

## Chaotic 611

### Chapter 611: Death of the Saint Ruler of the Shi Family (One)

"Gone, they don't exist anymore!" Jian Chen spoke honestly. As long as he was in Mercenary City, he didn't fear any Saint Ruler.

"What? Gone? They don't exist anymore?" The Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan had found it hard to remain his calm and had looked confused. His eyes were narrowed coldly as if he was staring daggers at Jian Chen.

A Ruler Armament was far too important to them. Not only was it something more than just a family treasure, it was also an extremely powerful weapon.

"Correct, the item you want back no longer exist." Jian Chen smiled.

A series of emotions flickered through the two Saint Ruler's faces, but they had quickly calmed down. They hadn't believed that Jian Chen had managed to destroy the Ruler Armaments since Jian Chen was only a Heaven Saint Master, and a Heaven Saint Master wouldn't even be able to put a scratch in it with even a Heaven Tier Battle Skill. They were after all items that a Saint Ruler left behind. How could it be that easy for it to be broken?

Sneering, patriarch Shi spoke, "Jian Chen, I can see that you're not willing to give back our items. Then let me tell you, the Seal of Treasure Mountain has gone through many years as a bonded item to the Shi family. Only those who possess the bloodline of the Shi family would be able to use it. You are not of my family, and neither are you a part of my bloodline. Even if you used some secret method, it would be useless. The item serves no use to you and only adds to your troubles. Why not return it to us and we'll wipe away this grudge. My Shi family won't send anymore people to come kill you after."

"That is right. Jian Chen, I must insist on the return of the Ruler Armament. Take advantage of when I am willing to negotiate with you to return the Ruler Armament to me. My Jiede clan will write off our debts as well and cause no more trouble with you. You won't need to stay within Mercenary City your entire life." The Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan spoke prudently.

While Jian Chen was sitting right in front of the two Saint Rulers, even they wouldn't move a finger to hurt him in Mercenary City. If Jian Chen stayed within the city without leaving, then they would be powerless to retake the Ruler Armaments. Rather than to wait around in vain, they would rather take the suave approach and try to reclaim it that way.

"My apologies, but what I just said should explain it all. The items you want are no longer on my person." Jian Chen spoke, unmoved by their attempts.

The Saint Rulers had a cross look on their faces. To them, this was a terribly bad situation since they were now worried that their Ruler Armaments were now in the hands of another great faction. If that was the case, then it would be a very hard matter to reclaim it.

"Then who has the Seal of Treasure Mountain!" Patriarch Shi boomed.

Pointing up into the sky, Jian Chen replied, "No one has it. It has already been lost to this world. Or perhaps to say, it has already become a part of me." The Duanyun sword and the Seal of Treasure

Mountain had already been turned into Chaotic Force to temper his body, so he had found this way of saying it to be quite fitting.

But Jian Chen's words had been like a clap of thunder to the two Saint Ruler's ears. Confused and stunned, they stared at him.

"What? The Seal of Treasure Mountain has become a part of you? Have you fused with it?" Patriarch Shi shot straight up from his seat and gave a wide-opened stare at the other Saint Ruler in disbelief.

Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat when he saw their reactions and heard their question. From this, he realized that there was some sort of use for the Ruler Armament.

"Could it be that a Ruler Armament can be fused with the body?" Jian Chen thought to himself. This piece of information was rather valuable since he lacked a weapon at the moment. If he could truly fuse with a Ruler Armament, then if he forged it with the Azulet swords, he could perhaps find a Ruler Armament compatible with the Light Wind Sword.

Unfortunately, while he now knew that the Ruler Armament could fuse with the body, he didn't know the specific method for it. The two Saint Rulers in front of him knew, but Jian Chen couldn't simply ask them since it would be a complete fail to do so. Moreover, even if he did know, finding a Ruler Armament that was compatible with the Light Wind Sword would be a very hard task. Thus, Jian Chen knew that this thought that had only just popped up would not be something that he could accomplish in any reasonable amount of time.

"No, that can't be possible! The Ruler Armament is something that a Saint Ruler left behind. In order to fuse with it, one would have to be a Saint Ruler at the Ninth Heavenly Layer! You are nothing but a Heaven Saint Master, how could you fuse with a Ruler Armament? Jian Chen, do you take us for a three year old child that knows nothing better about the world?" The Saint Ruler of the Jiede clan shook his head. In his mind, he was secretly aghast. If his Ruler Armament was truly fused with Jian Chen's body, then it would be forever lost to him.

The words of the Saint Ruler of the Jiede clan had made Jian Chen sigh. If he wanted to fuse with a Ruler Armament, he would need to be a Saint Ruler of the Ninth Heavenly Layer, and that was still quite a distance away.

"I've said it before. If you two don't believe me, then my apologies. Your junior still has some matters to take care and cannot accompany you any longer. Goodbye." Jian Chen had no longer felt inclined to talk to them any longer and stood up from the table to walk back to his room. In no time at all, he had disappeared from the eyes of the two saint Ruler.

The two Saint Ruler had stared at the back of Jian Chen until he had disappeared away from sight. For a good while, neither of the two responded. Ever since they became Saint Rulers, this was the very first time they had met a Heaven Saint Master that did not show them courtesy.

Finally, patriarch Shi clenched his fists tightly as he stared at the spot where Jian Chen had last been before disappearing. Clenching his teeth as well, he spat, "Jian Chen, if you refuse the carrot, then you'll not be spared the whip. Do not blame us."

The other Saint Ruler had sighed at his words, "It's unfortunate that this is Mercenary City. With just ourselves, we have no way of touching him. Neither do we know where the Ruler Armaments are, just why can we not sense them if they are so close?"

"They have to be on his body. He must have used some sort of secret method to separate the connection between our Ruler Armaments and us. But what can we do about it? Hmph, he still has the Imprint of Death on his body. No matter where he runs off to, we'll be able to find him. That is, unless he stays within Mercenary City his entire life." Patriarch Shi spoke under his breath before leaving the inn with the other.

Not too long after the two Saint Rulers left, a good portion of the patrons within the inn had done so as well. Each one of them were from many different factions and had been there to spy on the meeting before reporting back to their respective factions.

In a corner of the inn, Hu Xiaotian had been eating a platter of barbecued meat by himself. Giving only a vague soliloquy to himself, he spoke, "Even after that loud conversation, not a single bit of it could be heard. That must be the power to control space itself. Only a Saint Ruler could do magic like that. It seems that the enemies of Jian Chen aren't unordinary themselves. Should I help him, I wonder?"

After a moment's consideration, Hu Xiaotian sighed, "The clan has never once meddled with the affair of the continent. And with my strength as a heaven Saint Master, I'm powerless to help."

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For the next series of days, Jian Chen spent the entire time within the room having the sword spirits try and remove the Imprint of Death on him. Not once did he ever step out from the inn.

In this time, plenty of people from plenty of factions came to seek out Jian Chen with greetings and promises to help Jian Chen out with his problem. Each one of them had the condition that Jian Chen join their faction, and some of them had been extremely generous so that Jian Chen would be tempted. But Jian Chen had no desire to join them as he did not want to owe any person anything.

As more and more factions began to try to recruit Jian Chen into their ranks, the Shi family and Jiede clan grew more and more worried. These factions that wanted to recruit Jian Chen weren't too much weaker than they were, and some of them were people that even the two of them were afraid of. Up against this deadly situation, the two of them had no other solution but to watch in silence.

Although the two of them had plenty of connections in their own right, they both knew that even if they tried to call upon those connections to fight Jian Chen, it would be useless.

Several days later, the third prince of the Qinhuang Kingdom, Qin Ji, and several other Imperial Advisors had come to Mercenary City to find Jian Chen. He and the other four had given Jian Chen a message that allowed Jian Chen to stay even longer in Mercenary City and to not make any more enemies for the Qinhuang Kingdom.

Qin Ji hadn't stayed within the city for long, he and Jian Chen had only given a few sparse words of conversation before the prince left. He had been in a hurry, giving Jian Chen a bad feeling that something was about to happen to the kingdom.

In the blink of an eye, two months had passed. In these two months, Jian Chen had spent day and night trying to remove the Imprint of Death. After these two months of vigorous work, the Imprint of Death had two-thirds of it successfully removed. In the case that it was completely removed, then he wouldn't have to worry much anymore and could think of a way to escape the Shi family and Jiede clan and gain a new leash on his freedom.

In an inn not too far away, the two Saint Rulers were currently watching the window to where Jian Chen's room was. The Ruler Armaments were far too important for them to give up, so they could only spend their time observing him themselves without letting him escape.

"It's been well more than half a month since his last step out of his room. I've heard that he once managed to escape detection while under close watch. Shi Qing, Jian Chen has the Imprint of Death on him thanks to your family, so why don't you check up on it? We should avoid to have a situation where he escapes from under our noses." The Saint Ruler spoke.

Patriarch Shi nodded his head and closed his eyes to sense the Imprint of Death. But as soon as he did so, his eyes flew open in disbelief, "The Imprint of Death is weakening! It's practically gone--he's managed remove most of it in such a short amount of time!"

Even the Saint Ruler of the Jiede clan was surprised, "What? He has a way to remove the Imprint of Death? We have to hurry then, once that's gone, making sure he's around will be significantly harder."

#### Chapter 612: Death of the Saint Ruler of the Shi Family (Two)

In the history of the Tian Yuan Continent, each and every person that had the Imprint of Death afflicted onto them had been unable to remove it. This was due to the vital energies that were used to create it. The complexity of the patterns were far too much for pure energy to completely remove it. In the case that one was afflicted with the Imprint of Death, the only way to remove it was to completely exhaust the vital energies within the body as well.

A Heaven Saint Master used the energies that he had accumulated for plenty of years for the Imprint of Death. Without fail, this was a tremendous amount of energy to use. It would require several hundred years if anything to remove. But Jian Chen had not only managed to find a way to do so, he had found a way to do it quickly. This was something that the two Saint Rulers felt incredulous about.

The two of them knew just how important the Imprint of Death was. In the case that there was no reaction from it, then it would mean that Jian Chen had escaped from their range. Even as Saint Rulers, it would be hard to find Jian Chen without the Imprint of Death. The Tian Yuan Continent was far too vast and had a sea of people to hide within. All in all, it was like finding a needle from a haystack.

Jian Chen in this moment was currently resting on the bed with the azure and violet sword spirits working hard to erase the Imprint of Death. He had been completely oblivious to the fact that the two Saint Rulers were now aware of what he was doing.

Just then, a knock on the door made itself known. The door had been bolted shut with an iron lock, but it had been knocked off its hinges and thrown to the floor unceremoniously to reveal the two Saint Rulers walking in.

Slowly opening his eyes, Jian Chen looked at the two Saint Rulers with calm eyes.

“I’ve underestimated you, Jian Chen. I didn’t expect to see that you’ve have a way to remove the Imprint of Death. Hmph, how could there be such an easy way to remove the Imprint of Death?” Patriarch Shi spoke dangerously. He had been secretly glad of the fact that the other Saint Ruler had reminded him. Otherwise, Jian Chen might have really escaped under his nose as soon as the Imprint of Death was gone.

Knowing that the fact that he could remove the Imprint of Death was now discovered, Jian Chen was not discouraged. He knew that in Mercenary City, there was nothing the two could do even with that knowledge.

“Seniors, you are quite powerful to realize what I was up to with such little information. But even now that you know this, what can you do? If I had only a little longer, then I would have thrown off the Imprint of Death and escaped.” Jian Chen smiled.

“You dare!” Patriarch Shi boomed with anger as he pointed a finger at him. The Imprint of Death had been casted by a Heaven Saint Master, if it were so easily removed, then that Heaven Saint Master died in vain.

Smiling at the Saint Ruler as if to ridicule him, Jian Chen spoke, “This junior would never dare. But don’t forget that this is Mercenary City, would you two seniors really try to fight me here?”

The expression on patriarch Shi’s face grew even more murderous. His eyes looked as if they could spit fire at Jian Chen, and if looks could kill, then Jian Chen would have been dead just from the man’s glance alone.

Seeing that Jian Chen had been so smug, the other Saint Ruler couldn’t help but give a small smile. “Jian Chen, you shouldn’t count your eggs before they hatch. Even if you remove the Imprint of Death, you cannot escape from us still. I’ve a secret technique that allows me to place a seal to see the location of the person its own. It isn’t as powerful as the Imprint of Death, but it will serve us nicely in this situation.” At that, the Saint Ruler began to go through a series of hand gestures. Several illusionary patterns began to exude forth from his hands, and with each hand seal, a strange energy began to form in those patterns.

Jian Chen had blanched at that and lost all of his initial calmness. If the Saint Ruler wasn’t lying, then with whatever technique the Saint Ruler had on him, Jian Chen would be no better off than before. This was not something Jian Chen had expected.

His eyes narrowed with a brilliant cold light as he cautioned the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan, “This is Mercenary City, are you really going to move a hand against me?”

“This technique of mine doesn’t hurt the person and neither does it go against any rules of the city. I will be fine and worry-free from the rules.” The man spoke with confidence. His hands hadn’t stopped moving at all since his previous statement, and the energy that was forming in them had started to grow even more condensed than as they entered the complicated pattern in the air.

“Bastard!” Jian Chen had cursed to himself. With no desire to be stuck with whatever tracking technique the Saint Ruler had, Jian Chen grabbed the still sleeping tiger cub and leapt out the window to escape.

“Pah! Jian Chen, do you think you can escape from my grasp?” The Saint Ruler sneered before rushing out with patriarch Shi.

The outside city had been very busy at that current moment when Jian Chen had dropped to the ground. Bursting with speed into a random direction, Jian Chen had no delusions that he would be able to escape from the two Saint Rulers. They would be able to catch up with him at any time, so Jian Chen had been desperately thinking of what to do as he ran.

The most important thing to do at the moment was to escape direct contact from the two. This way, he'd be able to escape the Jiede clan's Saint Ruler's technique from being placed onto him. It was unfortunate that there were barely any hiding spots in Mercenary City and that his pursuers were Saint Rulers. If he had perhaps met the conditions in being able to enter the general headquarters to Mercenary City, he could probably be safe. But as of right now, he could not.

“Jian Chen! In front of a Saint Ruler, you are powerless to run away!” At that moment, an elderly voice could be heard as the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan appeared directly in front of him and blocked his path. Before Jian Chen could even react, the energy in his hands shot forth towards Jian Chen and melted into Jian Chen's body with a speed like lightning.

Just as this strange energy entered Jian Chen's body, he immediately felt his entire body grow tense as the energy transformed into a net that surrounded the entirety of his entire body. He felt as if his mobility had been limited thanks to the technique in a fashion not too different from the pressure from a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

He had grown cold when the implications of this technique hit him. Not only did this technique make it easier for the Saint Ruler to find him, but it also limited his very own mobility. As of right now, Jian Chen could feel that it was significantly harder to move in comparison to before.

“Jian Chen, how does this feeling suit you? This technique of mine doesn't have the same length of range as the Imprint of Death, but even the Imprint of Death doesn't boast the same effectiveness of this. It can restrict your movement as long as you are weaker than I am. And until then, there is no way you can break free of this technique.” The Saint Ruler laughed in sadistic delight.

Clenching his fist tightly, Jian Chen grew even more furious at the man. He had never thought that this would happen to him. The Imprint of Death he had on him was just nearly removed before this sudden development. This newest event had only meant that his plans would be further delayed by a long length of time.

“Big brother! Did you come across trouble again? Are these two people chasing you bad guys?” Suddenly, a voice suddenly made itself clear in Jian Chen's mind. The ethereal body of Little Spirit suddenly materialized right in front of Jian Chen's eyes with her transparent feet hovering just a meter over the ground.

It seemed as if her body was only visible to Jian Chen, as the entire street was filled with people, but not a single one of them seemed to have noticed her existence.

Little Spirit had sensed the technique that had been used on Jian Chen's body, causing her pure and childlike body to twist up in anger. “Big brother! You're being bullied! Those two must be bad guys! If they are, then don't worry big brother! Little Spirit will help you!” With that, she pointed a finger at Jian

Chen. A strange beam of energy flew out from her extended finger and met with Jian Chen's body to instantly dispel the entrapment that had been placed on him.

With his technique broken, the Saint Ruler had sensed it as well. Confused, the Saint Ruler spoke to Jian Chen with some startled disbelief, "But how? I can see that you broke my technique somehow. No, that shouldn't be possible! Not possible at all! How could you have enough power to overwhelm my technique?"

Patriarch Shi had heard what the other Saint Ruler said and was equally astounded. "This brat is a freak." He muttered. "Not only can he remove the Imprint of Death, he can even break free from the technique you placed on him. Perhaps there's some sort of treasure on his person?"

"Big brother, don't be surprised and go after them! Beat them down quickly! Teach those baddies a lesson!" Little Spirit floated down to Jian Chen's side as she snarled angrily. Because of the fact that Jian Chen was being bullied, Little Spirit was glaring hatefully at the two Saint Rulers.

"Little Spirit, this is Mercenary City. It's not a place where I can fight as easily as I want. If I do, then I'll suffer an extremely terrible punishment." Jian Chen spoke reluctantly.

"Big brother, don't worry. All of the punishments from Mercenary City were caused by Little Spirit. But Little Spirit won't punish big brother this time! So hurry up and teach them a lesson! They can't fight back, but if they do, then Little Spirit will definitely punish them! If master didn't prohibit Little Spirit from hurting people, then Little Spirit would have taken revenge for big brother already!"

Jian Chen had been motivated by what Little Spirit had been saying. For the past two months, he had been pressured and stifled by the presence of the two Saint Rulers. Today was the day he could finally vent his sufferings to the two without them being able to retaliate. This was something that gave Jian Chen no small amount of joy. He had never once experienced chasing after a Saint Ruler before.

A surge of energy began to bubble up from within Jian Chen's body before leaking out of it to spread out to pressure the two Saint Rulers. Grasping at his right hand, Jian Chen began to unleash the Origin energy so that it would form into a sword-like item to fight with.

The sudden action of Jian Chen had caught the attention of the entire street. When they saw the strange look in his eyes, everyone had thought that they were about to see Jian Chen start to fight within the city. One by one, they shook their heads with a pitying laugh. In today's age, just what person didn't know about the prohibition on fighting that Mercenary City enforced?

When the two Saint Rulers saw what Jian Chen was doing, patriarch Shi looked at him as if he was an idiot. "Jian Chen, don't tell me you're planning to start a fight within the city. That's an action of someone who is tired of living."

"Jian Chen. Even we two are afraid of fighting in Mercenary City. You are only a Heaven Saint Master, if you wish to continue living, then cease what you're doing. Otherwise, there will be no one to save you." The Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan sneered.

Chapter 613: Death of a Saint Ruler (Three)

Jian Chen could only laugh when the two Saint Rulers spoke. How could they know about the new relationship between Little Spirit and him? With Little Spirit giving her guarantee, Jian Chen could fight

within Mercenary City without regard of the rules and the violations. He was after all aware of the connection between Little Spirit and the man known as Mo Tianyun. More accurately, the man known as the founder of Mercenary City. With such a peculiar identity as that, Little Spirit was without a doubt a very important entity of the city itself. It was unknown however whether or not Little Spirit had a status that was even larger than Tian Jian.

Without any more hesitation, Jian Chen flickered towards the two Saint Rulers to stab at the forehead of the nearest Saint Ruler without mercy.

Startled, the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan had taken a step back. He didn't think that Jian Chen would indeed start to fight in Mercenary City. Instead of fighting back, the man had merely stepped away from the attack with a smile. "Jian Chen, you really do fear nothing if you are willing to fight in Mercenary City. Your death is inevitable now; no one can save you anymore."

There had been no response from Jian Chen. Instead, his entire figure blurred away into thin air as he charged once more after the Saint Ruler. There had been no need to hold back against a Saint Ruler, so the Origin energy of the azure and violet sword spirits had been utilized to the best of his efforts. Glowing with a bright azure and violet light, it seemed to light up the entire area as if it were a lantern at night.

The Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan didn't dare fight back while he was in Mercenary City. He knew the consequences of those who did, and so he had merely dodged Jian Chen's strikes instead of retaliating. Only his body could be seen flickering back and forth between places as he dodged each strike without difficulty. Even though Jian Chen was trying his best, it had been completely ineffective against a Saint Ruler.

A Saint Ruler was on a completely different level from a Heaven Saint Master. They were entities that understood the supreme mysteries of the world to some degree and could control the fabric of space to a minor extent. By borrowing the power of space, they could stand completely still like a wooden stake impaled in the ground and still remain unhurt by a Heaven Saint Master.

In front of a Saint Ruler, all else were ants. To intimidate a Saint Ruler would require another Saint Ruler.

But even though Jian Chen couldn't injure the Saint Ruler, he wasn't discouraged by the fact. He could fight without fear or needing to hold back unlike the other two. Chasing after the Saint Ruler relentlessly, he had managed to 'force' the Saint Ruler into dodging. This had served as a cathartic form of delight to him on a personal level. As of right now, he wanted nothing more but to let loose to the heavens and let loose the frustrations that had been accumulating in him.

Leaping up into the air, Jian Chen wielded the sparkling Origin energy like a sword to stab at the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan.

Once more, the Saint Ruler had flickered away, leaving behind only a mirror image at his previous spot and reappearing several hundred meters away on top of a nearby roof.

The Origin energy that Jian Chen had shot out impacted against the ground, resulting in a tremendous explosion that rocked the entire area and caused several of the nearby buildings to tremble slightly. But from where the Origin energy had struck the ground, there had been no signs of damage even despite all the power that had been contained in the blow.



The sudden explosion had been carried farther away however, resulting in people everywhere being surprised by the sound. One by one, they had 'revealed' a shocked look. It had been unknown just how often they were able to hear the sounds of a battle take place in Mercenary City, but not a single one of them had thought that there would be yet another person that would try to do so.

"There's someone fighting over there! Who's the suicidal idiot? To fight in Mercenary City, does he not know the prohibition and the punishment that'll take place after it?"

"The guy has to be strong based on the sound of that explosion. I bet it's a Heaven Saint Master at the very least."

"Let's hurry on over to watch! Let's see just how that offender's going to die...."

"Aye, let's hurry on over to see what punishment will befall him. I've heard before that to try and fight in this city would lead to a painful experience, but I didn't think that it would actually be death that'll befall the offender..."

Plenty of people began to talk to one another on the streets as they ran from every direction to converge onto the area where Jian Chen and the two Saint Rulers were. Every single one of them had wanted to see the man who would be struck by the punishment of Mercenary City before he died.

In the blink of an eye, the previously sparse strip of street Jian Chen was on had become a cacophony of sounds. Merchants and mercenaries alike had abandoned whatever they were doing to fly over to the area as soon as possible, whether it was on foot or on magical beast.

With the commotion being spread farther and farther away, more and more people began to converge into the area to watch the spectacle. On one hand, they wanted to watch a good fight, and on the other hand, they were curious to see just what punishment would befall the offender. Everyone had heard of how the punishment would be severe, but the details of it had never been fully divulged.

Soon enough, the fight between Jian Chen and the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan had drawn practically everyone within the surrounding area. Some of the spectators had even been people with major influence and groups behind them.

"That's Jian Chen! Ai, how could he be so foolhardy? Doesn't he know about the prohibition on fighting that Mercenary City has? Even if he's a Heaven Saint Master, he'll suffer the punishment from the barrier without fail." An elder wearing red robes sighed. It was the man from the Vulcan Shrine.

The man with the fan from the Dayong clan had sighed as well as if he was feeling regret. "Jian Chen's death is inevitable. It's truly a shame. It's hard to come across a genius like this, but he decided to be so foolish as to start a fight in Mercenary City. Even if the grand elders of Mercenary City were to try and intervene, Jian Chen's fate would still not be changed.

"I didn't think that it'd be the King of Mercenaries, Jian Chen, of all people to be the one to start fighting. Ai, how lamentable. He was a genius with no parallel. But now he will fall today here in Mercenary City. Does he not know that Mercenary City has prohibited fighting? In the case that there is a violation of the rules, then even a Saint Ruler would not be spared from the following consequences."

"This Jian Chen is really too reckless. Ai, his unlimited potential will be stopped here today. He could have been a Saint Ruler in the future if it weren't for this act today."

Recognizing Jian Chen as the offender, plenty of people had shook their heads with pity. The prohibition on fighting had been a rule that was set in stone since countless of years ago. In the history of those who broke this prohibition, each one of them had been penalized severely. Even Saint Rulers had fallen to this rule while the weaker ones would quite often not even have their bones left behind to bury. So everyone thought that the Heaven Saint Master, Jian Chen, would fall as well, even if he was the King of Mercenaries.

As of right now, Jian Chen was pursuing the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan without reprieve. The Origin energy in his hand shot forth continuously from his right hand, but it had never been able to land a clean hit onto the Saint Ruler. Each time, the man had dodged the strikes with ease, allowing the ray of Origin energy to fly off unimpeded into the buildings to the side of the streets with a loud explosion.

While the streets of the city were protected by a mysterious power to such an extent that the Origin energy couldn't even leave a dent in them, the buildings were not covered by such a power. The very moment the bursts of Origin energy had crushed the buildings like it was tofu and reduced it to scraps of metal.

Watching Jian Chen continue to try and pursue him, the Saint Ruler laughed coldly, "Jian Chen, prepare to die." Then borrowing the power of space, he warped over to another spot a hundred meters away to dodge Jian Chen's strike.

"You from the Shi family, are you willing to fight against me? A mighty Saint Ruler is being forced back by an insignificant Heaven Saint Master. Don't you think that's a bit an insult to your grand rank?" Jian Chen jeered. It was not a very easy opportunity to find a time to fight a Saint Ruler like this. Because of the tremendous difference in strength, there was simply no competition between the two, and that had weighed heavily on Jian Chen.

With a thought, the energy of the world began to rotate the wind elements around his body. With lightning quick speed, he flew towards the Saint Ruler from the Jiede clan and extended his arms out. Three bursts of Sword Qi flew out from his hand and arced through the air with the spectrum of a rainbow.

"Boom!" As soon as the three bursts of Sword Qi zoomed towards the Saint Ruler, the man had dodged it easily once again to the side, allowing the Sword Qi to cause a nearby restaurant to tremble from the blast. Several wooden splinters could even be seen flying off.

"Get out of the way or get hurt in their fight!"

Someone from the crowd had cried out a warning so that the other people in it could be warned to run as far as they could away from the scene of the carnage in fear. Although they were all strong in their own right, but they didn't dare act out in even a defensive manner to protect themselves in fear of being struck down by the punishment of the city. Since they couldn't use their own power to defend, they could only try to get away so as to not be mixed up in what Jian Chen was doing.

Patriarch Shi had not been angry at Jian Chen's response. Instead, he laughed coldly, "Jian Chen, your words mean nothing to me. The commotion you've caused in Mercenary City has already incurred severe consequences upon yourself. You will die today, and I won't be dragged down to the underworld with you."

Clenching his teeth tightly, Jian Chen spoke no more and chased down the other Saint Ruler. Despite the fact he couldn't hit him, he was determined to have him 'forced' into something.

"Strange, he's fought long enough already, and several restaurants were destroyed by him by now. Why hasn't the city punished him yet? This isn't what the legends say about the city at all." An elder spoke curiously from within the crowd.

Chapter 614: Death of a Saint Ruler of the Shi Family (Four)

"There's a fight going on, but what's strange is that the offender hasn't yet fallen to the punishment from the barrier. Why can't any energy be felt now when it was always prevalent in the cases before?" A middle-aged man spoke in confusion in the middle of a room.

"Don't worry about that for now. As men of Mercenary City, we should be upholding the laws of the city and stop them from fighting. Let us move out." An elder in the center spoke before moving to fly out of the place.

But before he could even get ten meters away, the man's flight had been halted dead away, causing him to float motionlessly in midair.

Sensing the oddity that was happening, the elder spoke in disbelief, "Not good! There's something locking down my ability to move! Hurry and warn the elders!"

The other Heaven Saint Masters that hadn't yet moved out had been startled to hear that. Without any delay, they rushed off towards the lord of the city and out of sight.

Not too long later, three elders had made flown out from the city lord's mansion. Each one of them wore simple clothing, but their faces were kind and amiable in appearance.

The three of them first stared at the fight first with bright eyes before looking to the still deadlocked elder in the air with furrowed eyebrows.

"What is going on?" The elder in the middle asked. The three of them had sensed nothing out of the ordinary aside from the fight going on in front of them. There hadn't been any strange disturbances in the space around them--even from the elder who was locked straight in midair had nothing strange around him--in the eyes of the three newcomers, nothing was wrong.

The other people around the elder nodded their heads as if to agree with his confusion. One of them spoke with furrowed eyebrows, "Legend has it that no matter how fast one tries to strike another person, they'll never be able to land a blow. The reason for that is because it is said that the barrier would strike down the offender before the blow can even land. But judging from this situation, the legends does not quite meet the expectations."

"Yes, this is utterly strange. The two of them have already played cat and mouse for more than several dozen exchanges and caused a tremendous ruckus. Why hasn't the punishment of Mercenary City befallen him yet?"

"What is going on then? Every single person that has violate the rules of Mercenary City fell to the punishment in the past, have they not? So why hasn't it happened this time?"

“Perhaps Mercenary City has gone on for such a long time without any incident like this before, causing the people in charge of administering punishment to become lazy?”

The longer this went on, the more and more people realized that something wasn't right. They talked to one another to speculate just what was happening and to try and find answers to their questions.

Patriarch Shi stared up at the gigantic barrier that spanned across the entire Mercenary City in surprise. Then, looking back to Jian Chen as he fought the other Saint Ruler, he muttered, “What is going on? Jian Chen has already fought for long enough, why hasn't the punishment befallen him yet?”

In the center of Mercenary City not too far away from the statue of Mo Tianyun, there was a giant palace that was established as the mansion of the city lord. But to uphold Mo Tianyun's sovereignty even after his departure, a second city lord was never declared and so the palace had been reformed to serve as a connection to the outside world.

Within the palace, several white-robed Heaven Saint Masters floated in midair as they listened to the faraway sounds of battle. Each one of them had signs of confusion on their faces.

“A report for the elders! My-my body can't move! Not even a single finger!” The voice of the still-frozen elder could suddenly be heard as he cried out in panic.

“Boom!” Just at that moment, an explosion could be heard straight ahead as a giant restaurant came crashing down in the midst of smoke spiralling up into the air. The battle had not seemed to have been weakening in the slightest. Instead, it was ramping up in ferocity.

“There are people fighting there, so why hasn't the barrier punished the offenders? How peculiar.” One of the elders spoke in confusion. Turning to look at the two elders next to him, he spoke, “No matter who they are, if they dare fight in Mercenary City, they cannot be pardoned. Twenty-third elder, twenty-fourth elder, you two will go over there and handle the situation. I will see what happens from there.” With that, the elder pointed at the stuck Heaven Saint Master in the sky.

The two elders nodded their head before disappearing in a blur of mirror images towards the scene of the battle. But just as they traveled a mere ten meters, their bodies seemed to have made contact with some sort of invisible barrier and caused their forward momentum to come to a screeching halt before being sent flying backwards.

“Boom!” The two elders impacted against the walls of the palace ruthlessly, sending a tremendous shake throughout the palace.

“You two! What's....what's going on?” The twenty-second elder spoke in absolute stupefaction. He couldn't believe his eyes on what he was seeing.

The twenty-third and twenty-fourth elder staggered up from the ground in pain as they stared at the empty space of air where they used to be. “That's-that's the power of the barrier! The barrier just repelled us! But no....that shouldn't possible. How could the barrier have that power to stop us?”

“What! You were stopped by the barrier, is that true?” The twenty-second elder gasped out in disbelief.

“It is absolutely true! The two of us have lived in Mercenary City for long enough, do you think that we would be unfamiliar with what the barrier feels like? It was the barrier that stopped us, but, but I don't

know why! Just why is this happening? This can't be a small matter, we must notify the grand elder!" The twenty-fourth elder spoke with determination. Disappearing into the palace without further notice, he left behind the still confused twenty-third and twenty-second elder.

This sudden development had caused a tremendous amount of pressure to fill the hearts of the two elders. As soon as the twenty-fourth elder left, the twenty-second and twenty-third elder were left immobile in place and could only watch the fight from far away.

The barrier over Mercenary City had served as the city's patron guardian since it was created. For countless of years, it silently protected the entire city, making it something like a god to some of the inhabitants of the city that could not be offended. Not only was it a part of the long-standing history of Mercenary City, the most important thing about this barrier was that it was created by the one known as the strongest person on the Tian Yuan Continent, Mo Tianyun. This had brought up a completely different feeling for the barrier than previously considered, and many had seen the barrier as something that represented the glory of Mercenary City even.

So when the barrier that had been previously silent as it protected the city before suddenly prevented the elders from stopping this battle, the twenty-second and twenty-third elder had been dumbfounded. For countless of years, they had never seen something like this happen before where even they of the city were stopped.

All of a sudden, the space in front of the two elders began to ripple as if it were water. Then, a fissure formed in the middle of the space to form a dimensional gate for three white-robed elders to step on over through.

One elder was standing up front while the other were stood behind. The one in front was a middle-aged man with black hair and a steadfast face. His eyes were incomparably bright as if they contained all of the stars in the sky. Just by staring at them, it seemed as if it would be possible to be lost in them.

This person was Ming Dong's uncle--Tian Jian!

The two men behind Tian Jian looked to be around their seventies. With their long hair and time-worn faces, their eyes seemed to look as if it had lived through countless years of living and had seen all sorts of things that happened to the world. As of now, they looked to be men that had rejected the mundane world in order to live a secluded life, and the aura that they exuded around their bodies was anything but ordinary.

"We pay our respects to the grand elder, second elder, and fourth elder!"

The two elders immediately moved to bow their bodies as a sign of great respect. The sight of these three elders were enough to instill both respect and fear into the two.

"What is going on here!" Tian Jian spoke out at once.

"Grand elder, there are people fighting in Mercenary City! The twenty-fourth elder and I have tried to stop them, but the barrier not only stopped us, it threw us back into the palace!" The twenty-third elder spoke.

The three elders that had just arrived had been shocked to hear that. Turning around to look at the scene of the fight, the grand elder had been able to see the situation as if it were happening right in front of him.

“Eh? It’s him!” As soon as the scene was made available to him, Tian Jian let out a surprised sound.

“Grand elder, do you perhaps know the one that is fighting?” The second elder asked.

Nodding his head, Tian Jian responded, “The one fighting the Saint Ruler is called Jian Chen. He’s the one that won the Gathering of the Mercenaries. As far as his talents go, he’s someone that can only be seen once every ten thousand years.”

Smiling, the second elder spoke, “Haha, if the grand elder is able to praise him, then this Jian Chen is surely quite the person then. But this youngster is far too rash if he’s starting a fight in Mercenary City. Does he not know the consequences of fighting in Mercenary City? Still, it’s strange, why hasn’t the barrier punished him yet?”

“I find that strange as well. But we must move to stop him. If we allow this to continue, we may see the death of such a talented genius happen. That would be far too unfortunate.” Tian Jian commanded before urging his body to move out towards the scene of the battle.

“Don’t move! You shall not pass!” Suddenly, the voice of a young woman made its way into the elders ears. Tian Jian’s body had immediately seized up before he looked around the place with astonishment.

“Are you the spirit of the barrier?” For a good while, he did not speak. But then when he did, his voice had been filled with shock. Even as he asked, he felt as if his ears were deceiving him.

“You can say that. But you still can’t go there. Don’t bother with what’s happening, or Little Spirit will hurt you.”

Little Spirit’s words had caused Tian Jian and the others to become as silent as a statue. When it came to status, they were the leading figures of Mercenary City and could make use of the city as they saw fit. When it came to power, they stood at the very top of the power pyramid of the continent. So to have what seemingly felt like a young woman threaten these powerful men, they didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

But neither Tian Jian nor the second or fourth elder had felt discontent at her words. As if everything was as right as rain, they had decided to stand there obediently to observe the situation without interfering. From there, they could watch Jian Chen violate the rules of Mercenary City without being able to do a single thing about it.

That was because the spirit of the barrier had an extremely unique status in Mercenary City!

“Spirit of the barrier, I never would have imagined that I would hear it speak. The legends are true after all. The barrier that protects Mercenary City is sentient!” The twenty-third elder remarked passionately.

The fourth elder sighed in response, “I’ve lived in Mercenary City for four millenniums now, but this is the very first time I’ve heard the spirit of the barrier speak. Haha, this is truly an honor to me. What year did I think that it would be before I could hear the legendary spirit of the barrier. Even if it is just the voice, I am satisfied with this.”

“To what I know, the spirit of the barrier hasn’t been seen or heard for ten thousand years already. But it has appeared this time with the appearance of Jian Chen and has forbidden us to take action. Perhaps there is a connection between the two? Otherwise, for what reason would the spirit of the barrier protect Jian Chen to the extent where no punishment has been inflicted?” The second elder murmured with confusion and disbelief. Jian Chen and the spirit of the barrier had a connection? That was quite hard to believe.

“I am curious about this matter as well. It would seem that Jian Chen isn’t as normal as I thought.” Tian Jian spoke questioningly.

.....

Continuing to pursue the Saint Ruler, Jian Chen had without failed tried to attack the man to the surprise and discussions of everyone else around them on the streets. Each one of them were extremely curious on how Jian Chen had managed to escape punishment.

“What’s going on? Why hasn’t the spirit of the barrier punished you yet? Has the barrier lost its power, or is the punishment no longer in place?” The Saint Ruler could finally hold it in no longer and cried out in frustration.

Patriarch Shi’s eyes light up with a strange light as he listened to the Saint Ruler, “The barrier has to have lost its power! That’s why it hasn’t punished him yet. Jiede Tai, what are you worried about, attack him!” With that, patriarch Shi had immediately moved into action to send a palm strike at Jian Chen.

Following the palm strike, the space around Jian Chen seemed to solidify as Jian Chen’s body was suddenly rendered unable to move. As if he was stuck under water, not even a finger of his could be moved and made dodging impossible.

Around the patriarch’s palm was a strong amount of Saint Force that continued to grow faster and faster. Even around the palm itself, the space began to distort and tear as if threatening to open up a hole in space itself.

The power that was in this palm strike was far stronger than what a Heaven Saint Master could equal to even if they used a Heaven Tier Battle Skill.

But just half a step before the palm strike could make contact, a sudden beam of light came flying down from the heavens to strike him down with the speed of lightning.

Chapter 615: Return to the Floating Shrine

The beam of light had been extremely scorching in its light and basked the entire world in a radiant light. With unbelievable speed, it had been brought down onto the head of patriarch Shi before anyone could even react.

The rest of the patriarch’s body grew rigid following the advent of the light. His palm came to a stop in midair, and the furious amount of energy that had been warped around the palm disappeared into the world without a trace without the patriarch controlling it. Even the space around Jian Chen’s body had begun to return to normal, allowing Jian Chen freedom in being able to move once again.

As soon as Jian Chen felt his body go back to normal, he immediately leapt backwards several steps in retreat to get as far away from the patriarch as possible. That palm strike of his just now had caused him to be completely terrified of the power.

A Saint Ruler's strength was indeed far too strong. The saying that all were like ants in front of a Saint Ruler was without a doubt true. Even with his strength, Jian Chen simply had not enough power or strength to dodge the Saint Ruler and could only await death patiently.

A Heaven Saint Master was only a tier away from a Saint Ruler in tier, but in terms of power, the difference was akin to the difference between heaven and earth. There was nothing that could make up that deficient, and even Heaven Tier Battle Skills wouldn't be enough to bridge the gap.

As if struck by a curse, patriarch Shi's body had been stuck hovering in midair. The spirit in his eyes had long since left, making his eyes vacant in expression. Then, his body began to tilt to the side before falling back down to the ground and crashing onto it without any further movements.

In mid air, Jian Chen stared at the Saint Ruler sluggishly. He had been surprised to see the sight in front of him. A Saint Ruler had actually died?

He hadn't been the only one. The spectators who had originally thought that the punishment of Mercenary City wouldn't fall had all immediately turned silent. They all stared at the motionless body of the Saint Ruler in utter disbelief and did not speak for the longest time.

This sudden development had taken the Saint Ruler of the Jiede clan completely off guard, He had immediately taken back his palm when he saw what happened to patriarch Shi, and even his entire body began to shake. It could be seen from this that even he was completely filled with terror.

"N-no! That can't be! The one who struck first was clearly Jian Chen! Why was he the one to escape punishment instead of patriarch Shi, who struck only afterwards? This is impossible!" The Saint Ruler cried out in disbelief. The fact that the barrier of Mercenary City had ignored punishment for Jian Chen had given him no small amount of fear. As of now, the Saint Ruler was completely besides himself.

By now, the streets were so jampacked with people that even water wouldn't be able to make its way through. Not a single one of them spoke however, leaving the place to be completely still. Only the continuous sounds of breathing could be heard as everyone stared at the dead corpse of the Saint Ruler in silence.

Even Jian Chen himself was completely still as if some sort of curse had petrified him. He was no longer as awe-inspiring as before with his movements as he was now looking at the completely dead corpse of the Saint Ruler. He had been killed just like that so easily, and Jian Chen had been utterly astounded by it.

"Aiyah, big brother, what are you so stunned about? There's still a baddy over there, hurry up and beat him! Don't let him get away! If the baddy doesn't fight back, then Little Spirit can't hit him!" Little Spirit's voice suddenly made itself known in Jian Chen's ear before her body suddenly materialized in front of him with both of her fists brandished outwards as if ready to punch the Saint Ruler.

Startled awake by Little Spirit, Jian Chen immediately quashed the feeling in his heart and rushed for the Saint Ruler.



Seeing that Jian Chen was rushing at him, the Saint Ruler had blanched. No longer wishing to stay within Mercenary City, his body flickered away with the speed of light before finally disappearing from Jian Chen's sight.

"Don't let the baddy get away! Big brother, chase him down, hurry!" Little Spirit spoke out anxiously from the side again and again. If not for the fact that she couldn't attack the Saint Ruler, she would have perhaps helped Jian Chen earlier to strike him down.

A bitter smile appeared on Jian Chen's face, "Little Spirit, you overestimate my abilities. He is a Saint Ruler, how could I even catch up to him?"

"Ai! That baddy ran away. He runs too fast." Little Spirit spoke hatefully. She had held a grudge against the two men that were bullying the one she regarded as her big brother.

Slowly descending back down from the skies, Jian Chen looked at the corpse of patriarch Shi in silence for a moment. Then squatting down next to it, Jian Chen took the Space Ring of his. Inside would be the items that a Saint Ruler would have and would undoubtedly be far more precious than what could be found within what a Heaven Saint Master would have.

Suddenly, Jian Chen swung his head to look up only to see several people flying on over. In a moment, they arrived right in front of Jian Chen, and when Jian Chen saw the middle-aged man heading the front, he immediately spoke out in respect.

"Junior Jian Chen pays his respects to senior!" Jian Chen arced his body down politely; the person in front of him was Ming Dong's uncle, Tian Jian.

Tian Jian stared at Jian Chen with an extremely complicated expression before looking to the recently deceased body of patriarch Shi. "Jian Chen, come with me!" At the final syllable, Tian Jian turned around to leave without a single ripple of space being affected by his movement as he flew away.

At the same time, a strange energy enwrapped around Jian Chen's body before it carried him up into the air and towards the center of Mercenary City.

Afterwards, Jian Chen followed Tian Jian and the other elders through a series of Space Gates before finally returning to the floating shrine that stood alone in its own special space. The twenty-second elder and twenty-third elder had not followed them, and only Tian Jian, the second and fourth elder followed Jian Chen into the shrine.

Jian Chen turned around to look at the shrine curiously. This would be the second time he had seen this place before, but perhaps it was because his strength was far stronger than before that Jian Chen felt that this shrine felt extremely different than before.

Standing at the center of the shrine, Jian Chen felt as if he was some sort of insignificant speck within the boundless space itself. In the shrine, there was a mysterious and profound sensation that would flow about the place and bask Jian Chen within that feeling. Even if Jian Chen were to try and pinpoint this feeling, he would not be able to.

Jian Chen knew that this shrine had to be filled with the profound mysteries of the world and was a place that would be good to breakthrough to become a Saint Ruler. Such a great opportunity was

standing right in front of him, but he was completely unable to enjoy this great bounty and could only watch as the profound mysteries of the world flow by his body.

Right in front of Jian Chen, Tian Jian and the two elders stood shoulder to shoulder as they observed him. It was the second and fourth elder most especially that were watching Jian Chen with undisguised shock, praise, and a slight amount of curiosity.

Nervously, Jian Chen stood at the center of the shrine. He knew that these three men held unbelievably important statuses within Mercenary City and was thus afraid that reprimand or punish him for violating one of the rules of Mercenary City. After all, he had caused a tremendous ruckus within the city, and not only did he destroy multiple buildings, he had caused Mercenary City itself to be negatively influenced by the fact that he escaped punishment.

“Jian Chen, are you able to tell my just how you were able to fight within Mercenary City without punishment befalling you?” An echo sounded out through the shrine as Tian Jian finally broke the silence. Although he knew that the spirit of the barrier was connected, he wanted to understand just how close the two were and what their relationship was.

Jian Chen gave a small hum to think before replying, “Everything was because of Little Spirit’s help.”

“How did Little Spirit help you? How do you even know Little Spirit?” The second elder suddenly blurted out. As he was now, the second elder was extremely nervous and curious to know the answer of this question.

“I...” Jian Chen hesitated. He had no idea just how to answer this question since even he was confused how Little Spirit and he were connected. He couldn’t exactly say that he had the scent of Mo Tianyun on him and that Little Spirit had decided him to be a family member almost.

“Don’t you bully big brother!” Just at that moment, Little Spirit’s voice rang through the entire shrine. Her ethereal body made an appearance within the shrine, and even though entrance within the shrine itself was extremely difficult, she had done so without difficulty. This time, she had not bothered to hide her body so Tian Jian and the two elders were able to see her clearly.

“Spirit of the barrier!”

The three elders spoke out all at once in surprise. Looking at Little Spirit, the three of them remained stunned for a very long time. This would be the very first time they would see Little Spirit.

Although the spirit of the barrier had existed for countless of years, it had never once appeared in front of them and had long since become a legend of Mercenary City. This was the very first time many of the elders had ever seen or heard the barrier of the spirit. And to see her in person caused the three elders to feel excited and joyous.

Floating just three inches away from Jian Chen’s side, Little Spirit spoke earnestly, “Big brother, you don’t need to be afraid. As long as Little Spirit is here, they won’t bully you.” And then turning to the three, she continued to speak, “You are not allowed to bully big brother or else Little Spirit will hit you.”

The three elders didn’t know whether to laugh or cry when they heard what Little Spirit said. From this, they could all understand that there was undoubtedly a deeper relationship between the two, but that

had been very shocking to them. None of them had known just how Jian Chen was able to meet with Little Spirit, and so the mystery had only thickened.

“Spirit of the barrier, worry not. We will not bully your big brother!” Tian Jian smiled as he spoke to Little Spirit with respect.

This was the silent guardian that had protected Mercenary City for countless of years. Her position in the city was irreplaceable, and furthermore, as a creation left behind by Mo Tianyun, this meant she was a being that existed during the time of Mo Tianyun.

It was only after hearing those words that Little Spirit began to relax. Turning to look at Jian Chen, she spoke, “Big brother, Little Spirit will leave first. We can play after you come out!”

“Understood!” Jian Chen smiled and nodded his head towards her in response. Revealing a sweet smile, Little Spirit’s body began to fade away from sight before disappearing without a trace.

After Little Spirit left, the three elders looked back to Jian Chen once more with an even more complicated look than before.

“Jian Chen, I had no idea that you had such a relationship with the spirit of the barrier. I am truly speechless at this sight.” Tian Jian sighed. But then, his eyes suddenly noticed the tiger cub that was starting to look around the place with great curiosity. Brought into a daze once more, his eyes immediately focused into a serious expression as he asked, “Jian Chen, where did you get that magical beast on your shoulder?”

Seeing the sudden change in Tian Jian’s expression, Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat. Hiding away the cub in his embrace, he gave a hollow smile, “Senior, this is Xiao Bai. I found him in the Magical Beast Mountain Range.”

“Let me see!” Tian Jian boomed. Then without making any visible movements, Tian Jian had suddenly surrounded the tiger cub in a mysterious energy as it was in Jian Chen’s arms. Separating the cub from Jian Chen, Tian Jian had the cub float three meters away towards where he was.

Suddenly, two bright golden rays of light shot forth from Tian Jian’s eyes and basked the tiger cub’s body within it.

#### Chapter 616: Minor Achievement with the Chaotic Body (One)

“Senior, don’t harm Xiao Bai!” Jian Chen cried out as an uncomfortable feeling began to arise in his stomach.

“Jian Chen, don’t worry. We won’t hurt it.” The second elder spoke up in reassurance as he looked at the tiger cub. His eyes had immediately hardened with a strange light as if they were night pearls giving off light.

Even the fourth elder had been attracted the tiger cub with extremely serious eyes.

Thumping again and again, Jian Chen’s heart had been besides itself as he began to worry for the cub. Despite the second elder’s guarantee not to hurt the tiger cub, Jian Chen was still very concerned for its wellbeing.

“Did they perhaps figure out the true identity of the tiger cub?” Jian Chen thought to himself. He had had his doubts about what the tiger cub’s mother had said before about how only Class 7 magical Beasts would be able to figure out the lineage of the Winged Tiger God. At the time, even the elder in Longevity Valley had been able to see through the tiger cub. And now in Mercenary City, there were three elders that could do the same.

“Mrrrrr....” Struggling as hard as it could in midair without success, the cub let out a miserable growl as it stared at the elders pleadingly.

Seeing how afraid the cub was, Jian Chen could hardly take it. But because he had no way of saving the cub, he could only watch helplessly from the side.

Several moments later, the beams of light finally receded from Tian Jian’s eyes. For a while longer, he stared at the cub with sparkling eyes, but his thoughts could not be guessed.

“Grand elder, how is it? Is this tiger cub really....” The second elder asked.

Nodding his head, Tian Jian spoke to Jian Chen, “Jian Chen, tell the truth now. Did you really find this white tiger cub at the Magical Beast Mountain Range?”

Jian Chen hesitated for a moment before responding, “Senior, do you know the truth behind the cub’s identity?”

With still gleaming eyes, Tian Jian stared at Jian Chen almost as if he could see straight through him and into his mind. “Correct, I know of its true identity. Seeing how nervous you are now, you must be aware of it too!”

Since Jian Chen hadn’t said a word, Tian Jian continued to say, “Jian Chen, the Winged Tiger Gods are divine beasts even amongst the magical beast clans. Even after the countless of years that have passed, only one has been seen since antiquity. And now that a second one has appeared, it is by no doubt a major event. In the foreseeable future, who knows just how many people on the continent will be flustered about the sighting of one? At that time, even the guardian clans won’t be able to stop them all even if they come out all at once. You must tell me everything you know about the cub, it pertains to the entire safety of mankind on this continent.”

Hesitating from where he stood, Jian Chen took it into consideration for a while longer before finally deciding to say everything he knew about the tiger cub. As of now, the king of the Gilligan clan was after the tiger cub, and even the mother of the cub had nearly died to the king. That could be said that despite the tiger cub’s strength, the leader of the magical beast clan would without a doubt have a blood debt with it. But even in the future when the cub grew up, it was possible that the cub would not bring calamity to the continent.

Besides, with his relationship with the cub, Jian Chen was convinced that if something were to happen, he would still be able to convince the tiger cub into not doing anything dangerous.

Afterwards, Jian Chen revealed all that he knew and all that he had heard to Tian Jian and the two elders, causing the three to furrow their eyebrows.

“The Winged Tiger God is a divine beast, but if the king of the Gilligan clan is chasing after it, it seems this situation is extremely complicated.

“If my expectations aren’t wrong, then the ones chasing after the Winged Tiger God want to take its corpses and inheritance before absorbing it into their own body to become a second divine beast.” The second elder speculated grimly.

“It’s possible. If any of the magical beasts were to receive the inheritance, then it would be a catastrophe for our continent. Even if the entire continent were to ally itself with the Bai clan, it wouldn’t be a match for the magical beast clan.” The fourth elder spoke seriously as well.

Hearing the three speak, Jian Chen knew that the matters were extremely grim and could not help but think heavily.

Still staring at the cub, Tian Jian spoke, “Second elder, fourth elder, do you two perhaps remember the first law left behind by the grand elder!”

“Of course! The grand elder’s laws are something that lord Mo Tianyun himself left behind. We have memorized all of the laws on it--it seems the lord was prophetic with his level of foresight. Perhaps he realized that the continent would see a second Winged Tiger God that would see persecution from one of the magical beast clan. That must be why he wrote the laws!” The fourth elder spoke.

“What laws, will they harm Xiao Bai?” Jian Chen asked in concern. As he stood in the shrine, his entire body could barely uphold itself due to his worry. He couldn’t even protect himself in the shrine, let alone the tiger cub. And so he was extremely worried that one of these rules would harm the cub.

Shaking his head with a smile, Tian Jian spoke, “Jian Chen, don’t worry. Way back then, lord Mo Tianyun made several laws that contracted all of the grand elders in it. It is equal to the laws of Mercenary City, and the very first one says that should we ever come across a Winged Tiger God that hasn’t yet fully matured, we must lend it a helping hand.”

Jian Chen had been stupefied. Still skeptical, he asked, “Does that mean to say that not only will you not cause trouble for Xiao Bai, you’ll be helping it?”

“Correct. It is as you say. Although we don’t wish to do so, for the sake of preventing disaster, we will honor the laws the grand elders put down.” The fourth elder spoke.

“Thank you very much, seniors!” Jian Chen spoke in relief and excitement.

“There’s a few scant records about the Winged Tiger God in Mercenary City. Its talent is beyond the norm of any single person and doesn’t require the guidance of any human. Thus, what we can do to help it is quite limited, but the growth of such a tiger is very slow. The only way for it to grow as fast as it can is to feed it a large amount of heavenly resources. As such, we can only really give it some heavenly resources for it to mature.” Tian Jian spoke before moving his lips slightly to speak in secret to the men outside.

Seeing that Tian Jian was planning on giving the cub even more heavenly resources, Jian Chen had been ecstatic. In this moment, it was like receiving charcoal in the middle of a snowstorm since Xiao Bai was currently lacking a stable amount of heavenly resources. After using up most of the ones he bought recently, Jian Chen was practically all out of heavenly resources to feed the cub.

At that moment, an old man came walking in from the outside of the shrine. Presenting a Space Ring to Tian Jian, he spoke, "Shrine lord, I've accomplished your command. All there is to be found is in this Space Ring!"

Taking the Space Ring, he spoke, "You may leave!"

"By your leave, shrine lord!" The elder retreated with a respectful salute.

Walking slowly over to Jian Chen, Tian Jian handed over the Space Ring to him, "Jian Chen, since the Winged Tiger God is accompanying you, then I may as well give this Space ring to you. Inside is all that was left behind for the Winged Tiger God; in total there is ten a hundred thousand year old heavenly resources, a hundred ten thousand year old heavenly resources, and a thousand thousand year old heavenly resources."

Hearing this astronomical number, Jian Chen had been stunned. Heavenly resources a hundred thousand years old, he hadn't even heard of such ones before Tian Jian had mentioned them. There were also the hundred ten thousand heavenly resources which were each worth several million purple coins per head. And then with the thousand thousand year old heavenly resources, this was a tremendous windfall of heavenly resources.

It was the hundred thousand heavenly resources most especially that made this sum extremely priceless.

Jian Chen received the Space Ring from Tian Jian with trembling hands as he spoke, "Many thanks, senior!"

Chuckling, Tian Jian spoke, "There's no need for your thanks. These heavenly resources were given to you in accordance to the laws put down by the lord many years ago. They are not for you specifically."

Jian Chen gave an embarrassed smile at that. The tiger cub was now capable of moving by itself and jumped back onto Jian Chen's neck. As it held tightly onto it with its four short paws, the tiger cub stared at Tian Jian. Although it was a divine beast, it was still a young child equivalent to a three-year old human.

"The Winged Tiger God requires a tremendous amount of heavenly resources, and the heavenly resources I've given you has already emptied our farms by two-thirds. But that alone should be enough to bring the cub up to a Class 6 Magical Beast or the peak of it. Afterwards, you must go find some more heavenly resources by yourself. After the Winged Tiger God becomes strong enough, thousand year old and even ten thousand year old heavenly resources won't have any effect on its growth." Tian Jian explained.

"This junior understands. Thank you for your warning, senior." Jian Chen replied gratefully.

"You may leave, Jian Chen. But remember to safeguard this secret of the Winged Tiger God. Do not let anyone else learn of it." Tian Jian reminded him seriously.

"This junior understands!"

Afterwards, Jian Chen took the Space Ring with the heavenly resources and left the shrine. From there, there was a single Heaven Saint Master that led him through several Space Gates to return to Mercenary City.

“Big brother, did they cause trouble for you?” As soon as he returned to Mercenary City, Little Spirit’s voice could be heard in Jian Chen’s ear as her body materialized nearby him without a sound.

Nodding his head, Jian Chen looked to her, “Little Spirit, thank you for your help.”

“Heehee, as long as big brother is fine, then all is well. Big brother is the only one that Little Spirit sees as family besides master in all these years after all!” Little Spirit spoke happily.

#### Chapter 617: Minor Achievement with the Chaotic Body (Two)

News of the fact that a Saint Ruler had been killed by the barrier of Mercenary City spread like wildfire throughout the entire city shortly afterwards. Practically anyone that heard of the news had been stunned into silence from it as they processed the information with great shock.

Saint Rulers were extremely rare individuals to see on the continent. In the eyes of the general populace, people like those stood at the very top of the power structure. They were the ones who grasped the profound mysteries of the world and arrived at the realm where only the supernaturals could go to. A single lift of their hand was capable of destroying the earth around them, and even gods wouldn’t be unharmed.

So when a person of this legendary status had been killed by the punishment of Mercenary City, everyone had been thoroughly shocked once more by the severity of the punishment. Once again, everyone had acknowledged the power of Mercenary City if they could so easily kill a Saint Ruler.

Following the spread of the fact that a Saint Ruler had died, news that Jian Chen had been left relatively unharmed had accompanied it as well. Everyone was especially curious to know just how Jian Chen had been able to escape punishment even though he had been the one to instigate the fight and destroy several establishments. No one knew the answer why.

In a small kingdom roughly fifty thousand kilometers away, a single person with a doughty build was drinking a jar of wine and a platter of food by himself in a single inn. As he ate, he listened to the random gossip of the people around him with great interest, especially when it pertained to Mercenary City. With a voice just low enough for only himself to hear, he smiled, “The barrier of Mercenary City was placed down by the unparalleled genius Mo Tianyun himself. It gained sentience a long time ago, so how could a measly Saint Ruler even compare to it? If a Saint Ruler were to fight, then even they would die without even a whimper. In all of these years, I wonder just how many Saint Rulers have or will lose their lives to it?”

“What do you guys think of this Jian Chen. Why do you think he was the only one to escape the punishment even though he started the fight? Do you think it’s because he’s the King of Mercenaries, or that he has some sort of connections with the higher ups of the city?”

“I’d have to say it’s one of those reasons. I’ve heard that in the end, Jian Chen was brought away by several of the great ones without a fuss. I’d have to say that the most likely answer is that he has some connections with the power holders of the city.”

“There was a pure white tiger on his shoulder too. That tiger had wings on it, that can’t be your ordinary beast cub.”

“Yea, can’t be. Jian Chen is a Heaven Saint Master, how could any magical beast cub he carry with him be of ordinary breed? That cub has to be a Class 5 Magical Beast at the very least.”

Many people within the inn had been talking about the death of the Saint Ruler, but just as many people were talking passionately about Jian Chen himself.

“A snow-white tiger with wings on its back. Could that be...?” The man who had been sitting by himself suddenly had a sharp gleam of light enter his eyes as he thought to himself.

“It’s very possible. But whether or not it’s it or not, I have to make sure myself. But Mercenary City...” At the mention of Mercenary City, the man had hesitated as fear shone in his eyes. But then with a final clench of his teeth in determination, the burly-looking man tossed a purple coin on the table and left the inn.

In Mercenary City, Jian Chen sat on top of a bed with the azure and violet sword spirits trying to purge the remaining parts of the Imprint of Death on him. Although patriarch Shi had died, the Imprint of Death was still there, meaning the rest of the Shi family could still chase after him. Something like that was not a favorable thing for Jian Chen.

Ever since the tiger cub had been given such a tremendous sum of heavenly resources, its growth rate was no longer a concern of vexation for Jian Chen. The cub could now eat without him being stingy, and Jian Chen had already fed it several dozen thousand year old heavenly resources for it before it fell back asleep on his bed to absorb the power into its body.

For the following period of time, Jian Chen hadn’t stepped out from his room and went silent from the outside world. For an entire month, he had been secluded in his room before the azure and violet sword spirits had finally managed to remove the Imprint of Death from him without a single bit of it remaining.

As soon as the Imprint of Death was gone from him, Jian Chen had been able to let out a sigh in relief. With the Imprint of Death on him, Jian Chen had felt as if there was always someone constantly watching him from the dark. Up until now, he had not felt as free as before and could not relax.

Seeing that only a month had passed by, Jian Chen let out a small victorious smile as he spoke, “I’ve finally gotten rid of the Imprint of Death. Who would have known that this small interlude would have taken three months? Any longer and two years would go by before little fatty and I met again. I can’t put it off anymore and head out right away.”

“Big brother, you’re finally awake!” Little Spirit’s voice rang through the room before her body materialized in front of Jian Chen’s sight.

“Little Spirit, thank you for your help these past few days. But your big brother has stayed here long enough. I have important matters to do and so I must leave right away.” Jian Chen smiled. In the span of these few days, Jian Chen had begun to see Little Spirit as a little sister, so now that they had to split ways, he was feeling unwell because of it, but there was no other option.

The smile that had been on Little Spirit’s face slowly started to fade away when she heard Jian Chen. On her face now was a very lonely expression as she spoke softly, “Big brother, are you leaving?”



Jian Chen had nearly hesitated to answer her after hearing the loneliness in her voice, "Little Spirit, your big brother has plenty of things that must be done, so I must leave the city. But don't worry, your big brother will come see you when there is time."

"But big brother, Little Spirit doesn't want you to leave! Could you stay here? Please? Little Spirit has lost master for a long time now, Little Spirit doesn't wish to lose big brother too." She pleaded as if she was about to cry.

Giving a faint smile, he spoke, "Little Spirit, you won't lose your big brother. Your big brother is only going to be leaving for a short while. I'll be back soon to see you. I guarantee that within three years, I'll be here to see you, okay?"

Her mood rose up slightly after that, but Little Spirit still looked at him with reluctance, "Big brother, you have to keep your word, okay? Don't lie to Little Spirit. You'll come see Little Spirit in three years or Little Spirit will be lonely."

Jian Chen nodded his head to guarantee her, "Little Spirit, rest assured. Within three years, your big brother will come back to see you."

With his promise, Little Spirit had finally a sweet smile on her face. But then when she thought of something, her eyebrows furrowed together, "But big brother, there's still that one baddy that ran away. What will big brother do if he comes after you outside of Mercenary City?"

Narrowing his eyes to think, Jian Chen grew silent. After a while, he spoke, "The continent is a large one and has people everywhere. With the Imprint of Death gone, finding me won't be an easy task by any means for him. I'd say that he will be hard pressed to find me."

"But in the case that he does, what will you do? Big brother, you aren't strong enough to beat that baddy. Little Spirit can see that. In the case that you meet him, that baddy will definitely be stronger than you. You won't even have the chance to escape." Little Spirit spoke with worry. "It's sad that Little Spirit can't leave Mercenary City. Master also forbidden Little Spirit in interfering with the outside world as well. It's only when someone break the rules that Little Spirit can harm them. Otherwise, Little Spirit would go with big brother and beat that baddy that tried to bully you." She spoke sadly. But then in the next second, she brightened up. "Oh! Big brother, there's a way! Let Little Spirit increase your strength! If big brother's strength is stronger than that baddy, then big brother won't have to worry anymore!"

A surprised light entered Jian Chen's eyes at that as he asked, "Little Spirit, don't tell me you have a way to increase my power?"

"Of course! Big brother, Little Spirit is amazing! Little Spirit can evolve the mysteries of the world into something big brother can understand! This way, big brother will reach the same realm of strength as that baddy!" Little Spirit spoke with great pride.

Jian Chen had shaken his head with disappointment however, "Little Spirit, to understand the profound mysteries of the world requires the strength of a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master. Only those people have a grasp on the vital energy of the world and by extension contact with the profound mysteries of the world. It isn't easy to understand those mysteries, and even with your help, your big brother would still require such a long time to become a Saint Ruler I'm sure."

“Oh? Then what do we do?” Little Spirit furrowed her eyebrows in frustration.

“If there was a tremendous amount of energy such as from a Ruler Armament, then I could use it to refine it into Chaotic force. Even if I don’t become a Saint Ruler, I will at least be able to fight against a Saint Ruler.” Jian Chen muttered as he thought about the Chaotic force.

“Energy? Big brother, you only need energy to become even stronger?” Little Spirit’s eyes lit up as she looked at Jian Chen.

“Correct!” Jian Chen nodded.

Growing excited, Little Spirit clapped her hands, “Heehee, big brother, you should have said that earlier! Little Spirit can help you! Big brother, let me take you somewhere.” As soon as she spoke, Jian Chen suddenly felt the space around his body start to ripple and fluctuate wildly. The world around him became an instant blur before he was plunged into darkness.

In this one moment, his entire world was deathly quiet. Jian Chen couldn’t hear a single thing, and even the noises from the streets outside his room had disappeared without a trace. In this one moment, he had left the noisy Mercenary City and arrived in a never before seen place.

“Big brother, we’re here. This is the place!” Little Spirit’s voice made itself known in Jian Chen’s ear. But Jian Chen could see nothing. Even if he were to reach out with his hand, he wouldn’t even be able to see his fingers.

Closing his eyes, Jian Chen spread out his presence in order to try and sense out the place. But what happened next had amazed him. There was some sort of powerful barrier that had blocked him from sensing anything.

“Little Spirit, what is this place?” Jian Chen asked curiously.

“Big brother, this is the space beneath Mercenary City and also Little Spirit’s home. This was also where Little Spirit was born! Big brother, don’t underestimate this place, it may be dark, but it has plenty of energy here from all of the years Little Spirit spent gathering here!”

#### Chapter 618: Minor Achievement with the Chaotic Body (Three)

Surveying the area around him, Jian Chen asked in confusion, “Little Spirit, is there really a large amount of energy here? Why can I not sense a single thing?”

“That’s because big brother is surrounded by Little Spirit’s barrier! Of course big brother won’t be able to sense the outside. Big brother, prepare yourself, Little Spirit is about to drop the barrier.” She giggled.

When Little Spirit dropped the barrier, Jian Chen was immediately hit with an influx of energy from the surrounding area onto his body. The energy had been so powerful and massive that he felt as if an entire mountain had been dropped on top of his body and rendered him immobile. Even his fingers were hardly capable of moving.

Stunned by the tremendous amount of energy that was trapping his entire body, Jian Chen felt as if he was a small boat stuck out in the ocean. He was as insignificant as a speck of sand on the beach.

“Big brother, this place should have plenty of energy. It’s everything Little Spirit accumulated over the years. Hurry up and absorb it, big brother will become stronger that way and won’t have to worry about the baddy!” Little Spirit spoke into his ear.

Letting out a breath of air, Jian Chen slowly calmed himself down and connected with the sword spirits.

“Wow, master, there’s plenty of energy in this place! It’s very strong too--far stronger than the energy in a Ruler Armament.”

“That’s good then. Since this place has a lot of energy, master, you should borrow this energy and reach the realm of Minor Achievement with the Chaotic Body. You’ll be able to use Chaotic Force that way.”

Qingsuo and Ziying had been awakened by the external sensations they felt and let out gasps in amazement and joy at the revelation.

Upon hearing that absorbing the energy in this place would be enough to get him to the Minor Achievement realm with the Chaotic Body, Jian Chen had been filled with joy. And when he heard that he’d be able to use Chaotic Force at that point, he had been ecstatic.

“Ziying, Qingsuo, let’s begin right away then. Let’s refine this into Chaotic Force.” Jian Chen ordered right away. He really wanted to see just how strong this Minor Achievement realm was.

“Yes, master!” The two spoke right away before flying out of Jian Chen’s body. As soon as they exited his body, a pair of azure and violet light filled the previously pitch-dark area with their glow.

With the azure and violet glow above his head, they quickly materialized into a semi-transparent body just like Little Spirit. But their physical manifestations were of a pair of twenty-something young male and female that looked to be like lovers.

“Ahh? Strange, who are you two? Did you just come out from big brother’s body? Why didn’t Little Spirit sense you?” Little Spirit suddenly spoke out in confusion. Turning to Jian Chen, she asked, “Big brother, who are those two? They look kinda similar to Little Spirit.”

“Little Spirit, they are very good friends of mine.” He replied.

“Oh, so they’re big brother’s friends. But if they’re friends of big brother, then they’re friends of Little Spirit! Oya! How happy this is! Little Spirit has even more friends! And they’re like me as well!” Little Spirit let out a happy cry from the excitement of meeting two new friends.

Ziying and Qingsuo both looked at Little Spirit for a brief moment before Ziying stated, “A strong soul!”

Qingsuo’s eyes were lit up bright as she spoke, “This soul is a Postcelestial being that has lived for a long time. But because of the inability to become a Precelestial, her sentience was unable to mature and was stuck as a two-three year old child. What a shame.”

“Whatever the case, it isn’t a good topic for now. Qingsuo, let us not waste any time and hurry up to refine the Chaotic Force. The sooner we do so, the sooner master can form the Chaotic Body.” Ziying spoke.

“Yes. Then let us begin.” Qingsuo spoke. Holding Ziying’s hand, the two of them began to synchronize their absorption of the energy. All of a sudden, the energy around them began to get sucked up into

them at an accelerated rate. It was as if a whale was beginning to take in a tremendous amount of water. As the energy gathered around them, it contracted at an alarming rate in between their hands before slowly forming the Chaotic Force.

The rate of refinement into Chaotic Force was extremely fast and took only a short few moments before the first strand of it was formed in Jian Chen's body.

Jian Chen hadn't been idle himself. Controlling the first strand of Chaotic Force, he had it circle around his body and used it to temper his entire body. As the strand of Chaotic Force slowly traveled around his body, the tremendous amount of energy slowly infused itself with Jian Chen's body. His originally strong body was slowly being refined more and more, and whether it was his blood, muscles or meridians, they were all being strengthened at a tremendous rate.

By the third rotation, the Chaotic Force had completely lost all form of energy and disappeared from existence. And with the energy being infused with Jian Chen's body, Jian Chen himself could feel his own body grow drastically in power.

Afterwards, Qingsuo and Ziyang focused on refining more and more strands of Chaotic Force to put into Jian Chen's body. With plenty of them to use, Jian Chen's body had exploded exponentially in might from the strengthening and shot quickly towards the realm of Minor Achievement.

In the darkness, time seemed to have gone into a standstill. There was practically no sensation of time even flowing, and no one inside this space seemed to be aware of anything. But then, a sudden crackling sound suddenly broken the silence in this darkness. The skin of Jian Chen's body began to crack in several areas like the webs of a spider, and in a few short seconds, not a single part of Jian Chen's skin was left untouched by these cracks.

It had been this grotesque sight that made Jian Chen look as if he was a vase that was threatening to crack and fall to pieces. Even his handsome faces had been ravaged by the countless cracks. He looked like a monster, a utterly terrifying monster.

And in the next moment, the fingernail-sized pieces of skin began to flake away from his body one by one. As each piece flaked away, a flawless jade-like skin could be seen replacing the pieces. His new layer of skin was as white as sheepskin, and it was extremely supple but flexible with the touch. In short, his skin was as flawless as the skin of a newborn and would be the target of envy by any women.

Whilst Jian Chen's outer skin was undergoing a process of metamorphism, his muscles were also being elevated to new heights. Like the cicada shedding its carapace, Jian Chen was undergoing a new level of evolution.

Within this short amount of time, Jian Chen's body had underwent a terrifying level of growth. At the same time, Jian Chen could feel the Chaotic Force in his body become more smooth to the sensation and usage. He no longer felt the same pain from before when he used it. And at last, he no longer felt the difference in using the Chaotic Force than when he used the Saint Force. Both could be wielded by him at ease as if it were breathing.

He had been unsure of how much time had past, but over a hundred strands of Chaotic Force had been used for the sake of Jian Chen's evolution. By now, the source of endless energy that was being fed into the sword spirits to be refined into Chaotic Force had been stopped, as there was no longer any need for

it. Shortly afterwards, the voices of Qingsuo could be heard, "Master! You've done it! You've finally reached the Minor Achievement realm with the Chaotic Body! You can now use the Chaotic Force."

Startled awake, Jian Chen retreated from his meditative state of mind and began to pay more attention to the new changes of his body. His face had been unable to hide his joy in fact. Although he didn't know just how strong he became on a numerical level, he was absolutely sure that the strength of his body had surpassed what a Heaven Saint Master would be able to scratch. All that was left to see was how it would do against a Saint Ruler.

"Ziying, Qingsuo, you two are more understanding of the Chaotic Force than I am. If I were to meet a Saint Ruler, would I stand a chance against them?" Jian Chen asked.

"Master, Ziying and Qingsuo pay very little attention to the outer world so we are not as knowledgeable about the strengths of a Saint Ruler. But with master's current power, if master were to fight that Saint Ruler who ran away some time ago, then even if master was unable to beat him, master would be invincible at the very least." Ziying spoke.

"Is that right?" Jian Chen smiled joyfully. The Minor Achievement with Chaotic Force was truly something that would allow him to fight with a Saint Ruler.

"Master, the Chaotic Body is far from being enough. The Chaotic Body must coordinate with the Chaotic Force in order to show off its best strengths! From now on, master must absorb the Chaotic Force in your body and condense it into your neidan." Ziying spoke.

"Big brother, what is this Chaotic Body? And what's Chaotic Force? Big brother, Little Spirit can see that your body has grown even stronger now. Is that this Chaotic Body?" Little Spirit asked him curiously after listening to Ziying.

"Correct. Your big brother's body is the Chaotic Body made from Chaotic Force itself. It is a very strong type of power. Little Spirit, your big brother still wants to borrow the energy in this place. It'll make my power even stronger to be enough to deal with that baddy." Jian Chen said.

"Go ahead! Big brother can absorb as much energy in this place as big brother wants! As long as big brother will be safe from that baddy, then take as much as you want!" Little Spirit agreed enthusiastically.

Afterwards, Ziying and Qingsuo held hands once more to absorb even more energy in the area to refine it into Chaotic Force. And Jian Chen himself had closed his eyes to focus on cultivating. Silently drawing the Chaotic Force around his body, he converted it into power for him to use before allowing it to gather in his dantian without it strengthening his body.

Following the endless flow of Chaotic Force to enter his body from the outside, Jian Chen watched more and more Chaotic Force assemble within his body and gather in his dantian to form a small soybean-sized gray sphere.

With this gray sphere being formed, Ziying and Qingsuo ceased in their actions and held out their hands. The energy that had been flowing into them had halted before flying into Jian Chen's body even faster than before. It was as if his body was an endless pit that accepted as much energy as possible like a whale taking in water.

If things were like before, Jian Chen wouldn't have done things as such. This powerful energy would have torn his body apart and. But because he had already achieved a level of Minor Achievement with his Chaotic Body, he could easily withstand this without a problem or any feeling of pain.

"Master, your Chaotic Body has formed and your neidan has formed as well. There is no need for us to help you convert any more Chaotic Force anymore. As long as there is energy from the outside world flowing into your body, your neidan will convert it into Chaotic Force itself. Master, quickly convert this energy into your neidan. Ziying and Qingsuo will help you absorb it." Ziying spoke inside of Jian Chen's mind.

At a thought, the soybean sized neidan within Jian Chen's body began to rotate faster and faster as the energy that was flowing into his body was being converted into Chaotic Force.

#### Chapter 619: Leaving for Longevity Valley

As the boundless amount of energy flowed into Jian Chen's body for him to refine into Chaotic Force, the amount of Chaotic force in his body grew bigger and bigger. As a result, the chaotic core he had formed in his dantian had slowly increased in size as well from a small soybean to a small fingernail size.

Following the creation of the chaotic core, Jian Chen felt his body be filled with an inexhaustible amount of energy. With a thought, he could easily control the Chaotic Force in his dantian to use as he pleased. He was no longer as powerless as he was before when he lost his Saint Force.

"Oooh! Big brother, you're amazing! You're absorbing energy so fast! Even faster than Little Spirit! And even with so much energy, big brother doesn't feel ill at all, super amazing!" Little Spirit spoke as she observed how Jian Chen was doing with a look of surprise.

It had been unknown just how much time had transpired, but the core that was growing within Jian Chen's body had only grown bigger and bigger. It was by now already the size of his thumb and was still accumulating energy to a degree where Jian Chen had previously thought to be impossible.

Right now, Jian Chen didn't even know just how much energy he had absorbed and processed. By now, the previously boundless amount of energy in Mercenary City had started to thin out to a considerable degree.

"Oh! Big brother, you've already absorbed fifty thousand years worth of energy Little Spirit accumulated. When will you be done, soon enough, all the energy Little Spirit accumulated will be gone." Seeing the energy lessen, Little Spirit couldn't help but speak with a slightly pained look.

But Jian Chen had been completely entranced in his meditative mind state and had not heard Little Spirit. He knew that since Little Spirit was protecting this place, there would be no dangers here at all so he could focus completely on refining the energy. As thus, his guard was at its lowest point.

With the assistance of the sword spirits, a dreadful amount of energy was being absorbed at a constant fast rate. An unknown amount of time had gone on before the core in his dantian had grown to the size of an egg now. And the energy underneath Mercenary City was fewer than before.

As Jian Chen was basking in this completely euphoric feeling of his power being increased, the flow of energy into his body was suddenly stopped. Startled by this change in events, Jian Chen awoke from his meditative state.

As soon as he opened his eyes, Jian Chen could see the still transparent figure of Little Spirit. But on her face was a look of misery as she wailed.

“Little Spirit, what happened?” He asked in confusion.

“Big brother, you can’t absorb any more energy! You’ve already absorbed almost all of the energy Little Spirit saved up for a hundred thousand years. If this goes on, then the seal won’t hold any more!” Little Spirit spoke pleadingly.

“Seal? What seal?” Jian Chen started. He had been shocked as he didn’t think that to reach the Minor Achievement realm with the Chaotic Body, he would have absorbed a hundred thousand years worth of energy that Little Spirit stored up. If not for her, it would have taken an extremely long amount of time to reach the Minor Achievement realm by himself.

That was because a single strand of Chaotic Force was refined from a sea of vital energy of the world. It was tantamount to the strength of a single Saint Ruler.

“Oops!” Little Spirit clasped her mouth shut with both hands before shaking her head repeatedly. “What seal! Big brother, you heard wrong!”

“Little Spirit, your big brother has exceptional hearing. You just said that if too much energy was absorbed, then the seal wouldn’t be able to hold anymore. Little Spirit, what seal is this?” Jian Chen gave a smile to her, but in his mind, he was extremely skeptical. Just how many secrets did Mercenary City have. Was there always a seal? What did this seal do?

“It’s nothing! Big brother, you misheard! Little Spirit didn’t say anything!” Little Spirit waved her hands while she tried to persuade him frantically.

Seeing Little Spirit act like this, Jian Chen couldn’t find it in himself to ask anymore. Although he really wanted to know just what this seal did, seeing Little Spirit guard this secret so much caused him to think that he would be causing trouble for her if he persisted to ask.

It was all because of Little Spirit’s contributions that he was able to reach the Minor Achievement realm so quickly. As thus, he did not wish to do anything that would cause her difficulties.

“Alright, Little Spirit. Your big brother heard wrongly just now. I don’t know what this seal you’re talking about is.” Jian Chen smiled warmly. But still, he had looked around the place curiously. He had wanted to see something at the very least, but it was still pitch-dark. Even with the assistance of the glow from the azure and violet sword spirits, he was hardly able to see a short distance away. Everything was a blurry mess and nothing could be seen.

Beaming with joy, Little Spirit spoke afterwards, “Big brother, Little Spirit can see that you’ve grown extremely strong now! You should be able to handle that baddy now! Let Little Spirit take you out of here then.”

As she spoke, a barrier had already enveloped Jian Chen’s body and carried him back to his original room in the inn.

As soon as Jian Chen reappeared in the room, the tiger cub had jumped onto his shoulder in delight. Using its short paws, the cub wrapped itself around his neck and let out a slow mournful purr.

Petting the cub on its head and speaking several comforting words to it, Jian Chen spoke to the seemingly empty room. "Little Spirit, just how long was I underneath the city for?"

"Just about fifteen days, big brother." Little Spirit spoke as she materialized in front of him.

"Another month has gone by without my knowing. I didn't even feel two hours go by even." Jian Chen muttered in shock. But even with that said, his eyes suddenly widened in shock as he looked down at his entirely naked body. His clothes had long since been ruined from the tremendous amount of energy that had flowed past it.

Quickly putting on a new set of clothes, Jian Chen then inspected his body to see just how big of a difference the Chaotic Force had made.

After reaching the Minor Achievement realm, Jian Chen didn't feel any change in his physique. But his stature had clearly grown even more firm than before. The biggest change was the fact that his body contained even more power than before. This power was so dreadfully big that he felt as if a single punch could destroy a mountain.

Clenching his fist tightly, Jian Chen let a careless thrust forward with it. As the fist passed through the air, the space around it distorted slightly. The power in this one fist was enough to cause more stress on the space than what it could even handle. It was something that a Heaven Saint Master could only show after using a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, but he was able to replicate it with a single punch.

"Wow! Big brother's amazing! If big brother meets that baddy again, then there won't be any more need for fear!" Little Spirit spoke up excitedly.

"Master, the strength of the Chaotic Body is far stronger than what you can believe. You've reached the realm of Minor Achievement so the Chaotic Force is now distributed evenly through your body. Even if a Saint Ruler were to strike you, the amount of damage shouldn't be all that bad." Ziying spoke into his mind.

At Ziying's words, Jian Chen had felt extremely elated.

"Saint Ruler of the Jiede clan. I, Jian Chen, swear to find you. And the Saint Ruler of the Sect of Dragon and Tiger, wash your neck and wait for me!" Jian Chen smiled coldly. Now that he was at the realm of Minor Achievement, he had finally reached a level where fighting a Saint Ruler was possible. There was no longer any need to fear a Saint Ruler.

Afterwards, Jian Chen and Little Spirit said their farewells before Jian Chen brought the tiger cub with him out the room.

"Sire Jian Chen...."

"Jian Chen, my friend...."

As soon as Jian Chen went downstairs, a multitude of people came forward to greet him. Each one of them wished to pull Jian Chen into their group so that a good relationship could be formed between them.



Because of his actions in Mercenary City, practically every family and household had thought that Jian Chen had the support of a very powerful patron. Combined with his talents, he was someone that people would hold no expense to get to know. A connection with him would serve beautifully for them.

After wasting some time dealing with the crowd, Jian Chen gave a small smile and a few words before leaving with Hu Xiaotian away from the inn.

Soon enough, Jian Chen had left the city and had just overstepped the boundary of the barrier.

“Big brother, you can’t lie to Little Spirit! You have to come back within three years to see Little Spirit, or else Little Spirit will get angry!” Little Spirit floated a meter high into the air as she sent off Jian Chen with a look of sadness. She was very unwilling to part with Jian Chen.

“Little Spirit. Be at ease, as long as nothing major happens, your big brother will come back to see you.” Jian Chen guaranteed again for the third time before stepping away into a blur. With his speed, he shot off towards the direction of Cross Mountains in no time at all.

The Illusionary Step was a Heaven Tier Battle Skill that Jian Chen had once used. It held no offensive power and only served to make one even faster than before. With that, Jian Chen had been able to escape the pursuit of a Heaven Saint Master even as an Earth Saint Master. But after the loss of his Saint Force, he had been unable to use the Illusionary Step. Though, with the Chaotic Force now being used instead of Saint Force, he could use the Illusionary Step once again.

Only prairies were around Mercenary City, but Jian Chen could be seen blurring past the prairies at tremendous speeds. Perhaps it was because of his Illusionary Step, but his speed now was far faster than what the power of flight could give him.

Chapter 620: Meeting the Heiyun Clan Again

“This Illusionary Flash is quite extraordinary. I’ve understood only a portion of it, and yet I am still this fast. It’s far faster than flying.” Jian Chen remarked in surprise about the Illusionary Flash.

And with the Chaotic Force feeding into the Illusionary Flash, he was going extremely fast for an extremely small amount of energy.

As he sped through the plains and fields, he had been able to bask in the sensation of running fast. It had been a very long time since he had last felt it, and ever since he became a Heaven Saint Master, he had been flying everywhere instead. There hadn’t been a need for him to use his legs to run.

It was a decently sized distance from Mercenary City to Cross Mountains at well over five hundred thousand kilometers. A distance like that had meant that it would take Jian Chen nearly four days worth to travel with the Illusionary Flash before he finally reached the mountains. But even after the fourth day of continuous traveling, Jian Chen did not feel tired at all.

The topography of the Cross Mountains was complex and the paths were precipitous, so when Jian Chen arrived, he didn’t bother with the Illusionary Flash and continued to fly for the rest of the way to Longevity Valley.

After four hours, Jian Chen had finally arrived back at Longevity Valley. Following the twisting roads to the valley, Jian Chen was able to then enter the hidden village.

As soon the fragrant smell of the soil hit his nose, Jian Chen felt as if he had stepped into a hidden paradise. There was not the bloody smell of the outside dog-eat-dog world to be found here, and Jian Chen felt himself at an impeccable level of tranquility. After spending so long in the violent continent, Jian Chen didn't know if there was ever a time he had been as calm as he was now. It was like there was some sort of hidden power in this land that negated the evil influences of the heart.

It was high noon by the time he arrived at Longevity Valley. Plenty of villagers could be seen walking about, and when Jian Chen entered the village, these villagers had noticed him right away.

"Eehh? Look there, isn't that there the Jian Chen fellow?"

"Brother Jian Chen has returned!"

Many of the villagers spoke out excitedly--some of them had thrown down their farming tools in excitement to go running towards Jian Chen. In a flash, three of the more younger villagers had surrounded him and began to ask all sorts of questions about the outside world,

"Brother Jian Chen, how was the outside world? Was it fun?"

"Big brother Jian Chen, how far away was the outside world to our valley? When can you bring us there to play?"

"Big brother Jian Chen, I heard that the outside world is dangerous. Is it true? Did you face danger out there?"

These three youths had blabbered on and on with questions for Jian Chen to answer, but each question had been related to the outside world. They were villagers that had never stepped out from Longevity Valley and into the outside world. Because of that, they had never personally seen the outside world for themselves and was extremely curious as a result.

"Jian Chen!" A dignified voice spoke out as Xiu Mi came forward towards him. He had been shirtless and wore only short pants down below.

"Uncle Xiu Mi!" Jian Chen spoke out happily to him. He was the uncle of little fatty and was a Sixth Cycle Heaven Saint Master. For him, there was only a small step before he would become a Saint Ruler.

Nodding his head, Xiu Mi looked at Jian Chen carefully, "Jian Chen," he smiled. "You've must have come back for little fatty. That promise you made with him has past several months already."

Jian Chen smiled apologetically, "Uncle Xiu Mi, please accept my sincerest apologies. I had planned to return earlier, but I had been forced to delay my visit because of some unforeseen events."

Xiu Mi gave a loud laugh as he answered, "No worries, I know what the outside world is like. Whenever there is trouble that can't be avoided, it is only natural to be held up by it. But Jian Chen, if you're here for little fatty, your arrival is a little untimely."

"Why is that? Has little fatty not yet become an Earth Saint Master?" Jian Chen asked.

"That's not it." Xiu Mi shook his head. "Little fatty has exceptional talent--it's far stronger than mine or my father's in fact. There had been nothing wrong with his development. He had only required a half year to become an Earth Saint Master, but because my father was not willing to let him go with you into

the Tian Yuan Continent like this, he took little fatty with him to teach and give a few things to him. This way, when he goes to the outside world, he'll be able to protect himself."

"Uncle Xiu Mi, when will little fatty return then?" Jian Chen asked.

"It should be any time by now. I'd reckon three months." He replied.

"Three months, that's enough time for me to handle a few things." Jian Chen thought to himself.

Afterwards, Jian Chen made talk with Xiu Mi for a while longer before handing several things to each of the villagers. Staying for a day, Jian Chen then left on the second with plans to return within three months to meet with little fatty.

With Jian Chen back on the continent, he brought the sleeping tiger cub with him to a smaller kingdom's First Class city to find a way to find out where the Jiede clan was.

Now that he was no longer afraid of any Saint Ruler, the Jiede clan no longer imposed a problem to him. He had the strength and he had the blood debt. When it came to an enemy like this, Jian Chen would not forgive them easily.

"My apologies, sire. The family you are inquiring about is a complete mystery to us. We are only responsible for information within a fifty thousand kilometers perimeter. Perhaps this family you are looking for is beyond our area." A seventy year old man spoke to Jian Chen within an information broker store.

Sighing, Jian Chen held out a purple coin and gave it to him. Leaving the room, Jian Chen thought about the Jiede clan. It had been unfortunate that he felt helpless in trying to find where the Jiede clan was.

"If only I had known early to ask about them in Mercenary City. Those men would have definitely known where the Jiede clan was." Jian Chen sighed to himself.

"Halt! Stay where you are!"

"Hand over that beast cub if you know what's good for you. Or else you'll be carrion food!"

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At that moment, a large ruckus could be heard at the end of a street. A single disheveled white-robed man could be seen running in between the crowd. His face was pale, and his body was clearly injured from how he was half hobbling as he ran. Furthermore, the entire top half of his body was drenched with blood as he carried a small magical beast.

Right behind him, three middle-aged man were running at him with their Saint Weapons in hand.

Each one of these four men were Earth Saint Masters, but their pursuit had been long enough for them to all be gasping for breath. With their current speed, it had not been long until the young man brushed up against Jian Chen.

Just then, one of the three pursuers suddenly stamped hard onto the ground to kick off into the air. His entire body suddenly lit up with an azure light as he sped towards the youth and landed a kick onto his back.

Spitting out a mouthful of blood, the young man flew forward into the air before tumbling back down to the ground twenty meters away.

The three men had immediately come forward to surround him with one of the three glaring evilly at him, "Smelly brat, let's see you try to get away now. We only wanted you to hand over that cub. There wasn't a need for you to be harmed at all. But since you've refused our kindness, we'll force you to hand it over then. Since you've killed two of our own, we'll make sure you won't get away."

"Don't even let him say anything and just kill him. This is for Hei Xiong and Hei Qing!" The other man snarled before hoisting his sword up. Without mercy, he swung the blade down onto the youth's head.

Widening his eyes wide, the youth watched the blade come down onto his head unwillingly. He had sadly been far too injured to move. Considering all the energy he spent fighting and running away already, he was completely out. Not a single iota of energy could be used so he could only close his eyes and await death.

Just as the blade was about to cut into his throat, a sudden burst of energy slammed against the sword and knocked it away from his body just narrowly.

At this sudden development, the three men had looked startled. Each one look to where the blast had originated from before one of them cried out, "Which fucker is the one that's getting in our business? To interfere with the Heiyun clan is a suicidal act, come on out!"

Everyone watching had been brought to a frenzy as they saw the young man about to be executed. But when they heard that it was the Heiyun clan, everyone had immediately grown quiet.

Jian Chen slowly walked out from the group and smiled at the three men. "So you're men from the Heiyun clan. I didn't expect to come across you today, I suppose that meeting my enemies on this narrow road was inevitable." In Jian Chen's mind, he thought back to when he had to escape from the clan with the tiger cub back in Thousand Poison Valley. That clan had been the Heiyun clan with a Heaven Saint Master.

The three men glared angrily at Jian Chen one by one. The last one then spoke out, "Brat, who are you? Are you the one that stopped us just then?"

"Who I am isn't important. But yes, that was I." Jian Chen laughed.