

Chaotic 521

Chapter 521: 5000 Year Old Saint Ruler

Jian Chen's eyes gained a determined light to them, "Huang Luan, don't worry. I, Jian Chen, will exhaust my entire efforts to help you. You won't be betrothed to a man you do not love."

Jian Chen's words were firm and decisive. There was resolution in his voice and a strong conviction in himself.

When Huang Luan heard him, her heart immediately felt nice and warm as it pulsed with emotions. In the end, she couldn't help but hug Jian Chen tightly once again. Her entire body began to shake from her spasmodic sobbing. In the silent moment of crying, tears could be seen flowing down her face.

"Jian Chen, I feel satisfied enough with those words. As I thought, I've always been in your heart, haven't I?" Huang Luan spoke through her sobs with a gentle voice filled with emotions.

Jian Chen said nothing and instead chose to hug Huang Luan tightly. This was a problem he found difficult to answer and simply had no time to even ponder it.

Continuing, Huang Luan spoke, "Jian Chen, this union between the Huang family and the Huanggu family cannot be changed. You shouldn't waste your time with this, it's useless. The Qinhuang Kingdom won't be in favor for you to interfere either." Huang Luan's voice was filled with sorrow.

From the touching appearance of the two, it seemed as if they were a happily married couple on the verge of being broken apart while they tried their best to find a way to resist.

Gently taking Huang Luan's arm off of himself, Jian Chen replied, "The situation has not yet reached a situation where it cannot be saved. Don't worry, I will do my best to help you away from this abyss of suffering. I will go speak with your ancestor."

With that said, Jian Chen wasted no time and turned around to leave Huang Luan's place of residence.

She made no move to stop him either and only stared blankly at the retreating back of Jian Chen. A soft look was in her eyes as tears slowly stole away from her eyelids and trailed down her beautiful face — a face that could bring a kingdom to its knees.

Jian Chen did not stay long at Huang Luan's pavilion. Not even an hour later, he walked out from the pavilion, but the elders Feng and Yun were nowhere to be seen.

A white-robed, middle-aged man had been walking toward Huang Luan's pavilion from far away. When he saw Jian Chen walking out from it, he called out from a long distance away, "You must be the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom!" The man spoke with a friendly smile and cordial tone.

Jian Chen looked at the middle-aged man; he looked to be an Earth Saint Master in strength, but his imposing presence that brought forth dignity from it overwhelmed the area with his hegemonial air.

Although the man was only an Earth Saint Master in strength, Jian Chen could think of no reason to feel any contempt for him and cupped his hands in greeting instead, "This one is Jian Chen!"

Receiving a polite response from an Imperial Protector like Jian Chen to an Earth Saint Master like him, the middle-aged man showed an approving light in his eyes. The smile on his face grew even warmer as he cupped his hands back in salute, "This one is the family head of the Huang family — Huang Qinglan. Huang'er is my daughter, which brings the topic to mind; it seems Huang'er and the Imperial Protector have quite the history."

Upon hearing that this middle-aged man was actually Huang Luan's father, Jian Chen revealed a surprised look in his eyes. Though, he quickly recovered and smiled, "So you are the head of the Huang family, it is nice to meet you!"

"Imperial Protector, the previous representative for the Huang family was my grandfather. When he went into isolation behind the mountains, he was unable to greet you. If we have slighted you, then please forgive us. Allow me to bring you to the Jade Cloud Pavilion, we've already prepared a feast for the Imperial Protector. The other five honored guests from the Qinhuang Kingdom are already there, we are just waiting for the Imperial Protector." Huang Qinglan smiled.

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before shaking his head, "Lord Huang, this one truly apologizes, but this one has an important matter to discuss with the senior at the top of the mountain peak. For that, I cannot accompany the lord, please forgive me."

Upon hearing mention of the senior on top of the mountain, Huang Qinglan thought to the ancestor and immediately grew apologetic and venerable, "If it is so, then I won't delay the Imperial Protector's time any longer."

"Goodbye then!" Jian Chen spoke before flying into the air to travel to the mountain.

Seeing Jian Chen disappear into the sky, Huang Qinglan displayed a look of undisguised admiration and envy in his eyes. Muttering to himself, he said, "Who would have known that in so few years, Jian Chen would reach the realm of a Heaven Saint Master. Truly a sight that makes any yearn in envy."

After speaking his laments, Huang Qinglan continued on his path toward the small pavilion, but when he passed by the spot where Jian Chen had stood, his body came to a halting stop. Sniffing the leftover fragrance in the air, Huang Qinglan suddenly let out a drawn out sigh, "This is the scent of essence of orchid. I did not think that Huang'er would actually be willing to use it for Jian Chen, ai..."

Huang Qinglan displayed a look of helplessness on his face. The essence of orchid was a type of fragrance that wasn't very well known to the common populace of the Tian Yuan Continent, but the majority of the females knew about it. In the eyes of the females, the essence of orchid was a symbol of pure love, the sacred flower for depicting love. A woman could only use this essence once in her entire life. Using this on the man the woman loved represented that she wholeheartedly fell for him and her feelings would never change.

When any single woman used this essence on a man, it illustrated the fact that the woman was prepared to give everything she owned to that man, including her chastity.

That was because the essence of orchid was a natural medicine that would confound the senses and evoke the most primal desires of man.

Huang Qinglan never thought she would be willing to use the essence of orchid on him in the short amount of time they knew each other. This was truly out of his expectations.

There was nothing else Huang Qinglan could do but sigh and continue to sigh. Jian Chen was truly a superior candidate. He was such a superior candidate that Huang Qinglan wouldn't even be able to find a fault with him even if he tried. Jian Chen was nearly perfect, but the future of the Huang family was in imminent peril. Therefore Huang Luan had no choice but to be the expendable victim — betrothed to the Huanggu family without any power to choose who she would love.

Huang Qinglan walked into the small pavilion and up to the second floor. The entire room was filled with that essence of orchid, leaving him no choice but to shake his head helplessly. Then, looking to the tear-stained face of his daughter, his heart began to feel unwell.

"Huang'er..." Huang Qinglan opened his mouth. He wanted to speak some words of comfort to his daughter, but when he opened his mouth to speak, he realized that there were no words he could say to comfort her.

Using a yellow handkerchief to wipe at her tears, Huang Luan turned her back to face Huang Qinglan, "Father, your daughter wishes to be by herself."

Seeing the icy demeanor of his daughter, Huang Qinglan sighed to himself. "Huang'er, your father knows your heart holds only Jian Chen. You are right, Jian Chen is a superior man in every way to the second master of the Huanggu family except in background. If it were any other time, your father would be happy to have you wed to him, but in this time of peril for the Huang family, you know just as well as I do. This choice we chose was never one we were able to select from."

His daughter said nothing, and the father no longer wished to remain in this orchid-smelling room any longer. "Huang'er, your father doesn't wish to bother you. Do calm yourself well and properly."

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Jian Chen came back to the mountain peak where the ancestor of the Huang family was. Bowing and cupping his hands in front of the wooden house, he spoke, "Senior, this junior has something I wish to discuss for a while."

"Come in!" The ancestor called out calmly from within.

Jian Chen strode into the narrow and simple house. The scholarly old man remained seated on his stone seat with a smile on his face.

"Jian Chen, what might you wish to discuss with this old man? Perhaps you've changed your mind and are willing to lend the power of the Qinhuang Kingdom to my Huang family?" The ancestor spoke calmly.

"It seems senior is fond of jokes. This matter is far too important of a decision. This junior cannot represent the Qinhuang Kingdom in such a matter, and even if this junior agreed, the other Imperial Protectors would not agree." Jian Chen replied.

"Then what is it you're here for?" The ancestor asked.

“Senior, this junior may not be able to persuade the Qinhuang Kingdom help the Huang family, but if I am able to find another individual to help, I hope that the betrothment of Huang Luan to the Huanggu family can be annulled.” Jian Chen stared seriously at the ancestor. He knew that the man in front of him held unbelievable power and might, but as long as he could convince him, there was a chance for the problem of Huang Luan to be resolved.

The ancestor’s eyebrows rose up in hesitation, “Jian Chen, the betrothment between the Huang and the Huanggu has already been set in stone. The girl Huang Luan has a talent that is seen within my Huang family once every hundred years. She was able to become an Earth Saint Master at the prime age of twenty. This is a talent that the Huanggu family favors highly. In the past, they’ve thought of every possible way to arrange for a marriage, so now that one is set in place, the Huanggu family is very happy. Wishing to annul this betrothment is easier said than done, even if we were to do so, the friendship between the two families would be broken.”

Jian Chen’s face shifted slightly, with some urging, he said, “Senior, then what do you propose needs to be done to absolve this betrothment?”

Seeing the anxious look on Jian Chen’s face, the ancestor suddenly broke into a smile, “Jian Chen, could it be that you’ve come to favor Huang Luan? Do you wish to wed to her instead? If an Imperial Protector from the Qinhuang Kingdom wishes to connect to our Huang family by marriage, this old man would be very happy to do so.”

Jian Chen forced out a smile, “Senior, you are still joking around with junior. This is far too major of an issue, the Qinhuang Kingdom will not interfere still.”

The ancestor revealed a look of disappointment on his face, “Ai. Jian Chen, this old man will be honest with you. My Huang family and the Huanggu family have a history of several hundred years of friendship with each other. If this marriage were to be unilaterally absolved, it will destroy the connection between both our families. Although you are capable of finding help for my family, I will not act in such a manner still. Unless you are able of finding help capable of rivaling the Qinhuang Kingdom in strength, then I will not be willing to put my family at such risk.”

Jian Chen hesitated. “Senior, this junior knows not how strong that man is, but he is presumably not far away from the Huanggu family.”

“What layer has this Saint Ruler reached?” The ancestor’s eyes began to gleam in noticeable interest at this topic.

“This junior knows not!” Jian Chen replied innocently.

Hearing this, the ancestor looked disappointed once again. Before he could say anything, Jian Chen’s next words caused his facial expression to freeze.

“This junior does know that that senior has lived for 5000 years as a Saint Ruler.”

“What!? He has been a Saint Ruler for 5000 years!?” The ancestor could no longer hold his calm and came flying up to his feet with a crash of the seat underneath him and a look of shock on his face.

“Correct. 5000 years ago, he became a Saint Ruler!” Jian Chen repeated. This abnormal reaction from the ancestor caused Jian Chen to feel hopeful once again.

The ancestor stared hard at Jian Chen, his voice quivering as he spoke, "Is... is... is he still alive?"

"He is alive and well!" Jian Chen replied.

Chapter 522: Advent of Uncle Tian

The ancestor's face suddenly began to flow with emotions, and the elderly face of the ancestor grew bright-red because of this excitement. It was truly hard to imagine that such a high and mighty Saint Ruler would suddenly lose control of his emotions like so.

"Jian Chen, if... if you can... if you can truly bring this senior to help our Huang family, no matter what request it is that you have, my Huang family will do its best to satisfy you." The ancestor clasped onto Jian Chen's shoulders with both hands and spoke in an exuberant voice.

"Senior, rest assured. This time, I, Jian Chen will do whatever it takes to invite that man over. When the time comes, I hope that you will rescind the betrothment of Huang Luan." Jian Chen spoke earnestly.

"No worries, no worries at all. As long as that senior helps my Huang family, then the Huanggu family wouldn't even dare let a fart out after we cancel the betrothment." The ancestor replied. At that moment, he felt no more hesitation and had no more qualms about offending the Huanggu family.

A short moment later, the ancestor seemed to have thought of something, and immediately had a rather artificial look on his face, "However, Jian Chen. You must first let me see this senior for me to agree. As long as I can get this senior to personally agree to help, only then will I consider this to be a done deal."

"Very well, I will first return to invite this senior!"

After leaving the mountain peak of the ancestor, Jian Chen returned to the Huang family's villa where Huang Luan was and walked to the second story of the pavilion.

There was still the lingering scent of orchid in the room, and upon entrance, Jian Chen felt rather intoxicated by the smell. Jian Chen didn't know that this was the smell of orchid to begin with, and neither did he know what the importance behind this essence was.

Hearing the sound of footsteps behind her, Huang Luan seemed to have realized that it was Jian Chen from her spot next to the window and whirled around to look expectantly at him. A trail of tears could still be seen on her face in a rather pitiful site.

"You're back; did you think of a way?" Huang Luan asked expectantly. Despite her being so unwilling to have Jian Chen use the Qinhuang Kingdom to help her family at the cost of several power-holders being unsatisfied with him, she still maintained a glimmer of hope and some expectations.

"I've already convinced your grandfather who has agreed with me as well. If I can find someone even stronger than the Huanggu family, he will rescind your betrothment to the Huanggu family." Jian Chen explained.

Jian Chen's words made Huang Luan feel more worried for him rather than herself. Pacing to Jian Chen, she spoke in concern, "Will the Qinhuang Kingdom support you in this? If they participate in this matter, they will offend a few Saint Rulers, even the Huanggu family would be an injured party."

Jian Chen laughed, "I'm not that foolish. Don't worry. This matter won't be something the Qinhuang Kingdom will participate in. Even I don't wish for the troubles of the Qinhuang Kingdom to be increased. However, whether I can invite this senior or not, I am still not completely sure myself. In short, I will try my best. I came here so I can say goodbye for now. To finish this problem, I must hurry on back."

"Then you have to take care of yourself!" Huang Luan's heart trembled with affection. At this current moment, she was truly moved by Jian Chen.

With a nod of his head, Jian Chen turned around to leave without another word.

Afterward, Jian Chen looked for the five Imperial Advisors currently participating in a banquet with the rest of the Huang family. Dragging them away from the dining table, they all bade farewell to the head of the Huang family and hurriedly left.

Sniffing the scent of the essence fragrance on Jian Chen, Qing Shaofan gave a deep look to Jian Chen with a mischievous smile, "Honored Imperial Protector, why is there such a fragrance to you? Were you perhaps doing something bad in the Huang family for you to leave in such a worry?"

Jian Chen had been worrying about several serious matters and had completely disregarded everyone's teasing. With a calm voice, he responded, "There is some matters we need to hurry back to, that is why we left in such a hurry."

Seeing the grim look on his face, Xiao Tian and the others lost their teasing mood and grew somber. Speaking for everyone, Xiao Tian asked, "Honored Imperial Protector, what in the world has happened that made you hurry like this?"

"It's not quite a short story, but it's also not quite a long story. In short, it is a rather important personal matter to me." Jian Chen spoke vaguely.

Xiao Tian and the others realized that Jian Chen was not going to explain to them, so they didn't bother to continue asking. Instead, they focused on traveling.

The six of them traversed thousands of meters through the sky at a tremendously fast flight speed. Beneath their feet was the endless sea of clouds and even the sky in front of them was so vast that it could not be seen in completion. One would only be able to see the setting sun falling down beneath the horizon.

Two days later, the group returned to the Gesun Kingdom. Jian Chen took a quick bath in a nearby river to wash away the remaining smell on him before putting on a new pair of white clothes to return to the Changyang clan.

"This lowly officer pays his respect to the fourth master!"

Within the Changyang clan, there was practically no one who didn't know Jian Chen. Whether it was a guard or servant, they all bowed respectfully in salute to Jian Chen as he traveled into the manor.

After his return to the Changyang clan, Jian Chen didn't even stop to see his parents and headed straight to Ming Dong's place of rest. Xiao Tian and the others finished their mission and scattered instead of continuing to follow Jian Chen.

“Eh? Jian Chen, when did you return?” Jian Chen’s sudden arrival surprised Ming Dong. There was a happy smile on his face for a moment, but when he saw the solemn and grim look on Jian Chen’s face, Ming Dong couldn’t help but feel the smile on his face disappear slowly. “Jian Chen, did the Huang family make trouble for you?” In Ming Dong’s mind, Jian Chen was a friend that had experienced life and death with him; therefore, he felt extremely close to him. He was his most trustworthy friend and would not permit any single person to wrong Jian Chen.

Jian Chen shook his head gently and sat down at the table. Personally pouring a cup of tea to drink, he spoke seriously, “Ming Dong, there is something I require your help with!”

Ming Dong sat in the seat across from Jian Chen and looked at Jian Chen with upraised eyebrows and a rather dissatisfied look. “Jian Chen, are you or are you not my sworn brother? Using such a manner to speak with me, just say whatever you need to say with me. Don’t go beating around the bush like we are strangers. As long as it is your problem, whether it requires me to scale a mountain of blades or dive into a sea of fire, I, Ming Dong, will not shirk my duties.”

Jian Chen gave an apologetic smile and immediately cut to the chase. “Ming Dong, I wish to have your uncle Tian come forth and help settle a matter impartially.”

Hearing that Jian Chen actually needed his uncle Tian, Ming Dong immediately sensed that the matter was serious and grew solemn in accordance to the situation.

Afterward, Jian Chen gave him a detailed explanation about the matters with Huang Luan and her family to Ming Dong without any detail left out. After hearing all of this, Ming Dong’s grim expression faded away and he instead stared at Jian Chen with a meaningful look. Smiling mischievously, he said, “Just what was I thinking? So it was this type of matter. Jian Chen, for the sake of making such a fuss for a woman you have met only several times in the past, don’t tell me you’ve taken a fancy to someone else’s wife-to-be!”

Jian Chen gave a hollow laugh, “It isn’t as complicated as you think it is. No matter what is said, Huang Luan and I had traveled together for a short duration in Mercenary City. I do not wish to see her wed to a person she does not love.”

“Haha, Jian Chen. You don’t need to be so embarrassed. Polygamy on the Tian Yuan Continent has been a common occurrence for a very long time. Even your own father has married four wives. With your strength and appearance, if you didn’t find several girls, then it would be a huge disservice to that rather envious face of yours.” Ming Dong teased.

Changing the subject, Jian Chen spoke, “Ming Dong, would it be possible for your uncle Tian to come out? Aside from him, there is no one else that I feel can accomplish this.”

Jian Chen knew a decent amount of Saint Rulers in his personal network. Aside from the four Imperial Protectors of the Qinhuang Kingdom, there was still the elder Xiu from Longevity Valley and Ming Dong’s uncle Tian. The four Imperial Protectors were symbols for the Qinhuang Kingdom and couldn’t simply act as they pleased.

Elder Xiu had already hidden himself away for many years although Jian Chen knew that he was at the very least a Saint Ruler. After such a hermit lifestyle, Jian Chen did not wish to be the one to break that way of life for the elder. He did not wish to add to the burdens of elder Xiu and had decided not to ask

him. Furthermore, elder Xiu's true strength had not been ascertained by Jian Chen, so Jian Chen did not know whether or not the elder would be able to be of much help.

All that was left was uncle Tian. The time when the Saint Ruler recognized Ming Dong, Jian Chen had been quite shocked. To have even Heaven Saint Masters as servants, uncle Tian had lived by himself in a floating shrine as its master. This type of setting was something that neither the Saint Rulers of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger nor the Qinhuang Kingdom possessed.

More importantly, Ming Dong's uncle Tian had become a Saint Ruler 5000 years ago. Now 5000 years later, just what terrifying level of strength would he reach now? Whatever the case, with uncle Tian's efforts, there would be no way that he would make no headway in 5000 years.

Moreover, uncle Tian was seemingly a person of Mercenary City. Although a mercenary was a rather free occupation, Jian Chen had learned something after he visited Mercenary City. Although the Tian Yuan Continent had such a free occupation like being a mercenary, Mercenary City was still a very large organization of mercenaries. Even the elders within it were Saint Rulers of large amounts and had other idle Saint Rulers as close friends.

With these thoughts, Jian Chen figured that Mercenary City was an extremely strong power. It was, after all, the place that had been created by the continent's number one individual, Mo Tianyun.

"Jian Chen, I've said before. As long as it is your problem, then I, Ming Dong, will scale a mountain of blades and dive into a sea of flames without hesitation." Ming Dong took out a jade piece, "My uncle Tian gave this to me. He instructed me to just put some Saint Force into this to notify him should I ever come across a problem I cannot resolve."

Clenching tightly onto the jade piece, Ming Dong began to circulate his Saint Force into the piece and allowed it to be sucked in. After the Saint Force was absorbed, the originally dull jade piece began to light out brilliantly.

"Ming Dong, where is your uncle Tian now?" Jian Chen asked out of curiosity.

"Probably in Mercenary City. Ever since you entered the holy lands, uncle Tian and I went to my parents and took them to Mercenary City. However I didn't return with him and remained in the Gesun Kingdom. After I accomplished the mission you gave me, I stayed here." Ming Dong spoke.

Jian Chen pointed at the jade piece Ming Dong and asked, "Mercenary City is extremely far away from here, will that method really work?"

Ming Dong gave a proud smile, "Don't worry, Jian Chen. You don't know how amazing my uncle Tian is. I have full confidence that he won't trick me."

As soon as Ming Dong finished speaking, the space in front of them immediately began to surge and swirl. Then, as soon as the two men realized what was happening, a rip in space had suddenly appeared. In an instant, a doorway had been formed from the space, and from the other side of the doorway was a rather gigantic palace hall.

Right in front of Jian Chen's stunned eyes, a white-robed, middle-aged man came walking forth from the doorway. This man had an ordinary facial appearance, but the way the space seemed to unaffected him while he floated above the ground gave him a supernatural sensation.

“Uncle Tian!” Upon seeing this man, Ming Dong called out affectionately as if greeting a family member.

Chapter 523: Revisiting the Huang Family

Seeing the middle-aged man in front of him, Jian Chen was in a daze. Uncle Tian’s method of arrival was far too odd for Jian Chen to understand. It was practically millions of kilometers away from Mercenary City to here. Merely a breath after Ming Dong had used that jade piece of his, Ming Dong’s uncle Tian had traversed that distance in no time at all.

Even more shocking to Jian Chen was that uncle Tian seemed to break apart the fabric of space as well. Furthermore, he appeared precisely within this not-as-spacious room. Such a precise position like this was almost unbelievable to him.

That was because a Space Gate simply couldn’t be set up this quickly.

The Space Gate behind the man slowly disappeared from sight, allowing the space it had opened up from to return back to normal. No one there would be able to see that a fissure had even opened up in the sky to begin with.

There was not a sliver of energy to be felt from this man; from the appearance of his face, he was nothing more than the average commoner. Nothing strange could be said about him except for the fact that he was floating in mid-air like some sort of supernatural figure.

“Uncle Tian, I didn’t think that you’d come so fast. This jade piece you gave me is really useful!” Ming Dong spoke in excitement. Toward this middle-aged man, his voice held an undisguised level of emotion. In Ming Dong’s mind, uncle Tian held a tremendous amount of power and was even more important than his own parents. The reason why he achieved the success he had today was all due to uncle Tian’s kindness. It was uncle Tian that had transformed him from an ordinary mercenary into what he was now. Not only did he grow from a Great Saint Master to a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master, he was one of the many people on the Yian Yuan Continent that held a highly coveted Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

Uncle Tian slowly descended to the ground and smiled kindly at Ming Dong as if he was looking fondly at his very own grandson. Brimming with care and doting, he smiled, “Child, what have you come to your uncle for?”

“Uncle Tian, my sworn brother Jian Chen has something he requires your assistance with.” Ming Dong spoke.

Uncle Tian continued to have that kind smile on his face as he turned toward Jian Chen. Suddenly, the light in his eyes concentrated heavily onto Jian Chen before turning resplendent. With a startled sound of surprise, the Saint Ruler’s expression grew astonished. Shortly afterward, two bright golden rays of light shot out from his eyes and seemed to bath Jian Chen within their golden color.

Jian Chen wanted to say something, but he found himself unexpectedly unable to do anything. It seemed that the golden ray of light caused his entire body to become immobilized. He no longer had control of it.

This sudden development made Jian Chen feel extremely shocked, but he calmed himself down in a flash since he knew that Ming Dong’s uncle Tian wouldn’t do anything unfavorable to him without a reason.

The Saint Ruler's actions caused Ming Dong to turn pale with fright before crying out to him in anxiety, "Uncle Tian, just what are you doing..."

Before Ming Dong could finish his sentence, uncle Tian held up his hand to stop him. With a calm voice, he said, "Do not worry, I only wished to look at the current condition of his body, I am not hurting him."

With that, Ming Dong let out a sigh of relief — he thought that uncle Tian was about to hurt Jian Chen.

Very quickly, the golden ray surrounding Jian Chen's body disappeared. The golden light in the Saint Ruler's eyes had also returned back to its normal color. As soon as the light disappeared, Jian Chen felt his body control come back to him.

Although he was not hurt in any way, Jian Chen was practically sweating bullets. He did not know just how strong uncle Tian was, but this course of action by him had frightened Jian Chen. If a single observation with his eyes was enough for Jian Chen to lose control of his body, that meant uncle Tian's strength was truly too terrifying to behold.

Uncle Tian's eyebrows narrowed together as his brightly lit eyes stared at Jian Chen. With a low voice, he wondered, "Your Saint Weapon was actually shattered?"

Jian Chen's heart leaped up his throat once again. The secret that his Saint Weapon was shattered was something that neither the Saint Rulers of the Qinhuang Kingdom nor the Huang family had been able to discover. This uncle Tian had unexpectedly been able to do so with a single glance, finding out Jian Chen's greatest secret just like that. How could he not feel surprised at that? In truth, Jian Chen began to exaggerate and think that in front of uncle Tian, there was not a single secret he could hide from him.

Jian Chen grew extremely courteous and cupped his hands together, "Junior Jian Chen pays his respects to senior. Senior is correct, this junior's Saint Weapon was destroyed."

"Curious, what a miracle! Despite your Saint Weapon gone, your strength and mind power seem even stronger than before. Even my eyes cannot see just what fortuitous event caused this to happen!" Uncle Tian replied.

The Saint Ruler's words shocked Jian Chen again. He had no idea that even his mind power would be able to be determined at a glance. Though, he felt a little reassured since the Saint Ruler's voice did not indicate that he had learned about the azure and violet Sword Spirits.

"It is as senior says, this junior came across a happenstance that allowed me to preserve my strength even after my Saint Weapon was shattered." Jian Chen replied respectfully.

Uncle Tian nodded his head with his eyes still staring brightly at Jian Chen. Then, with a slightly more thoughtful expression, he spoke, "With the intensity of your power of thought, you're already capable of controlling the energy of the world. I didn't expect that since we last met half a year ago, you would reach such a level. This rate of progression is simply too unbelievable." Uncle Tian paused to sit down at the nearby table. "Tell me why you need my assistance so much."

Jian Chen replied respectfully, "Senior, this junior has a matter that I wish senior will oversee impartially." With that, Jian Chen began to recount the tale of the Huang family to him.

Hearing the entire story from start to finish, uncle Tian sat there without a word and with furrowed eyebrows.

At this, Ming Dong felt quite anxious. Worried that his uncle Tian would refuse Jian Chen, Ming Dong pleaded, "Uncle Tian, Jian Chen is my sworn brother. If it wasn't for Jian Chen saving me in the past, I wouldn't be able to survive until today, let alone see you uncle Tian. Now that my sworn brother is in trouble, you must help my sworn brother."

Almost as if he was moved by Ming Dong's words, the Saint Ruler sighed, "I had originally planned on not getting involved, but I suppose I should help just this once if Jian Chen saved your life before."

Jian Chen was unable to contain his joy at those words and clasped his hands together, "Many thanks to senior for his assistance!"

"No thanks is necessary. Jian Chen, you are quite talented in skill. In fact, you are several times stronger than Ming Dong. I hope that when I am not around, you will look after Ming Dong in my stead." He sighed as a helpless light flashed in his eyes.

"Senior, this junior and Ming Dong are sworn brothers. Even without senior saying so, this junior would do so." Jian Chen spoke honestly.

Ming Dong felt rather displeased at uncle Tian's words and grumbled, "Uncle Tian, you take me to be a young child still."

Uncle Tian smiled, "There's no time to lose then. The sooner we go, the sooner we can resolve this matter. Jian Chen, which direction is the Huang family located in?"

"About several ten thousand kilometers in the northwestern mountains!" Jian Chen spoke with excitement. With the Saint Ruler Tian making his advent, the ancestor of the Huang family would have no qualms either.

Growing silent for a moment, the Saint Ruler then responded, "I've found the location, let us go then."

"Yes, senior!" Jian Chen immediately walked toward the exit. After his feet had taken several steps forward, his entire body suddenly came to a stop as he stared at uncle Tian in amazement.

He had only watched uncle Tian's right hand slowly lift up before settling down on the empty space in front of his chest. The next moment, the space near him began to violently tremble; and in another brief moment, a pitch-black crack appeared right in front of Jian Chen's eyes. The crack expanded rapidly before instantaneously becoming a Space Gate. The entrance to the other side was a very familiar site to Jian Chen — it was the house where the ancestor of the Huang family lived in.

"It should be here. Let's go then!" Uncle Tian spoke before waving his other hand. Jian Chen could only feel a tremendous amount of power envelop him without any resistance before independently shooting him through the space along with Ming Dong.

After the three disappeared, the spatial rend left behind slowly winked out of existence, allowing the space to become normal again. The only difference was that the former three inhabitants of the room had vanished without any of the Heaven Saint Masters in Changyang Manor noticing.

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At the Huang family's residence on the sword-shaped mountain peak, the ancestor of the Huang family was cultivating as per usual. Pondering on his position over a stool, his expression couldn't help but reveal an expectant look. Ever since Jian Chen had left, he couldn't bring himself to the calm needed to cultivate. All his mind could think about were the words "5000 year old Saint Ruler".

After becoming a Saint Ruler for so many years, the ancestor was extremely understanding just how paramount the existence of a 5000 year old Saint Ruler was. Such a person like this was even more rare than a commoner getting a glance at one of the ancient clans or finding the feather of a phoenix and the scale of a Qilin.

On the Tian Yuan Continent, whether it was a Heaven Saint Master, Saint Ruler, or an existence above a Saint Ruler, they were all still unable to escape from the shackles of age.

On the continent, the average human would only be able to live for 200 years. An Earth Saint Master was expected to live for 500 years, and a Heaven Saint Master for 1000 years. For a Saint Ruler, they should only be able to live for 3000 years. Even a Ninth Layer Saint Ruler would only be able to live for 3200 years at most. Unless there was some sort of longevity medicine, it was very hard to break apart this law.

In order to live for 5000 years, one had to make a breakthrough as a Saint Ruler. A Saint Ruler would never be able to live for as long as 5000 years. Under the heavens, only a Saint King or higher would be able to live for that long of a lifespan.

It had been for this reason that when the ancestor had first heard Jian Chen describe this Saint Ruler having reached 5000 years old, he lost all of his self-control and had even enthusiastically agreed to Jian Chen's request at the risk of offending the Huanggu clan.

Just like this, the ancestor sat there for two days uneasily. He couldn't calm down enough to cultivate, and in his mind, he was extremely anxious to see whether or not Jian Chen would really be able to bring such a character to help his Huang family. With such a high and mighty existence like this backing the Huang family, they would be able to hold their head up high in front of the ancient clans, let alone such small and insignificant isolated families.

Just while the ancestor sat nervously on the stool, he suddenly felt the space in front of him start to warp and distort. Then, a Space Gate suddenly appeared right in front of the hut where the ancestor lived. Three people were revealed as they walked out from it.

Chapter 524: Grand Elder of Mercenary City

Seeing this tear in the fabric of space occur within his tiny house made the ancestor feel dumbfounded. He had placed a barrier on this mountain so that it would be isolated from the rest of the world. Even a Saint Ruler wouldn't be able to walk in here without being detected, let alone open a Space Gate without resistance. Furthermore, this Space Gate had coincidentally opened up right inside his small home.

When his eyes landed upon Jian Chen who was one of the three, his eyes began to shine and his body began to tremble. Immediately leaping up from his jade seat, he gave a respectful bow, "Junior Huang Tianba pays his respect to senior." The ancestor was so excited that his voice quavered as he spoke.

Uncle Tian glanced at the ancestor before turning to ask Jian Chen, "Is this the man?" From his stare, uncle Tian simply disregarded the ancestor as anyone important despite him being a Saint Ruler.

Jian Chen nodded. Seeing the venerable expression of the ancestor, he couldn't help but laugh to himself in his mind, but his expression was still calm on the outside. "Senior, I've done what you have asked and brought the person in question to you. Is this to your satisfaction?"

The ancestor's face started when he heard Jian Chen. Changing from a respectful expression to one that would bow and scrape for favors, he seemed as if he was afraid of infuriating this senior in front of him. After all, having such a high and mighty person come running all the way for such a tiny figure like him was not how a respectful senior should be treated.

"Brother Jian Chen loves his jokes, so this junior had spoken his own joke. I had no idea that brother Jian Chen would take it seriously. Senior, if this junior has offended you for having you brought all the way here, please forgive this one." The ancestor sounded very panicked. A monster of a person who had managed to live for 5000 years was someone that even the ancient clans wouldn't offend, let alone the ancestor of an isolated family like the Huang.

Uncle Tian remained unmoved at the bowing of the head and the bending of the knees of the ancestor and replied indifferently, "There was no harm. I came at Jian Chen's request to resolve a problem. I presume you are the man in question of this problem."

At those words, the heart of the ancestor was shocked by Jian Chen's capabilities. In this moment, Jian Chen's status instantly rocketed up in his mind to become a person who he could never offend and also someone who should be roped into his family at all costs.

He didn't dare not respond to the ancestor, so he replied with a respectful tone, "Senior's words are too serious. There is no need for senior to involve himself in this trifling matter, this junior will resolve it himself."

"If that is right, then that would be for the best. I do not like meddling in the affairs of others, but I have already promised Jian Chen to help. I have listened to your family troubles, so I shall give you this jade piece. Should you ever need me to act, then just crush this in your hand and I'll come within three breaths worth of time!" A thumb-sized white jade floated from uncle Tian's hand and slowly moved toward the ancestor.

The ancestor's excitement could barely be contained as he took hold of the white jade into his hands. "Many thanks for senior's generosity!" To be able to receive the assistance of a Saint King was far too important in meaning to the Huang family. Although he only had this one chance to use it, it would bolster the might of the Huang family and would resolve the issue of the Huang family's conflict with the other Saint Rulers.

The ancestor hesitated for a moment as he looked at uncle Tian for a moment before carefully asking. "If this junior might ask senior what to refer to you by, or what affiliation senior might have so that in the future this junior's meager help may be given."

"I am known as Tian Jian, a grand elder of Mercenary City. Your help won't be necessary for now with what power you have. Wait until you become a Saint King, then we'll talk!" Uncle Tian spoke. To him, a Saint Ruler was nothing special, there were plenty of those to be seen in Mercenary City.

When the title of being a grand elder for Mercenary City was heard to the ancestor, his entire body was suddenly drained of its strength and his knees dropped to the ground after being unable to sustain his body weight. There was panic in his expression, and his heart threatened to leap out from his throat. Looking at Tian Jian's face, there was utter disbelief in his expression along with some terror and fear mixed in.

As a Saint Ruler, he was somewhat knowledgeable about the inner workings of Mercenary City despite not being affiliated with it. He was extremely clear on the hierarchy of Mercenary City, how it was ruled, governed, and divided up.

Mercenary City was indeed a city, but it wasn't under the jurisdiction of any one area while maintaining the same strength as any other city might have. There was no city ruler as Mercenary City had no need for one of those to keep law and order. The prohibition on fighting was a rule that even Saint Rulers wouldn't dare violate. The ones who truly held power in Mercenary City, were all from a group of elders. These elders were the highest nucleus of power for Mercenary City, and among them, the grand elders held the highest position.

It was no exaggeration to say that a grand elder was the ultimate ruler of Mercenary City. Not only could they mobilize the entirety of Mercenary City, they were the decided people who had the most authority in it.

Aside from that, the grand elders of Mercenary City were extremely strong. They stood on the forefront of the strongest on the Tian Yuan Continent and were truly the ones who stood at the top of the power pyramid.

Even if he were to dream, the ancestor would never hope to think that Jian Chen would invite a senior that held such unimaginable power. Even the thought had struck a feeling of terror in his heart.

Like a wooden chicken, the ancestor just stood there. Despite being a Saint Ruler, he was nothing but an ant in front of a grand elder of Mercenary City.

Moving his eyes from the ancestor to Ming Dong affectionately, he smiled, "Child, you should come with me to Mercenary City and stay there for now."

"Uncle Tian. I wish to be with brother Jian Chen for now. I'll stay here." Ming Dong responded.

"Very well! All you lack is experience right now. Following Jian Chen would make you stronger than staying in Mercenary City." Tian Jian nodded.

Just then, Ming Dong suddenly thought of something and his eyes began to sparkle, "Uncle Tian, the Shi family and the Jiede clan are both enemies of ours. Our sworn brother has been forced by them in the past. You might as well settle the problem with those two families. If the experts of their families come, the two of us wouldn't have enough strength to fight them."

Tian Jian shook his head, "Child, you cannot leave every single problem for your uncle to resolve. If there comes a day when I am not around, how will you survive on the Tian Yuan Continent? Right now, you must learn to overcome any difficulties and troubles you come across yourself." Although he was lecturing Ming Dong, Tian Jian's voice was very soft and did not sound too harsh. It gave off the grandfatherly feeling of benevolence.

“Yes, uncle Tian!” Ming Dong spoke with some helplessness and disappointment.

“Now that the problem has been taken care of, I will be returning to Mercenary City. Will you be staying here in the Gesun Kingdom?” Tian Jian asked.

Ming Dong had said nothing and instead looked to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen took a moment to think about it, “Senior, we will be staying here for some time!”

Tian Jian said nothing and instead lifted his palms up to part the space once more. Within two breaths worth of time, a giant building could be seen on the other side of the Space Gate before he disappeared into it.

At this sight, Jian Chen’s eyes revealed a deep look of yearning. Tian Jian’s usage of space was something that was perfected to the highest level. With such capabilities like this, one would be able to travel anywhere under the heavens without wasting time or money to travel on the road.

With Jian Chen’s current strength, he could only yearn for this power for now. A spot where Tian Jian resided was a spot where Jian Chen could only look forward to. After all, that was a position where even a Saint Ruler had to bow and scrape his knee.

The ancestor watched the ancestor leave with a stunned expression. A little absent-mindedly, he muttered, “So that is the strength of a Saint King, they can tear apart the space to travel millions of kilometers.” Shortly afterward, the ancestor looked to the jade piece held in his hand and began to grow excited. In this moment of observation, this jade piece was a thousand times more precious than any other treasure under the heavens. None other could compare to this one.

The ancestor took out an exquisite jade case from his Space Ring and gently placed the jade piece into it for safekeeping. This jade piece could be used to summon a grand elder of Mercenary City; even if it was only a single use, it was still priceless in value since it equated to an unbelievable amount of might.

After putting away the jade piece, the ancestor exhaled. It took him a long time to calm down because his heart was still beating rapidly. It was at this moment that he discovered with some shock that his entire forehead was drenched with sweat.

Wiping away the sweat on his forehead, the ancestor looked to Jian Chen and Ming Dong with a complicated stare. Despite Ming Dong only being an Earth Saint Master, Ming Dong was essentially the ancestor of his own family in the eyes of the ancestor. He had witnessed how Ming Dong had referred to Tian Jian all too clearly.

Even with the ancestor in such a state of doubtful panic, Jian Chen laughed and spoke to him, “Senior, would it be possible for you to rescind the engagement between miss Huang’er and the Huanggu clan?”

“Yes, yes, of course.” The ancestor hurried to respond. Now that the ancestor knew that Jian Chen and Ming Dong were both backed by a grand elder from Mercenary City, his attitude toward them both drastically changed. Even now, there was a bit of a fawning tone to it that disregarded his own status.

Chapter 525: The Young Lady Offering a Kiss

Now that Huang Luan's situation was finally done and over with, Jian Chen's face had a smile on it. However, his heart knew that everything was thanks to Ming Dong. If not for his intimate connection with uncle Tian, Jian Chen never would have been able to persuade uncle Tian to help him.

Yet Jian Chen was also extremely shocked at the status of uncle Tian. A grand elder of Mercenary City! Although he had no idea just how noble of a position that was in Mercenary City, he could pretty much guess just how prestigious a grand elder was.

Afterward, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both left the mountain peak with the ancestor accompanying them.

After experiencing what he had just went through, the ancestor's attitude toward Jian Chen and Ming Dong had completely changed. He even unexpectedly accompanied Jian Chen and Ming Dong as they flew through the air. Even his status of being a Saint Ruler had been forgotten with how he laughed and smiled as he talked with them on the way to the villa.

The three finally came to a stop right in front of the center of the halls. At the same time, plenty of Heaven Saint Masters had already begun to gather here from every corner of the villa. After gathering in the halls, everyone knelt down to the ground and cried out, "We pay our respects to the ancestor!" It seemed that on the way, the ancestor had managed to pass a message to a few of them.

"Everyone, stand up and come in. This old man has an announcement to make!" Throwing out his words, the ancestor swished his robes around as he strode into the hall where all the important matters were discussed.

Every single Heaven Saint Master within the Huang family looked at each other before turning to look at Jian Chen who was standing right next to the ancestor. Their hearts shook as if they had started to connect the dots.

The Huang family had lived in isolation for many thousands of years, so the amount of Heaven Saint Masters they had wasn't a small number. At least thirteen of these Heaven Saint Masters were seeing Jian Chen for the first time. They were all people who held an important position in the family. Only those who had usually remained in seclusion to cultivate or the two representatives of the Huang family had seen Jian Chen before.

Very quickly, everyone gathered in the halls. The thirteen Heaven Saint Masters sat quietly on their chairs on both sides of the hall. Reverently, they looked to the ancestor seated ahead of them. Under the idea of the ancestor, Jian Chen and Ming Dong both sat right next to him in the closest seats possible.

Most of the people there were already clear on Jian Chen's status as the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom and truly possessed the right to sit where he was. But an Earth Saint Master like Ming Dong seated in such a position caused many people to question just why he was there. However, no one had dared to voice any objections since it was at the request of the ancestor. It was only in their hearts that they tried to guess Ming Dong's identity or which family he was the young master to.

The ancestor said nothing about the matter and instead moved straight to the main topic at hand. "This old man has called you all here today for an announcement." The ancestor stopped for a moment as his eyes observed the several individuals of the Huang family with bright eyes. "From here on out, Huang

Luan's betrothment to the Huanggu clan is now absolved. Have someone sent to the Huanggu clan to tell them of this news!"

At the voice of the ancestor, plenty of people began to blanch while a few of them revealed faint smiles on their faces. To them, the only reason why their ancestor would annul the betrothment with the Huanggu clan would be for the reason that he had found an even stronger power to ally themselves with. An Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom would be such an example.

"Ancestor, this is an extremely important matter. If we were to unilaterally agree to annul the betrothment, it would be a great slap to the faces of the Huanggu clan. There is no way that they won't feel dissatisfied with us. This is a situation where our friendship with the Huanggu would become irrevocably destroyed." An elder spoke seriously.

"Elder Ping speaks correctly. Ancestor, annulling the betrothment is something we should absolutely avoid. Our family has enjoyed several hundred years of friendly relations with the Huanggu clan, and they have taken to Huang Luan with great interest. With this, the Huanggu family's friendship with our Huang family would be ruined. Please reconsider, ancestor." Another elder spoke in agreement to not annul the betrothment.

The gleam in the ancestor's eyes suddenly grew ferocious as he gave a sharp stare to the two elders, "Ping Qiao, Huang Yingran, this old man knows that your relations with the Huanggu clan is quite decent, but this old man has already made a decision. I will not change my mind, and neither will you two say anymore about this."

The ancestor's voice was firm and decisive without leaving behind any margin to talk back. This made everyone who heard the ancestor give up on trying to convince him to change his mind.

At this, no one made any more objections. Even those who had decent relations with the Huanggu clan and wished to help them had no other choice but to close their mouths shut.

"I've already made up my mind on this. Dispatch someone to let the Huanggu clan know. Be sure to give them some gifts to compensate for this." The ancestor spoke.

"Yes, ancestor!" Everyone replied.

Then the ancestor made a second announcement. "And now this old man has another announcement to make. From here on out, our friends Jian Chen and Ming Dong will be our most honored guests of the Huang family. Every person must ensure to be on their best behavior without any delay or risk this old man's punishment!" With that, the ancestor's voice grew harsh.

These two brats had the backing of a grand elder from Mercenary City, making them people who could not be offended by any means. The ancestor had long since made his decision to do his best to rope these two into his group.

Everyone seated down below was stupefied as they looked in shock toward Ming Dong. They hadn't expected the ancestor to place so much importance on Ming Dong. Jian Chen was an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, so he was to be expected to receive such treatment. But Ming Dong's identity was something that everyone was completely curious about now.

The ancestor had not introduced Ming Dong since he himself did not have much understanding of him. He had only known Ming Dong's name because Jian Chen had said it before. After the ancestor had finished, Ming Dong had seemed to have gained an extremely high position within the family despite being an outsider. This forced every single Heaven Saint Master to be extremely polite to an Earth Saint Master like Ming Dong, but an act like this was practically unprecedented in their family history.

After the meeting was over, the ancestor did not return to his mountain to cultivate, and instead prepared a banquet to personally receive Jian Chen and Ming Dong. This action of the ancestor yet again caused every single Heaven Saint Master there to drop their jaws wide open in shock. A prestigious Saint Ruler personally receiving an Earth Saint Master was an absolutely fantastic story to hear about on the continent.

Every single individual from the Huang family grew even more curious to what status Ming Dong held as a result. However, they could not directly inquire about Ming Dong and were left to conjecture to themselves in chaos because the ancestor had told them to speak no more about the subject.

Jian Chen did not participate in the banquet and instead bade farewell to the Huang family to walk to Huang Luan's pavilion. He wanted to personally report the news to her.

Jian Chen walked into the pavilion without obstruction and walked straight up to the second floor. This time, Jian Chen did not smell that same sweet scent from two days ago. That enchanting smell that had intoxicated his senses had completely vanished now.

Jian Chen's eyes swept around the room before catching sight of Huang Luan's figure. All he could see was Huang Luan's figure wearing a black cheongsam similar to the one from two days ago. Still seated by the window by herself, she stared out at the scenery beyond in a daze without being conscious of the environment around her. Even Jian Chen's entrance had gone unnoticed by her.

Noticing that Huang Luan had not noticed him come in, Jian Chen sighed to himself. He could already imagine just how damaging the news of her being betrothed to the Huanggu family was to her heart. She was practically beside herself as a result; it was a good thing that this problem was now done and over with.

"Miss Huang Luan!" Jian Chen called out.

At this sudden call, Huang Luan was so startled that she jumped up. Her dainty body gave a violent whirl to turn anxiously toward Jian Chen. She knew in her heart that whether or not she would be able to leave this pavilion in joy in the future was solely up to Jian Chen's words.

Seeing the anxious look on her face, Jian Chen couldn't help but break out into a faint smile, "Miss Huang Luan, I am very happy to say that your problem is now solved. Your ancestor has already annulled the betrothment between you and the Huanggu clan. You don't need to be so vexed about this situation anymore."

Huang Luan's face instantly went sluggish before quickly being replaced with joy. Her entire body began to tremble and shake violently with emotions as she spoke excitedly, "Re-really? You... you wouldn't be kidding with me, would you? Has the ancestor truly annulled the betrothment?" In this short time, her heart had been worried without reprieve. Her betrothment to the second master of the Huanggu clan was a curse and a tight shackle that bounded her body and tormented her. Not only did she not wish to

be wed to the second master of that clan, she already had someone she loved in her heart. This man in her heart was far superior, far more outstanding, and was practically the living personification of perfection. Right now, these shackles and curses that had been placed on her body had practically vanished — by the one she loved no less. This was something that made her so moved that she couldn't contain herself.

Although she didn't know just what method Jian Chen had used to change the ancestor's mind, her nimble mind understood one thing. If the ancestor was willing to offend the Huanggu clan by rescinding the betrothment, what Jian Chen had done was no minor task.

"Of course it's true. If you don't believe me, you can go outside and see for yourself." Jian Chen smiled.

Two teardrops stole away from Huang Luan's eyes as she charged straight for Jian Chen like an arrow. With both arms tossed around Jian Chen to hug him, she stood on her tiptoes. Under the stunned eyes of Jian Chen, her delicate cherry-red mouth locked with Jian Chen's own lips.

Chapter 526: Deep Feelings

With this sudden in-the-moment kiss from Huang Luan, Jian Chen's mind had instantly gone blank. He stood there for a very long time. This was the very first intimate action a female had effectuated with him in both his lifetimes.

The tip of his nose could practically smell the unique womanly scent of Huang Luan while a wonderful sensation he had never experienced before could be felt. It sent his mind into chaos. At this moment, Jian Chen was utterly confounded and did not know how to react.

Perhaps it had been because Huang Luan had suppressed her emotions for Jian Chen for far too long, for they had suddenly come bursting out in this moment like the eruption of a volcano. Fierce beyond fierce and unstoppable in its motions, her body passed all of her intensity through this one kiss, releasing all of the worry she had accumulated in her heart.

This would be the very first time Jian Chen would experience such a thing. He hadn't even time to bring a hand up to stop her and was now at a complete loss. Even after realizing what was happening, Jian Chen's heart had begun to leap erratically after feeling Huang Luan's soft tongue press against his. Even his usually drawn out breathing had become coarse.

Although Jian Chen had never thought about having to do anything with love, he was still a healthy male in the end. Huang Luan herself was very beautiful. In fact, she was devastatingly beautiful. Even under the heavens, she was very remarkable. So when such a beautiful woman offered a kiss, even Jian Chen wasn't able to keep his calm. The hidden and deep feelings within Jian Chen had finally ignited, forcing Jian Chen to close his eyes.

Jian Chen's arms suddenly flew out to grasp onto Huang Luan's soft flesh and embrace her tightly to his body. Even through the thin clothes of Huang Luan, Jian Chen could feel the intense heat from her body, causing his heart to surge with emotions.

With their kiss, the two of them stuck close to each other. Jian Chen had been lit aflame due to Huang Luan's initiative; therefore, he had responded passionately. At this current moment, they had thrown out everything else to enjoy the pleasure of the moment.

A good while after, the two finally split apart. Huang Luan was still holding onto Jian Chen with both arms, but her head was tilted up to stare tenderly at Jian Chen's handsome face. As if obsessed, her head slowly leaned against Jian Chen's shoulder as she closed her eyes to feel the warmth of his body with her own.

Jian Chen let out a drawn out sigh as he calmed himself down. Allowing Huang Luan to rest on his shoulders, he lowered his head slightly to study this beauty, who seemed to be sleeping soundly, with a complicated expression.

After a while, Jian Chen let another sigh to the ceiling and spoke, "Luan'er, won't you regret what just happened? Am I truly worth your love?"

Huang Luan's eyes slowly opened to stare lovingly at Jian Chen. With a shake of her head, she spoke, "I won't. For this entire lifetime, I won't regret this at all."

"Jian Chen. Tell me, am I truly in your heart?" Huang Luan stared in anticipation.

Jian Chen sighed and stared at Huang Luan with a complicated look. He was silent for a while before finally responding, "Luan'er, I have no answer to give to you now. From the start, I never thought about settling down. There is far too much weight on my shoulders, and the pressure I face is tremendous as well. All I want right now is a way to become stronger."

Huang Luan shook her head, "Jian Chen, that doesn't matter. Luan'er is willing to wait. I'll wait, even if I have to wait until the end of time! Forever I will wait, forever!"

Jian Chen was taken aback. It was at this moment that his mind shook fiercely. Just how did he never realize that Huang Luan's feelings for him had reached such an unbelievably deep level.

However, he did not respond. He merely wrapped his arms around Huang Luan's back and began to take in the scent coming from her body. Today would be the very first time he was ever intimate with a female, and today would also be the very first time he would hug the delicate body of a young woman. Such an experience left an impact on Jian Chen. The very beauty of the sensation ingrained itself within Jian Chen's soul and branded itself into his mind. He would never forget this moment.

If that were the case, then he might as well add more to preserve this moment even more.

Together in this room, the two of them let this comfortable feeling envelope them. Time in this serene moment was completely forgotten by this bewitched couple.

After an indeterminate amount of time, the sounds of footsteps could be heard coming up the pavilion. Then, the hurried voice of a middle-aged man could be heard, "Luan'er, are you there? Your father has some good news to tell you."

Upon hearing his voice, the two were like startled rabbits as they split apart from one another. Smoothing their clothes and returning to their normal expressions, they tried to pretend that nothing had happened.

The family head Huang Qinglan came walking into the pavilion with a succinct white robe when Jian Chen and Huang Luan saw him. With a smile, he spoke, "Luan'er, your father has some good news to tell

you. After you hearing this, you'll definitely..." While he was speaking, the family head suddenly realized that Jian Chen had beaten him here. He instantly grew stunned enough to pause mid-speech.

"Lord Huang!" Jian Chen cupped his hands nonchalantly with a smile on his face.

The head of the family regained his wits at that moment and gave an even wider smile. Cupping his hands in return, he spoke, "I did not think the Imperial Protector would be here. This matter was all thanks to the help of the Imperial Protector, and now Luan'er will be trouble-free."

"The lord is too courteous. Miss Huang Luan is merely a good friend of this one. If she were to come across any trouble, this one should help anyways." Jian Chen answered.

The head of the family smiled, but his eyes hovered between Jian Chen and Huang Luan in observation. Despite the two of them pretending that nothing had happened, the man was experienced in such matters and could detect a few peculiarities. What made the man overjoyed was the fact that Jian Chen's eyes were completely different than before. They had changed so that Jian Chen was now looking at him like a future son-in-law looking to his father-in-law.

"I presume that the Imperial Protector has already told Luan'er the news. If that is the case, I have nothing more to say." With that, the man turned to look at Huang Luan. "Luan'er, the Imperial Protector has wasted no small efforts on this matter. Even our ancestor has made an effort on this matter in person, you must make sure to express your thanks to him."

"Your daughter understands!" Huang Luan spoke with a voice as low as a mosquito.

"Take your time to chat. I have some other matters to take care of, so I shall take my leave first." Huang Qinglan didn't have any intention to stay here any longer, so he quickly left the pavilion.

After Huang Qinglan left, only Jian Chen and Huang Luan were left. For a while, neither of the two spoke, creating a rather awkward atmosphere.

It was finally after a moment of silence that Huang Luan spoke. "Jian Chen, you brought the Qinhuang Kingdom into this now, will they truly help you in this matter though?"

"Don't worry. The Qinhuang Kingdom has no relation to this matter at all. I have another extremely strong senior that has come to help us. This senior's might is far stronger than the Qinhuang Kingdom, so your ancestor was more than willing to agree as well." Jian Chen spoke.

Huang Luan's heart was moved once more. She knew just how difficult it was to invite any strong senior to make an appearance for anyone. Aside from having a very close relationship, one would have to pay a disastrous price for their help.

Jian Chen remained in Huang Luan's room for some time before finally leaving. Then at the behest of the ancestor of the Huang family, he remained for another day. On the next day, he and Ming Dong both bade farewell to Huang Luan and the ancestor to head back to the Gesun Kingdom.

"Friends Jian Chen and Ming Dong, this old man knows about the burned bridge between you and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger. I shall give these two twin jade pieces to you, if the Saint Ruler tries to do something, just crush these jade pieces and this old man will come as soon as I can to help!" The ancestor spoke as he handed two thumb-sized jade pieces to Jian Chen and Ming Dong. After knowing of

the intimate connection between the two and the grand elder of Mercenary City, the ancestor had spared no effort to get on the good side of the two. With this method, the Huang family could possibly scale the giant tree that was the grand elder and perhaps gain the same treatment that the ancient clans would usually receive.

“Many thanks for senior’s kindness. This one will remember it!” Jian Chen took the jade piece happily. Over these past days, the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had weighed constantly on Jian Chen’s mind. Right now the ancestor was definitely willing to help stop the Saint Ruler from the sect; this was a very good way to resolve his biggest problem at hand.

“Hahahaha. My friend Jian Chen is far too polite. If there is ever any need for my Huang family, then please just ask. Our family will do our best to assist.” The elder couldn’t help but laugh.

Chapter 527: Murky Skies

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both left the Huang family. However, Ming Dong was not a Heaven Saint Master and could not fly through the sky; therefore, Jian Chen needed to carry him.

Seeing how his legs trailed behind him through the sky, Ming Dong had a yearning look on his face. With a sigh of admiration, he spoke, “Jian Chen, being a Heaven Saint Master seems great. Not only can you fly through the sky, you can go fast and at your own leisure as well. I really hope that I can hurry up and become a Heaven Saint Master.”

Jian Chen could only chuckle in response. “What are you hurrying for? Being able to become a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master at your young age is not something most can do. With your current strength, I don’t even know just how many people are envious of it. There’s only a short amount of time before you become a Heaven Saint Master anyways. Give it two years or so before you become one. For now, just focus on refining your foundation and listen to uncle Tian — you can’t go wrong listening to him.”

“I know that much as well, but when I see just how easily you all fly through the sky, I feel an urgent feeling in my heart. I simply want nothing more than to become a Heaven Saint Master; that way, I will be able to fly through the air by myself.” Ming Dong spoke.

“That day isn’t too far away. It’s been half a year already, all that remains is another two and a half years. That’s not a long time, it’ll come quickly.” Jian Chen replied.

“En, you’re right, I just can’t wait until that day, that’s all.” Ming Dong spoke with an expectant look on his face. Becoming a Heaven Saint Master was a dream for every single cultivator that had not yet reached such a realm.

Suddenly, Ming Dong remembered something. His eyes turned to look at Jian Chen with a gleam, “Ah, Jian Chen, just what happened between you and Huang Luan now?”

Jian Chen immediately thought about the lingering emotions he had felt between him and Huang Luan within her pavilion. A complicated expression arose on his face as he grew quiet, “Let’s not talk about that, I’ve no time to consider settling down. I’ve still plenty of things to do and plenty of responsibilities to shoulder still.”

“Is it because of the Shi and Jiede families?” Ming Dong asked with a serious expression. The Shi family and the Jiede clan were both problems that uncle Tian had been unwilling to resolve, leaving the

problem to Jian Chen and Ming Dong to resolve by themselves. With Saint Rulers holding a position in both families, the two powers held a significant amount of pressure over Jian Chen and Ming Dong.

Jian Chen gave a curt nod. "Back then, I killed the experts of the Shi family and Jiede clan and even destroyed the Ruler Armaments from their families. This has led me into a neverending cycle with them, and since I am not a Saint Ruler, I simply have no way to defend myself against them."

"Saint Ruler!" Upon hearing those two words, Ming Dong showed a look of yearning on his face. The enticement brought forth from the power of a Saint Ruler was truly too great. This was simply a whole new domain to step into.

"Jian Chen, uncle Tian once said that to become a Saint Ruler, one must be able to comprehend the mysteries of the world. Are you attempting to understand them now as an aside?" Ming Dong asked.

Jian Chen shook his head, "Understanding the mysteries of the world requires a foundation built off of the energy of the world. As long as one reaches a pinnacle state with their control over the energy of the world, they will be able to touch and start to comprehend the mysteries of the world. Although my power of thought is far stronger than any other Heaven Saint Master, my comprehension over the energy of the world is still superficial and nowhere close to being able to understand the mysteries of the world. When the day comes for me to reach a deep level of comprehension, I will naturally try to understand the domain that is the mysteries of the world. But this is a path with no shortcuts."

Ming Dong revealed a crestfallen look, "So it seems that we can only take one step at a time then."

Two days later, Jian Chen and Ming Dong finally returned to Changyang Manor. Xiao Tian and the others had been extremely curious on how they had managed to disappear so suddenly. It was because of their extreme confidence in Jian Chen's strength that they did not panic when the two had disappeared. However, they did wonder just what business was so important for the two to disappear so out of the blue.

No one found it prudent to ask where Jian Chen had gone off to, for they simply had no right to ask. Even Jian Chen's parents Changyang Ba and Bi Yuntian did not ask Jian Chen. As parents, they knew that their own child had already matured to become an independent man capable of doing his own thing. His own position and responsibilities were no longer within the domain of the two.

After exchanging several words of greeting with everyone, Jian Chen walked by himself to his own personal hall. Increasing in speed, his footsteps finally took him to his expansive bedroom where his bed was.

Seated at the head of the bed was the white tiger cub with its head still drooped down in slumber. By its side were several thousand year old ginseng and other ingredients.

Seeing the scant amount of heavenly resources left, Jian Chen revealed a worried look on his face. "I left a large pile of heavenly resources, but now there's only a small amount remaining. Ai, the tiger cub's appetite grows more and more each day." With that, Jian Chen retrieved another pile of heavenly resources and placed them beside the cub before walking out.

Afterward, Jian Chen remained in the Changyang clan for two days. In those two days, he spent the time with his group of friends and the princess You Lan within the interior of the manor. On the second day,

Qin Ji had received a letter from the Qinhuang Kingdom, prompting him to return to the Qinhuang Kingdom as soon as possible.

Having received the letter, Qin Ji had no plans to stay in Changyang Manor any longer. Bidding farewell to Jian Chen, he and the five other Imperial Advisors made an impromptu exit. However, Xiao Tian, the other four Imperial Advisors, and the three generals remained behind. A party of the Eastern Deity Soldiers remained stationed in Lore City while another party had been garrisoned at the Changyang clan.

Jian Chen wore an expensive white robe as he accompanied Sans and his mother around the area. Sans and his mother had received a cordial level of treatment from Changyang Ba and Bi Yuntian, causing the son and mother pair to gain a high level of treatment within the clan. They had been given their own courtyard and servants to wait on them. The head caretaker of the clan, Chang Wuji had even stipulated that the expenditures from the two would be footed by the Changyang clan, and a specialized group of soldiers would stand guard over the two. Such a treatment like this was basically on par with the treatment of the master of the family, Changyang Ba.

Sans and his mother had been very well-behaved and had lived in content within the Changyang clan. Although they would stroll outside of the manor to see the hustle and bustle of Lore City, they would never buy anything.

When Jian Chen found Sans and his mother, it seemed the two were in discussion. Their eyebrows were creased together, and there was a thoughtful but embarrassed look on their faces.

“Aunty, Sans, have you become accustomed to living here yet? If there is anything you need, please seek uncle Chang. Uncle Chang will make sure to meet your expectations.” Jian Chen smiled.

Jian Chen’s sudden visit caused Sans and his mother to be surprised. Bolting upright, they said respectfully, “We pay our respects to the fourth master!” The mother even bent over in salute.

In their short time within the Changyang clan, Sans and his mother gained a deep understanding of the character Jian Chen. They knew that his status within the clan was as high as it could possibly be, and that he was also the Imperial Protector of the Gesun Kingdom. Such a tremendous difference in status between him and them caused the mother and son to feel extremely panicked.

“Aunty, Sans, we are all family here, there is no need to be too polite.” Jian Chen used his mind to control the energy of the world and temporarily freeze the area around the mother and son so that they could not bow to him any longer. The two of them were the family of Kendall, just how could Jian Chen let them bow to him?

Jian Chen walked freely over to the nearby table and sat down with a smile. “Aunty, Sans, come and sit. I saw you two talking earlier, was there something troubling you?”

The mother and son hesitated for a moment before Sans finally said something first, “Fourth master, my mother and I are extremely grateful for your consideration for our well-being, but the two of us had already grown accustomed to our ordinary lives from before. Living here like this is still a bit strange, so my mother and I wish to move out”

Jian Chen’s eyebrows creased together as he listened, but before he could speak, the mother beat him to it, “Fourth master, my son is correct. The two of us are not ones to live our lives in luxury and nobility.

We truly cannot adjust ourselves to such a lifestyle. I wish to use the savings I have to purchase an inn in Lore City and continue my days working there if the fourth master allows it!”

Jian Chen continued to think for a moment, but in the end he valued the opinion of the two and sighed, “Very well then. If aunty and Sans wish to live such a lifestyle, I can only support your endeavors. Aunty, I will have uncle Chang take care of the arrangements, so you needn’t worry about the matters with the inn for now.”

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An extremely far distance away from the Gesun Kingdom, a suspended shrine could be seen floating a hundred meters up in an empty space.

“Grand elder, we have recently discovered the men from the Bloodsword Sect moving about, but they are mostly moving around the coastal areas in frequent amounts.” An elder cupped his hands respectfully. Right in front of him was a middle-aged man that floated in mid-air, this was the uncle Tian of Ming Dong — Tian Jian!

“Bloodsword Sect!” Tian Jian’s eyebrows narrowed together. “It has been a thousand years since their last movement on the continent. If they’re appearing now near the coast, just what in the world are they planning?”

“Grand elder, could the Bloodsword Sect possibly be planning something big?” Another elder wondered aloud.

Muttering to himself, Tian Jian spoke, “It has been a thousand years since Houston retired from the Tian Yuan Continent to live in seclusion without a care for the continent. If the Bloodsword Sect is appearing out of nowhere now...” Tian Jian’s eyes narrowed as he thought.

After a while, Tian Jian sighed and smoothed out his eyebrows. “Twenty-third elder, from now on, report these matters to the second and third elder. There is no need to report to me.”

“Yes, grand elder!” The elder retreated afterward.

After the elder had left, Tian Jian’s legs fell to the ground to let him walk. His hands were placed behind his back as he stared at the murky sky with a spellbound look.

Chapter 528: The Huanggu Clan

Within the Changyang clan, Jian Chen gathered Ming Dong, Dugu Feng, Yun Zheng, and Senior An all together around a round table.

Jian Chen looked around the table with a glint before clearing up his thoughts. After muttering to himself, he said, “Now that the problems of the Gesun Kingdom are all but resolved, we all should start to do our own things now.”

Ming Dong’s eyes sparkled, “Jian Chen, are you talking about the Flame Mercenaries?”

“Correct, the Flame Mercenaries is exactly what I’m talking about.” Jian Chen continued, “I returned to the Gesun Kingdom after such a long time, but I also had plans to see just how much the Flame Mercenaries have developed. Yet, with so many problems that got in the way, I had no time to go and

check on the mercenaries until today. With everything said and done with, I shall make use of my remaining energy to manage the Flame Mercenaries.”

“Jian Chen, just where did you establish this mercenary group? I have never heard of it before, let alone know how strong it is.” Yun Zheng asked.

“I didn’t create the Flame Mercenaries, I am just merely the second captain. It’s been two years since I left, so if they didn’t change locations, they should still be in Wake City of Blue Wind Kingdom. As for their strength....” At this point, Jian Chen had an embarrassed smile on his face, “Well, wait until you see it, you’ll understand then.”

“Haha, Jian Chen. I’ve heard that you owned a mercenary group, but I have never heard of it either. We should head to Wake City so I can see just what this mercenary group of yours is like.” Ming Dong chuckled.

“When do we leave?” Dugu Feng spoke. Compared to everyone else, he was more detached. Even when he was speaking, his face was expressionless.

Hearing that, Jian Chen muttered, “Before we head to Wake City, I wish to go somewhere else first. You should all stay in Changyang Manor for a while. Wait for me to return, then we’ll head out.”

Afterward when everyone was about to leave, Jian Chen pulled Ming Dong aside, “Ming Dong, you come with me. I want to introduce a friend to you.”

“Alright, where to then!” Ming Dong asked succinctly.

“Kargath Academy!”

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both left the Changyang clan with Jian Chen carrying him to Kargath Academy.

To the south, there was a forest where magical beasts could be found littered everywhere. This forest was known as the Misty Forest since there was a dense layer of mist covering the forest throughout the entire year. The deeper one went into the forest, the more dense the mist got, making it very easy for a person to get lost.

According to the records left behind by those before, the Misty Forest used to be an ordinary forest with a decent amount of magical beasts residing within it. But a thousand years later, a sudden mist rolled into it for no reason at all. At first everyone had been curious to know the reason why it appeared, prompting plenty of braggarts and strong mercenaries to head into the forest to investigate. From all that tried, not a single one had returned.

The disappearance of anyone that left for the forest did not strike fear into the hearts of the mercenaries. Instead, it had bolstered them and caused even more mercenaries to believe that there was some sort of treasure within the forest.

Spurred by their greedy hearts, plenty of mercenary groups had banded together to form a large-scale attempt to scour the entire forest. After several days, only a meager few heavily injured men came stumbling out from the forest despite thousands of people enter it. All of them had repeated the same shocking information; within the abyss of the forests, there was Class 6 Magical Beasts!

This piece of information was like a clap of thunder to the hearts of every mercenary there. The cities around the Misty Forest were all Second and Third Class cities where a Class 5 Magical Beast was already far too strong of an entity. A Class 6 Magical Beast was an entity they could only look up to. A beast like that could destroy a Second Class city with ease.

All of the surrounding kingdoms had quickly received this information, prompting them all to dispatch plenty of Heaven Saint Masters. They were to rapidly respond to the abyss of the Misty Forest in hopes of killing and extracting their monster cores. On the Tian Yuan Continent, Class 6 Magical Beasts were existences that only lived in the Cross Mountains. In the eyes of humanity, the Cross Mountains were a forbidden zone where anyone beneath a Heaven Saint Master was guaranteed to die there. Thus, Class 6 Magical Beasts were very rare to see outside of it. Whenever one did appear, every nearby party would immediately head out to hunt it.

Every single Heaven Saint Master that had gone into the forest had come out with dismayed expressions without exception. There had been no sounds of battle the entire time they were in the forest, leaving every single spectator, who were looking forward to seeing the Heaven Saint Masters battle, disappointed. The deterrence brought forth by the Misty Forest had multiplied in the hearts of the mercenaries because of this situation. Soon, rumors were spread throughout the land, and although they weren't enough to shake the continent, practically every single person within hundreds of thousands of kilometers knew about the situation.

From that moment on, every mercenary knew that there was something hidden within the Misty Forest that scared even Heaven Saint Masters away. While many mercenaries would still hunt for magical beasts in the Misty Forest, they would stay in the outer area. No one dared to go deeper in it.

Aside from the Heaven Saint Masters who entered the forest, not a single person would be able to imagine that hidden within the deepest parts of the forest would be a giant building. There were several other buildings built around it, but the mist never reached into the area of these buildings.

Within the center of these buildings, there was a single tower that was about a kilometer in height. On the first story, several elders could be seen smiling and chatting. Among this group were the elders Feng and Yun from the Huang family.

"Elder Feng, Elder Yun, it is rare to see the two of you come by my Huanggu family. Why don't you stay for some time within my household?" A crane-hairstyled elder spoke. This elder wore a plain white robe, but there was the air of a scholar to him.

"Lord Jiang, the two of us always come by here for a reason. This time, it is for an important matter." Elder Feng spoke with a difficult expression as if he found what he was about to say quite embarrassing.

"Haha, just what matter could it be for you two elders to personally come running over? Did the Hongfu clan do something new?" The head of the Huanggu clan asked.

Elder Feng shook his head before taking out a letter from his Space Ring to give to the head, "Lord Jiang, please take a look."

The head of the Huanggu clan took the letter and opened it up. When he saw the inner contents of the letter, the smile on his face was wiped away, forming a difficult expression. With a low voice, he said,

“Your Huang family has decided to absolve the betrothment? Elder Feng, Elder Yun, just what is the meaning of your Huang family?”

The two elders revealed apologetic smiles as they cupped their hands, “Lord Jiang, please calm yourself. This decision came from our ancestor himself.”

Upon hearing mention of the ancestor, the face of lord Jiang grew even more serious. Tossing the letter onto the table, he spoke with a still difficult expression, “Elders, what does your ancestor mean by this! This betrothment was suggested to us by him, and now he wishes to cancel it, does he see my Huanggu clan as something to tease?”

“Lord Jiang, we truly are sorry. There is already another in the heart of our young miss, so our Huang family does not wish to forcibly break her heart. Thus, this betrothment should be dropped. If we offended the Huanggu clan in anyway, please forgive us.” Elder Yun spoke apologetically.

“Hmph, what kind of young lord could your young miss possibly fall in love with that would have your ancestor break off this betrothment?” The head of the Huanggu clan inquired.

“The man our young miss has taken a liking to is the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom.” Elder Feng spoke with a faint smile. His heart could already predict just what type of expression the head of the Huanggu clan would make.

Sure enough, upon hearing mention of the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, the face of the man showed some fear run through it. Then he revealed a cold smile, “Is that so. So your Huang family has found the tree known as the Qinhuang Kingdom to climb. Indeed, with the Qinhuang Kingdom, your Huang family wouldn’t fear the threat known as the Hongfu clan.” There was fury that could barely be contained within the lord’s heart. The young miss Huang Luan possessed an exceptional talent. At the age of twenty she had already reached the realm of an Earth Saint Master. This was something the Huanggu clan had highly favored. They had tried an infinitesimal amount of ways to get her into their clan, but the Huang family had constantly rejected them.

It was finally after half a year when the Hongfu clan greatly changed that caused the Huang family to feel pressured. It had been so much that they had taken the initiative to try and link their family to the Huanggu clan by marriage in an attempt to combine their power to deter the Hongfu clan from starting anything.

This proposal had been something that the Huanggu clan had been all too happy to accept. If their Huanggu clan could join with the Huang family, then their combined power could plateau with the Hongfu clan and scare them away from attacking. In the case that a fight broke out while the two sides were of equal strengths, then it would only lead to an internecine aftermath. There was no way the Hongfu clan would dare risk that.

It could be said that this marriage between the Huang family and the Huanggu clan was for the sake of military deterrence and not for actual warfare with the Hongfu clan. For that reason, the Huanggu clan had been delighted to agree to this marriage. Now that the Huang family had decided to break off this marriage, the leader of the Huanggu clan was all too displeased. They had valued Huang Luan quite highly and the person she was supposed to be married to was the dearly loved son of lord Jiang. There was no way he wouldn’t be angry about this.

“Elders, please excuse yourselves. I must bring this matter to my ancestor to report so that he may speak to your own ancestor for the reason.” Lord Jiang waved his hand with a temperament similar to the way an emperor would expel foreigners from his lands.

Chapter 529: Return to Kargath Academy

Without any other choice, the elders Feng and Yun left the Huanggu clan. The head of the clan remained there with his eyes narrowed together in thought. Soon, he headed up the tallest level of the tower. The Huanggu clan highly valued Huang Luan so much that even the ancestor for their clan was highly interested in having her as an addition to their clan. With the sudden absolvment, it was imperative that the clan leader announce this matter to him.

The man walked up to the highest tower before coming to a stop at the closed doors. With a respectful voice, he said, “Descendant Jiang Tao is here with a report for the ancestor.”

After a heavy layer of silence, an elderly voice could be heard from the other side, “Speak!”

“Ancestor, the Huang family has cancelled the betrothment between Huang Luan and our Huanggu clan. In our place, they have chosen an Imperial Protector from the Qinhuang Kingdom.” Jiang Tao replied respectfully.

“What? Canceling the betrothment for an Imperial Protector from the Qinhuang Kingdom!?” The tone from the elderly man on the other side of the door was noticeably angry.

Hearing the angry voice of the elder, Jiang Tao was slightly confused. Although he knew that the ancestor highly valued Huang Luan, he never expected to see that the ancestor would be so influenced by her to such a degree.

Despite his confusion, he didn’t dare ask about it. Instead, he replied, “Yes Ancestor. The men from the Huang family just came by with the news.”

Another silence descended behind the doors. After a while, a voice could be heard again, “Very well. I know now, you may leave!” This time, the elderly voice had calmed down.

“Yes Ancestor! Descendant Jiang Tao will take his leave!” Jiang Tao gave a respectful bow to the door before heading back down.

After Jiang Tao left, the doors began to slowly open to reveal a blue-robed elder with a dark expression. As he walked out, his eyebrows could be seen furrowed together.

“The Huang family has matched that Huang Luan girl to the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom, did that Imperial Protector find out that girl possesses the water spirit’s body? No, there’s no way. Unless he practices the Scripture of the Aqua Sunflower, he shouldn’t have any possible way to see the secrets of the water spirit’s body.” The ancestor muttered to himself. After some hesitation, he finally bit his lip, “No, the water spirit’s body is far too important. I must investigate this matter.” The elder instantly disappeared into a flash of light that escaped from his tower and out into the misty forest.

From far within the borders of the Gesun Kingdom, Jian Chen flew with Ming Dong for a thousand kilometers before finally arriving at their destination — Kargath Academy.

Descending to the area around Kargath Academy, the two of them began to walk in. As soon as they were about to walk past the gates, the guard at the gates immediately blocked their path.

“My lords, please show me proof of studentship here. Otherwise, I cannot let you in, these are the regulations of this academy.” The guard could tell from the luxurious clothes and the aura of the two that they were very important people, so he spoke in a more respectful voice.

Jian Chen smiled and took out a badge from his Space Ring, “Are we allowed in now?” In the past, Jian Chen had been a student of Kargath Academy, so it was only natural that he still had proof of him being a student.

“Please enter my lords!” With that, the guard stopped the two no more. He gave a wave and a smile.

Without any other problems, Jian Chen and Ming Dong entered Kargath Academy. Despite Jian Chen being gone for so long, Kargath Academy hadn’t changed at all. The biggest change was that the trees that had been planted a long time ago at the academy had grown by a large amount.

It was quite lively within Kargath Academy as countless students could be seen laughing and walking around the campus. Many of them were around the age of eighteen and nineteen; sometimes an even older student would appear.

“Jian Chen, is this really the academy you used to study at? It doesn’t seem like much; some of these students are barely at the Saint level — some don’t even have a Saint Weapon materialized!” Ming Dong spoke with some disbelief as he looked around the place.

Jian Chen laughed, “Do you think that everyone is like you and can become an Earth Saint Master at your age? Although there are many geniuses on the Tian Yuan Continent, the Gesun Kingdom is a tiny place. Just having one or two appear would be amazing enough, how could there be multiple?”

Ming Dong found Jian Chen’s words reasonable and agreed. “That much is true, but Jian Chen, just who did you bring me here to find? Is it someone that has caught your eye in skill?”

“You’ll find out in a moment. Let’s go find the headmaster for now; he’ll know the whereabouts of the friend I have in the academy. This friend of mine has a decent talent. He seems to even be blessed. His physical strength is something even I greatly admire.” Jian Chen admitted.

“Haha, if you say it like that, then I really want to meet this friend of yours.” Ming Dong laughed with interest.

The two of them continued on their way to the tower at center of the academy. This was the most authoritative place of power within the academy, and was where the headmaster Khafir would be.

Just at that moment, a clamor could be heard.

“Everyone come quickly! The second strongest student, Ka Di Yun has challenged the strongest student to a fight! This will be a stupendous battle that can absolutely not be missed!”

“What? Ka Di Yun challenging the first seat? Didn’t Ling Zhengtian make the breakthrough to become a Saint Master half a year ago? Ka Di Yun is only a High Great Saint, isn’t he only inviting humiliation to himself with this challenge?”

“What do you know? According to the rumors, Ka Di Yun made the breakthrough to become a Saint Master half a month ago. His strength is practically on par with Ling Zhengtian!”

“That can’t be, Ka Di Yun made a breakthrough to become a Saint Master? That rate of cultivation speed is far too fast. He’s only younger than Ling Zhengtian by two years, how could he become a Saint Master so quickly? He’s practically the fastest cultivator within Kargath Academy!”

“Bah, who’s the one that said Ka Di Yun is the fastest cultivator in Kargath Academy? Have you all never heard about the eldest son of the Changyang clan, Changyang Hu? He is a fellow student of ours and made the breakthrough to become a Great Saint Master last year. He left Kargath Academy after that, otherwise, no student would be a match for him aside from the teachers here.”

“Che! Who cares for Changyang Hu? Did you not hear about the fourth master of the same clan, Changyang Xiangtian? I heard that he was once a student within our Kargath Academy. As soon as he entered, he became the champion of the newcomer students that year. His strength is far too amazing, and I bet no one in the academy could contend with him.”

“Changyang Xiangtian? Aiya, I know about him!” A single eighteen year old girl had immediately leaped up and down at the mention of Changyang Xiangtian’s name. “I know of Changyang Xiangtian, he’s currently the Imperial Protector for our Gesun Kingdom. That means his status is even higher than the headmaster! I heard that he’s at the Heaven Saint Master realm as well, that’s just far too amazing! He only just became twenty years old or so as well.”

“What? Just barely twenty years old and already a Heaven Saint Master as well as the Imperial Protector for our Gesun Kingdom? You’re dreaming. How could that be possible? Even the most talented person wouldn’t be able to become a Heaven Saint Master at the age of twenty.” Another male student spoke in disbelief as doubt clouded his words.

Many of the surrounding students began to give the doubtful student a very perplexed glance. Then one person spoke, “Fellow classmate, have you not moved out from your hole in the ground or something? Just who doesn’t know about the grand name of Changyang Xiangtian, the fourth master of the Changyang clan? This is a fact that has been undeniably proved true without a chance to be considered false.”

Another person piped in, “I heard that Changyang Xiangtian earned some animosity with Ka Di Yun when he first entered Kargath Academy, I don’t know if that’s true or not though.”

“That’s correct, something like that had truly happened.” One of the older students spoke confidently with his hands on his hips. “I saw when Changyang Xiangtian entered the academy. In the newcomer tournament, Changyang Xiangtian defeated Ka Di Liang and Ka Di Qiuli for the title of first place. Both Ka Di Liang and Ka Di Qiuli were unable to accept this defeat and challenged Changyang Xiangtian again. But still, they lost. In the end, even Ka Di Yun who had only just materialized his Saint Weapon had challenged him. Yet, like his family members, he lost to the hands of Changyang Xiangtian. I heard at that point Changyang Xiangtian was only at the Eight Saint Force layer.”

“Waa... is that true or not? Changyang Xiangtian is too amazing then...” Every single student around the area let out a surprised sigh of worship after hearing that.

“What are you all talking about here!?” Suddenly, a cold voice could be heard as a cyan-colored skirt wearing girl stood on the outskirts of the crowd. She shot an icy glare at everyone.

This woman was exceedingly pretty with delicate features. Although she was not so beautiful to bring a country to its knees, she was still quite the beauty that could rarely be seen. By the woman’s side was another rather handsome looking youth that looked to be around twenty-two to twenty-three years old.

As this male and female walking forward, all of the students that had been gossiping had immediately gone quiet. Straight away, many of the students began to greet the two with a flattering laugh.

“So it’s sis Ka Di Qiuli and senior Ka Di Liang!”

“Sis Ka Di Qiuli, senior Ka Di Liang, hello!”

As of right now, the three siblings from the Ka Di clan were Kargath Academy’s most influential figures. Practically every single student that attended the academy would know their names since the three siblings were all very strong. Ka Di Yun had been able to become a Saint Master and was on par with the strongest student in the academy. Ka Di Qiuli and Ka Di Yun were both cultivators at the same level of strength

They were Advanced Great Saints with just a small marginal step until the Saint Master realm. Of the top ten strongest students in Kargath Academy, the three siblings held three spots.

“Third sister, don’t bother with them. Big brother’s match is about to begin. We should hurry to where brother is about to fight.” Ka Di Liang spoke to Ka Di Qiuli by his side. Then pulling Ka Di Qiuli in the direction of the fighting arenas, the two of them left with a rather unwell expression on their faces.

As Ka Di Qiuli was being pulled away by Ka Di Liang, an unhappy smile could be seen on her face. In her mind, she was still unable to forget about the dissatisfaction brought by Changyang Xiangtian several years ago. The two siblings were quite aware of the matters of the outside world, but she would never be able to believe that the Changyang Xiangtian she and her brother had once fought against would rise by such a terrifying degree in such a short amount of time.

A Heaven Saint Master was something the three siblings could only look up and dream about.

The students who had been discussing among each other quite energetically followed the two siblings toward the area where the fighting arenas were. Just several meters away, Jian Chen and Ming Dong were easily within earshot of the entire exchange.

“Jian Chen, I didn’t think that you would be such a influential person in such a place. Tsk tsk tsk, how amazing you are if you were actually able to defeat a Saint with a Saint Weapon when you were only at the Eighth Layer. That’s even better than I was at your age.” Ming Dong teased Jian Chen from the side.

Hearing that, Jian Chen couldn’t help but think back to the memories of the past with a faint smile. “A child can only play house at such an age, it’s not worth mentioning. In the past, the three Ka Di siblings had an interesting situation between us. Now that so many years have past, I didn’t think that the three siblings would still be here in the academy. Come on, let’s go see what’s happening.”

Chapter 530: Seeing Tie Ta Again (One)

By the time Jian Chen and Ming Dong arrived at the arenas, the surrounding area was already packed with students. Hundreds of them were whispering to one another around the ring, but both Ka Di Yun and Ling Zhengtian were nowhere near to be seen.

The match between Ka Di Yun and Ling Zhengtian seemed to be extremely important to the audience. Jian Chen waited for a moment longer, and in just a short amount of time, the crowd of students grew more and more into the thousands until it seemed as if the majority of the students in the academy had gathered.

“Who do you think’s going to win?”

“Are you kidding? Of course it’ll be Ling Zhengtian. Ka Di Yun may have become a Saint Master and is on equal footing with Ling Zhengtian now, but Ling Zhengtian has been a Saint Master for so long. With his talent, I bet he’s already a middle Saint Master in strength, Ka Di Yun’s no match for him.”

“Ka Di Yun has challenged every single one of the top ten students without a single loss. Now that he’s challenging Ling Zhengtian, I’ve no doubts that he’ll win.”

All of the students around the arena were whispering to each other in excitement. Jian Chen and Ming Dong could only stand in the middle of the ocean of people and wait to see the spectacle. Jian Chen and Ming Dong were both extremely conspicuous with their white robes because every student here was wearing the academy uniform. Some of the students had even looked at them in amazement, but no one asked about them.

While standing among the crowd with both hands against his chest, Jian Chen suddenly felt a distinct pair of eyes staring at him. When he turned his head to look, he only saw a rather beautiful woman staring attentively at him. Her eyes were like limpid autumn water in the light, but the expression in them carried a questioning glance — it was Ka Di Qiuli.

Compared to a few years ago, Ka Di Qiuli had grown by quite the amount. Gone was her unruliness and impatience, and in its place was a more matured steadfastness. Even her beauty had grown by a decent amount.

Although there had been some bad history between Jian Chen and the three siblings from the Ka Di clan, it was nothing more than small time scuffles between children — harmless and of no major importance. This meant that Jian Chen bore no grudges against the three, so when Ka Di Qiuli was staring at him, Jian Chen only gave a friendly nod to her in greeting before turning his eyes away.

Ka Di Qiuli stared attentively at the handsome face of Jian Chen with a thoughtful look. Her eyebrows furrowed together for a moment before lightly nudging Ka Di Liang by her side. “Second brother, have you seen that man wearing the white robe before? I feel he looks somewhat familiar as if I’ve seen him before. I just can’t put my finger on it.”

Jian Chen had grown so much in these years that even his uncle Chang Wuji had been unable to recognize him, let alone Ka Di Qiuli who wasn’t familiar with him at all.

Ka Di Liang looked to Jian Chen after being prompted by his sister. Then, with a shake of his head, he smiled. “I don’t know just which son of nobility he is from, but he’s quite handsome. Your second brother is quite jealous.”

“Second brother, I feel that he is familiar to me, but I just don’t know how and where. Do you not know who he is?” Ka Di Qiuli repeated.

Ka Di Liang looked back at Jian Chen again with another shake of his head, “I don’t know, or else I’ve never seen him before.” With that, Ka Di Liang gave a meaningful stare at Ka Di Qiuli as he smiled mischievously, “Third sister, that guy over there isn’t too bad in looks, are you trying to tell me you’ve taken a fancy to him. When we get back, your brother will have some people look into who he is for you.”

With a baleful glare at Ka Di Liang, Ka Di Qiuli wasted no more words with him and continued to think to herself.

At that time, two figures suddenly came walking out from behind the crowd and onto the arena platform. These two men looked to be around twenty-five and twenty-six years old. They wore the uniform of Kargath Academy, and the moment they stepped onto the arena, the entire congregation exploded into discussions.

“Ka Di Yun and Ling Zhengtian have arrived...”

“Ka Di Yun, you can do it! Beat Ling Zhengtian....”

“Ling Zhengtian will win...”

One after another the students of the academy shouted out in loud voices to cheer on the two combatants. Their voices continued for a decent amount of time before finally descending back into a lull.

With the two fighters stepping onto the arena, Ka Di Qiuli had finally moved her eyes away from Jian Chen to look at her older brother Ka Di Yun on the platform.

Ka Di Yun and Ling Zhengtian exchanged several words of smalltalk with each other before simultaneously taking out their Saint Weapons. Ka Di Yun’s Saint Weapon was a two-handed sword while Ling Zhengtian’s was a long thin saber. With the appearance of their Saint Weapons, the fight had officially started.

“Ding ding clank clank clank...”

The sounds of the Saint Weapons smashing into each other could be heard while Ka Di Yun fought with Ling Zhengtian on top of the arena. Despite not being a fight to the death, their performance was something that seemed to make the students fall into a drunken stupor. A battle between Saint Masters was something that the Saints and not-yet Saints felt invigorated by.

Ka Di Yun and Ling Zhengtian fought for a while on top of the arena without victory being decided. However, Ming Dong had long since lost interest in the battle and did not wish to watch anymore. With him being an Earth Saint Master, watching two Saint Masters fight in front of him was like watching a kid show off to a professional. There was nothing to feel excited about from watching this.

“Tsk, I’ll show you the strength of my battle skill!” Just at that moment, Ka Di Yun let out a loud shout and began to charge his Saint Force into his two-handed sword before slashing out at Ling Zhengtian.

Upon hearing the words 'battle skill', Ling Zhengtian's face had blanched. With no time to dodge, he could only commit all of his strength to defending.

"Bang!" A loud explosion could be heard as Ka Di Yun's giant sword slammed against Ling Zhengtian's saber. A battle skill was many times stronger than any regular strike, so the amount of power transmitted from Ka Di Yun's sword to Ling Zhengtian's saber had been enough to send Ling Zhengtian back through the air. Finally coming to a stumble across the floor, Ling Zhengtian couldn't help but let out a mouthful of blood.

The audience, which had been quiet for some time, abruptly exploded into a cacophony of shouts as they began to shout out celebrations of Ka Di Yun being the victor.

"Ka Di Yun has won, Ka Di Yun has defeated Ling Zhengtian to become the strongest student in Kargath Academy!"

"Ka Di Yun is the strongest expert of our academy!"

.....

Beneath the platform, Ka Di Qiuli and Ka Di Liang displayed ecstatic looks on their faces in excitement for the victory their older brother had just received.

Ka Di Yun stabbed his giant sword into the ground for everyone to see before shouting out in a heroically. "Is there still anyone that isn't convinced? Come up and challenge me then! Today, I Ka Di Yun will accept the challenge of anyone!"

"Even the strongest student Ling Zhengtian was defeated by the hands of Ka Di Yun. Right now in Kargath Academy, there's no one that's a match for Ka Di Yun!"

"Ka Di Yun has a battle skill, making him stronger than even some of the teachers at the academy. I bet even some of the teachers at the Earth Saint Master level wouldn't be a match for him."

Many of the students were whispering to each other.

Seeing how prideful Ka Di Yun was, Ming Dong suddenly felt an idea hit him. Smiling, he said, "How impudent. I know I heard that he and you had some bad blood in the past. Jian Chen, let me play with him." Not even waiting for Jian Chen to respond, Ming Dong leaped onto the arena.

Seeing Ming Dong hop onto the platform, Jian Chen couldn't do anything but shake his wistful head helplessly since he knew he couldn't stop him. A mighty Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master bullying a single Saint Master, this was something that would make anyone a joke just for saying it.

Ming Dong folded his arms across his chest as he smiled at the proud-looking Ka Di Yun, "Kid, you're Ka Di Yun right? Let's fight, me and you."

When everyone saw Ming Dong suddenly leap on top of the arena, every single student in the audience began to chat with each other. Since he was not wearing the uniform of Kargath Academy, everyone was curious to see who he was while Ka Di Liang and Ka Di Qiuli stared closely at him.

"Who is that guy? I've never seen him before. He's not wearing our academy uniform. It doesn't seem like he's a student of Kargath Academy." Ka Di Liang muttered with furrowed eyebrows. Motioning for

the student next to him, he whispered, "Go call for headmaster Bai En, tell him there's outsiders intruding in on Kargath Academy's business."

"Yes!" That student was the son of the family responsible for guarding the Ka Di clan. He didn't hesitate to obey Ka Di Liang's order. In a flash, he began to run to the headmaster's quarters.

Ka Di Yun looked at the white robes of Ming Dong with suspicious eyes before probing out with a question, "Are you not a student of Kargath Academy?"

"You guessed correctly. I am not a student of Kargath Academy, so this fight shouldn't pose a risk to your standing in the academy whether you win or lose. So, how about it. Want to fight?" Ming Dong laughed with his arms pressed against his chest.

"Of course we'll fight! I, Ka Di Yun, fear no single person. But, what is your name?" Ka Di Yun cupped his hands together.

"I'll tell you my name after our match." Ming Dong laughed. He wasn't worried at all; this was nothing more than a joke to play with.

Ka Di Yun could see that he wasn't too far away in age from Ming Dong, so he did not fear Ming Dong's strength. Very few people his age would be capable of beating him.

"Despite you not being a student of Kargath Academy, I will nonetheless accept your challenge, let's fight!" Ka Di Yun's right hand grabbed his Saint Weapon, which had been stuck in the ground. He adopted a fighting stance while charging at Ming Dong.