

Chaotic 651

Chapter 651: Gathering Experts From Every Direction (Three)

A cold sneer crept onto Huang Tianba's face when he saw the black-robed elder crush the jade stone. "Jin Tian, Jin Feng, it would appear that you invited some helpers before you arrived."

"You guess correctly, Huang Tianba. Allow us two to inform you of our good news. Our Hongfu clan is now allied to the Yan family through a bond of blood. From today on, whatever sorrows or celebrations are to be had, our two families will live through both of them together. Thus, we've invited the lord of the Yan family, Yan Nan, to join us today." One of the two smiled.

The Hongfu clan had two Saint Rulers who were brothers by birth. One of them was called Jin Tian and was at the Third Heavenly Layer. More importantly was the fact that he owned a Ruler Armament that allowed him to fight on par with a Fourth Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler. Even a Fifth Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler would have to put a little more effort in fighting him.

Jin Tian's younger brother Jin Feng was a Second Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler with a Ruler Armament of his own so that he could fight against a Third Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler and defend against a Fourth Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler. Paired with his brother, they could contend with a Fifth Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler.

"Jin Tian, Jin Feng, does your Hongfu clan also wish for a share of the tungsten alloy?" Huang Tianba sneered.

"That is indeed our goal." The Hongfu clan didn't bother to deny the truth. "The tungsten alloy is an extremely precious object. Even a mountain of purple gold wouldn't be worth a deposit of tungsten alloy, let alone a tremendous wealth like this. How could our Hongfu clan ignore it?"

Huang Tianba snorted, "Jin Tian, Jin Feng, trying to take tungsten alloy by yourselves is nothing more than the dreams of a madman. Do you not know that Jian Chen, the captain of the Flame Mercenaries, is also an Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom?"

"Don't even bother mentioning the Qinhuang Kingdom! Our Hongfu clan may be hermits, but we aren't deaf to the world. With the restoration of the previous regime of the Holy Empire of the Three Great Empires, the subordinate Qinhuang Kingdom has no other choice but to get involved! They can hardly protect themselves, let alone spare a finger in this matter." Jin Tian spoke.

"I underestimated your knowledge, it seems." Huang Tianba grumbled.

No sooner did Huang Tianba finish speaking when another figure came speeding toward them at the speed of lightning. Coming to a stop right by the side of Jin Feng and Jin Tian, this newcomer stood in the air with an intimidating amount of pressure radiating from his body, stifling the air around.

The newcomer looked to be in his forties in age. His hair was down to his waist, but it was being blown this way and that in the air. His stature was bulky and his figure was doughty with tanned skin to complement his build. In truth, he looked more like a violent black bear.

Staring calmly at this man, Huang Tianba said, "Lord Yan, it would be best for your family to stay out of this affair. Understand that the tungsten alloy is an object that'll burn the hand of those that touch it. Even with the Yan and the Hongfu, you will not be able to safeguard it from the others."

"Combined with us, the possibilities of taking the tungsten alloy would perhaps go up." Situ Qing coldly laughed. Cupping his hands in greeting to the three men, he said, "My friends, I presume you know that judging by our earlier fight, the two of us were on par with one another. Victory won't be an easy task, but if we join forces, then the deposit will be ours. Would a fifty-fifty share suffice with you three?"

"Excellently so!" The Saint Ruler from the Hongfu clan agreed straight away. He knew that out of all the Saint Rulers here, his party was currently the weakest group. If they didn't join forces with one of the two, they'd lose for sure.

"Let that be it then. We'll have Bi Hai deal with Huang Tianba, and the four of us will fight to kill Jian Chen." Situ Qing spoke. Jian Chen was the target of his grudge, and Situ Qing wished to kill him. However, he lacked the power to do so. If he didn't hurry to improve his odds, he'd perhaps be the one to lose his life instead.

"That'll do. Then let us fight at once. The sooner we take the tungsten alloy, the better. A dream is only a dream during the night." Lord Yan calmly spoke without ever once considering Jian Chen to be a foe to contend with.

"One moment!" Jian Chen's voice suddenly made itself known as they were talking to one another.

"Jian Chen, what more do you have to say before your imminent death?" Situ Qing sneered.

As if mocking Situ Qing, Jian Chen gave him a strange look, "Saint Ruler, do you really think that if you ally yourself with the Hongfu clan and the Yan family, you'd be able to take the tungsten alloy? How laughably naive you are."

"I need none of your concern, Jian Chen!" Situ Qing's eyes flashed crimson, "Do you really think you're safe yourself? There's no way for you to escape today's fate!"

"Very well, then allow me to show you how I'll escape this fate today." Jian Chen smiled before turning in another direction. "Seniors, you have come all this way today, there is no need to hide yourself. If you could, please show yourselves!" He cried out loud with a voice that echoed further and further beyond into the landscape.

"Hahahaha! Jian Chen, you truly do deserve the title of being the King of Mercenaries! You have such power at such a tender age, and you're able to sense even us as well! Not bad at all, you are a praiseworthy one!" An elderly voice replied to Jian Chen with an equally loud volume.

Then just ten kilometers away, two figures in white materialized into the world, but following their arrival, another three elders suddenly made themselves known as well.

Originally ecstatic with the chance of being able to win, Situ Qing's joy plummeted as soon as he saw these five men appear out of nowhere. Even the three Saint Rulers from the Hongfu clan and Yan family grew stern as well. The arrival of these five changed the battlefield drastically.

“Everyone, we’ve seen our fill of entertainment. Let us all reveal ourselves then.” One elder smiled as he addressed the empty air around him.

One by one, figures began to appear out of nowhere throughout the area. In a short few moments, over a dozen unknown figures filled the sky, and all of them were Saint Rulers!

They had been watching the fight since the very beginning, but they had managed to hide themselves thanks to a secret method. Thus, they stood a few dozen kilometers away to watch.

By now, Situ Qing’s face had grown as dark as a shadow. He couldn’t see through the strength of a dozen of these newcomers, meaning that they were all Saint Rulers of the Sixth Heavenly Layer at the very least.

Even Nubis and Ge Qiu ceased their fighting with so many people appearing out of nowhere. Sensing the strength of these figures, even they grew tense.

Reverting back to his human form, Nubis flew back to Jian Chen with a cursory glare at the figures around them. “There’s trouble. Many of these individuals are Sixth Heavenly Layer Saint Rulers. One of them is even a Seventh Heavenly Layer Saint Ruler. I cannot help you with this, Jian Chen.”

A slight fluctuation occurred over Jian Chen’s face, but he remained calm to say, “They’re for sure after the tungsten alloy. What a hot item this tungsten alloy is to attract so many strong individuals, but still, there’s no need to worry. We aren’t easy to bully.”

“Correct, there’s nothing to fear.” Huang Tianba folded his arms over his chest and laughed.

Nubis’ eyes shined brightly for a few seconds when he saw just how confident these two were, but he said nothing.

On the other side, the ashen-faced Ge Qiu arrived back at Situ Qing’s side, “Situ Qing, the situation isn’t looking very well.”

Situ Qing nodded his head slightly, but when he saw the pigment of Ge Qiu’s face, he hurried to say, “Ge Qiu, you should hurry to flush the poison out of your body. With the strength of the poison of a Golden-Striped Silver Snake, even a Third Heavenly Saint Ruler would be able to fight you.”

Nodding, Ge Qiu closed his eyes and started to prepare the process of detoxifying his body.

By now, all of the experts had convened together. One of the elders cupped his hands in greeting to Jian Chen, “I am Mo Ziming, grand elder of the Divine Sword sect, and this one to my side is Jian Xu. We are pleased to meet you, friend.”

“This junior greets his seniors!” Jian Chen returned the greeting as well.

“Divine Sword sect? I didn’t believe that even they would come. The Divine Sword sect has existed for tens of thousands of years — an age longer than even the ancient clans.” Huang Tianba remarked in shock.

Even Jian Chen had to look at these two individuals in a new light after that.

“We are from Baihua City. Brother Jian Chen, I am Bai Yan.” An elegantly dressed man cupped his hands and saluted him gracefully.

One by one, the individuals gathered around the area began to introduce themselves to Jian Chen. All of them had extremely powerful individuals as patrons and were thus a part of an extremely strong group. Two of them were from groups stronger than the most ancient clans, and one of them was a Saint Ruler of the Seventh Heavenly Layer. That alone was enough to match an ancient clan.

Despite their extremely lofty statuses, they treated Jian Chen with the utmost respect. Prior to their entry, each one of them had made their inquiries on Jian Chen. Therefore, they knew a decent amount of information. Now that he was comparable to a Saint Ruler in strength, it was enough for them to speak as equals, being courteous to a genius with limitless potential.

Unless there was absolutely no choice, none of them wanted to make Jian Chen their enemy.

“Seniors, if my guess is correct, you all must be here for the tungsten alloy.” Jian Chen spoke.

“Quick to the point, I see. Then we won’t mince words either, brother Jian Chen. Your guess is correct. Our Baihua City came here today for the tungsten alloy. We hope that brother Jian Chen will resign yourself to part with twenty percent of the deposit. Naturally, we won’t mistreat you, this will be an extremely beneficial trade to the both of us.” The graceful-looking Bai Yan spoke.

“Our Divine Sword sect wishes to trade for the tungsten alloy as well. Similarly, we hope that brother Jian Chen will be fine with trading twenty percent of the deposit to us.” The grand elder Mo Ziming opened his mouth to speak.

“Our Nine Yang School...”

Shortly afterward, the groups began to offer out their prices in hopes of taking a part of the tungsten alloy. Each one of them had originally planned on taking the tungsten alloy by force, but with how chaotic the situation was with so many forces gathering, no one would be able to monopolize it all. So thus, they would have to change their plans.

Jian Chen’s face had grown dark after listening to everyone’s offers. Every one of them wanted ten or twenty percent of the deposit. While that wasn’t a big amount individually, there’d be none left for him if he were to divvy it up like that, and that would be not be worth it at all.

Suddenly, a melodious voice made itself known.

“Hehehe, little brother Jian Chen. It’s been a few years since we met, yet you’ve changed so much! Perceiving this change has left this sister awe-shocked you know.”

Chapter 652: Tianmu Clan

This familiar voice alarmed Jian Chen. Whirling around with a startled expression, Jian Chen could see another three figures flying through the air. The most eye-catching figure was the young woman in between the two other figures. From appearance alone, she looked to be in her twenties at the very oldest. She wore a red robe with an equally red ribbon tied at her waist in a pretty-looking bow. Her appearance was almost as if she was a seductress stepping straight out of a painting. Her white jade-like arms were exposed to the sun, making them look illustrious and resplendent, and combined with the

beautiful slender-white legs that were also exposed, she was a living example of a woman that could seduce any man that looked at her.

Her appearance was without a doubt a being of beauty that could bring a country to its knees, but compared to You Yue or Huang Luan, this woman was still clearly lacking. However, even if she did, she possessed a rare kind of beauty. The womanly charm that exuded from her body was of a superior degree in comparison to You Yue or Huang Luan however.

Right beside this woman was an elderly man and woman. The both of them wore simple clothing, and from how they appeared, the two of them looked to be a married pair.

“Tianmu Ling, it’s you!” Jian Chen remarked. He was shocked; this woman was one of the few outstanding youths that participated in the Gathering of Mercenaries.

“Hehehe, little brother Jian Chen, how unexpected that you remember me. I feel quite happy about that~” Tianmu stared at Jian Chen full of interest. Her right hand touched her lips as if to hide a small laugh, “Little brother Jian Chen, it’s been a few years now, I never would’ve imagined that you’d reach such heights. It’s hard to believe that you could fight even a Saint Ruler now, but this young lady has nothing but the utmost respect for you now.”

Looking down at his blood-soaked clothes, Jian Chen forced out a smile, “Tianmu Ling, spare me your sarcasm. While I can fight a Saint Ruler, I’ve done nothing but take a beating from them.”

Peeling with laughter, Tianmu Ling said, “Little brother Jian Chen, you might as well throw your lot in with this older sister. I can protect you, and even though my strength is weaker than yours as an Earth Saint Master, this older sister can guarantee that no Saint Ruler will bully you.”

Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat. According to what she was saying, he could guess that Tianmu Ling’s clan was most likely so tremendously powerful that even these people gathered here today were of no importance to them.

Curious, Jian Chen glanced at the two elders beside her. Just inwardly, he remarked to himself that these two elders surely had to possess an extremely terrifying strength.

“Blast it all; what bad luck we have. Why are such strong humans coming out one after another? That elderly male next to that young female stands at the zenith of the Saint Ruler realm. Only one more step is needed for him to enter the Saint King realm, and that elder female is at the Eighth Heavenly Layer. The two of them could stop all the Saint Rulers here if they wished.” Nubis cursed to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat as he looked on in shock at the two elders next to Tianmu Ling. Waves of shock spread through his heart as he registered the news given to him by Nubis. He hadn’t thought that Tianmu Ling would be able to manage such a terrifyingly strong power like this. These two elders were at the Eighth and Ninth Heavenly Layer!

Seeing how Jian Chen was silent, Tianmu Ling looked to the two elders next to her and held their hands coyishly. “Grandpa Jun, Grandma Wang, you have to help little brother Jian Chen, okay? I’ll ignore you if you don’t!”

“Hahaha, very well, very well then. We’ll help him for you, great-granddaughter. As long as your little brother Jian Chen is willing to compromise with us, we’ll lend him a hand.” The one named grandpa Jun

lovingly replied to her. His eyes hid none of the doting affection he felt. Thus, it was obviously apparent that he held Tianmu Ling in high regards.

“What a decent young man this one is. Unarrogant and sensible, unlike the other heirs who know nothing but arrogance. His talent is decent, and his potential is massive. But more importantly, he has grown to be rather handsome. A good match for our Ling’er. This grandmother approves.” The one known as grandma Wang laughed.

“Grandma Wang, don’t be so irresponsible with your words. There is nothing but an innocent friendship between your great-granddaughter and Jian Chen. It’s not what you think.” Tianmu Ling complained with a pout to her lips.

Smiling benevolently, the old woman spoke, “Yes yes yes, it was naught but this old woman’s daydreams. Your grandmother won’t speak of it again, so please don’t be so mad, great-granddaughter.”

“Of course I won’t!” Tianmu Ling smiled before turning her head to wave at Jian Chen, “Little brother Jian Chen, come over here! Grandpa Jun and Grandma Wang will protect you.”

“Tianmu Ling, you must be here for the tungsten alloy as well.” Jian Chen inquired.

“And quick to the point. This old woman likes that. Indeed, we came all the way here specifically for the tungsten alloy. Little boy, you cannot monopolize this deposit all by yourself. You do not have the power. Why not give half of it to our Tianmu clan. We will ensure that you will be protected, and we will take care of any other troublesome matters. You will not be dissatisfied.” The woman made an offer.

Upon mention of the Tianmu clan, a shift of mood was displayed on everyone’s faces.

“The Tianmu clan? So even the Tianmu clan has come over here.” The grand elder from the Divine Sword sect spoke with skepticism.

Even Huang Tianba looked grim at the mention of the Tianmu clan. “The tungsten alloy has a great deal of allure if even the Tianmu clan has their interest piqued. The Tianmu clan are one of the ancient families with powers that reign supreme over many others. They even have a Saint King overseeing their clan.” He whispered to Jian Chen.

“Saint King!” Jian Chen sucked in a sharp breath at the mention of a Saint King. Existences like those were almost at the same level as gods on the continent.

“So even one of the most ancient families has come. A clan like theirs could challenge even the Gilligan clan.” Nubis sighed in slight surprise.

“Brother Jian Chen, the tungsten alloy is extremely precious. You can’t give even a little of it to anyone.” Huang Tianba mentioned to Jian Chen.

“Little brother Jian Chen, don’t bother listening to that old man. The tungsten alloy is indeed precious, but the fact that you’re trying to hold it for yourself would make others red at the eyes after hearing such news. Without the power to defend it, it’ll only bring trouble onto you. It’s best that you cooperate with my Tianmu clan.” Came Tianmu Ling’s sing-song voice.

No one else spoke a word around them. While they themselves were of strong factions, they were only hermit clans and families in the end. Compared to one of the ancient families, all of them were of completely inferior statuses, yet no one was quite willing to give up. Even if it cost them an arm or leg, they wanted to make a deal for this precious treasure.

“So even the Tianmu clan has come. Jun Mohao, Wang Yanhong, I didn’t believe that you two would be the ones who came.” At that moment, another elderly voice reverberated through the sky as two elderly men came walking toward them, coming to a stop just five hundred meters away.

The sight of these two caused both grandpa Jun and grandma Wang to raise an eyebrow. However, it was grandma Wang that spoke first, “Aoyun clan, so even you’ve come for the tungsten alloy.”

“What!? He’s from the Aoyun clan?” Huang Tianba was thunderstruck. Staring fixedly at these two old men, he whispered, “The Aoyun clan is a clan I’ve only heard mention of before, but today will be the very first time I’ve ever seen any one of them. The Aoyun clan is also an ancient family that are as equally as famous as the Tianmu clan. I never would have imagined that two ancient families would appear within a thousand years of one another.”

“Another strong enemy has appeared. These two elderly males are of the Seventh and Ninth Heavenly Layer.” Nubis bitterly revealed. More and more strong individuals were showing up out of nowhere, making the situation far more complicated than it should be. This was no longer a battle between isolated hermit families, it was now a dispute between ancient families.

“Correct. We’ve come here today for the tungsten alloy. We will do what we must to get a portion of that tungsten alloy.” One of the elders spoke.

“It’s a shame that you’re too late. Half of the tungsten alloy has been given to us, the remaining half is for Jian Chen to use. There is none left for you.” The old woman next to Tianmu Ling replied.

The expressions of the two elders from the Aoyun clan darkened when they heard what she said. Turning to look at the bloodsoaked Jian Chen, one of the two elders spoke unyieldingly, “You must be Jian Chen. Since the Tianmu clan has laid claim to one half, give us the other half. The Aoyun clan won’t mistreat you. Whatever the Tianmu clan offered, we can provide the same.”

Jian Chen’s expression grew uncomfortable at this. The Aoyun clan was simply far too much if they were trying to lay claim to what he owned.

“How unfortunate that your Aoyun clan is also an ancient family. The way you do things is excessive. This tungsten alloy is for little brother Jian Chen; how uncouth of you to try and take it without giving him any.” Tianmu Ling spoke crossly.

The two elders from the Aoyun clan looked hard at Tianmu Ling; killing intent poured from their eyes in massive amounts as one of them growled, “A mere Earth Saint Master dare comment on our Aoyun clan? You must be tired of living.”

“Pah! If you dare touch even a single hair of my great-granddaughter’s head, don’t even think about returning home.” Jun Mohao took a sudden step forward. A mountain-like pressure began to emanate from his body with such power that any Saint Ruler beneath the Fifth Heavenly Layer felt as if an actual mountain was pressing onto them.

A Saint Ruler of the Ninth Heavenly Layer was already at the zenith of their respective realm. Only one more step would be required for them to cross over into the Saint King realm, so the pressure that they could give off at a moment's notice was more than enough to intimidate any Saint Ruler beneath the Fifth Heavenly Layer.

"Tianmu clan, what is the meaning of this? Do you wish to make my Aoyun clan your enemy? We do not fear you." The other elder from the Aoyun clan declared before silently taking out a jade stone with his hand.

Chapter 653: Tian Jian Has Arrived

"What? You wish to take on the two of us by yourselves?" Jun Mohao coldly laughed, "Earth Saint Master, so what? If you dare bully my great-granddaughter, your bodies will remain behind here forever, so I declare. Even the helper that you plan on calling will meet their demise."

The two figures from the Aoyun clan had ugly looks on their faces. A mighty Seventh Heavenly Layer was being humiliated and given no respect at all, but with how strong the enemy was, they had no choice but to accept their bitter fate. In the case that they really did anger Jun Mohao, it would be extremely dire for the Aoyun clan.

After all, he wasn't by himself. He still had Wang Yanhong who was nearly as strong as he was with him.

The two Saint Rulers from the Aoyun clan stared balefully at Tianmu Ling right in between the two elders. Even they were shocked to see that a mere Earth Saint Master was being so affectionately looked over by two supremely strong beings. If it was for her, they'd not hesitate to fight. Knowing this, the Aoyun clan felt troubled that a conflict would actually happen.

Sighing, the two elders regained their normal expressions and looked to Jian Chen. "Jian Chen, it would best for you to hand over the other half to our Aoyun clan. Rest assured, our Aoyun clan is an ancient family, we will not mistreat you." Perhaps it was because of the stiff words he had received from Jun Mohao, but his face was unnaturally dark. A glint of sharp light could be seen flashing from his eyes as if attempting to intimidate Jian Chen into accepting.

Displeased, Jian Chen looked back at him with a wooden expression. He was not happy at the reception he received from the elder. "My apologies, I cannot give half the deposit to your Aoyun clan."

"Jian Chen, think twice about the aftermath that would await you. Give it some consideration. I'll give you some time." The other elder ominously growled.

Still resolute in his decision, Jian Chen shook his head. "There's no need for that. I've made my choice. I will not give the tungsten alloy to the Aoyun clan."

"Little brother Jian Chen, you don't need to be afraid of the Aoyun clan! If they try to bully you, the Tianmu clan won't sit idly on the side!" Tianmu Ling laughed.

A forced smile crept onto Jian Chen's face as well when he turned to meet her stare. "I appreciate your help, lady Tianmu Ling, but this one should have enough power to protect the tungsten alloy myself. There's no need for you to waste your energy for me." Jian Chen's voice trailed off by this point as if thinking about what next to say, "But this one has thought about the tungsten alloy. If the Tianmu clan has need for it, I'll offer some up to your clan then when all of the ore is excavated."

His words caused Jun Mohao and Wang Yanhong to be taken back.

“Hahaha, and here I believed that the Tianmu clan truly did lay claim to half the tungsten alloy. What an unexpected outcome!” One of the elders from the Aoyun clan laughed out loud involuntarily.

“Jian Chen, is... is there a problem with your head!? I went through a lot so that you’d be able to keep at least half of the tungsten alloy, but you’re refusing to accept our kindness! Don’t you know? If not for me, you wouldn’t even have a bit of it left?” Tianmu Ling spoke in frustration. Her previous calm was no longer there to be seen since. She knew that if Jian Chen earned the ire of the two elders next to her, trouble would befall him.

“Hahaha. If Jian Chen wishes to monopolize the tungsten alloy, why not kill him? Once he’s dead, the tungsten alloy has no master. Your Tianmu clan and Aoyun clan could split the deposit fifty-fifty then without fear of conflict.” Situ Qing suddenly interjected. Now that even the ancient families were involved, his strength to defend was practically nonexistent. By now, he had given up on taking the tungsten alloy and only cared about killing Jian Chen. The death of Jian Chen was the most important goal.

“A modest proposal.” The elders from the Aoyun clan nodded in approval at Situ Qing’s suggestion.

A sinister smile was plastered across Situ Qing’s face. “There is no need for the esteemed ancient families to kill Jian Chen, however. Allow this one to do the honors. Ge Qiu, you deal with that magical beast. Jin Tian, Jin Feng, you deal with Huang Tianba. Bi Hai, you and I will kill Jian Chen.”

“Very well. Huang Tianba, the grievances between our two families have accumulated for well over a thousand years. Today, we shall end it all. With your death, your Huang family will follow you!” Jin Tian laughed before drew a long sword with his hand. This sword was illustriously bright and radiated a white light. Following its appearance, all of the light in the world looked as if it had been amplified. A tremendous wave of energy gushed out from the sword as if a sleeping beast had finally awoken. Even the atmosphere felt rather docile around them as if cowering in fear.

“A Ruler Armament!” Jiede Tai cried out.

“A Ruler Armament!” Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat as he stared hard at the long sword in Jin Tian’s hand. This Ruler Armament was considerably larger than his old Light Wind Sword, but it was still similar for all intents and purposes. Since it was a Ruler Armament, it’d be able to take in Chaotic Force without breaking.

His heart refused to calm down. Even as he looked at the long sword, he could hardly contain the coveting look in his eyes.

“I must take this Ruler Armament no matter what.” Jian Chen nearly howled to himself. His hands clenched together in excitement. Finding a Ruler Armament that matched him was not an easy task at all.

A five-meter-long spear appeared in Jin Feng’s hand. This spear exuded an impeccable energy from it, befitting a Ruler Armament. The two Saint Rulers of the Hongfu clan were wielders of Ruler Armaments.

Ge Qiu had already taken the chance to lunge for Nubis. With Nubis obstructed, Situ Qing and Bi Hai were free to chase down Jian Chen to try and kill him together.

Choosing to hide their hands in their sleeves and do nothing, the two elders from the Aoyun clan stood off to the side. They planned on letting Situ Qing kill Jian Chen for them so that no master could lay claim to the tungsten alloy. From there on, the Aoyun clan and Tianmu clan could split the deposit without fear of conflict.

“Grandpa Jun, grandma Wang, you have to help Jian Chen! He’s no match for those two!” Tianmu Ling pulled at their robes as she tried to plead for assistance.

“Dear great-granddaughter, this can’t be blamed on your great-grandpa or great-grandma. We wanted to help him, but he decided to try and take the tungsten alloy all for himself. Let him reap the consequences of his own actions then.” Jun Mohao explained.

Tianmu Ling could only let out a sigh of regret at that. From this point on, she knew that there was no way that either of the two would help him.

“Jian Chen, prepare to die!”

On the other side, Situ Qing dove straight for Jian Chen. With the help of Bi Hai, Situ Qing was now more than capable of killing Jian Chen.

Suddenly, the space around Jian Chen suddenly froze up, locking both Jian Chen, Situ Qing, and Bi Hai in place.

Then the space to Jian Chen’s side began to intensely ripple with energy. The very next second, a Space Gate opened up to reveal a white-robed middle-aged man. He walked out to stand right next to Jian Chen.

There wasn’t an extraordinary amount of energy emanating from this man. He resembled an ordinary man, but despite that, everyone could tell that his very person was one with the world.

It was Ming Dong’s uncle, the grand elder of Mercenary City — Tian Jian!

“Jian Chen pays his respects to senior!” Upon seeing this man, Jian Chen immediately assumed respectful posture. Tian Jian’s appearance wasn’t unexpected to him since he knew that the patriarch of the Huang family had notified him with a jade stone.

“Huang Tianba pays his respects to senior!” Huang Tianba adopted the same respectful posture as well.

Chapter 654: Precursor to Arrival

The sudden appearance of Tian Jian shocked every single Saint Ruler in attendance. Every single faction could hardly keep their own emotions in check as they gaped at Tian Jian in absolute shock.

Opening a Space Gate into the world itself was a feat only a Saint King could do!

This white-robed middle-aged man was clearly an existence even more paramount than that of a Saint Ruler!

Jin Tian and Jin Feng of the Hongfu clan were both aghast as they looked at Tian Jian. Looking at the still bowing figure of Huang Tianba, the both of them looked rather unsure of what to do, yet their faces

were still as dark as before. Their arch-enemy Huang Tianba clearly knew this powerful entity, meaning that this was an extremely bad omen for the Hongfu clan.

“How unexpected to see that there’s a Saint King standing behind Jian Chen as well.” Jiede Tai thought to himself with fear. A Saint King could turn their noses up to even an ancient family. In the case that an ancient family had one of those, they would practically fear nothing.

Bi Hai and Situ Qing finally regained their ability to move as well. The two of them could only cease their pursuit of Jian Chen and look at Tian Jian in fear. Situ Qing in particular looked to be frightened to death.

Tian Jian stood in the middle of the sky with naught an extraordinary presence to be seen from his person, but his figure felt as if it was one with the world. If one wasn’t paying too much attention to him, he would have most likely been ignored.

Giving a cursory look around the place, Tian Jian’s eyes hovered momentarily on Jian Chen before curiously glancing to the ground beneath him. At last, a baffled look appeared on his face, “So there was a deposit of tungsten alloy here!”

The battle Jian Chen had been fighting in had originally started over the city, but as time passed, the battle had moved farther and farther away to the mountains where no one was. As it just so happened, these mountains were right next to the tungsten alloy.

“Senior, the tungsten alloy was originally found by this junior, but so many people came out of nowhere to try and lay claim to it. This junior lacks the strength to fight them all, so I wish to ask senior to help settle this matter fairly.” Jian Chen cupped his hands as he pleaded to Tian Jian. Even he knew that if he wanted to keep the entire deposit, he’d have to ask Tian Jian for help. There was no other way.

Staring at the dozen Saint Rulers gathered before him, Tian Jian waved his hand, “You may leave from whenceforth you came.”

He didn’t say it explicitly, but everyone knew that he was clearly helping Jian Chen protect the tungsten alloy. These Saint Rulers didn’t dare say anything. With their strength, they had no power to offend a Saint King. Even the two ancient families wouldn’t dare to.

“Senior, we are from the Tianmu clan. We traveled thousands and thousands of kilometers in hopes of being able to win some tungsten alloy. How could we leave with just a word like that?” Jun Mohao cupped his hands. Despite talking to a Saint King, he wasn’t intimidated. It wasn’t as if the Tianmu clan didn’t have one, so they could afford some elbow room.

“Sire, we of the Aoyun clan won’t back down so easily. Whatever it takes, we the Aoyun clan will take some of it somehow.” One of the two elders from the Aoyun clan spoke.

“Senior, if you stand behind Jian Chen, our strengths are all the same then. We should all take a step back and split this deposit threeways. Our Aoyun clan, the Tianmu clan, and you will each take a part.” The elder from the Aoyun clan suggested.

Tian Jian’s eyebrows crinkled together, “I don’t wish to repeat myself a second time.” This time, there was an icier hint to his voice.

With Tian Jian helping him now, the blockage in Jian Chen's throat started to calm down a bit. Having him help out was such a huge relief. He would be able to resolve the problem with the two ancient families.

"Senior, this is far too much." The elder from the Aoyun clan remarked. The jade stone appeared in his hand again, and in the next second, he crushed it.

"What a surprise to see that Jian Chen would have such powerful support. Even the two of us wouldn't be enough, let us go report to the patriarch." Wang Yanhong whispered.

"That seems like the only option left." Jun Mohao nodded his head. A jade stone appeared in his hand as well, and along with the Aoyun clan's elder, he crushed it to notify the individual from their clan.

Saint Kings could tear apart the space to travel inexplicably long distances at a moment's notice. As soon as the jade stones were crushed, two Space Gates immediately materialized in the sky near each other.

Even before they could step through the Space Gates, a tremendous aura could be felt. Like a terrifying beast from the ancient past, their auras were extremely intimidating and froze the atmosphere. Even the air itself seemed to stop its turbulent spread and the dozen Saint Rulers felt as if the breath in their throats suddenly refused to go down. The comparatively weaker two Saint Rulers from the Hongfu clan and Jiede Tai were especially affected by this pressure, so their faces were extremely pale. Even Jian Chen himself felt his body unable to move as if the world had been turned into a prison where he was denied any movement.

Chapter 655: Tian Jian's Strength

Thanks to the Space Gates that opened up in the fabric of the world, the Saint Kings of the Aoyun clan and the Tianmu clan arrived. Although they were also Saint Kings, the Saint Kings of the Aoyun and Tianmu clan would make their entrance far more impressive than Tian Jian. The pressure that accompanied their arrivals was far beyond what Tian Jian's 'ordinary' presence was.

A white-robed and another gray-robed old man walked out of their respective Space Gates. Both of them looked to be in their seventies, and had eyes that shone with the brightness of a sea of stars. If one were to look at their eyes, it'd be possible that they'd be lost in them. The two of them stood right in front of their respective families, and their elderly bodies looked as if they were immortal figures that would never die. Practically anyone that looked at them felt a strange mystique wash over them as if feeling that the world had recognized these figures as the strongest.

"We pay our respects to the lord!"

"We pay our respects to the grand elder!"

The elders from the Aoyun and Tianmu clan both bowed their figures down to the waist toward the two Saint Kings respectfully. Shortly afterward, they began to recount a detailed explanation of what was going on.

By now, all of the Saint Rulers gathered here from the other parties had moved far away. Each one of them had given up on the idea of taking a part of the tungsten alloy for themselves. There wasn't even a point to even think about it now. With the ancient families taking part in this affair and two more Saint Kings joining the fray, it had long since become a battle they couldn't participate in.

The two Saint Kings came to a quick realization of what was going on. They quickly turned to look at the white-robed Tian Jian who was still standing there without a care in the world.

“Sire, whom might you be!” The Saint King from the Tianmu clan asked respectfully. Despite him being unable to see through Tian Jian’s strength, he didn’t exactly fear Tian Jian either. All Saint Kings could hide their strengths, making it hard for others to tell just how strong they were in general.

“I’m nobody important. This tungsten alloy isn’t yours. Go back home.” Tian Jian plainly responded. From the way he talked, it was plain to see that he didn’t see these two Saint Kings as a threat.

Tian Jian’s words caused the Saint King from the Tianmu clan to darken in the face. His cavalier words demonstrated that he cared not that a Saint King was in front of him, thus angering the Tianmu clan’s Saint King. Furthermore, Tian Jian’s tone was very monotonous, but his words were commanding by telling the two clans to return home. This was a direct slap to the faces of both the Aoyun clan and the Tianmu clan.

From far away, the dozen hidden Saint Rulers all gave each other strange looks. They were all trying their best to guess Tian Jian’s strength and identity who he was. Throughout the entire continent, there weren’t many that could easily dismiss two ancient families and speak so rudely to them at the same time.

The Saint King from the Aoyun clan grew solemn as well. Glaring at Tian Jian, he spoke, “Sire, you are audacious. Telling us to go back home with just a single sentence? Do you think that you can fight the Tianmu clan and the Aoyun clan by yourself?”

Folding his hands behind his back, Tian Jian replied, “I don’t wish to fight you, but it seems that if I don’t, you two will not go away.”

“How arrogant! Sire, if you are so confident in your own skill, then allow this elder to bear witness to it!” The Saint King from the Aoyun clan sneered before a condensed amount of World Force began to form around his palm. With frightening speed, he flew toward Tian Jian with a fist ready to punch.

World Force was the energy that a Saint King could wield. Compared to Saint Force, World Force was far stronger. It was incorporeal since it was an energy made of ‘nothingness,’ but its strength was extremely potent.

Still standing with his hands behind his back, Tian Jian made no sign of moving. Instead, a bright gleam of golden light flew forth from his eyes, and shot toward the Saint King with frightening speed.

The speed in which the golden light was traveling was incredibly fast. It easily pierced through the World Force and dispersed it without a problem before continuing toward the Saint King without slowing.

“Pft!”

The beam of golden light struck the chest of the Saint King and tore through him as if he was made of tofu. The next moment, a small cavity the size of two fingers could be seen in his chest.

Two rivers of blood flowed forth from the wound that the Saint King sustained. Looking at the two wounds in his chest, the Saint King was astounded and could only look on in disbelief.

The eyes of the Saint King of the Tianmu clan were as wide as copper plates. He could only stare at the chest of the Saint King of the Aoyun clan as blood continued to drip from it. Like everyone else, he was astounded as well.

The Saint Rulers who were all looking at the fight were tongue-tied. Floored by the sight of this wound, not a single one of them could believe their eyes.

Everyone was simply thunderstruck. Despite it happening right in front of their eyes, everyone just had to doubt themselves. A mighty Saint King had been easily injured right in front of them!

“G-gra-grand elder, are you alright?” One of the two Saint Rulers was quick to respond. Flying to the Saint King, the faces of the Saint Rulers were especially white as they stuttered out a question.

Their grand elder was a supreme Saint King. Through the eyes of the continent, these beings essentially stood on top of all. To be easily injured by someone who may as well be blowing dust off his shoulder was a mindblowing event.

It felt as if the Saint King hadn’t heard either of the two. He could only stare at the seemingly ordinary-looking Tian Jian in shock, “Wh— who are you!” Fear filled his voice as he spoke. He knew he couldn’t treat Tian Jian with the same arrogance as before.

Even the Saint King from the Tianmu clan withdrew his aura, looking at Tian Jian in fear. Even he found it hard to believe that a tremendously powerful entity like a Saint King would be so easily injured by another.

Nubis and Jiede Tai were stunned as well. Both of their faces knew only terror from the startling reveal of Tian Jian’s strength. Nubis most especially was lacking the usual look of arrogance on his face.

Huang Tianba looked to Jiede Tai and Nubis and said, “This is the grand elder of Mercenary City. Hurry up and pay your respects.” Although he was speaking to the two of them, Huang Tianba didn’t bother to hide his voice, so all the others heard him too.

“What!? He’s the grand elder of Mercenary City!”

At the mention of his status, the ones who heard it gasped out loud. The two Saint Kings were no exception.

For a while, everyone was far too dazed to say a word. Not a single person made a move either, but then, one of them bowed his head down to Tian Jian, “This junior pays his respects to the grand elder!”

“This junior pays his respects to senior!” Jiede Tai and Nubis immediately bowed their heads low in respect to Tian Jian. At this moment, the two of them felt their hearts leap into their throats. Not once had they ever thought that Jian Chen would have the powerful grand elder of Mercenary City behind him.

“You... you really are the grand elder of Mercenary City!” The Saint King of the Aoyun clan exclaimed in shock. The next second, his face paled even more drastically than before.

Chapter 656: Victory

The Saint King from the Tianmu clan could hardly contain his shock for Tian Jian, someone he had disregarded as unimportant earlier. He found it hard to believe that this person was actually the grand elder of Mercenary City, but what was even harder to believe was the fact that he would be the one supporting Jian Chen, the one with the tungsten alloy.

The grand elder of Mercenary City was essentially the highest position of leadership in Mercenary City. They were the upholders of law for the city. The grand elder controlled even the several dozen Saint Rulers seated there. Thus, the grand elder was without exception someone the heads of the ancient families couldn't even be compared with.

Not only was Mercenary City an incredibly strong faction, the grand elder himself had reached a terrifyingly strong level of power. In front of him, the Tianmu and the Aoyun clan were essentially powerless.

"But... just how!? How does Jian Chen and the grand elder of Mercenary City even know each other!?" Tianmu Ling looked at Jian Chen in a daze. Despite being an Earth Saint Master, she was part of an ancient family. Her knowledge of these matters was far better than the normal person, so she knew just how important the grand elder of Mercenary City was.

It was akin to being the absolute leader of the entire continent!

"Ai!" Jun Mohao regained his calm composure relatively quicker than the others with a sigh, "How unexpected that he would invite the grand elder of Mercenary City. Let us cut the games. The only ones that could possibly fight Mercenary City would be the legendary guardian clans."

"Ling'er, your friend here isn't as ordinary as we were led to believe. He's invited the grand elder of Mercenary City of all people! Inconceivable, quite utterly inconceivable. Who would dare try to take a portion of the tungsten alloy now?" Wang Yanhong spoke to the still dazed Tianmu Ling.

The Saint King of the Tianmu clan let out a deep breath before looking at Tian Jian in fear. "This one, Tianmu Yuan, pays his respects to the grand elder. I did not think that the grand elder would appear here today, what a surprise for us. If there has been any offense committed by my Tianmu clan today, then I hope that the grand elder will find it in himself to forgive us." This time, the Saint King's words were far more docile in nature than before. There wasn't any more arrogance, and even his aura was more subdued.

In front of the grand elder of Mercenary City, Tianmu Yuan didn't even have the right to be arrogant.

"No worries. As long as you give up your desire for this tungsten alloy, then there will be no problem." Tian Jian stated.

"Then, as the grand elder says, our Tianmu clan will no longer wish for any bit of the tungsten alloy. We'll be making our leave then." Tianmu Yuan replied. He then gave Tian Jian his goodbye, and by opening a Space Gate into the world, he, along with the other members of his clan, left the area.

"Grand elder, this one has been disrespectful to you. I hope the grand elder will find it in his heart to allow this one, Aoyun Qingping, to offer up compensation." The Saint King of the Aoyun clan was completely submissive as well. He gave a deep bow to Tian Jian since he knew that he was in a tight spot. Even if Tian Jian forgave him, the fact that he and the Aoyun clan had committed an offense

toward Tian Jian would be known to everyone. It was the grand elder of Mercenary City that he offended. Out of all the people on the continent, Tian Jian was one of the few that could not be offended.

“Go back from whence you came. That is the last time I will repeat myself.” Tian Jian spoke calmly. He didn’t seem to hold any emotion at all in his words.

“Yes, my Aoyun clan will leave straight away. We will definitely give up our involvement with the tungsten alloy.” The Saint King hurried to respond before taking his clan with him through a Space Gate he made.

In the blink of an eye, the two Saint Kings, who had arrived with a thunderous entrance, made a hasty retreat in defeat. Now that they were gone, the only ones left were the several hermit clans and Saint Rulers, such as Situ Qing and the others.

“Honorable grand elder, our Divine Sword sect will no longer partake in this affair either.”

“Honorable grand elder, we of Baihua City will no longer interfere with the tungsten alloy affair.”

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Soon after, many of the hermit clans and schools began to pledge their non-interference with the tungsten alloy. With the grand elder there and the strongest ancient families gone, they had no other choice.

After experiencing this, they were all now fully aware that the captain of the Flame Mercenaries, Jian Chen, was an individual they could not be offended under any circumstances. Although his strength wasn’t necessarily at a level where he could fight them, the mountain that was his patron stood at the very top of the pyramid of the continent.

This time, Jian Chen now had a name even among the hermit clans and families!

This resulted in each of the Saint Rulers bidding a friendly farewell to Jian Chen before leaving. Situ Qing and the others each revealed hard looks on their faces. None of them could have imagined that their plans would change so drastically. The grand elder appearing out of nowhere had thrown a wrench into their plans, and now Situ Qing and the two Saint Rulers from the Hongfu clan were scared to pieces.

“Why are you all in a daze? Hurry up and run!” Situ Qing had been the first to respond, snapping the others out of their confusion. Turning to run away, they quickly traveled several hundred kilometers at the fastest speed they could muster. To stay there now would be to wait for their deaths.

The two Saint Rulers of the Hongfu clan, Bi Hai, and Ge Qiu hadn’t hesitated either. Each one of them were traveling as fast as they could to get out of there.

“Where do you think you’re going? Stop them!” Jian Chen cried out before chasing after Situ Qing.

“Jin Tian, Jin Feng, escaping won’t be as easy as you think! Why don’t you stay behind and settle your grievances with me?” Huang Tianba laughed. In his hand was a long, golden bow. He shot two arrows straight at the escaping Jin Tian and Jin Feng.

“Old one, our fight has yet to finish!” Nubis hissed out loud before transforming into a golden light to chase after Ge Qiu. Jiede Tai didn’t hesitate to chase down the blue-robed Bi Hai that had injured him earlier. Despite his strength being less than Bi Hai’s strength, with the patron behind him, Jiede Tai wasn’t afraid in the slightest anymore.

“Whoosh! Whoosh!”

The two golden energy arrows shot toward Jin Tian and Jin Feng at breakneck speeds. As expected from a Ruler Armament, the arrows that it shot locked onto the two men’s auras precisely without fail.

Without decreasing their speeds, the two men took out their own Ruler Armaments to knock away the golden arrows, and then continued on their way.

On the other side, Ge Qiu was already farther away than the others. He was essentially out of sight already, leaving Nubis no chance of catching up to him. The distance in strength between the two was far too great, and Ge Qiu’s understanding of space far too substantial.

Likewise, Jian Chen had been unable to chase down Situ Qing. Jian Chen’s adversary escaped, and he returned depressed.

Chapter 657: Bi Hai

Neither Nubis nor Jian Chen were able to chase down their opponents, and Huang Tianba himself wasn’t willing to chase down his two opponents. Instead, he notched his golden bow and took aim at Bi Hai before letting loose several arrows.

“Whoosh!”

The energy that was in the bow transformed into a radiant arc of light before jettisoning toward the escaping Bi Hai. Since these energy arrows were locked onto Bi Hai’s personal aura, the arrows would follow Bi Hai no matter which way he turned.

Despite how fast Bi Hai was, a Ruler Armament contained too much power to be shaken off. In practically two seconds, the energy arrows were right on the verge of hitting him.

With no way to dodge, Bi Hai could only turn to divert the arrows away. So much energy began to flow into his palm that the space around it trembled slightly as if it was about to collapse.

The power in Bi Hai’s palm was great, but a Ruler Armament was the weapon that a Saint Ruler at the Ninth Heavenly Layer left behind. On its own, a Ruler Armament was extremely powerful. If it was wielded by another Saint Ruler such as Huang Tianba, the power of the bow would be incomparably different than when Huang Luan used it back in the Gathering of the Mercenaries, meaning this arrow wouldn’t be so easily blocked.

Even as Bi Hai slammed his hand across the arrows to stop them, the arrows continued on toward his chest unimpeded.

Amazement flashed across Bi Hai’s eyes as he let out a surprised voice, “So this is a Ruler Armament!” Despite the shock, Bi Hai’s arm continued to move into the next motion to materialize a broadsword into his hand. With lightning quick speed, he brought the giant sword down onto the arrow with such force that a crack was left in the space behind the word’s path.

“Boom!”

When the giant sword and the golden energy arrows collided, an explosion rang out across the sky. Energy washed over the entire world and caused such backlash that even the sky above turned color.

Bi Hai had no Ruler Armament of his own, so blocking with his own sword cost him a considerable amount of energy. Even though the two Saint Rulers of the Hongfu clan were weaker than him, they depended on their Ruler Armament to block the arrows.

In order to block a Ruler Armament with ease, one would have to be stronger than a Ruler Armament. Besides that, the only other option was to use another Ruler Armament.

Thrown back a considerable distance, Bi Hai’s eyes honed in on the drawn bow. Huang Tianba had already notched it in preparation to fire again, so Bi Hai said nothing and turned around to continue running.

“Where do you think you’re running off to!?”

The delay had given Jiede Tai enough time to catch up. Flying toward him, Jiede Tai’s Saint Weapon arced onto him; he would consider this strike vengeance for the palm strike Bi Hai given him some time before.

“Whoosh!”

At the same time, Huang Tianba shot a second arrow at Bi Hai. It flew, with blinding speed, through the sky.

Bi Hai’s face grew grim when he felt the arrow come flying toward him. Turning to dodge Jiede Tai’s weapon, he gained another thousand meters in distance before urging his water-attributed Saint Force to overflow his body. With a loud shout, he cried, “Fourth Miracle Water of Bi—Absolute Rebirth!”

His water-attributed Saint Force completely surrounded his body, and quickly took his body out of sight, hovering in the middle of the sky within a bubble.

“Whoosh!” The golden energy arrow shot straight through the blue sphere and disappeared over the horizon, but when the blue sphere faded away, the human inside could no longer be seen.

“Blast! He’s escaped!” Jiede Tai angrily cursed between grit teeth at the sight.

From far away, Huang Tianba slowly put down his bow to look at the area where Bi Hai was once was. “What a strange escape technique. Even my Solunar Bow was unable to track him.” He sighed.

“How unfortunate that not even a single one could be chased down.” Nubis lamented. He turned his head back to look at the still standing Tian Jian; he knew that if this grand elder were to wish for it, none of their enemies would have been able to escape.

On the other side, Jian Chen was frozen still from shock as his eyes stared in the direction Bi Hai had escaped in.

“Miracle Water of Bi, that’s the name of the Bi family’s battle skill; who is this man?” Jian Chen muttered to himself in confusion.

“The patriarch was the one who created the Miracle Water of Bi, but there’s only three layers to it. The Human Tier, the Earth Tier, and the Heaven Tier. But that elder had clearly said there was a fourth one. Could... could he be...” By now, Jian Chen’s entire body was shaking violently as if an unbelievable thought had occurred to him.

Instantly, Jian Chen turned to look at Jiede Tai and Nubis, “What was the name of that blue-robed Saint Ruler?” He urgently asked.

Huang Tianba, Jiede Tai, and Nubis looked strangely at Jian Chen. The three of them were confused on what had caused this strange behavior from Jian Chen.

“Should be Bi Hai. That is what I heard the Saint Ruler from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger call him.” Jiede Tai said.

Jian Chen’s face blanched as a light flickered through his eyes. “Bi Hai, Bi Hai! His name is Bi Hai, and he wields one of the battle skills of the Bi family. Surely this can’t be a coincidence?”

Chapter 658: Origin Energy of the Metal Spirit

Huang Tianba walked up to Jian Chen with a curious look on his face, “Brother Jian Chen, what’s wrong? Is there some history between you and that Bi Hai? If he has some grievances with you, then rest assured, I’ll help you fight him. Although we’re of equal strengths, he has no Ruler Armament. There’s no way he would be a match for me, and against the two of us, there should be no concern.”

Jian Chen shook his head, but no words came from his mouth. The very thought of Bi Hai’s identity had caused his mind to be temporarily knocked for a loop. He was excited, but also nervous.

“Jian Chen!”

Just then, a calm voice suddenly pulled Jian Chen out of his deep thoughts.

Following the source of the voice, Jian Chen looked to Tian Jian’s twinkling eyes. Discarding his thoughts, he cupped his hands, “Thank you senior for your assistance today. If not for you, I, Jian Chen, surely would’ve lost the tungsten alloy.”

“Jian Chen, tungsten alloy deposits are extremely rare on the Tian Yuan Continent. The fact that you found one is thanks to your good fortune. From a cursory glance, I found that there is Origin Essence—a strange miracle of the world—at the very center of the vein. It’s something that could help a Saint Ruler at the Ninth Heavenly Layer breakthrough to become a Saint King.” Tian Jian remarked.

“What? This Origin Essence could help a Saint Ruler breakthrough to become a Saint King?” Huang Tianba asked in disbelief.

He wasn’t the only one surprised. Jian Chen, Nubis, and Jiede Tai were all surprised as well. Normally, the three of them would be stoic beyond all else, but this information was more than enough to shock them.

The Origin Essence hidden within the tungsten alloy was enough to help a Saint Ruler make the breakthrough to become a Saint King. A godly item like that is so desirable some Saint Ruler’s would start to froth at the mouth for it. Absolutely no one would be able to remain their usual calm when hearing this news, a Saint King would not be an exception.

“If that’s the case, then wouldn’t even more people start to pay attention to the tungsten alloy? If these ancient families were so willing to come forward and take it, then I’m sure they’ll stoop to having someone act in the darkness.” Jiede Tai asked in concern.

This was a thought that didn’t quite occur to Jian Chen. Straight away, his relaxed demeanor tensed up once again.

Tian Jian only laughed at the change. “Jian Chen, there’s no need for you to worry. Tungsten alloy is already a very hard material to begin with, and this Origin Essence has bolstered the tungsten alloy to the highest quality. Compared to regular grade of tungsten alloy, this stuff is a hundred times stronger, and with the tungsten alloy’s peculiar ability to dissipate energy, breaking it open would be a very hard task. I’d be unable to break open the tungsten alloy that protects the Origin Essence with my meager abilities. With that, you should not be concerned about anyone trying to do so under your nose.”

The three men and beast let out a sigh in relief having heard that. Even the greed in their hearts was diminished; if the grand elder of Mercenary City was unable to break through the tungsten alloy to get to the Origin Essence, then who else in the continent would be able to?

In their minds, the Origin Essence was already a treasure that absolutely nobody could claim.

After sighing in relief, Jian Chen’s eyebrows suddenly knit together, “If senior is unable to break open the tungsten alloy, wouldn’t that mean I’m guarding a treasure I can only look at, but not use?”

“Jian Chen, with your talents, becoming a Saint King won’t be a challenge. It’s best not to dwell on such matters and focus on your cultivation.” Tian Jian spoke.

“Yes, senior!” Jian Chen replied obediently like a student replying dutifully to their teacher’s teachings. Now that this matter was done and settled with, the Origin Essence, or whatever, was nothing more than an item that would be hard to get.

“Master... master! This is the Origin Force from the Metal Spirit of the five elements! Excellent! I never thought that we’d find the Origin Force of one the five elemental spirits here. This is a spirit of the world, an unbelievably rare encounter!” The voice of Ziying suddenly made itself known.

“Aiyah, it really is the Origin Energy of the Metal Spirit. And here Qingsuo thought that this world wouldn’t have the presence of Metal or Wood Spirits, but here it is now.” The singsong voice of Qingsuo made itself known as well.

Jian Chen’s expression went askew at the two spirits voices, but he recollected himself quickly to ask, “Ziying, Qingsuo, are you saying that the Origin Essence that is hidden within the tungsten alloy is the Origin Energy of the Metal Spirit?”

“Yes, master. It really is the energy of the Metal Spirit. We are sure it’s the presence of one of the five elementals.” Ziying replied excitedly.

“Master, the energy down below might be quite weak, but it still holds a considerable amount of power. If master can absorb it, the Chaotic Body will increase in strength again.” Ziying spoke.

Jian Chen was moved by this suggestion, but the very thought of the extremely strong tungsten alloy that was protecting the Origin Essence left him with a headache. "Ziying, Qingsuo, the tungsten alloy is guarding the Origin Essence. How would I take it?"

Ziying and Qingsuo quietened down as to think. Before long, Ziying replied first in vexation, "Because of the influence of the Metal Spirit's Origin Energy, the surrounding rock has become extremely metallic in nature. With master's current strength, breaking through this layer to get to the Origin Energy is all but impossible."

"Master, you just need to wait for the Azulet swords to be forged to retrieve the Metal Spirit's Origin Energy." Qingsuo spoke.

"Again the Azulet swords!" Even just the mention of the swords caused a sharp headache for Jian Chen. It was an ardent wish for him to hurry up and forge the Azulet swords, but forging the swords was beyond his reach because of how difficult the materials were to get and because he lacked the power to do so.

"Forget it, it's not as if the Origin energy will be running away from here in any case, and no other person should be able to take it. I'll let this matter be." Jian Chen thought to himself.

"Jian Chen, since the matters here have been taken care of, I'll be taking my leave." Tian Jian's calm voice broke through Jian Chen's thoughts.

"Senior, since you came all the way here, why not come in and have a drink of tea? It'd be an honor for this junior to act as host." Jian Chen asked. Inviting the grand elder of Mercenary City in for a drink would make the Flame Mercenaries' standing skyrocket.

Tian Jian smiled, "There's no need. I've done what I promised today. I may not have helped you with your enemies, but with your strength, you've more than enough power to deal with them. Whatever's left for you to do will be up to you."

"Then thank you senior for your assistance. With this, the ones helping the Saint Ruler from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger will think twice now. Presumably, the Hongfu clan will find their bonds with the Yan family broken, leaving the Sect of Dragon and Tiger alone with the Honfu clan. That should be a small enough power for us to deal with." Huang Tianba spoke.

Chapter 659: Patriarch of the Bi Clan (One)

Tian Jian didn't stay for long. He left through a crack in space without even seeing Ming Dong. Men like him had long since lost their material greed. They spent their days living in isolation, away from the world. Very rarely did they interfere, and even if a scuffle somewhere in the world happened, they'd be disinclined to look into it.

Huang Tianba, Nubis, and Jiede Tai were all still in quite a flummox even after Tian Jian left.

Tian Jian was, after all, the grand elder of Mercenary City. A man like him had stopped two ancient families and several hermit families from fighting their group. This meant without a doubt that Jian Chen's group had a definite relationship with the grand elder of Mercenary City, a major benefit for them. At the very least, the hermit and ancient families would think twice about fighting them now.

Only Jian Chen was left with an unhappy expression. The surprise of the Metal Spirit within the tungsten alloy gave him plenty to think about. Even now, he was floating in mid-air with a ponderous look, thinking about the blue-robed Bi Hai.

“Brother Jian Chen, we’ve not only managed to secure the tungsten alloy, we’ve also managed to deter the others with the power of the grand elder. From now on, we won’t need to pay as much attention to the tungsten alloy. Now that the biggest headache is gone, what are you so worried about?” Huang Tianba asked Jian Chen.

Vanquishing his thoughts, Jian Chen smiled, “The biggest problem is gone with the tungsten alloy, that much is true. We won’t need to worry about another group trying to take it away from us, so we should all head back for now. Today’s events call for a celebration.”

Then, Jian Chen fished out a white bottle from his Space Ring and gave it to Jiede Tai, “Jiede Tai, there’s five Class 6 Radiant Spirit Pills in here. They’re yours to use and heal your wounds with.”

Accepting the pills, Jiede Tai immediately popped the bottle open and took two of the pills into his mouth. Sparing a slight glance at the remaining three Radiant Spirit Pills, he hesitated just briefly before putting them into his own Space Ring. The wounds he had sustained from Bi Hai’s palm were not light at all.

Shortly afterward, everyone returned to the interior of the city. The inhabitants of the city that had been unfortunate enough to fall prey to Nubis’ poison were awake once more. The poison of a Golden-Striped Silver Snake was extremely toxic, but they had only ingested the air that was sprinkled with it. Combined with the fact that Nubis had diluted most of it by taking it back into himself, cutting away the source, the poison that the inhabitants of the city ingested wasn’t enough to kill them.

By now the city was in a tumultuous chaos. Everyone was grouped in bunches as they filled the streets to talk to each other about the battle between the Saint Rulers with gusto.

Many of the horses and magical beasts responsible for pulling trading goods and such were all paralyzed with fear thanks to the intimidating might of the Class 7 Nubis. Many of them were unable to stand and were reduced to a shivering bundle of flesh that couldn’t be moved even when their owners tried to push and prod them. As a result, the streets were jampacked with people clogging the way.

In the palace, the blood-soaked Jian Chen came walking back with Nubis and the others. As soon as their foot stepped onto the ground, a horde of people came forward to meet them.

“Jian Chen, are you okay? Was the Saint Ruler from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger driven away?”

“Jian Chen, you’re hurt! There’s so much blood...”

“Brother, are you okay? Are your wounds serious?”

“Captain, what’s going on?”

“Captain, are you okay? Let me notify the Radiant Saint Masters to come...”

“The captain’s injured! Call for a Radiant Saint Master!”

.....

The friends of Jian Chen and important characters from the Flame Mercenaries came to talk to him in droves with everyone talking at once. All of them were filled with a great deal of concern and worry for him. Jian Chen was after all the pillar of the Flame Mercenaries. Everyone knew that without Jian Chen, the Flame Mercenaries would have no path forward. If Jian Chen fell, the Flame Mercenaries would fall too.

Shushing everyone with a hand, Jian Chen said in a strong voice, "There is no need for concern; my injuries aren't serious. They are only scratches, but I've important news to tell everyone. From today on, no one will try to take our tungsten alloy now. So please rest assured."

"Is that right? That's great!"

Everyone let out a rejoicing cry of celebration at Jian Chen's words. The tungsten alloy was a veritable treasure trove for the Flame Mercenaries. As long as they held it, they would not be lacking money in the future.

"The city is in a messy spot right now. If everyone could, please go into the city and establish some order." Jian Chen commanded.

"Yes, captain! We'll go at once!" Several of the mercenaries immediately retreated to carry out his orders.

Soon afterward, Jian Chen returned to his own room and washed his body. He cleaned away the blood before inspecting his body.

It was still as white and unmarked as a newborn with very lustrous skin, similar a woman's. The wounds he sustained during the battle were nowhere to be seen, not even a single scar remained.

"The regenerative power of the Chaotic Body is far too powerful. If I had received such wounds in the past, I would've been left incapacitated for several days. The Chaotic Body's regenerative power is almost instantaneous. It heals my wounds in less than a breath's worth of time." Jian Chen sighed as he praised the Chaotic Body.

Taking out a clean set of robes from his Space Ring, Jian Chen dried himself off and then put them on. Walking out from the bathing area, he noticed Ming Dong and the others gathered in the lounge. When they saw the rosy-red hue of health on Jian Chen's face, they all looked surprised.

"Jian Chen, your wounds shouldn't have healed that fast! Your clothes were extremely bloody just a moment ago. Don't tell me that blood was from the Saint Ruler from the Sect of Dragon and Tiger!" Ming Dong couldn't help but ask. He simply couldn't believe that Jian Chen would have been able to inflict that much damage on someone who had reached the Saint Ruler realm, like Situ Qing.

Jian Chen laughed, but he made no motion to answer Ming Dong's question. "Now that the problem with the tungsten alloy is resolved, I need to return home for an important matter. I'll leave you all to take care of the matters while I'm gone."

"Brother, you left for a very long time already and only just got back. Why must you leave so soon?" Bi Lian pouted in disappointment.

Jian Chen's face was solemn as he answered her, "Lian'er, this is a matter that concerns our family. Your cousin must go and confirm something."

Seeing the solemn look on his face, Bi Lian realized that this was no small issue like she had thought. "Okay, then. Brother, you have to come back soon though!"

Chapter 660: Patriarch of the Bi Clan (Two)

With the great battle drawn to an end, Jian Chen bid farewell to everyone before bringing Nubis and the still sleeping white tiger cub with him to the Gesun Kingdom.

He originally planned on going by himself without bringing anyone else, but when he thought about Nubis' personality, he changed his mind. Nubis was a magical beast and was bloodthirsty by nature, unlike the calm and rational Jiede Tai. Jian Chen was unwilling to let the arrogant Nubis stay behind while he was gone. If something happened, then it would definitely become a problem.

Jian Chen and Nubis flew through the sky at dreadfully fast speeds before Nubis finally spoke. "Jian Chen, this one had never once thought that you and the grand elder of Mercenary City would have such a relationship. I, the great Nubis, am surprised. As long as the grand elder stands behind you, then I can guarantee that not many people on the continent will try to bully you." Nubis' eyes landed upon the tiger cub in Jian Chen's arm with a slightly more concentrated gaze. "Every single grand elder of Mercenary City has always been a very talented person. This one in particular seems to be very knowledgeable. Jian Chen, surely you did not tell him about the Winged Tiger God."

"Senior Tian Jian already knows about the Winged Tiger God." Jian Chen replied.

"What? He knows already?" Nubis' expression grew sharp, "That isn't good. The Winged Tiger God is still a youngling, meaning it's still at a tameable age. With the greed that you humans possess, even the strongest of individuals would want to take it. If the Winged Tiger God reaches maturity, it'll be an indomitable force of power that no human would be able to withstand unless another human like Mo Tianyun were to be borne again."

Jian Chen shook his head, "I'm already aware of the situation. Rest assured, the situation isn't as bad as you think it is. Senior Tian Jian, the second elder, and the fourth elder are the only ones from Mercenary City that know about the Winged Tiger God. None of the three have any desire to take the cub. In fact, they were more than happy to give it a large amount of heavenly resources."

"Is that true?" Nubis questioned. "How curious. Why has Mercenary City decided to do that? Don't they know how terrifying the Winged Tiger God is? With their strength, there'd be no way to stop the destruction the Winged Tiger God could cause other than by taming it. The Winged Tiger God at its maturity is a huge threat to the entire Tian Yuan Continent."

"They were told to do so by Mo Tianyun from a long time ago. It was in the very first laws that the grand elder was given." Jian Chen replied.

"Mo Tianyun said that?" Nubis grew even more curious now. "Was there some sort of friendly relationship between humanity's strongest, Mo Tianyun, and the mythological Winged Tiger God? The information I've heard has never once said anything about the two having any sort of communication."

“That, I don’t know, but the time since that era has long since passed. Whatever little information we have isn’t complete, and nothing concrete can be learned. Perhaps there is some sort of hidden detail we’re not aware of.” Jian Chen suggested.

Nubis nodded his head in solemn agreement, “That much I agree with!”

After that, Jian Chen and Nubis continued on their path while occasionally talking about one topic or another. With their speed, it only took one day worth of travel to traverse several tens of thousands of kilometers, arriving back in the Gesun Kingdom.

Stepping into the Gesun Kingdom’s territory, Jian Chen and Nubis immediately continued to Lore City. In a flash, they arrived at their destination where the Eastern Deity Swords from the Qinhuang Kingdom remained camped outside.

“That must be the army of the Qinhuang Kingdom, so they’ve made their way even here as well. What a rich display, it is no wonder they are considered one of the Eight Great Empires.” Nubis couldn’t help but remark after seeing their camp.

Jian Chen could only smile in silence. Flying into the Changyang Manor, the two of them stopped right outside the gates.

Since Jian Chen hadn’t bothered to hide his aura, his arrival was felt by all of the Heaven Saint Masters. Straight away, four powerful auras flew forth from the interior to surround him in every direction.

These four Heaven Saint Masters were the housekeeper Chang Wuji, Qin Wuming, Qin Wujian, and Qin Wutian.

Sensing the aggressive demeanor of the four, Nubis’ expression grew sour. A flash of cold light streaked across his face, and the power that came with being a Class 7 Magical Beast immediately manifested itself within his eyes. Instead of staring at Heaven Saint Masters, he looked as if he was looking at a weak little ant.

Jian Chen’s heart skipped a beat when he felt the change overcome Nubis’ expression. Clasp his shoulder, he said under his breath, “Nubis, this is my home. Don’t be rash.”

Immediately, the look on Nubis’ face softened to only look at the four men in disdain. Turning to Jian Chen, he hissed, “The great Nubis, why must you never remember that.”

Not sure whether he should laugh or cry, Jian Chen replied, “Fine fine, the great Nubis, please don’t be rash here. This is my home.”

“Understood, but tell these little ones to cease their actions now. There shall be no impudence in front of the great Nubis.” Nubis lazily responded.

Without even needing to be told again, the four Heaven Saint Masters immediately withdrew their fighting auras once they recognized that one of the two people was Jian Chen.

“The fourth master has returned!”

“We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector!”

Chang Wuji and the three others immediately greeted him. Chang Wuji looked at Jian Chen with a cordial smile of familiarity. Qin Wuming and the other two bowed to him respectfully.

The battle between the Flame Mercenaries and the Sect of Dragon and Tiger had preceded Jian Chen's arrival. Everyone had quickly learned of the battle since three Saint Rulers had fled from the Flame Mercenaries and Situ Qing had been heavily injured. So much interest was piqued that practically everyone knew that the captain of the Flame Mercenaries was a Saint Ruler. Even with so much distance between the Gesun Kingdom and the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom, Chang Wuji and the others were able to learn that their fourth master was a Saint Ruler.

"Fourth master, I'll notify the lord of your return. The lord and the fourth lady have been missing you dearly. They have been hoping for your return every day." Chang Wuji spoke as he turned around.

"No need, uncle Chang. I wish to speak to my mother. I'll meet with father in a moment." Jian Chen explained.

"Yes, that's fine. Then I'll call for a banquet to celebrate the fourth master's return." Chang Wuji retreated into the manor. Although he looked quite old, his movements were as spry as a twenty-something year old youth.

"Qin Wujian, Qin Wuming, Qin Wutian, you may all go in to rest. I'll be taking care of some matters first." Jian Chen spoke.

"Yes, Imperial Protector!" The three men bowed respectfully before bowing out.

Afterward, Jian Chen led Nubis to a room of his own and commanded several maids and servants to wait on him should he require anything. He then left to meet his mother.