

Chaotic 721

Chapter 721: The Bloodsword Sect's History

Jian Chen stared silently in the direction where the four red-clothed men had disappeared for a long time. His eyes constantly flickered, displaying uncertainty.

"Fourth young master, we should stop grieving. The patriarch and the fourth madam have already passed away. We should quickly hold a funeral for them." At this moment, an old man arrived beside Jian Chen and said softly to him. The old man was an elder of the Changyang clan, possessing the strength of an Earth Saint Master.

Jian Chen restrained his thoughts and shook his head gently. He said, "There's no need for a funeral, mother and father aren't dead. I will definitely revive them."

Hearing that, the old man sighed. He thought that Jian Chen had become overly stricken in grief that he became slightly confused.

"Elder, just who are the four people who just left?" Jian Chen asked softly. His tone was very indifferent, without any signs of emotions.

The old man thought slightly before speaking out, "Fourth young master, I'm not sure who the four people are. However, I think I heard that they're people from some Bloodsword Sect."

"The Bloodsword Sect!" Jian Chen muttered with a low voice. A sliver of doubt flashed across his eyes. He was extremely unfamiliar with the name of the sect.

After hesitating for a while, Jian Chen left from the place, going to the gardens of the Changyang Manor. He saw that the ancestor of the Bi Family, Bi Hai, was currently sitting in the pavilion of the garden by himself, drinking to drown his sorrows.

Jian Chen gazed at the Bi family ancestor with a complicated expression. He knew that what happened to his mother also made the ancestor rather pained. After all, the current Bi family was no longer the Bi family of the past. In order words, every descendant of the Bi family was beloved and treasured by Bi Hai.

"Grandfather!" Jian Chen arrived in the pavilion and sat opposite of Bi Hai.

Bi Hai placed down his glass of wine and raised his head to look at Jian Chen. Through Jian Chen's peaceful gaze, he could already tell that Jian Chen had gotten over the pain from a few days ago. Bi Hai sighed softly and said, "Grandson, preserve your parent's bodies well. You're already a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master. Once you reach Class 7, you should have the power to revive your parents." As he finished speaking, Bi Hai poured himself another full glass of wine and downed the whole thing.

Jian Chen nodded and said, "Grandfather, grandson has something to ask you. Does grandfather know about the Bloodsword Sect?"

Hearing the two words, a gleam of light immediately flashed across Bi Hai's eyes. He stared at Jian Chen with shining eyes and said sternly, "Grandson, where did you learn about the Bloodsword Sect?"

"The four middle-aged men from before should be people of the Bloodsword Sect." Jian Chen replied.

“What? They’re from the Bloodsword Sect?” Bi Hai was slightly surprised, though he recovered shortly afterwards. He mumbled, “No wonder the four of them always had such a thick layer of Baleful Yin Force. That should be from killing countless people and condensed using a special method. So they’re actually from the Bloodsword Sect.”

A sliver of recollection appeared in Bi Hai’s eyes as the past flashed across his mind in the form of images. He slowly finished off his glass of wine and said slowly. “I indeed do know some things about the Bloodsword Sect, though it’s very limited.”

“The Bloodsword Sect is one of three well-known assassination organisations of the Tian Yuan Continent. They place second of the three. Not only are they extremely mysterious, their strength is rather great too, standing above hermit clans and on level ground with ancient clans. However, one thousand years ago, there was a great war between the three assassination organisations for some reason and after the war, the Bloodsword Sect completely disappeared from the Tian Yuan Continent. Afterwards, they never appeared again. I just never thought that the four of them were actually from the Bloodsword Sect.”

“Grandpa, then do you know who the sect master of the Bloodsword Sect is?” Jian Chen asked. Since the four experts were sent by the sect master of the Bloodsword Sect, the sect master definitely would have some connection with Jian Chen. Otherwise, why would the sect appear once again from vanishing for a thousand years, and why would they help him and prevent a disastrous calamity for the Changyang clan?

Bi Hai shook his head, “In that age, I was just a mere Heaven Saint Master. With the status of the Bloodsword Sect sect master and the mysterious history of the sect, where would I get the right to learn the sect master’s name?”

“Hehe, not many people know the sect master’s name on the Tian Yuan Continent, though I just happen to be one of them.” At this moment, an old voice echoed from somewhere nearby. Jian Chen saw the old woman referred to as ‘grandma Wang’ by Tianmu Ling slowly make her way towards the pavilion with her cane.

Jian Chen and Bi Hai both stood up immediately, clasping their hands at the old woman at the same time, “I greet senior!”

Wang Yanhong chuckled, “No need to be so polite. I’ve eavesdropped the conversation between the two of you without permission, so please forgive me. However, I do know quite some things about the Bloodsword Sect you’ve mentioned, Jian Chen.”

Jian Chen hurried to invite the old woman into the pavilion courteously. He had already learnt that the Flame Mercenaries encountered a disaster from the people who had come over from the mercenaries. Even Nubis, Bi Hai and Jiede Tai were heavily injured. The old woman in front of him had lent a helping hand in the very end, which saved the mercenaries. As a result, Jian Chen was extremely grateful towards the old woman.

“Senior, please tell me about the Bloodsword Sect.” As soon as the old woman sat down, Jian Chen asked impatiently.

The old woman smiled benevolently and said, "Jian Chen, before I tell you about the Bloodsword Sect, I have something to discuss about with you. Before, I helped you repel the enemies at the Flame Mercenaries and saved your relatives and friends. However, I haven't done it for nothing. Since I've helped you, there naturally will be a reciprocation. Jian Chen, you must remember that you owe me a favor."

Jian Chen became serious. He said sternly, "Senior, junior will never forget your kindness. A drop of kindness will be returned as a fountain. If there are any areas where senior would need Jian Chen, junior will do everything he can. Jian Chen will never purposely evade this." Jian Chen just could not imagine the outcome of the Flame Mercenaries if the old woman had not helped out when they were assaulted by the five Saint Rulers. Although his relatives and friends would not die, they would definitely fall into position between a rock and a hard place.

Hearing what Jian Chen had said, Wang Yanhong smiled, "Then I'll tell you about the Bloodsword Sect next."

"The Bloodsword Sect is a powerful assassination organisation on the Tian Yuan Continent. It has already been around for several tens of thousand years and possesses strength that is equal to ancient clans. The method they practice uses slaughter to increase their strength. Every time they kill a person, they will condense a strand of Baleful Yin Force. The more they kill, the thicker the Baleful Yin Force they can condense. Not only is the force able to stun people, causing them to become all sluggish temporarily, it can also wipe out people's soul. They can kill without any signs, which is a worry to all people on the Tian Yuan Continent."

"However, the Baleful Yin Force of the Bloodsword Sect also has a great disadvantage, that it's a consumable. If they use too much, they can only replenish it through slaughtering people. As a result, Baleful Yin Force is only used often by those below Heaven Saint Master, while Saint Rulers rarely ever use it against their opponent, unless it's a moment of life or death. Saint Rulers are restrained by Celestial Decay, unable conduct massacres, so their Baleful Yin Force decreases as they use it without any way of replenishing it. However, when Saint Rulers of the Bloodsword Sect do happen to use Baleful Yin Force, they can kill Saint Rulers with just a single strike, unless the opponent is just overly powerful. This is their greatest life-saving tactic." Speaking up to there, a sliver of dread appeared in the depths of Wang Yanhong's eyes.

"Is that so. No wonder I felt the thick Baleful Yin Force around them. It must have been condensed before they became Saint Rulers." Jian Chen thought. He could not help but think back to the four red-clothed men.

"But one thousand years ago, something happened between the three great assassination organisations. It was caused by the Bloodsword Sect sect master of that generation. He possessed great talent, becoming a great Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint King in just a few thousand years. He became the only expert who was infinitesimally close to being a Saint Emperor from the Bloodsword Sect and because of him, the Bloodsword Sect rose greatly in power. They became a sect that completely overtook ancient clans, an existence that could rival the ten guardian clans.

"Reaching such a level in strength, the sect master also became one of the few great experts of the Tian Yuan Continent. As a result, he came up with the idea of unifying all assassination organisations. This

lead to the other two assassination organisations forming a treaty and going to war against the Bloodsword Sect.”

“However, the sect master back then was already standing on the apex. Even on the entire Tian Yuan Continent, only Mercenary City, the ten guardian clans and the lord of the carnal desire way could rival him. Although the other two assassination organisations formed a treaty, they still failed to handle the Bloodsword Sect. Even the leaders of the two organisations were injured by the sect master, causing the organisation to arrive at the brink of destruction.”

“But just at that moment, something unfortunate happened. The other two organisations actually schemed and baited out the sect master’s partner and killed her in an ambush. Her soul was wiped out and utterly destroyed, which even prevented powerful Radiant Saint Masters to revive her. The partner was found by the sect master before he reached Saint King, so she held an extremely great position in the sect master’s heart. Also before she had died, she was actually pregnant.

“The death of his partner dealt a heavy blow to the sect master. In just a night, the sect master’s appearance underwent an upheaving change. His twenty-odd-year-old, handsome appearance which he always maintained became old in just a night. Even his dark hair turned silvery-gray.

“Afterwards, the sect master used ten-thousand-year-old heavenly resources to revive the child in his partner’s womb. He went to the two organisations with just his fallen partner and young son and held a mad massacre in vengeance. In that battle, the sect master caused damage that was capable of ending both organisations. All the powerful members of the organisations died in the hands of the sect master, heavily weakening both organisations.

“After that had happened, the Bloodsword Sect, renowned on the entire continent, disappeared from the Tian Yuan Continent. The sect master never appeared on the continent again, without any trace at all. He seemed to just have vanished, with no one knowing his whereabouts. During that period, there were many rumors. Some said that the sect master had fallen from Celestial Decay due to the great massacre he had committed. Some said that the sect master had become overwhelmed with grief and went on to follow his dead wife. There were also others who said the sect masters had already retired from the continent, living a life of no worldly affairs. But no matter how exaggerated the rumors were, the sect master has never showed up on the continent even until now. No one knows whether he’s retired or gone to chase after his wife.”

“Senior, then do you know the name of the sect master?” Jian Chen’s tone was rather urgent.

Wang Yanhong thought back for a while and said, “I learnt the name of the sect master from the ancestor of the Tianmu clan. His name is Xiu Houston!”

Chapter 722: The Mysterious Group in the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts

“Xiu Houston!” Jian Chen muttered. A gleam of light exploded in his eyes while in his mind, he could not help but think of uncle Xiu’s old but straight body.

“Xiu Houston, uncle Xiu. The sect master of the Bloodsword Sect actually has the same surname as uncle Xiu from Longevity Valley. Perhaps they’re the same people?” Jian Chen thought. He could not help but think of the moment when uncle Xiu had first seen the small white tiger.

Thinking of the tiger, Jian Chen could not help but look at his shoulder. He only saw the snow-white tiger fast asleep, curled up on his shoulder like a small cat. It was digesting the medicinal effects deposited in his body by the heavenly resources.

Afterwards, Jian Chen looked at the powerful Wang Yanhong. He only saw Wang Yanhong stare at him with a flickering gaze, completely ignoring the white tiger on his shoulder. She clearly was unable to discern the white tiger's true identity.

"Jian Chen, perhaps you've seen the sect master of the Bloodsword Sect?" Wang Yanhong's eyes glowed with curiosity, and stared deeply at Jian Chen. Wang Yanhong had also seen the four red-clothed men who had appeared at the Changyang Manor, and had already guessed their identities from the thick Baleful Yin Force they gave off. They were people of the Bloodsword Sect that had disappeared a thousand years ago, and they were not weak. They clearly held a certain status within the sect.

Wang Yanhong was also extremely curious about why the Bloodsword Sect had come to the Changyang Manor. She wanted to know the answer. Her first guess was that Jian Chen had some connection with the Bloodsword Sect.

Jian Chen shook his head, "Senior, I've only learnt about the Bloodsword Sect today, let alone knowing the sect master." Although he had put it in such a way, images of uncle Xiu constantly floated through his mind. Jian Chen always felt that uncle Xiu was extremely profound, and he shared the same surname with the Bloodsword Sect sect master. Also, uncle Xiu's family situation matched up extremely well with what the sect master had suffered. He had no partner, only a son and a grandson. Jian Chen just did not know how old Xiu Mi was.

Also, only the grand elder of Mercenary City and uncle Xiu could tell the white tiger's identity with a glance up until now. That was enough to show uncle Xiu's extraordinary.

Though, Jian Chen only guessed that the Bloodsword Sect sect master might have some connection with uncle Xiu. He had yet to confirm it.

Leaving the garden, Jian Chen immediately spent a great amount to buy a thousand-year ice coffin, which he placed his parent's corpses inside. Although powerful Radiant Saint Masters could revive the dead, the bodies had to remain in a good condition.

Jian Chen stayed in the Changyang Manor for seven days. In those seven days, the Changyang Manor was always overcast by a cloud of gloominess and after the seven days, many of those who had come to express sympathy had already left. There was barely anyone left, but they still had not taken a single step into the manor.

Seven days later, Jian Chen had gotten over his sorrow. However, what had happened to his parents left an irremovable mark on Jian Chen. It caused him to become colder, always with a stern expression. All the smiles he possessed had disappeared.

On that day, Jian Chen bid farewell to the people there. He departed from the Changyang Manor with the ice coffins that carried his parents. He was about to go on a long journey and only feared that a careless accident would happen to his parent's bodies. As a result, he needed to find a safe place to keep the coffins that could guarantee that nothing would happen. Only like that could he leave without any worries.

Although ice coffins could be placed into Spatial Rings, Jian Chen did not do that. He was already a powerful Saint Ruler, but he still had enemies on the Tian Yuan Continent. Also, the five Saint Rulers were currently pursuing him. If anything were to happen to him, his parents would never see the day of light again.

Time could blunt everything. After seven days of buffering from the tragedy that had occurred with the Changyang clan, it had already begun to settle down. Meanwhile, Jian Chen instead carried the ice coffins, and soared high up in the sky. He hurried to Qinhuang Kingdom as he planned to keep his parent's bodies in the Qin Heaven Palace, a place that belonged to him to live in.

On the same day, Jian Chen's uncle, Bi Dao, resigned from his post as the commander of the imperial guards. He left Gesun Kingdom on a Class Four Magical Beast mount all by himself.

In that period of time, Bi Dao had thought everything through. He wanted to quickly increase his strength and other than training hard and tempering himself through life-or-death situations, only the baptism of blood could help him. His nephew was the best example. If he remained blindly within the imperial palace, he did not even know how much time it would take for him to become a Heaven Saint Master.

Jian Chen passed through the Space Gate at Dazhou Kingdom and returned to the Qinhuang Kingdom. Afterwards, he placed his parent's coffins in the Qin Heaven Palace, entrusting them to the protection of the other four Imperial Protectors.

The king of Qinhuang Kingdom and Qin Ji also felt rather heavy-hearted towards the death of Jian Chen's parents. They properly consoled Jian Chen.

However, under Jian Chen's forceful request, the situation with his parents was not announced. Only a very few people within the kingdom knew about it.

After he placed down his parents, Jian Chen then had a secret conversation with the four other Imperial Protectors elsewhere in the palace. Afterwards, he departed from the kingdom the next day, and travelled to Dazhou Kingdom through the Space Gate.

Afterwards, Jian Chen visited the Tianqin clan to see Qin Xiao once again. Jian Chen originally planned to have Qin Xiao go with the Flame Mercenaries to train him, but now with all that had happened with the mercenaries and the fact that he was about to depart from them, he could only give up on the idea of taking Qin Xiao away.

This was due to the fact that the Flame Mercenaries were facing a great challenge, even though they possessed a certain level of strength. The mercenaries were no longer safe, so taking Qin Xiao there perhaps would only bring troubles for him. Also, because of the Winged Tiger God, the Flame Mercenaries would definitely be into the matter sooner or later, and even the Changyang clan would not escape it. If he got Qin Xiao to join the mercenaries it was undoubtedly throwing him into a fire. If something bad happened, it would even pull the Tianqin clan into it.

The reason why Jian Chen thought like this was because he had a strong premonition. Once the news of the Winged Tiger God got out, he would probably become a public enemy of the continent.

Leaving the Tianqin clan, Jian Chen directly returned to the Gesun Kingdom. Afterwards, he called Jiede Tai and Nubis. He told the two about the Holy Empire, as well as what the Imperial Protectors of the Qinhuang Kingdom had requested.

When he heard what Jian Chen said, Nubis declined it straight away, without any additional thought, "Jian Chen, you definitely must not drag me into it. Each of the three great clans of the Holy Empire have Saint Kings and possess the strength of ancient clans. They cannot be underestimated. Also, I, the great Nubis, have nothing to do with the Holy Kingdom. Their infighting has nothing to do with me, so I, the great Nubis, definitely will not be dragged into this. It's basically a hell-hole. Whoever jumps in will suffer losses."

Jian Chen was not very surprised with Nubis's declination. He then looked towards Jiede Tai.

Jiede Tai maintained a neutral expression. He said extremely indifferently, "Jian Chen, I've already pledged my loyalty to you. Even my life is yours, so I abide to anything you say."

Jian Chen nodded but did not say anything more. Jiede Tai's behaviour had allowed him to rise to a great place in Jian Chen's mind.

Jian Chen thought to himself for a while before speaking, "Nubis has put it well. You indeed don't need to be dragged into the infighting of the Holy Empire. If something goes wrong, it'll just cause more problems for you, and there might even be an outcome that is death. Whatever, the two of you should stay and stand guard, to protect the Changyang Manor and the Flame Mercenaries. I'll be departing tomorrow."

"Jian Chen, you don't need to participate in this difficult and arduous matter..." Nubis attempted to persuade Jian Chen, but before he had even finished, he was cut off by Jian Chen's hand.

"I have to go to the Holy Empire. It holds the only hope of reviving my parents, so no matter how great the dangers are, I have to go." Jian Chen's tone carried a determination that had never appeared before.

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The morning of the next day, Jian Chen bid farewell to everybody before he departed from the Changyang Manor.

Jian Chen transformed into a bolt of lightning in the sky, and arrived at the borders of Gesun Kingdom very soon. Afterwards, he travelled another few thousand kilometers, entering Blue Wind Kingdom.

Within the Blue Wind Kingdom, there were plenty of mercenaries and merchants in different attires who constantly entered and exited the Third Class City, Wake City. Around twenty kilometers from Wake City, there was a great mountain range. It was the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts.

In that period of time, there was always a rumor that floated about in Wake City. In the depths of the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts, there was a mysterious group. No one knew where the mysterious group came from, nor did they know the identity of the group. They only knew that each member possessed extremely great strength, and that they always moved around in the mountain range, specifically hunting high class magical beasts. They never left the mountain range and rarely ever went to the outskirts either.

Also, in the recent times, there would always be earth-shaking magical beast roars coming from the mountain range in the middle of the night. It would echo throughout the entire city. Also, occurrences like that had already happened plenty of times.

Meanwhile, the Great Saint Master who lived in Wake City could discern from the roars if they originated from Class 5 Magical Beasts.

Not long afterwards, a mercenary group emerged from the depths of the mountain range in horrible condition. They brought out hair-raising news. In the depths of the mountain range, the nameless experts of the mysterious group beheaded a Class 5 Magical Beasts with just a single strike.

Chapter 723: Heading to the Holy Empire

Although the mysterious group in the depths of the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts outside Wake City was no longer a secret, so much time had already passed that no one knew the identity of this mysterious group.

During that time, there were a few more powerful clans and mercenaries groups that wanted to subdue the group. However, all of them failed without any exceptions. The mysterious group seemed to be immune to greed; no matter how great of a condition proposed, and no matter how great of a temptation given. It was unable to move any member of the mysterious group. They seemed to be completely immune to wealth and power.

The sky was covered with dark clouds. A muffled thunder rumbled in the sky, and echoed across the entire world. It was noon, but everywhere had already become dark.

Not long afterwards, pea-sized raindrops fell madly from the sky. The world began to pour with rain, and the originally-bustling Wake City immediately became cold, with no one on the streets to be seen. There was only rain, and it washed the dirty streets created by the mercenaries.

At that moment, in the peaceful sky above Wake City, a crack suddenly appeared in the dense, dark clouds. A sliver of blue light shone through it and underneath the thick clouds, a person appeared out of nowhere.

Thunder rumbled in the sky. A flash of lightning shot across the sky with dazzling radiance, and created a web below the clouds.

The person wore light-blue, long robes. When the surrounding rain approached him, it was dispersed by an invisible force, unable to reach him at all. He stood underneath the lightning, and observed the area below. He seemed to ignore the deafening thunder and streaks of lightning from the surroundings, similar to a god.

He was Jian Chen who had come from Gesun Kingdom.

Jian Chen floated in the sky. His presence enveloped the entire city and after a while, he slowly opened his eyes. Through the mist in the distance, he could vaguely see the mountain range. He mumbled to himself, "If they're not in the city, then they must be in the mountain range." As soon as he finished speaking, Jian Chen turned into an afterimage, and disappeared from the sky. He had already flown to the mountain range that was ten kilometers away with a speed almost invisible to the naked eye.

In the depths of the mountain range, a dozen or so large tents were set up under a towering old tree. Outside the tent, there were several big, bare-chested men standing in the rain, keeping guard. Their swift and forceful gazes were filled with a fierce light. They clearly were not simple people.

At that moment, in the most centre tent, there were nine people around a large round table, eating roast magical beast meat as they talked.

“Senior An, Yun Zheng, it’s all thanks to your help that my brothers could escape, terrified but unharmed from the magical beasts.” An old man raised a glass of wine and said sincerely to the big man and gentle-looking middle-aged man who sat on the opposite side.

“Haha, Kai Er, you don’t need to thank me. Yun Zheng and I were secretly sent by captain Jian Chen to protect you. Captain Jian Chen’s request was that every single one of you needed to remain alive under no exceptions. Originally, Yun Zheng and I always protected you from the shadows, but who thought that after you guys became Earth Saint Masters, you actually discovered us.” Senior An laughed aloud, his bald head gleaming.

“Senior An has put it correctly. Protecting you was only our orders, but now you guys have all become Earth Saint Masters, and also mastered a wondrous technique that can make people’s battle capability increase by several fold abruptly. Also, every one of you have battle skills, and your overall strength is not any weaker than the two of us. If we continue to stay here, we won’t be of use anyway.” Yun Zheng said with a smile.

Those people were the core members of the Flame Mercenaries that Jian Chen initially then into the mountain range to train. Every single one of them was undergoing life-or-death training and was extremely loyal. They were reliable, as well as the first group of elites that Jian Chen really trusted and spent a great fortune in raising.

When Jian Chen left before, he left behind great amounts of monster cores and various battle skills. After the period of training and growth, every single member underwent an upheaving growth in strength. Seven of them had even become Earth Saint Masters, while the remaining dozen or so had reached Great Saint Master. There were no longer any Saint Masters.

Listening to what Yun Zheng said, the people in the tent all pondered silently. Charles said, “Brother Yun Zheng is right. This Mountain Range of Magical Beasts is just too small, with the strongest magical beasts only being class 5. In this period of time, there aren’t many Class 5 Magical Beasts left after we killed a few. With our current strength, it’s pointless to stay any longer.”

“My brothers have already gotten a good grasp with the Human Tier Battle Skills, and with the Heaven’s Stolen Fortune from captain, they can easily kill magical beasts that are much stronger than them. The magical beasts here no longer for any threat to us. It’s just a pity that captain is not here. Without his orders, we can’t just leave here.” Qingfeng said with a soft voice. After the period of violent magical beast huntings, Qingfeng had already become the person who improved the fastest in the group. Not only was he the first one to become an Earth Saint Master, he had reached the Second Cycle just a few days ago. Other than Yun Zheng and Senior An, he was the strongest in the group.

Although the group of people did not possess the talents of great geniuses, their body constitution had already been improved by the thousand-year-old Hundred Grass Wine from Jian Chen. It allowed them

to cultivate at speeds much greater than ordinary people and with the period of hard training, every single one of them had great improvements.

“Only if the captain was here. Ever since we’ve entered the depths of the mountain range, we haven’t left. We don’t know much about the situation outside.” Mo Tian sighed. He could not help but think of a handsome, righteous face.

Just at this moment, a grand presence suddenly descended from outside. Although the presence was gentle, unable to cause any harm to people, it carried a feeling of vast endlessness, as if it represented the world. Even Earth Saint Masters felt weak like ants before the presence.

“What a immovable presence!” Everyone within the tent suddenly became alert. They then threw away the cups in their hands, hurrying out from the tent.

Rain continued to pour outside and the sky was gloomy. Yun Zheng, Senior An and the members of the Flame Mercenaries who recently became Earth Saint Masters all came out of the central tent together, and allowed themselves to be drenched in rain. At the same time, various other people came out one by one from the surrounding tents. They quickly arrived behind Yun Zheng and the others, and looked around with solemn expressions. They were looking for the source of the presence.

In just the time of a breath, the core members of the Flame Mercenaries who had originally entered the mountain range to train had all gathered together.

Just at that moment, a pale blue light slashed the horizon in half. It flew over the distance like a lightning bolt, and headed right in the direction where the Flame Mercenaries were.

“Everyone be careful, the person’s a Heaven Saint Master!”

Everyone’s expression was filled with vigilance. Meanwhile, a thumb-sized piece of jade had already appeared in Senior An’s hand.

The blue figure that had cut through the sky stopped before the mercenaries in the end, floating above. There, everyone could see his appearance.

Observing him clearly, everyone was slightly surprised. Their vigilant expressions immediately disappeared, replaced by expressions of joy and excitement.

“Captain!”

“It’s the captain! The captain’s returned!”

Everyone cried out in excitement. They were clearly elated with Jian Chen’s arrival and afterwards, they all knelt on one knee to welcome Jian Chen.

Jian Chen’s long, blue robes shook about in the violent wind, his towering body remained dry from the rain. He looked slowly at the large men below, and a faint smile appeared on his expressionless face. He said, “Not bad, well done. Looks like you’ve all improved greatly during this period of time.” Jian Chen slowly descended and with a thought, an invisible force immediately flooded the surroundings, pulling everyone up off the ground.

Jian Chen was courteously invited into the central tent by several Earth Saint Masters. Afterwards, they gave a general report of what had happened during the years to Jian Chen.”

“Yes, well done. There’s actually seven of you who’ve become Earth Saint Masters, which has indeed created some surprises for me. With your current strength, staying here won’t do you any good.” Jian Chen took out a wooden box and a stack of books from his Space Ring. He said, “In this box are Class 6 Radiant Spirit Pills. These are some Earth Tier Battle Skills. You should take these and split the pills evenly between each other as a life-saving measure. As for these Earth Tier Battle Skills, you can learn them once you’ve become an Earth Saint Masters. Prepare to leave here tomorrow and go train on the vast continent.”

“Yes, captain.” The seven Earth Saint Masters replied together. Each of them had joy that they struggled to conceal in their eyes.

“Remember, when you go training on the continent, don’t use the name Flame Mercenaries. Go under a different group name.” Jian Chen warned them once again, before turning his head and said, “Yun Zhang, Senior An, the two of you have done well. You’ve already completely the mission. The two of you can report back to the main base of the mercenaries with my keepsake.” Jian Chen gave them a jade trinket. The trinket was a keepsake from the Changyang clan and was used for the purpose of identification, but Jian Chen no longer had any use for it.

“Captain, just where is the main base?” Senior An asked. Before the Flame Mercenaries had even rose up in power, Yun Zheng and him were already sent into the depths of the mountain range, always protecting Jian Chen’s trusted subordinates. They had never left.

Jian Chen smiled mysteriously, “Just do some casual investigation when you get out. You’ll know where it is.”

Jian Chen stayed for a day and in that day, he passed on some knowledge about cultivation as well as his experience of breaking through to Earth Saint Master. At the same time, he left behind a great amount of Class 4 and Class 5 Monster Cores for everyone. He departed the morning of the next day, and began his journey to the Holy Empire.

The Holy Empire was one of the strongest empires on the Tian Yuan Continent. The Tian Yuan Continent had a total of seven capital cities, while the Holy Empire possessed three of them. It was greater than either of the other two empires.

The history of the Holy Empire was ancient. It already had a million years of history, and it was commonly said that before Mo Tianyun and the Winged Tiger God had even appeared, the empire already existed. Also, its status back then was the same as now, domineering and an overlord. Even with so many years behind it, it remained as glorious as it was before.

Chapter 724: Surprise Visit from Uncle Xiu

The hot, blazing sun hung in the centre of the sky, and radiated with bright light. The terrifying heat radiating from it scattered downwards, and roasted the ground below to a boiling-hot temperature.

In the centre of an endless desert, an obscure figure shot through the sky like a lightning bolt, and reached the horizon in the blink of an eye.

As Jian Chen flew, he looked at the golden desert below him. He mumbled, "According to the distance on the map, there should be another two hours before I pass through this desert. Afterwards, I need to travel for another two days before arriving at the Holy Empire." No matter if it was from the Qinhuang Kingdom or the Gesun Kingdom, the Holy Empire was extremely distant. Even with Jian Chen's speed, he needed to spend a dozen or so days on the road to reach the empire from Gesun Kingdom.

Although Jian Chen could use the Space Gate in Qinhuang Kingdom to directly travel to the Holy Empire millions of kilometers away, he did not do so because he already learnt some things about the Holy Empire from Bi Hai and the four Imperial Protectors of the Qinhuang Kingdom, including information about reaching Class 7 as a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master.

If Radiant Saint Masters wanted to reach Class 7, they needed to borrow the saint artifact in the Holy Empire. Also, the holy artifact would not be used at any moment. There was a set time for every time it activated, and from its next activation, there was a year and a half of down time.

As a result, Jian Chen did not need to hurry to save time, which was why he chose flying as the transportation to reach the empire. As he travelled, he could admire the surrounding scenery and it carried along with it a feeling of being carefree and leisurely.

Jian Chen flew over countless mountains and rivers, as well as large, bustling cities. Finally, he entered the borders of the Holy Empire.

Of the three empires of the continent, the Holy Empire was the most powerful. The area it covered was also extremely great, over one hundred times bigger than the Gesun Kingdom. Its population had also reached a shocking level, with over a hundred million people. To the Gesun Kingdom's population of a few dozen million, it was like comparing an elephant with an ant.

The Holy Empire had three capital cities. The capital cities were all controlled by the three great clans, with each clan controlling one city. As for the imperial city, it was the capital city located closest to the centre, the City of God.

Towards the edge of the border, there was a bustling first class city. At that very moment in the distance, there was a young man in light-blue robes who travelled unhurriedly towards the city on a Class 4 Magical Beast.

The young man was Jian Chen of course. Upon entering the Holy Empire, he did not continue his hurried journey. He decided to first enter the city and learn about the local customs and news. After all, Jian Chen was extremely unfamiliar with the Holy Empire. He needed to grasp some more accurate information step by step.

As Jian Chen entered the first class city on his Class 4 Magical Beast slowly, he toured the wide streets. He arrived in front of a relatively large restaurant. He tied up his magical beast mount, before he strode into the restaurant.

"Sir, welcome to our Aromatic Guesthouse. The dishes of our Aromatic Guesthouse are made by the best chefs of the entire city, and we have the prettiest female waiters too. We guarantee that sir will be satisfied. Sir, please come in and take a seat." A waiter immediately went up to receive Jian Chen, inviting him in with a smile.

Jian Chen entered the restaurant and looked around. He decided to find a quiet place to sit down but shortly afterwards, his gaze landed on an old man who sat in a corner. His eyes widened from shock, while he revealed an expression of disbelief.

The old man wore grey, long robes and his grey hair was tied behind his back with a piece of string. He currently sat in front of a table full of dishes, enjoying the wine and food slowly. The old man seemed extremely ordinary and did not attract anyone's attention. However, it essentially stupefied Jian Chen who had just come in.

Jian Chen stared at the old man astoundedly. In that moment, he basically doubted whether he was seeing properly or not. Shortly afterwards, he used his hands to rub his eyes before looking again. The shock had completely flooded the depths of his mind.

At that moment, the old man suddenly turned his head and looked at Jian Chen. With a calm expression and a profound gaze, he said simply, "Jian Chen, come sit!"

The gentle calling of "Jian Chen" instead caused him to freeze when he heard it. He exclaimed quietly, "Uncle Xiu, it's actually you!" Jian Chen's mental state was greatly disturbed. No matter how he thought, he could never imagine that he would actually meet uncle Xiu from Longevity Valley in the Holy Empire.

Uncle Xiu did not say anything more. He sat there by himself, eating and drinking, and did not continue to pay any more attention to Jian Chen.

Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath. He forcefully suppressed the shock and agitation within him, sitting in front of uncle Xiu. Afterwards, he immediately asked with doubt, "Uncle Xiu, why are you here?"

Uncle Xiu looked at Jian Chen, "This time, I've come specially for you!"

"For me!" A sliver of doubt appeared in Jian Chen's eyes.

"Jian Chen, I know you've come to the Holy Empire this time to reach Class 7 as a Radiant Saint Master." Uncle Xiu said peacefully.

However, his peaceful tone caused Jian Chen to react greatly. He stared at uncle Xiu in stupefaction while great waves formed in his mental state. Jian Chen's identity as a Radiant Saint Master always was his greatest secret. In the world, there were not many who knew his Radiant Saint Master identity. What Jian Chen struggled to believe was when did uncle Xiu know about his identity as a Radiant Saint Master?

At a certain moment earlier, a transparent barrier had been erected around the table where Jian Chen and uncle Xiu sat. Uncle Xiu's calm voice sounded again, "Jian Chen, I cultivate darkness attributed Saint Force, so I'm extremely sensitive towards Radiant Saint Force. Also, I've been secretly observing you for a period of time, which is why I know your identity. And I think, it's not just me who knows you're a Radiant Saint Master. The grand elder of Mercenary City also probably knows already."

Jian Chen thought quickly and asked, "Uncle Xiu, are you perhaps the sect master Xiu Houston from the Bloodsword Sect? As the four Saint Rulers from the Bloodsword Sect which helped the Changyang clan survive the disaster, were they also secretly sent by you?"

Uncle Xiu nodded, which basically equated to admitting it. Shortly afterwards, he did not continue the topic with Jian Chen and changed it, "Jian Chen, what identity do you plan on using to reach Class 7?"

Jian Chen had already thought through the question long ago. He replied without any additional thought, "I heard that it's extremely hard to obtain a chance to reach Class 7. The Holy Empire definitely will not give outsiders this chance, so I plan on going there with my identity as the Imperial Protector of the Qinhuang Kingdom to obtain this chance."

Uncle Xiu shook his head, "You're wrong Jian Chen. It's not as simple as you think it is. If you really do it like that, even if you become a Class 7 Radiant Saint Master, you'll be forever bound to the Radiant Saint Master Union and lose your freedom."

Chapter 725: The City of God

Jian Chen was slightly shocked. He asked with a soft voice, "Uncle Xiu, perhaps there are some other secrets to it?"

Uncle Xiu nodded, "Correct, it's just like you put it, there are indeed secrets that few people know about." He slowly finished off a cup of wine and said, "If you want a chance at breaking through to Class 7, you need to be a core member of the Radiant Saint Master Union or someone from the three great clans of the empire. It's impossible for outsiders to obtain a chance. Also, the Radiant Saint Master Union and the three clans will definitely not let high class Radiant Saint Masters just pass by, and will coerce and bribe them to join their forces. As a result, in the Holy Empire, or even the entire Tian Yuan Continent, basically all the Class 6 Radiant Saint Masters belong to the union or the three clans. There are only a few people who can remain unbounded to the clans and union, and they need at least an organisation with the strength of an ancient clan backing them up to retain their freedom."

Uncle Xiu looked at Jian Chen, "Jian Chen, you may be one of the Imperial Protectors of the Qinhuang Kingdom, but that identity will not be able to protect you at all. This is because the Qinhuang Kingdom is only a subsidiary country of one of the three clans. Once your identity is revealed, your movements will become greatly restricted. Also, in all of history, a Radiant Saint Master cannot be a fighter as well. Not only have you already become a Saint Ruler, you also possess the abilities of a Radiant Saint Master. Something this weird has never happened on the Tian Yuan Continent, not even in the ancient times. Once your secret about being both a fighter and a Radiant Saint Master is discovered by the Radiant Saint Master Union, it will definitely affect you. As for the outcome you have face, I have no idea, so it's best if you don't carelessly reveal that secret before you possess the strength to resist the Holy Empire."

Jian Chen went silent. What uncle Xiu had told him completely destroyed his plans. With that, not only did he have to keep his identity as an Imperial Protector hidden, he needed to conceal it as much as he could. Otherwise, once people knew that he was both a fighter and a Radiant Saint Master, it would definitely create trouble for him.

Regarding the fact that he was a Radiant Saint Master, Jian Chen already knew that revealing it would cause some certain effects. Though, he was confident that with his strength as a Saint Ruler and the important status as an Imperial Protector, the small troubles caused would not be problematic. However, he never thought that the situation was much more severe than he had initially thought. It had completely exceeded his expectations.

Uncle Xiu continued, "Other than that, there is another great secret to the union. This secret directly affects all Class 7 Radiant Saint Master. My main reason for coming and finding you is because of this."

Hearing that, Jian Chen suppressed the concern in his mind. He stared directly into uncle Xiu's eyes, and waited for what he was going to say next.

Uncle Xiu's expression became stern, which was rather rare, "Jian Chen, if you didn't become a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master, joining the union would inhibit you only slightly, but the inhibition is not that great. What really is important is that if you reach Class 7, all your actions will be restrained by the union, and then forced into a secret research program. Not only will you lose your freedom, it'll even possibly threaten your life."

Jian Chen's heart skipped a beat. He had never thought that the Radiant Saint Masters had such a dark side to it.

"Uncle Xiu, just what is this secret research project?" Jian Chen could not suppress the curiosity in his heart so he asked.

Uncle Xiu paused slightly before continuing, "The secret of breaking through Class 7 and reaching Class 8."

Jian Chen was slightly stunned, "Uncle Xiu, aren't there any Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters on the continent?"

"Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters are heaven-defying existences. Why would they appear so easily?" Uncle Xiu slowly raised his head to look at the ceiling of the restaurant. His vision seemed to be able to pass through the various obstructions and see the faraway stars. He said slowly, "It's already been countless years since a Class 8 Radiant Saint Master's appeared. According to my understanding from some ancient records, a Class 8 Radiant Saint Master has only appeared once in the ancient times, and only that one time. Afterwards, there were no more Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters, because they are just too heaven-defying."

"Heaven-defying? Uncle Xiu, perhaps Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters have some great ability?" Great curiosity bloomed in Jian Chen's heart. He was a Radiant Saint Master himself, so he was naturally extremely curious as to the abilities Radiant Saint Masters could possess.

"Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters indeed possess a heaven-defying ability. This ability is so great that it can even be terrifying; they can awaken the residue soul within Ruler Armaments and revive Saint Rulers from the Ruler Armament they left behind when they passed away."

Jian Chen's body jerked involuntarily. He stared at uncle Xiu in disbelief, and great waves of shock had begun surging in his heart.

"Un-... Uncle Xiu, is... is this true? Can they really use Ruler Armaments to revive their owners?" Jian Chen asked with a trembling voice.

"As for whether it's true or not, I do not know. It's only some ancient rumors that I read from some records, though this isn't any secret to the large clans on the Tian Yuan Continent. Basically every ancient clan knows about this, and even some hermit clans know about it too." Uncle Xiu said.

Jian Chen's heart beat began to speed up. Before, he had learnt this from Dugu Feng and Huang Luan during the Gathering of Mercenaries, but he only thought it was a fake rumor at that time. He did not take it seriously. However, now that he had personally heard the same information from uncle Xiu, he could not help but believe it.

Even though everything seemed false and caused Jian Chen to be flooded with disbelief, yearning also appeared in Jian Chen's heart, a yearning for becoming a Class 8 Radiant Saint Master.

"Class 8 Radiant Saint Masters are actually so heaven-defying. I wonder if I can reach such a level in my lifetime." Jian Chen thought to himself.

At that moment, uncle Xiu continued, "The research of the Radiant Saint Master Union has gone on for a very long time already. Almost every Class 7 Radiant Saint Master has devoted themselves to the research, but they've never succeeded and instead ruined many Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters. So, Jian Chen, after you reach Class 7, you must leave the union. You must not participate in the research, because very few Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters have survived from it.

"Uncle Xiu, aren't there any Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters who don't want to do it?" Jian Chen asked.

"You don't know how crazy Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters can be to reach Class 8. For that, they're willing to offer up their lives. Although there were a few people who were unwilling to participate in the research in the past, they lost their freedom after they entered the union. Even if they attempt to escape, they'll just be recaptured by the experts of the three clans." Xiu Houston said.

Jian Chen became stern. The information uncle Xiu had provided him with completely overthrew what he knew about the Radiant Saint Master Union.

Suddenly, Jian Chen thought of something. He asked, "Uncle Xiu, will anyone recognise the white tiger?"

Uncle Xiu looked at the sleeping white tiger on Jian Chen's shoulder, "On the Tian Yuan Continent, there are less than ten people who can recognise the Winged Tiger God, and the three great empires do not possess any of them, so Jian Chen, you don't have to worry about this. However, you must remember to never reveal the Winged Tiger God before a Class 7 Magical Beast. Class 7 Magical Beasts can feel the suppression from the bloodline of the beast god in the Winged Tiger God."

Hearing that, the burden in Jian Chen's heart seemed to collapse. He was completely at ease about it now.

"Jian Chen, I've told you what I need to tell you. I believe you will make smart decisions. Go!" With that, uncle Xiu disappeared without a sound. At the same time, the transparent barrier about the table disappeared.

With the barrier gone, Jian Chen immediately heard the noisy hubbub of the restaurant. However, the people there did not discover that an elderly man had disappeared in front of where Jian Chen was sitting. In fact, they did not even seem to pay any attention to them when they were sitting together, as if they were just empty space.

Jian Chen stood up slowly. What uncle Xiu had told him completely destroyed Jian Chen's original plan. Right now, he had to come up with a new plan of obtaining the chance to reach Class 7.

Jian Chen had already lost his appetite. Standing up from his chair, he turned around and left the restaurant. Riding his Class 4 Magical Beast mount, he departed from the place.

After Jian Chen left, a person walked past where Jian Chen and uncle Xiu were sitting in the restaurant. Seeing the table full of delicacies, the person could not help but reveal an expression of doubt. He thought hard, then his expression changed greatly. He cried aloud, "I remember, it's that old man. Where'd that old man go!? That bastard, he didn't pay!" The person immediately ran outside and looked around in the bustling street. He could not help but sigh at the sky as he mumbled, "God dammit, there goes my pay for this month."

Jian Chen found an inn in the first class city and replanned what he was going to do after today. Three days later, Jian Chen departed from the city, and flew towards one of the three capitals of the Holy Empire, the City of God. This was because the Radiant Saint Master Union was there.

Two days later, on a path leading into the City of God, a luxurious carriage rolled quickly over the path. It created a great cloud of dust and in around the carriage, there were around fifty mercenaries acting as escorts.

"Esteemed Radiant saint Master, we only have thirty more kilometers before we arrive at the one of the three capitals, the City of God." At this moment, the horse-driver suddenly poked his head into the carriage and informed.

The tightly-shut door of the carriage was suddenly opened, which revealed a youth who seemed to be in his twenties, wearing a long, white and luxurious robe. The youth had an extremely handsome expression, and his plain and expressionless gaze seemed to carry an unique charm, as if it was as profound as the vast starry sky.

The youth stared at the great city walls that could be vaguely seen in the distant and revealed a queer light in his eyes.

"Mrrrrrr." At this moment, the soft cry of a beast sounded in the carriage. It was a snow-white, cat-sized tiger cub that lay on the youth's head, and stood up to look at the far away walls. Great curiosity could be seen in its bright eyes.

Chapter 726: Radiant Saint Master Badges

The youth was Jian Chen. Uncle Xiu's arrival had completely changed Jian Chen's original plans. Right now, he had already forgone his identity as a fighter, and was ready to go to the City of God and join the Radiant Saint Master Union to become a core member under a different identity.

Fortunately, fighters who were also Radiant Saint Masters never appeared on the Tian Yuan Continent, which provided Jian Chen and additional layer of protection.

Jian Chen did not pay any attention to the small white tiger perched on his head. He also stared into the distance at the vague city wall with great curiosity and mumbled to himself, "So is that one of the seven capitals of the Tian Yuan Continent? It really is big. And from the great twisted city walls, I actually can feel a presence that originates from the ancient times. It's so vast that it even makes me feel pressured."

"Hehe, esteemed Radiant Saint Master, this must be the first time you've come to the City of God. Your understanding of the city is not as great as us, the natives. It's said that the seven capitals of the

continent originate from the ancient times, and were forcefully pulled from the ground by powerful Saint Emperors. Not only is the city extremely sturdy, it also has the protection of a powerful but mysterious force. Its defensive capabilities are beyond imagination. They say that on the current continent, there is no one who can break through the defence of the seven capitals. When the city-guarding barrier is activated, even Ninth Heavenly Layer Saint Kings can't enter it." A mercenary next to the horse-driver on a magical beast said. He was an average-looking, middle-aged man. He seemed to be an honest man, as well as the captain of the small mercenary group. Although he was only an Earth Saint Master, he was a native, born and raised in the Holy Empire, so he had a deep understanding of the City of God.

"Captain Hu Yun, are you saying that the seven capital cities of the continent were plucked from the ground by peerless experts in the ancient times?" Jian Chen's interest was piqued as he asked the middle-aged man. In the depths of his eyes, there was also a vague silver of disbelief.

Captain Hu Yun chuckled and said, "Yeah, this rumor is nothing secretive in our Holy Empire. Apparently, all the capitals of the Tian Yuan Continent were pulled from the ground, or in other words, grown from the ground, by several Saint Emperors when they used a great technique. Although it's been countless years since then, the seven capitals still contain a powerful energy. The reinforced walls are basically unbreakable."

Jian Chen sucked in a deep breath. He stared at the great, towering city wall as he approached it, and struggled to understand just how powerful the technique needed to be to pull the walls up from the ground.

In the next part the journey, no one said anything. Jian Chen sat in the luxurious carriage, and slowly travelled towards the City of God with the accompaniment of the mercenaries.

The city walls were over one hundred meters in height. They were snow-white and reflective like mirrors, with not a single crack in them. The entire city wall seemed to be carved from one rock, as if the world had created it. The snow-white walls actually reflected the sunlight, and created blurry beams of white light. It filled the place with a sense of sacredness.

It was bustling around the sixteen great gates of the city. Countless mercenaries and merchants travelled in both directions, while around the gates, there were many soldiers clad in pale, silver armor. They stared coldly at the people who constantly passed them. With every group that entered the city, they had to cough up a single, shiny gold coin as a fee. This was one of the methods of income for the three great clans of the Holy Empire.

When Jian Chen passed through the city gates, he could not help but become stern. This was because he could clearly feel the extremely pure and great energy hidden within the city walls. This was the first time Jian Chen recognized that he was actually so insignificant, like a skiff floating in the vast ocean. Also, a powerful pressure encapsulated Jian Chen's entire spirit, which made him feel like he was fighting an invisible foe. Even the thought of resisting failed to cross his mind.

"Is this the power of Saint Emperors? Looks like the rumors are indeed true. The seven capital cities of the continent really were pulled up from the ground by ancient Saint Emperors." Jian Chen thought to himself.

He entered the City of God without any obstructions, before continuing for another fifty kilometers. Only then did Jian Chen leave the carriage, but not before throwing a bag full of purple coins to captain Hu Yun. He left soon after.

Hu Yun looked at the bag full of glittering purple coins and was immediately astonished. He called out, "Esteemed Radiant Saint Master, it's not this much, you've given too much."

"Captain Hu Yun, your brothers are all tired from this journey. Just treat the remaining as a bonus to your brothers." Jian Chen's voice sounded up ahead. He continued on his way without looking back, quickly disappearing into the large, bustling street.

The streets of the City of God were extremely wide; they could fit several dozen carriages side-by-side. Jian Chen looked around as he walked through the streets, and looked upwards at the sky from time to time. Ever since he entered the City of God, he could clearly feel that the energy of the world was several more times abundant here than outside. Also, the more he approached the city centre, the richer the energy became. Other than that, the Radiant Saint Force in his surroundings was also several times more abundant than outside. If he wanted to use Radiant Saint Force, Jian Chen believed that he would only need a moment to reach his limit in gathering the energy. It could save him a lot of time for charging up.

Apart from that, there were also plenty of powerful people in the City of God. A large portion of the pedestrians and mercenaries on the streets were Earth Saint Masters, and even Heaven Saint Masters were relatively common. It was extremely rare to find Radiant Saint Masters outside, yet they seemed to be extremely common here, present everywhere.

Not only was the City of God, one of the seven capitals of the continent, a place where Radiant Saint Masters gathered, but powerful people were also concentrated here.

However, one aspect that piqued Jian Chen's interest was that he saw many Radiant Saint Masters on the street, but they, without any exceptions, all wore a badge of varying color; there was brown, orange, yellow, green and so on.

At this moment, the small tiger did not continue to sleep. It stood on Jian Chen's shoulder while it lay on Jian Chen's head. It had its head up, looking around with its pair of large, bright eyes, full of curiosity. Everything seemed to carry a freshness to it.

At this moment, a series of uniform gallops could be heard in the distance. Several dozen people on magical beasts travelled towards Jian Chen, and the people leading them were a male and a female who seemed to be in their twenties. The male wore azure robes and had a strong and sturdy stature. As for the female, she wore white robes and seemed rather charming. Her skin seemed soft like lamb fat, and she was rather pretty. She looked at the mercenaries and merchants on the two sides of the road with a slight disdain while she carried an expression that held a sliver of arrogance.

"Hmm?" When the girl inadvertently glanced towards Jian Chen, she immediately saw the small tiger on Jian Chen's shoulder, the pureness and brilliance of the tiger's gaze was immediately deeply ingrained in the girl's mind.

"What a cute little animal!" The girl inadvertently exclaimed aloud. She looked at the tiger in interest, she struggled to conceal the affection on her face.

The young man next to the girl also discovered the small tiger. He then turned to the girl and smiled, "Since, sister likes it, brother'll buy it for sister as a gift." With that, the young man steered his magical beast mount to block Jian Chen's path. He examined Jian Chen and after discovering he was not a member of a large clan in the City of God, he immediately relaxed and said, "This brother, my sister is interested in your animal. Speak your price, I'll buy it." Although the young man beared a smile, his tone was extremely cold. He spoke to Jian Chen as if he was commanding him.

Jian Chen furrowed his eyebrows. He did not even look at the young man and said coldly, "Not selling!" With that, he made his way around the young man.

The person's gaze grew cold. He turned around and stared at Jian Chen's slender figure and said, "Looks like this brother is also a Radiant Saint Master, so why aren't you wearing the Radiant Saint Master badge?"

"Badge?" Hearing the word, Jian Chen immediately began thinking. Images of the different colored badges worn by the Radiant Saint Masters he saw on the street flashed through his head.

"Looks like this badge is distributed by the union. It should be a symbol the status as a Radiant Saint Master." Jian Chen thought to himself.

The girl in white robes arrived in front of Jian Chen on her Class 4 Magical Beast with an arrogant expression. She sized up Jian Chen, but when she saw Jian Chen's appearance, she was slightly surprised. She said, "You look pretty handsome. With your stature and attire, you really do seem like a Radiant Saint Master. But you don't have the badge from the Radiant Saint Master Union, so you must've only awakened your ability as a Radiant Saint Master and haven't gone to the union for identification yet."

"Whatever, even if you're just Class 1, or not even Class 1, I just happen to find you pleasing to the eye. If you offer up that cub to me as a gift, I'll make an exception and accept you as a male follower. As long as you follow me, I can teach you Radiant Arts.

Jian Chen looked up and glanced at the girl who sat on the magical beast high up above. He saw that on the chest of the girl, there was actually a green badge.

Jian Chen did not know what the different colored badges represented, but he did know that green badges were rather rare. In the twenty-odd Radiant Saint Masters he had seen, only two or three people had green badges, while the rest all had brown, orange or yellow badges.

"Apologies, I can't sell this little beast, much less offer it up as a gift." Jian Chen declined without any hesitation. Afterwards, he continued on his way without even looking back.

"You really don't know how to appreciate things!" The girl's complexion immediately became overcast.

Chapter 727: Lin Bai

The young man's expression immediately changed. Instantly, his gaze became a glare and he said coldly, "Hmph, even a low class Radiant Saint Master dares to be so arrogant. You really don't know what's good for you. I want to see what abilities you have to stop me from taking this beast cub." The young man leapt up, quickly and directly flew from his magical beast mount at Jian Chen. Like a lightning flash, his hand shot out toward the white tiger on Jian Chen's head.

A sliver of cold light flashed across Jian Chen's eyes. The young man's actions had completely angered Jian Chen. However, Jian Chen did not react to him; he was now a Radiant Saint Master, so he definitely could not use his powers as a fighter in the public. Otherwise, his secret would just collapse on itself.

The white tiger stared closely at the young man who had grabbed at it with its bright eyes. A look of mockery and disdain appeared in those intelligent-looking eyes. Just when the young man had arrived before the tiger, it suddenly opened its small mouth and bit one of the young man's fingers.

The young man had never thought that the seemingly harmless beast cub would possess such great speed. So fast that even he was unable to react. As soon as his finger was bitten by the tiger cub, he immediately felt a strong sensation of pain. It caused the young man's expression to change greatly, before crying out painfully without any control.

"Argh!" The young man gave out a miserable cry of pain. He actually retreated with a greater speed than he had arrived, and retreated to a distance over ten meters away in the blink of an eye. He stared at the harmless-looking tiger cub on Jian Chen's head, still badly shaken.

The young man bled from his right hand. His finger was broken by the small tiger's bite, causing his face to twist from the agony.

The unbelievable scene attracted the attention of bystanders. They were all rather surprised and stared at the tiger cub. No one thought that such a harmless-looking tiger cub could actually bite and break a person's finger so quickly. Especially a Great Saint Master's finger, which made it even more unbelievable.

"Just... just what is this magical beast?" The young man forcefully suppressed the pain from his hand and cried out aloud as he stared at the tiger in shock. His calm mental state was no longer existent, because he actually failed to detect how the tiger cub had broken his finger with a bite. All he felt was an agonising pain as soon as he grabbed the cub.

"Who would've thought that this cute tiger cub has such a powerful attack. Quite unexpected." The girl with the green Radiant Saint Master badge on the magical beast stared at the white tiger with even more interest. Her desire for the tiger cub became even stronger.

The young man who had his finger broken stared at the white tiger with glimmering eyes before looking at Jian Chen. He said with a deep voice, "Sir, your tiger cub has broken my finger. Justice must be done for me, Lei Mingao. Leave your tiger cub behind, I'll take it to my Lei family. If so I can forgive you for being disrespectful towards our Lei family.

Jian Chen gently lifted the small tiger off of his head and gently rubbed its furry head as he carried it. He glared harshly at the young man, before he turned and left without saying another word. With Jian Chen's current identity, he just could not waste it all here and argue with the young man. If it were not for that fact that he could not use his strength as a fighter, he would have taught the arrogant young man a lesson long ago.

Seeing how he was ignored by a mere low class Radiant Saint Master, Lei Mingao was enraged. He stuck out his hand and pointed at Jian Chen, "Stop him! If justice is not done for me, Lei Mingao, today, none of you will dare leave. My finger cannot be broken for nothing!"

The dozen or so large men who rode behind Lei Mingao and the girl immediately steered their magical beasts and surrounded Jian Chen. Although Radiant Saint Masters possessed an extremely respectable status in the Holy Empire, the Lei family also possessed some strength in the City of God. A mere Radiant Saint Master who had not even been tested was viewed as nothing to the Lei family.

“Take him down. We’ll judge him in the Lei family later.” Lei Mingao commanded.

“Yes sir!” The dozen or so men replied simultaneously, before lunging at Jian Chen. However, just at this moment, a powerful voice resounded in the surroundings.

“How dare you! Your Lei family actually dares to disrespect a Radiant Saint Master. Perhaps your Lei family is challenging the dignity of the Radiant Saint Master Union!?”

The voice immediately stopped the several men from acting so rashly. Each of them stared towards the origin of the voice.

Even Lei Mingao’s expression changed greatly. There was dread in the depths of his eyes. The Radiant Saint Master Union was an extremely great force in the City of God, and even had connections with the three great clans that controlled the empire. They were an existence that could not be offended no matter what.

A middle-aged man in white, long robes caused the crowd to split into two. He walked in with his head high and chest proud and behind the middle-aged man, there were another two cold-looking middle-aged people. They gave off an icy-cold presence and possessed the strength of Earth Saint Masters.

Lei Mingao stared coldly at the middle-aged man. However, when he discovered the azure badge on the man’s chest, his pupils constricted greatly.

The girl on the magical beast also noticed the azure badge on the man’s chest. Her expression changed slightly and groaned softly. She mumbled to herself with a voice only she could hear, “Aren’t you just a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master? If you give me enough time, I can reach the same level as well.”

The Class 5 Radiant Saint Master looked around, before his gaze landed on the men who surrounded Jian Chen. He snorted and yelled loudly, “How dare you actually move against a Radiant Saint Master? Do you people want to taste the punishment from the union? Hurry up and move away for me!”

The Class 5 Radiant Saint Master’s loud voice immediately deterred the dozen or so large men from the Lei family. They immediately dispersed, and moved far away from Jian Chen without even making a sound.

Lei Mingao stood to one side, unwilling to say another word. The depths of his gaze at the Class 5 Radiant Saint Master was filled with dread. Although Radiant Saint Masters were very fragile, their status in the Holy Empire was even greater than his, the third young master of the Lei family.

Lei Mingao clenched his fist tightly and glared viciously at Jian Chen. He definitely would not let him off so easily for breaking his finger.

The Class 5 Radiant Saint Master arrived in front of Jian Chen under the protection of the two Earth Saint Master. He immediately switched to a smile and said, “Looking at your attire, you must also be a Radiant Saint Master. So why haven’t you gone and got yourself tested at the union?”

Jian Chen clasped his hands at the middle-aged man, "Thank you sir for helping me out. I was on my way to the union to be tested, but who would've thought something so troublesome happened."

The Class 5 Radiant Saint Master clearly seemed extremely friendly. Even though Jian Chen seemed to be a low class Radiant Saint Master in his eyes, he did not look down on him. He smiled, "I'm Lin Bai. If you don't mind, you can call me uncle Lin Bai. No matter what power you possess, as long as you are a Radiant Saint Master, you can enjoy good treatment wherever you are in the Holy Empire. You have the protection of the Radiant Saint Master Union in the City of God, so you don't have to fear bullies from clans. If they trouble you, you just need to report it to the union."

"Thank you for uncle Lin Bai's advice." Jian Chen clasped his hands.

:Brother, the union's not far away and I just happen to have some spare time. Why don't I accompany you to the union to get tested?" Lin Bai said with a smile.

Soon afterwards, Jian Chen left together with Lin Bai and the white tiger in his hands. All that was left was Lei Mingao, standing with an overcast expression as he watched Jian Chen disappear into the distance. Now that Jian Chen was with a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master, he would not dare to stop him even with all the courage in the world.

"Send two people to spy on that kiddo. Report back to me whenever." After ordering the group of guards behind him, he hurried away on his magical beast. His broken finger needed to be healed quickly, otherwise, it would become troublesome to heal after too much time. Fortunately, the injury this time was rather small and was not too difficult to heal.

Jian Chen and Lin Bai walked towards the closest branch of the Radiant Saint Master Union and they talked along the way. Lin Bai spoke unceasingly to Jian Chen, and told him about some rules in the City of God as well as some problems encountered by Radiant Saint Masters. It allowed Jian Chen to gain an even better understanding of the City of God.

The two walked around the road for an hour before finally arriving at a branch of the union. Even though it was just a branch, it was rather grand. It was just a mere branch of the union, yet the space it took up was in no aspect smaller than the Changyang Manor. At the main entrance of the union, there were even a few Earth Saint Masters who stood there like statues, guarding the place.

Chapter 728: Shock

Jian Chen stood outside the main gate, and observed the branch of the Radiant Saint Master Union. From Lin Bai, not only did he learn that the Radiant Saint Master Union could provide authentication tests for all Radiant Saint Masters, it also provided lodging and food for free to all Radiant Saint Masters. In other words, not exaggerated in the slightest part, the branches of the union were inns to Radiant Saint Masters. An extremely safe, special inn where no one could be harassed.

"Brother, you might still be rather unfamiliar here. Come with me, I'll take you to get your Radiant Saint Master class tested. The union attaches great importance to every single Radiant Saint Master; if some high class Radiant Saint Masters want to go out, the union would even send experts to protect them at all times." Lin Bai explained with a smile as he took Jian Chen into the branch office.

Lin Bai glanced at the two large, cold-looking men behind him and said rather complacently, "Brother, you see the two people by me? They are the experts sent by the union to protect me at all times. They're both Third Cycle Earth Saint Masters."

Hearing that, Jian Chen turned around and glanced at the two men as a sliver of amazement flashed across his eyes. He originally thought that the two people were sent from Lin Bai's clan to protect him. He had never thought that the two Earth Saint Masters were sent by the Radiant Saint Master Union, which surprised him quite a lot.

Looking at Jian Chen's expression, Lin Bai sniggered, "This is the treatment a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master receives. When you reach Class 5 in the future, you too can enjoy treatment like this."

As Lin Bai spoke, he lead Jian Chen to a counter. On the old wooden chair behind the counter sat a grey-haired elderly man in white, long robes. The old man's eyes were currently tightly closed and he was asleep. His snores were thunderous, and on the chest on the elderly man there was an azure badge. The same color as Lin Bai's.

"Jamie, stop sleeping, you have things to do now." Lin Bai used his right hand to knock the counter heavily a few times, which gave out a few muffled knocks.

Being awakened from his sweet dreams, the old man was enraged. Before he had even opened his eyes, he began to roar angrily, "Which ignorant brat dares to wake me, the esteemed Class 5 Radiant Saint Master Jamie, from his dreams!? Are you tired of staying in the City of God!?" As soon as he completed his angry roar, the old man's angry eyes immediately landed on Lin Bai. He was slightly surprised, which he then laughed awkwardly. Rubbing his head, he said, "Lin Bai boy, it's actually you. It's nothing, it's nothing. I've been awoken from sweet dreams but I can just have another one later."

Lin Bai clearly had already gotten used to the old man's behaviour. He extended a hand and pulled Jian Chen ahead, "Jamie, this person's a Radiant Saint Master, though he hasn't been tested. You're the vice-manager of this branch, so you test him."

Jamie glanced at Jian Chen, but he did not pay too much attention to him. He pulled out a piece of paper carelessly and began writing, "Lin Bai, this is the twenty-eighth you've brought. You really are kind-hearted and honest, always so kind and gentle from the bottom of your heart. Perhaps that's the reason why you've reached Class 5 with your current age."

Lin Bai smiled slightly, but he did not say anything.

"Kid, what's your name? How old are you? Where did you come from and when did you realise you had the power to use Radiant Saint Force?" Jamie asked without even raising his head.

Jian Chen naturally knew that he was asking him. He replied without any hesitation, "I'm Yang Yutian, twenty four years old this year. I come from a rural village and accidentally discovered that I could control Radiant Saint Force when I was young."

Jamie quickly recorded the information Jian Chen had provided him with before standing up, "Come with me, I'll get you tested for your ability as a Radiant Saint Master."

Afterwards, Jian Chen followed Jamie into a secret room at the back of the branch office. As for Lin Bai and his two bodyguards, they also came in.

The room was rather large and dark, but also empty. The only thing in there was a fist-sized white rock on a round table in the centre of the room. It seemed like a night pearl, and glowed with a faint light.

“Yang Yutian, use all you can to control your Radiant Saint Force and pour it all into that white rock.” Jamie said indifferently.

Jian Chen did not say anything in return. He slowly walked up to the white rock and after hesitating for a while, he slowly extended his right index finger. In just a second, a faint layer of white light appeared where Jian Chen’s finger was, before quickly growing in brightness. Quickly it became a white ball of soft light. With the appearance of the ball of light, the darkness of the surrounding room disappeared.

Jamie and Lin Bai’s pupils constricted suddenly as they observed that. Jamie’s originally uncaring old eyes immediately became to overflow with great vigor.

“This kid gathers Radiant Saint Force so quickly.” Jamie cried out. His expression became stern for the first time for the day.

Lin Bai also stared at Jian Chen in surprise. He too had never thought that a mere low class Radiant Saint Master like Jian Chen could actually gather Radiant Saint Force with such a speed. It had even exceeded his own speed, that of a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master.

At this moment, Jian Chen suddenly poked the white rock in front of him. The Radiant Saint Force on the tip of his finger was immediately poured into the rock, and instantly, the rock began to glow with a dazzling light. At the very start, the light was red, then orange, before turning into yellow.

“It’s yellow! Yang Yutian from a rural village is actually a Class 3 Radiant Saint Master! A twenty-four-year-old Radiant Saint Master; someone with talent like that definitely has a big future ahead of them. They’ll at least reach Class 5, or even Class 6!” Jamie stared in shock at the rock glowing with yellow light as he mumbled to himself. Shortly afterwards, the emotion of excitement emerged in his gaze.

Suddenly, the yellow light quickly changed. It had already turned into a dark green in the next moment, glowing from the white rock.

“Class 4, he’s actually Class 4!” Jamie could no longer retain his composure. He cried out from the bottom of his heart and looked at Jian Chen with a gaze of disbelief.

The way Lin Bai looked at Jian Chen also changed very greatly. At this moment, his heart was beating rapidly as he mumbled to himself, “Who would’ve thought that brother Yang Yutian is already Class 4 even though he’s twenty-four years old. It’s not any weaker compared to that treasured daughter from the Lei family. Talent this great should already place within the top ten of the Holy Empire.”

The pupils of the two Earth Saint Masters standing beside Lin Bai also constricted abruptly as they stared at Jian Chen in shock. It was quite rare in the Holy Empire for a twenty-four-year-old to reach Class 4. The two of them had seen many Radiant Saint Masters in their lives, yet those who had reached Class 4 were all people in their forties or fifties without any exception. There were even people who had spent seventy or eighty years to reach such a level.

“A Class 4 Radiant Saint Master. Hahaha, who would’ve thought that Yang Yutian is actually Class 4, and that in my tiny third-rate branch office, there would be a twenty-four-year-old Class 4 Radiant Saint Master.” Jamie was so excited that he could not control himself anymore, giving out a crazy laugh.

At this moment, a quiet crack sounded in the room. A tiny crack had appeared on the white rock which was used to test Radiant Saint Force, before quickly spreading all over the rock with an unbelievable speed. The originally-undamaged rock was now covered with spider-web cracks. Afterwards, there was a boom, and the entire piece of rock suddenly exploded, scattering shrapnel all over the ground.

Jamie's laughter came to a screeching stop. He suddenly became stupefied, staring blankly at the floor of broken rock. Disbelief flooded his eyes.

Lin Bai also stood there blankly. His mouth was wide open while his eyes had become the size of bells. He said trembling, "Class... Class... Class 5."

"Im-... im-... impossible, Yang Yutian is only twenty four. How can he reach Class 5? A twenty-four-year-old Class 5 Radiant Saint Master. Geez, that hasn't appeared for thousands of years." Jamie mumbled to himself at a loss. He was unable to believe what was occurring before his eyes.

Lin Bai's breathing became labored. He abruptly swung his head to look at Jamie and said hurriedly, "Jamie, what are you staring for? Hurry up and take Yang Yutian to the main office to get him tested as a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master. This would be a great service to you, a vice-manager of a third-rate branch."

Jamie jerked suddenly. He immediately returned to his senses and said extremely hurriedly, "Yeah yeah yeah, Yang Yutian, quickly come with me to get tested for Class 5 at the main office." At that moment, Jamie, a feeble Radiant Saint Master, actually possessed the speed of a fighter. He shot in front of Jian Chen like an arrow, before pulling Jian Chen by the arm towards outside.

Afterwards, Lin Bai followed closely behind Jamie with his two bodyguards.

In the City of God, a luxurious carriage bearing the symbol of the Radiant Saint Master Union currently galloped down the streets hurriedly, while beside the carriage, there were a dozen or so muscly men escorting it on Class 4 Magical Beasts. Even more so, there were a few large men ahead, hurrying their mounts to open up a path, constantly calling out at the pedestrians. It piqued the interests of many people, which caused them to discuss about it on the sides.

Within the City of God, one of the seven capitals of the continent, only the clan in control of the City of God and the Radiant Saint Master Union dared to rampage down the streets without any worry.

Within the carriage, Jian Chen sat comfortably on a soft seat, while he held the snow-white tiger in his hands. As for Lin Bai and Jamie, they sat excitedly on Jian Chen's two sides, all filled with anticipation. When they looked at Jian Chen, their gazes were extremely complicated. A twenty-four-year-old Class 5 Radiant Saint Master was a rare genius even over several millenia.

Chapter 729: Blue Badge (One)

Just as Jian Chen took the carriage with Jamie towards the main office of the Radiant Saint Master Union, a white-robed old man who seemed to be in his seventies in a luxurious courtyard slowly allowed the dense Radiant Saint Force around his hands to dissipate. On the old man's chest was an exquisite blue badge.

The blue badge represented a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master and was distributed by the main office of the union. Only Class 6 Radiant Saint Masters had the right to wear it, so the old man clearly was a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master.

Before the old man sat Lei Mingao, the person who had fallen out with Jian Chen before having his finger broken by the small white tiger. He was currently moving his right index finger, which had just been healed.

“Mingao, fortunately you rushed back to the clan in time. Otherwise, the wound would begin to coagulate if too much time passed. Then, even I won’t have the power to fix it. Only the elders of the union would possess that power.” The Class 6 Radiant Saint Master said to him with no expression.

Lei Mingao stood up from the seat. He bowed courteously to the old man and said, “Thank you, third grandfather, for healing Mingao’s finger. Mingao will never forget third grandfather’s deed.”

The Class 6 Radiant Saint Master sighed, “Mingao, although our Lei family has some status in the City of God, we aren’t all-powerful. There are plenty of clans greater than our Lei family in the city. You shouldn’t cause so much trouble.”

“Mingao will take third grandfather’s wisdom to the heart.” Before the old man, Lei Mingao did not dare to be brash. His third grandfather was the only Class 6 Radiant Saint Master of the family after all, as well as a core member of the Radiant Saint Master Union. He possessed an extremely great status.

The Radiant Saint Master nodded before leaving the room wearily. As soon as he left, the expression of respect on Lei Mingao’s face disappeared. He became overcast as he grinded his teeth, “Even a mere low class Radiant Saint Master dares to be so brash before me, and he even broke a finger of mine. If I don’t take revenge, do I still have any dignity to face the Lei family anymore?”

“Brother, your sister likes the tiger cub that the low class Radiant Saint Master owns very much. You have to bring it back for your sister.” As soon as Lei Mingao finished speaking, a female’s voice echoed from outside. A lady with a green Radiant Saint Master badge walked in. She carried an expression of great arrogance.

Seeing the lady, Lei Mingao immediately began to smile, “Sister, don’t worry. Your brother will definitely bring back that tiger cub. Brother’ll give it to you as a gift.” Towards his younger cousin, Lei Mingao did not dare to be impolite. His cousin’s status in the family was extremely special, and was much greater than his status as the third young master.

This was because his cousin was extremely talented, reaching Class 4 as a Radiant Saint Master when she was twenty-three years old. She became one of the most outstanding ten geniuses of the City of God and bore the high hopes of the elders of the family. She was even praised by an elder of the Radiant Saint Master Union that she would definitely reach Class 6 in another twenty years, and might even possess the potential to reach Class 7.

As a result, even though his younger cousin was not a member of the direct line of descent, She possessed a status that completely superseded him, the third young master. This was due to the fact that all Class 7 Radiant Saint Masters would take up the position of an elder of the union, which was an extremely great status. Even in the entire union, there were only around twenty elders who had reached Class 7.

At this moment, a guard that Lei Mingao had sent to stalk Jian Chen hurried in. He knelt on one knee and said, 'Reporting to the young master, the low class Radiant Saint Master is currently leaving in a carriage along with the vice-manager of a third-rate branch. Looking at their direction, they seem to be hurrying towards the main office of the union.'

Hearing that, Lei Mingao furrowed his eyebrows. After a period of thought, he mumbled to himself, "What's he going to the head office of the union for?"

At this moment, the green-badged lady pondered slightly and said to herself, "That low class Radiant Saint Master seemed to want to go and get tested. The third-rate branch on Sun Street can only test up to Class 4. Once it exceeds Class 4, they need to go to the main office to be tested. Perhaps that untested Radiant Saint Master is already Class 5?"

As soon as he heard Class 5, Lei Mingao's expression changed. He said dramatically, "Impossible, that's definitely impossible. He looks even younger than me. How can he be a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master?"

The lady thought for a while with furrowed eyebrows. Afterwards, she looked coldly towards the guard and said, "Quickly prepare a carriage, I need to go to the head office."

"Yes, young lady Lei Yin!" The guard replied courteously before rushing off.

The female who was referred to as young lady Lei Yin did not hesitate either, leaving immediately.

Lei Mingao hesitated slightly as he watched Lei Yin slowly disappear into the distance. With gritted teeth, he immediately began to chase after her, "Sister, wait for brother. I'll come with you."

The City of God was extremely large. The luxurious carriage rolled down the wide streets quickly, finally arriving at the centre of the city after a whole day and night of travel. It finally came to a stop in front of a grand castle.

The castle was the main office of the Radiant Saint Master Union. The castle was extremely big, at least a hundred meters in height. The entire castle radiated with a layer of soft white light, carrying with it a holy feeling, and even more so, the pure beauty of sacredness. However, the most eye-catching part was the very top of the castle. There was a ball of light around ten meters in diameter, completely condensed out a Radiant Saint Master. It did not disperse and seemed to be everlasting.

As soon as Jian Chen exited the carriage, he was stunned by the scene in front of him. His gaze immediately landed on the ball of dense Radiant Saint Force and he was unable to look away. He could feel that the ball of light contained vast Radiant Saint Force, and that the force was so powerful, it was enough to stupefy Jian Chen for a while.

At this moment, Jamie and Lin Bai exited the carriage rather wearily together. Their gazes also landed on the ball of light at the top of the castle.

"That's the symbol of the Radiant Saint Master Union. In the very centre of that ball of dense Radiant Saint Force is the only saint artifact that allows Radiant Saint Masters to reach Class 7. It's activated every fifty years, and every time it's activated, only ten people can enter and obtain the opportunity to reach Class 7. There is only one year, five months and eighteen days till the next activation." Jamie explained to Jian Chen on one side. This was not a secret in the Holy Empire. Almost all Radiant Saint Masters knew about it.

Jian Chen stared deeply into the powerful ball of Radiant Saint Force on the top of the castle. Although it contained the saint artifact that allowed people to reach Class 7, he was unable to see it at all. The dense Radiant Saint Force was just too powerful, and there was also an extremely powerful seal outside protecting it. Even his presence could not get through it.

“Who would’ve thought that the union would actually place something so valuable there. Looks like they’ve made plenty of preparations for the safety of the artifact and that they don’t fear anyone taking it away.” Jian Chen thought. He forcefully suppressed the unrealistic thoughts that had blossomed in his mind, before following Jamie and Lin Bai into the castle.

Jamie brought Jian Chen into the huge castle. Within the castle, there were many Radiant Saint Masters in white robes with varying badge colors, gathered together in small groups and conversing.

Jian Chen followed Jamie to a counter. Behind the counter sat an old man who also wore an azure badge.

“Jamie you old debauchee, what’re you coming to the union headquarters for and not staying in your branch? Perhaps you’ve got a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master to test?”

“Gaethyr, you’ve actually guessed correctly. I’ve indeed come this time to have someone tested for Class 5.” Jamie chuckled.

Gaethyr focused his gaze and looked attentively at Lin Bai. He thought in surprise, “Perhaps this youngster’s already reached Class 6? He doesn’t even seem to be fifty years old. This is just unbelievable for him to reach Class 6 with such a young age. He actually cultivates several times faster than fighters.”

Although he was secretly shocked, Gaethyr did not hesitate. He waved his hand and said, “Let’s go, I’ll take you to get tested.”

Not long after, Jian Chen and the others followed Gaethyr into a secret room. Gaethyr pulled out a thumb-sized bead from a decorated box in the room, before arriving before Lin Bai sternly. He said, “Since you’ve passed the Class 5 test already, you should already know the rules. I guess I don’t need to say anymore.”

Chapter 730: Blue Badge (Two)

Gaethyr did not hand the item for testing Radiant Saint Masters to Jian Chen. Instead, he gave it to the Class 5 Radiant Saint Master Lin Bai who had the azure badge.

To him, there was no doubt that Lin Bai was the person who needed to be tested; he knew just how great Lin Bai’s talent was. As for his friend of several decades, he did not even think about Jamie. He knew Jamie very well. Although Jamie possessed decent talent, he had only become a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master two years ago. It was definitely impossible for him to have a breakthrough again and reach Class 6 so soon.

As for Jian Chen, he was always ignored by Gaethyr. Jian Chen was just too young, and Gaethyr had even believed Jian Chen was perhaps Lin Bai’s disciple.

Gaethyr's actions caused both Lin Bai and Jamie to stare blankly. A sliver of astoundment had even appeared on Jian Chen's face, but shortly afterwards, they all revealed a bitter smile. They all understood that Gaethyr misunderstood who needed to be tested.

The scene had even caused the two cold Earth Saint Masters behind Lin Bai to reveal a rarely seen smile of interest.

When Gaethyr saw the people's weird expressions, Gaethyr was immediately flooded by a sense of doubt. He stared at Lin Bai in astonishment and asked, "Isn't the person who needs to be tested you?"

Lin Bai shook his head with a bitter smile, "I'm only forty-five this year and I only reached Class 5 half a year ago. How is it possible for me to make another breakthrough in just half a year? Sir, you overestimate me."

Hearing that, Gaethyr became embarrassed. There were many people in the union responsible for testing, and Gaethyr was one of them. Lin Bai's testing for Class 5 was indeed held at the headquarters, but the person who tested him was not Gaethyr. As a result, Gaethyr did not know about the finer details.

Gaethyr then looked towards his good friend of many years, bearing an expression of slight admiration. Even though he struggled to believe it, he had to accept the fact that his good friend was now a step ahead of himself.

"Congratulations Jamie. Who would've thought that you'd make another breakthrough in just two years. Now that you're a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master, you have the right to become a core member of the union and learn Radiant Artes. Though, I still don't possess the right to hold tests for Class 6 Radiant Saint Masters. The tests for Class 6 must be held by elders. Just wait here, I'll immediately go and contact an elder." A jade trinket had already appeared in Gaethyr hand. He contacted the elders using a special method.

Jamie immediately extended his hand to stop Gaethyr. He looked at him, unsure of how to react, "Gaethyr, you really are befuddled. You haven't even asked us who is taking the test and just personally decided that it was Lin Bai or me who had reached Class 6."

Jamie took a slight step backwards. He pulled Jian Chen in front of him, into Gaethyr's astounded gaze. He said proudly, "This is brother Yang Yutian. His talent is extremely great and already possesses quite a great achievement despite being only twenty-four years old. When he came to my branch to be tested, his dense Radiant Saint Force actually destroyed the testing rock. Although he's quite young, he's already a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master. This was why I came to the union from far away, to have Yang Yutian tested for Class 5. Gaethyr, do you finally understand, you befuddled old man? This time, the person to be tested is not me or Lin Bai, but him."

"What! The person to be tested is him? He's already reached Class 5?" Gaethyr was greatly stunned as he looked at Jian Chen in disbelief. Although twenty-four-year-old Class 5 Radiant Saint Masters had appeared on the continent before, they were extremely rare. It had already been several millennia since such a young, high class Radiant Saint Master had appeared.

Jamie chuckled complacently and said, "Of course Gaethyr. Do you think that a Class 4 Radiant Saint Master can destroy my testing rock? Whatever, let's cut to the chase and quickly get brother Yang Yutian tested. I can't wait any moment longer."

Gaethyr's gaze towards Jian Chen was already completely different. He sucked in a deep breath, slowly calming himself. Afterwards, he passed the thumb-sized bead to Jian Chen, "The test for Class 5 can start now. Yang Yutian, please pour as much Radiant Saint Force as you can into the bead. As long as you get the bead to glow with azure light, you are a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master. Though, I must warn you that the bead had a great repelling force towards Radiant Saint Force. Pouring Radiant Saint Force into it is extremely tiring, so you must give it your all."

Jian Chen nodded as he took the bead from Gaethyr. With a thought, he immediately began to condense the surrounding Radiant Saint Force, before shortly pouring it into the bead.

However, just when Jian Chen's Radiant Saint Force approached the bead, it was met with resistance, preventing the Radiant Saint Force from entering the bead.

Gaethyr, Lin Bai and Jamie all stared fixedly at Jian Chen. Whether Jian Chen was a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master all depended on this step.

A sneer of disdain formed on Jian Chen's lips. With a soft snort, his thought of controlling the Radiant Saint Force abruptly increased by quite a lot. The Radiant Saint Force in the surroundings immediately began to quickly gather around Jian Chen, before being forcefully channelled into the bead by Jian Chen.

The ordinary-looking bead immediately began to glow with red light. Shortly afterwards, it began to change, going from the original red to orange, then to yellow, before finally turning to green.

Gaethyr's heartbeat began to quicken as he stared at the bead that was flashing green, his hands already tightly clenched. Lin Bai and Jamie were the same as him.

Although Jian Chen demonstrated power beyond Class 4 by destroying the testing rock, it did not mean that Jian Chen was a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master and only meant he possessed the power of a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master. Whether he really was Class 5 or not would still depend on the test.

In the past, there were many people who took the Class 5 test who could make the testing rock explode, but were unable to pour Radiant Saint Force into the bead, or were unable to make the bead glow azure. As a result, they remained Class 4 Radiant Saint Masters.

To Lin Bai and Jamie, although Jian Chen possessed the power of a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master, he was still not truly Class 5. As a result, as Jian Chen took the test, the two of them observed very attentively, along with some anticipation.

At this moment, the green light from the bead jerked. Shortly afterwards, azure light immediately began to spill from the bead, completely replacing the green light.

"Class 5! Brother Yang Yutian is actually a real Class 5 Radiant Saint Master." Jamie danced about excitedly. It was he who had discovered the genius, as well as he who had escorted the genius to the headquarters to be tested. This was a great meritorious service.

“Congratulations, brother Yang Yutian. You’ve become a Class 5 Radiant Saint Master, an existence respected by tens of thousands.” Lin Bai also revealed a smile from the bottom of his heart and he hurried to clasp his hands at Jian Chen in congratulation.

Gaethyr wiped the cold sweat on his forehead. He looked at Jian Chen in admiration and envy, “Yang Yutian, congratulations on become the most outstanding Class 5 Radiant Saint Master of the continent in thousands of years. I hope you can keep up the good work and quickly reach Class 6 and become a core member of the union, as well as learn Radiant Artes...” Before Gaethyr had even finished, he came to a screeching halt. His eyes suddenly began to bulge and he stared at the bead in Jian Chen’s hand in disbelief.

He only saw the azure light of the bead quickly deepen at a rate visible with the naked eye. It turned more and more blue and in a few breaths, the azure light was completely replaced with navy light.

“Bl... blu... blue... this... this... how is this possible, no... no... impossible... this is definitely impossible. It’s impossible.” Gaethyr’s eyes became the size of bells. He started at the navy-blue bead tongue-tied. He was completely overwhelmed with disbelief.

“Blue light, this... how can this happen. This is the blue light that symbolises a Class 6 Radiant Saint Master.” Lin Bai was absolutely astounded, no longer able to maintain his calm with the storm brewing in his heart.

Jamie was also stunned by what he had just seen. He forcefully rubbed his eyes and said with a mouthful, “Impossible, why would it shine with blue light? I must be seeing wrong. Yes yes, I must be seeing wrong.” However, no matter how forcefully Jamie rubbed his eyes, the light remained a deep navy-blue, not the azure he had believed.

“Class 6 Radiant Saint Master! Yang Yutian is actually a Class 6 Radiant Master! A twenty-six-year-old Radiant Saint Master! Heavens!” Gaethyr became a little lost. The shock in his heart had already reached a level that could not be recovered from easily. He believed that at this very moment, he had just witnessed a miracle, an unprecedented miracle.

It was not that twenty-four-year-old Class 5 Radiant Saint Masters never appeared on the Tian Yuan Continent, they only appeared every several millennia. As for a twenty-four-year-old Class 6 Radiant Saint Master, that was a miraculous existence Gaethyr had never even heard of. Even in all of history, a twenty-four-year-old Class 6 Radiant Saint Master had never appeared.

“Oh my heavens, a twenty-four-year-old Class 6 Radiant Saint Master’s actually appeared. This is just unbelievable. Let me contact the elders immediately.” Gaethyr immediately shot off with a speed even he did not know he could travel at, disappearing in the blink of an eye.