this any longer.

The youth that fought against Cheng Mingxiang cautiously looked at him before whispering, "My lord, what do you plan to do now?"

Cheng Mingxiang's eyes flashed with a murderous tint as he snarled, "Princess Ge Lan is mine, within the Gesun Kingdom, only I am suitable to be married to her." His voice was filled with an unquenchable hatred, "Sha La, bring some people over, we shall head towards Changyang Xiang Tian. This time, we will definitely teach him a lesson on trying to steal someone else's woman."

"Yes, my lord." The youth immediately scurried off in order to gather about people.

Due to Cheng Mingxiang's strength, he had quickly amassed a large group of people. There were at least 16 of them and all were from noble families and had reached Sainthood. Not only that, but the majority of these people had their monster cores taken from them by Jian Chen, causing them to fail the assignment in the forest. So because of that, they all harbored a grudge towards him; and when Cheng Mingxiang had started to gather people, each one of them eagerly signed up to take part in this.

Among the group, there were two other people Jian Chen was very familiar with. They were Luo Jian of the Luo Clan and Ka Di Yun of the Ka Di Clan.

Cheng Mingxiang gave a steady glance at everyone, a great big smile on his face. "Good, there's plenty of people here. Even if we were to turn Changyang Xiang Tian into a cripple, the Changyang Clan wouldn't dare say anything. The people gathered here today have no small amount of influence, even the emperor would get a headache if he were to try protecting Changyang Xiang Tian."

Cheng Mingxiang was confident that he could beat Changyang Xiang Tian in a fair battle, but now that His Majesty had officially declared the wedding between Changyang Xiang Tian and Princess Ge Lan, his status was like black and white compared to before. Not only did he have the backing of the Changyang Clan, but now he had the royal family supporting him. With this combination, even Cheng Mingxiang who had a considerable amount of power and influence would need to think carefully before planning. If he wanted to teach a simple lesson, then there would not be as big a problem, but Cheng Mingxiang didn't think it would be that easy. So for that reason, he had called many influential people to join him. With a coalition of power like this, the emperor would have to think twice before investigating. The Changyang Clan itself didn't even have a voice at all against this group.

"Sha La, immediately fetch someone to go look for Changyang Xiang Tian's location. Remember, this should not be let out at all. If the vice headmaster or the headmaster find out about it, all of our plans will be ruined." Cheng Mingxiang ordered his training partner.

"Yes, my Lord."

Afterwards, Sha La either directly spent money or relied on connections within the academy to secretly hear of Changyang Xiang Tian's immediate location. At the same time, he also dispatched quite a few of his trusted people to search the entire academy.

It was extremely calm within Kargath Academy; nothing had been riled up by Cheng Mingxiang and his group of people's movements.

Two hours later, the 20 students that Sha La had dispatched all returned, one by one.

"Lord Cheng, we've searched the entire Kargath Academy, but there was no signs of Changyang Xiang Tian." A person reported to him.

Cheng Mingxiang frowned and said, "How is that possible? Could it be that Changyang Xiang Tian is not currently within the academy?"

"I've heard Changyang Xiang Tian loved to read in the library, have you searched that building yet?" Luo Jian asked from the side. Although Luo Jian had been stabbed by Jian Chen, the medicine had healed his body back to the point of it being as good as new.

"We've also searched the library. Changyang Xiang Tian isn't there." The leader of the search continued.

At that moment, a slightly chubby youth said, "I heard that Changyang Xiang Tian is the Freshmen Ruler. The Freshmen Ruler has the special privilege of being able to enter the library's first 5 levels. Could it be that Changyang Xiang Tian is hiding within the 5th level? If that really is true, then we can only wait until he comes out before we act."

Hearing their fellow student, everyone in the group nodded, what that person had said had some logic behind it.

The leader in charge of the search shook his head and said, "That can't be. I already asked the janitor lady within the library; she said that Changyang Xiang Tian didn't enter the library at all today."

"Could it be Changyang Xiang Tian is truly not within the academy grounds?" Cheng Mingxiang frowned.

At that moment, another student hesitated slightly before saying, "Lord Cheng, although we didn't find Changyang Xiang Tian, we did discover that Changyang Hu is in the eastern grove. Changyang Hu is Changyang Xiang Tian's older brother; I feel like he might know of Changyang Xiang Tian's whereabouts."

Luo Jian's eyes lit up, but his expression soon fell again. He had just remembered everything that had happened that night; the monster cores in his possession had all been stolen from the Changyang brothers and Tie Ta. Although he didn't dare to get revenge on Tie Ta, he wasn't afraid of the consequences of confronting Changyang Xiang Tian's brother Changyang Hu

"Not bad, Changyang Hu definitely knows where Changyang Xiang Tian went. I recommend that we go ask him." Luo Jian said in a lower voice, his eyes flashing dangerously.

"Alright, we'll go find Changyang Hu first."

Everyone else quickly agreed with Luo Jian's suggestion. For the sake of not attracting other students' attentions, a dozen of them split with the group and took different paths towards the eastern grove.

When the dozen of them rushed to the grove, they saw that Changyang Hu was still there, practicing his martial arts.

At the sight of Changyang Hu, Luo Jian's eyes immediately burned in hatred, as if he could spit out flames. Perhaps Changyang Hu was too absorbed in his practice, but he didn't sense Cheng Mingxiang's people's arrival.

Cheng Mingxiang's group of people walked up to Changyang Hu, and in unison, they stood in a circle surrounding him. Realizing this, Changyang Hu finally awoke from his concentration. By the time he had reacted, he had already been surrounded by dozens of students

Changyang Hu's gaze surveyed his surroundings. After he saw the expressions on the other party's faces, his heart skipped a beat as he had a bad premonition. Especially after he saw Luo Jian's hatred-filled glare towards him, Changyang Hu's expression could not help but grow heavy.

"What do you guys want?" Changyang Hu said. Despite the dozen or so people surrounding him, his face still did not show a single trace of fear.

Luo Jian sneered, "Changyang Hu, do you not remember what happened in the forest a few days ago?" His face grew dark as he spoke and glared at him. "Your group dared to steal my three days worth of hard work and caused me to fail. For this slight, I will definitely pay you back an eye for an eye."

Changyang Hu snorted, and his gaze at Luo Jian showed no trace of fear as he coldly said, "Luo Jian, that was trouble that you had brought onto yourself; there's no way we are to blame for what happened. If you hadn't first tried to steal our monster cores, then the following events wouldn't have occurred. Everything was your own fault; if you want to blame something, you can only blame your lack of strength. You even got defeated by my fourth brother, who hadn't even reached Sainthood yet." Changyang Hu mocked, as he looked at Luo Jian in disdain.

"You..." Luo Jian was momentarily so indignant at Changyang Hu's response that he couldn't respond. The event that had occurred that night in the forest was a humiliation that he would never be able to wipe from his memory. Despite his strength as a middle-ranked Saint level, he had lost to a freshman that hadn't yet become a Saint. In addition, the monster cores that he had spent 3 days of painstaking efforts to collect had all been taken away. This result was definitely something that the Young Master of the Luo clan couldn't accept.

If word of his humiliation reached the clan, then Luo Jian would not be able to hold his head up high in the future.

Chapter 60: Changyang Hu's Injuries

Luo Jian flew into a rage and immediately concentrated his energy into his right hand before charging towards Changyang Hu.

Changyang Hu's reaction wasn't slow at all, since he had already been ready to retaliate since they surrounded him. So when Luo Jian had summoned his Saint Weapon, he had summoned his own yellow colored battleaxe without any fear of the rapidly incoming Luo Jian.

When the two Saints started to move, the surrounding circle of people instinctively took a step back in order to avoid injury.

"Peng!"

Luo Jian's sword and Changyang Hu's battleaxe clashed against each other emitting a tremendously loud sound. After the two weapons smashed into each other, the force of their actions caused the two to tremble in reaction. Their feet slowly retreating backwards, with Changyang Hu going back four or five steps while Luo Jian slowly retreated two or three steps.

The two started to fight at a very close distance, but the spectators could tell that Changyang Hu was slowly losing ground. Although Luo Jian's wind attribute Saint Force focused on speed, and his attack was slightly weaker, his strength was still at the middle-ranked Saint level. Even if Changyang Hu's earth-attribute Saint Force had stronger defense, he wasn't Luo Jian's equal. After all, Changyang Hu had just reached Saint level not too long ago.

Luo Jian didn't plan on letting Changyang Hu off so easily. His body flashed with a cyan glow, and a wind began to revolve around his body endlessly. Luo Jian's body instantly appeared in front of Changyang Hu, the great sword raised high in the air, glowing cyan. He slashed it down towards Changyang Hu at frightening speeds; since Luo Jian's Saint Force used the wind attribute, his speed was levels higher than other people's.

Changyang Hu's expression suddenly changed. Luo Jian's attack speed was so fast that he had no time to counter. In the end, he barely managed to raise the axe in his hand to block the attack with difficulty.

"Changyang Hu, accept your death!"

At that moment when Changyang Hu's axe hit Luo Jian's sword, another voice came crying out from the sidelines. It was Ka Di Yun with his own sword coming straight at him and immediately slash down onto Changyang Hu's right arm.

An intense pain caused Changyang Hu to let out a groan. It was obvious that this attack had used quite a bit of Ka Di Yun's strength. It left a wound so deep on Changyang Hu's shoulder that one could see the bone.

With his arm having suffered from such a huge attack, Changyang Hu could no longer maintain the Saint Weapon in his hand, and the great axe disappeared from his hand.

Luo Jian's eyes flashed with a cold look and swung his sword at the stomach of Changyang Hu. The point of the sword ripped apart his uniform, and left a deep wound on Changyang Hu's stomach. Immediately, a river of blood came flowing out of the wound, causing his uniform to be dyed a bloody red.

A look of extreme pain flashed through his face, but he didn't dare let out a sound.

"Changyang Hu, I didn't think you'd get what you deserved so quickly." Luo Jian roared with laughter, the hatred he bore towards Changyang Hu couldn't be resolved easily. With another wave of his sword, he slashed down and left yet another wound on Changyang Hu's body.

Changyang Hu's eyes were filled with a fierce glare towards Luo Jian as he snarled. "Luo Jian, how useless you are, just because you couldn't beat my fourth brother, you have to fight me. Just wait and see if my fourth brother won't beat the crap out of you."

Hearing Changyang Hu, Luo Jian's face grew dark. Striding forward, he immediately kicked Changyang Hu.

Changyang Hu's eyes flashed at the opportunity, just as Luo Jian's leg was about to make contact, his left arm flew out and clasped onto it. With a mighty strength, Changyang Hu pulled at it.

Luo Jian's sense of balance was immediately disrupted, causing him to fall to the ground.

"Ha!" Changyang Hu roared, his left hand formed a fist as his Saint Force entered his hand. Bringing it down, his fist speeding towards the floored Luo Jian.

Luo Jian wasn't slow to react however, as soon as he hit the floor, he rolled sideways away from Changyang Hu, causing the Saint Force enhanced fist to miss.

"Peng!"

Changyang Hu's fist smashed against the floor and left behind a giant crater as it sunk into the ground.

"Changyang Hu, you really are looking to die!" Luo Jian's handsome face went deathly white. With a snarl, the green colored wind attribute Saint Force condensed into his fist, and almost as if it were lightning, he slammed his fist into Changyang Hu's stomach.

"Pff!" Changyang Hu spat out a glob of blood as his body was sent flying backwards. After four or five meters his body finally descended to the ground with a loud crash.

Just as Luo Jian decided to rush forward to beat Changyang Hu even more, Cheng Ming Xian blocked his path, "Luo Jian, you've taught him a lesson already. Our main goal is Changyang Xiang Tian, not Changyang Hu. At the very least let us beat Changyang Xiang Tian's whereabouts out from him first."

Luo Jian slowly nodded his head in silence. If it were someone other than Cheng Mingxiang, then he would have looked down on the suggestion in contempt. But Cheng Mingxiang was someone he couldn't afford to offend.

Cheng Mingxiang approached Changyang Hu with a cold laugh, "Changyang Hu, where is Changyang Xiang Tian."

Changyang Hu crawled up from the ground with some difficulty, his face was pale from blood loss, and his mouth still had a few drops of blood trailing down his face. But since his Saint Force had the earth attribute, his defenses were fairly strong. If it were anyone else, that person wouldn't even have the strength to twitch a finger.

Changyang Hu stared at the people surrounding him and growled. "I don't know, but even if I did know, I wouldn't tell any of you." Although he had confidence in Jian Chen's strength, every single person here was at the Saint level, and he didn't want his younger brother to fight alone against this group.

Cheng Mingxiang's face grew dark as he said coldly, "Changyang Hu, I'll give you one more chance. Where is Changyang Xiang Tian?"

Changyang Hu looked up at him and gave a bloody smile, "I already said I don't know."

"Hmph!" Cheng Mingxiang sneered. Smashing his fist against Changyang Hu's face, he immediately slammed him to the ground once more. "Will you speak or not?"

Changyang Hu's anger grew tremendously as he crawled up from the floor with the last of his strength, "This one won't tell you! Cheng Mingxiang, you better kill me straight away, or else, I Changyang Hu, swear that I will make you regret this!"

Cheng Mingxiang looked at him with disdain, "Changyang Hu, what right do you have to say that, could it be because you are the young lord to the Changyang Clan? Hmph, it is merely the Changyang Clan, my Hua Yun Sect cares not about your clan." Cheng Mingxiang's eyes flashed once more and he c*cked his right hand backwards. With a bright red glint, the fist burrowed itself into Changyang Hu's head. "Will. You. Speak?"

Changyang Hu's body was badly bruised by the punch. Already his head was starting to drip with blood, but his resolute expression was still there, looking as fierce as always.

"You and I will go down together!" Changyang Hu couldn't take it anymore. With the yellow light gathering in his left hand, he immediately slashed at Cheng Mingxiang with his reformed Saint Weapon.

A blazing red sword materialized in Cheng Mingxiang's hand and he easily blocked Changyang Hu's attack. Not only did Changyang Hu suffer from serious injuries, he also was not accustomed to using his left hand to control his axe. Even if he had been completely fine, he definitely wouldn't have been Cheng Mingxiang's equal anyways.

Cheng Mingxiang looked at Changyang Hu with a jeering sneer, "Changyang Hu, I recommend you be obedient and tell us where Changyang Xiang Tian, that way you'll feel less pain."

Changyang Hu gasped for air before going oddly calm. He understood that continuing on this route would only lead to disaster. He looked around the area and surveyed his chances before immediately dispersing his Saint Weapon and started to run towards the sports field.

This grove was pretty remote; normally, very few people passed through it. Thus, whatever happened here would naturally remain unknown to everyone else outside. Changyang Hu believed that once he ran to a more populated area, Cheng Mingxiang's group of people definitely wouldn't dare to act. In addition, he had quite a few good friends within the academy. Although Changyang Hu didn't hope for them to help him resist Cheng Mingxiang, he knew that they would at least run to notify a teacher, or even the vice headmaster.

Seeing Changyang Hu run off towards the sports field, Cheng Mingxiang's face changed. "Stop him!" He called out.

The dozen people who initially didn't move immediately set into motion. Quickly chasing after Changyang Hu, even Cheng Mingxiang was starting to run at full speeds towards the direction of Changyang Hu.

Changyang Hu was already seriously wounded, so he was unable to outrun these people. It hadn't even been a few moments before his pursuers had already begun to catch up with him.

Seeing his enemies quickly catching up to him, Changyang Hu felt fear creep into his heart as he realized that he would not be able to even make it out of the grove. With this thought, he snarled and immediately stopped in his tracks before retreating back into a different part of the grove.

Changyang Hu suddenly changed directions, making his pursuers feel suspicious. However, soon after, they smiled coldly, and even slowed down their pursuit.

The group of people behind stood in a semicircular arc as they took their time to chase after Changyang Hu. Luo Jian stood next to Cheng Mingxiang and sneered, "Based on the direction Changyang Hu is running towards, he's most likely looking for Changyang Xiang Tian."

Cheng Mingxiang nodded, "That is true, so it seems Changyang Xiang Tian is indeed not in the academy."

Changyang Hu used all his strength to run, but his current state was not looking good. His head was drenched with blood while his uniform was caked with blood and dirt, looking quite miserable all over. He truly had no idea where Jian Chen was, but he knew that within the grove was a small hillside with a complicated layout and a lush plant-life that was suitable for hiding. With the idea of fleeing into the school becoming obsolete, Changyang Hu's only plausible way to escape was to hide away in the hillside and hope to shake off his enemies.

However, Changyang Hu had forgotten, that the place where Jian Chen had taught him this morning was currently in the opposite direction.

At a waterfall on the hillsides, a uniformed youth was cultivating in a puddle not too far away from the grass. The figure looked quite slender and weak with long black hair that went down to his waist. He looked rather handsome and had a bright glow in his eyes that was similar to the twinkle that reflected off of his sword.

The youth had a small, silver sword about 1.3 meters long and two fingers wide. On the sword hilt were two words written in fancy calligraphy—Light Wind.

The youth calmly stood there. The sword in his hand pointed to the ground, and his whole person was as motionless as a mountain.

At that moment, the youth's eyes let out a spark of light. His body fluidly began to move without warning; only mirages from his quick movements could be seen. The silver sword in his hand had entirely become a white blur, and countless shadows of the sword blended together like an illusion that constantly flashed with light. As it moved in the air, only its afterimages could be seen.

The youth cried out the words 'Profound Steps' as he moved through the ground quickly as if he was gliding with a great amount of agility and nimbleness. Seeing a rabbit, he quickly stabbed at it with his sword with such an inconceivable speed, anyone that saw him would be astounded.

This youth was Jian Chen. After leaving the grove he had directly arrived at this beautiful landscape, remembering the feeling of the use of the sword that he had experienced before in his previous world.