

## Chaotic 81

### Chapter 81: Zim Zam Zoopity Woo

After storing away the merchandise, the mercenaries went off to enjoy their free time, and the merchants went to reorganize their military strength. After spending many days and nights constantly rushing without stop, everyone was tired. So the moment they were disbanded, they immediately headed towards the nearest inn and started to sleep. Those who were injured headed off to a place to heal their injuries.

Jian Chen tied his horse to the stable area and looked around, only to see a single person wearing regular clothes standing around. After another sweeping glance, he quickly walked towards that person.

Arriving behind the person, Jian Chen whispered, "Mu Yun, your battle skill is already known to many mercenaries. Take advantage of this opportunity, and quickly leave. Otherwise, I fear that they might try to do something to you."

Hearing Jian Chen, Mu Yun turned his head around and smiled at him, "Don't worry. If they want to take my battle skill, they'll find out that it won't be that easy to do."

Jian Chen frowned as he looked at Mu Yun carefully, "If it's like that, then I won't speak of it anymore." He paused in thought before asking again, "But now that we've reached the Blue Wind Kingdom, it is nearly time for me to separate from the mercenary group. From this road on, we will no longer be walking the same one. Brother Mu Yun, please take care of yourself." He cupped his hands together respectfully. Although Mu Yun and him had only just met, they were on good terms with each other. Plus, Mu Yun had revealed his secret battle skill for the sake of rescuing Jian Chen, so in his heart, Mu Yun was a decent guy. However, this wasn't enough for Jian Chen to consider him a good friend.

"You take care of yourself as well!" Mu Yun cupped his hands together in response.

"Are the two friends here preparing to leave already? Everyone is exhausted, and so we've prepared a top rated restaurant for everyone to enjoy. It'd be better to come eat and drink with everyone first." At that moment, a deep voice spoke out towards the other two. Mu Yun and Jian Chen turned around to see an older man who had a smile adorned on his face.

Seeing the man, Jian Chen was a little stunned, but he quickly regained his composure. Cupping his hands in respect once more, he said, "This one greets Captain Lang Tian!" Over the past few days, Jian Chen had become familiar with the three mercenary groups. The strong man wearing the black robes was Captain Lang Tian, an expert who had reached the Great Saint Master level.

Seeing Captain Lang Tian, Mu Yun also cupped his hands in respect. Even with a laugh, this was still considered a respectful greeting.

"My two friends, I don't know what to call you two, but when the Boundless Bandits attacked us, we honestly suffered greatly. It was thanks to you two that our casualties did not get any worse." Lang Tian smiled with a face full of benevolence.

"This one is named Jian Chen. Captain Lang Tian is too generous. During the ambush with the Boundless Bandits, the one who had contributed the most was Captain Lang Tian, who had killed many of the expert bandits."

“Your humble servant here is called Mu Yun. What brother Jian Chen said was correct. The reason why we could successfully push back the Boundless Bandits was Captain Lang Tian. If not for the captain, then I’m afraid all of our lives would have been forfeit.” Mu Yun laughed.

Hearing Jian Chen and Mu Yun, Lang Tian’s eyes flashed with a brief moment of shame before he quickly concealed it. “My friends Jian Chen and Mu Yun are too polite. Whatever the end result of the ambush was, I still have to thank you as the captain of my mercenary group. For the past few days, everyone had been so worried about the Boundless Bandits overtaking us, so we’ve been spending day and night traveling as much as possible and sacrificing sleep. We’ve really placed a burden on the two of you. I’ve already prepared a great feast; it would be great if we were to all eat together with joyous smiles. Afterwards, we can all rest well for a few days and heal from our wounds.”

“Alright then, after eating rations for the past few days I’ve almost forgotten what meat tastes like. I was just about to prepare myself to gorge on a great meal, but since Captain Lang Tian has already prepared a feast, I can save my meal money.” Mu Yun readily agreed. Facing Jian Chen, he said, “Brother Jian Chen, it’d be for the best if we both went. After eating rations for the past few days, you must be sick of it.”

Jian Chen shook his head gently, “I appreciate Lang Tian’s kindness towards this one, but I have some important matters to attend to. I will have to leave immediately and won’t be able to accompany everyone. If I have offended Captain Lang Tian, I beg for forgiveness.”

Lang Tian looked regretful at that, but he didn’t continue to try and persuade Jian Chen into staying. Cupping his hands together, he said, “If brother Jian Chen has some important matters to attend to, then this one won’t hold brother up any longer from his business.”

After Jian Chen bid farewell to Lang Tian, he immediately left the area, now that he had separated from the mercenary group, he no longer had any responsibilities. If he wanted to leave, he could leave without notifying anyone.

After Jian Chen had left, the black robed Lang Tian and a few other mercenaries were quietly discussing something within the room of a restaurant.

“Caleb, you’re sure this mercenary named Mu Yun has a battle skill?” Said a white robed elderly man right next to Lang Tian. He had a head of long black hair that trailed behind his head. His face was bronze in color and had many fierce looking wounds on it. Since there was still blood on some of his wounds, one could tell which wounds were new and which were old.

“Yes, Captain Bai Fei Yun. When the mercenary called Mu Yun used his battle skill, many people around had seen it, so this information is definitely not false.” Caleb replied.

“That’s correct, Captain Bai Fei Yun, Captain Lang Tian. Everyone that survived the ambush can testify this. What Mu Yun used was definitely a battle skill, and it was actually a highly advanced one as well.” Another mercenary said.

Originally this was an important manner that the mercenaries should have reported earlier. Unfortunately when they were ambushed by the Boundless Bandits, the battle skill was the last thing on their minds, since their lives were more important. Even if they were to learn the battle skill, if they weren’t alive to enjoy it, it would be completely pointless in the end.

Moreover, the current situation was different. Since they had entered Blue Wind Kingdom, they were temporarily safe. Now, they could mention the battle skill that Mu Yun had.

Although the mercenaries were all in the same group, life on Tian Yuan Continent was extremely cruel. Even these mercenaries would try to forcibly take an item they were jealous of, just like the Boundless Bandits had. Such circumstances happened all the time in Tian Yuan Continent

Hearing these two mercenaries talk, all the other mercenaries in the room frowned.

The white robed man looked at Lang Tian and said, "Captain Lang Tian, what do you think about this situation?"

Lang Tian knit his brows together in contemplation before slowly opening his mouth, "I am sure Mu Yun knows that his battle skill has been leaked to all of the mercenaries. But what I don't understand is that with his Great Saint strength, why did he not run away at the first chance he had when he knew that his battle skill was leaked? Could it be that he believes we won't make a move against him?"

"Taking a step back, even if he trusts us, could it be that he isn't worried about us trying to force the battle skill out from him? This would bring him an endless amount of trouble, possibly to the point of losing his life." Lang Tian analyzed. Although he looked to be a straightforward person, he certainly wasn't a stupid person.

"So that means either the mercenary called Mu Yun is just some mindless idiot, or he is relying on some type of support that makes him so fearless." The white robed middle aged man muttered to himself.

Hearing this response, Captain Lang Tian asked, "I was previously in contact with Mu Yun. In my opinion, Mu Yun isn't a mindless idiot. He's a veteran mercenary that has experience. How could someone like that commit such a fatal mistake?"

"Does anyone know where that Mu Yun came from?" The white robed middle aged man continued.

"That Mu Yun joined us midway, and is of the same occupation as us. I don't know the exact details though; after all, almost all solo mercenary planning on a long journey will join a caravan, and guarantee that the trip will go smoothly. We can't really question people like that." A middle aged man responded. He wore a long, cyan robe, and his face was slightly pale. If Jian Chen were here, he'd immediately recognize that this man was the one who had agreed to let him join the caravan back in Gesun Kingdom.

The mercenaries in the room all grew silent. After a while, one of the mercenaries finally couldn't hold back anymore, and said, "Captain, are we doing it or not? If we succeed in obtaining this battle skill, then we'd gain quite a bit of wealth. Even if we don't use it ourselves, we can sell it. Considering how precious battle skills are in Tian Yuan Continent, we can definitely get a sky-high price for it. After all, this battle skill is of a pretty high quality."

"Captain, why don't we put our all into this fight?" Another mercenary said, an eager light constantly pulsing within his gaze.

Captain Lang Tian frowned, however he didn't immediately reply either. Instead, he turned around to look at the white robed man next to him, and asked, "Captain Bai Fei Yun, what do you think about this situation?"

The white robed middle aged man called Bai Fei Yun knit his brows. A light flashed in his eyes, and it seemed as if he was hesitant to reply.

After contemplating for a while, Captain Bai Fei Yun finally said slowly, "Captain Lang Tian, I'm sure that you still remember the battle we had against the experts from the Boundless Bandits a few days ago, and how at the end, a mysterious expert secretly aided us, right?" He said in a serious tone.

Hearing Captain Bai Fei Yun's words, the expressions of a few of the mercenaries that hadn't known the situation clearly changed. Aside from the five that had returned, nobody else knew about what had happened earlier. Originally, these mercenaries had naturally assumed that the experts from the Boundless Bandits had been killed by their own elite captains. However, it seemed that the circumstances were completely different.

Captain Lang Tian was slightly moved by this, and said in a voice heavy with emotions, "Of course I remember. If that mysterious expert hadn't helped from the darkness, I'm afraid that we wouldn't have survived the ordeal."

#### Chapter 82: Accident at the Restaurant

Hearing what Lang Tian said, the mercenaries in the room all looked each other in the eyes with stunned expressions. None of them could believe what they had just heard.

Lang Tian continued to say, "Captain Bai Fei Yun, I am guessing that you suspect the mysterious stranger and Mu Yun are working together."

Bei Fei Yun nodded, "If it were not for the fact that Mu Yun had leaked his battle skill at the same time the mysterious stranger showed up, I would not have linked them together."

"There's logic in your words." Lang Tian said. "If Mu Yun is really working with the mysterious stranger, then we definitely cannot make a move on him. Otherwise, we would be in grave danger if we were to run into the mysterious stranger."

"That mysterious stranger would definitely be able to wipe us out with ease." Bai Fei Yun said.

"Send the order that Mu Yun is not to be touched, and that everyone must pretend that they saw nothing."

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After he bid farewell to Mu Yun, Jian Chen took a stroll in Black Wind City. While it wasn't a big city, it was close to the border fort. So for that reason, all four directions of the city were filled with the bustling traders and travellers, as well as caravans with mercenaries.

After arriving not too far away from the Mercenary Union, Jian Chen walked into a nearby restaurant since it had been a long time since he had last eaten meat. He had been rushing for so many days that the taste was almost forgotten to him.

After eating and drinking to his heart's content, Jian Chen was led to his room by a waiter.

Sitting on the bed, Jian Chen took out some Class 1 Monster Cores in order to cultivate. Right now, Jian Chen didn't want to waste any time and cultivate slowly. He wanted to use every single monster core to

help him cultivate to help him grow so strong, that even the Hua Yun Sect would be afraid of him. Then he would be able to return to his family with pride. Although he could secretly sneak back without the Hua Yun Sect noticing, Jian Chen was too prideful for that, so he wouldn't do such a thing.

The energy within the monster cores was rapidly being drained away at a frightening speed and being absorbed into every single pore of his body. However Jian Chen could only absorb the 1% of the massive amount of energy, while the other 99% was absorbed into his dantian. The two glows inside his dantian were like bottomless pits that absorbed all of the energy without a single change.

When it came to his dantian, Jian Chen couldn't do much since it wasn't under his control. Although the two glows within his dantian were taking up all of the energy, what made Jian Chen happy was that his absorption speed was much faster than before. Even his cultivation rate was slightly faster, which comforted Jian Chen just a bit.

During the next morning, the rays of the sun shined down onto the ground as Jian Chen woke from his cultivational slumber. The Class 1 Monster Core he was holding in his hand was completely devoid of energy. He couldn't help but to laugh bitterly, "This consumption rate is too much; I've used up 50 Class 1 Monster Core in a single night. Even if I still have a few monster cores left within the Space Ring, I'll be all out in 10 days at this rate."

Jian Chen got off of his bed, and moved his feet about. Afterwards, he walked up to the window and looked out at the constant stream of people walking about the main street. He murmured to himself, "Cultivation definitely cannot be stopped. But if I don't have any monster cores and just rely on absorbing the World Essence, the cultivation speed will only be 10% of the normal speed, and undesirable result. It looks like I'll have to think of a way to replenish my monster cores."

Jian Chen walked out of the room, and went to the restaurant's lower floor to look for an empty table to sit at.

"Customer, what would you like to order?" A cordial waiter welcomed Jian Chen with a smile as Jian Chen sat down in his seat.

"A plate of stir fried flower tiger meat, as well as any two side dishes. I also want a bowl of white rice." Jian Chen casually ordered a few dishes.

"Alright. customer, please wait for a bit."

Sitting at the table in boredom, Jian Chen casually looked around the restaurant. It wasn't that large, and within Black Wind City, it could only be qualified as middle sized. However, it was currently breakfast time, and quite a few merchants and mercenaries had gathered within the restaurant to eat. The majority of the 30-40 tables had been filled; only 5 remained open.

The restaurant was extremely noisy, as quite a few mercenaries were speaking loudly to each other, without any consideration for those around them.

"Customer, your food has arrived." Without giving much time for Jian Chen to wait, the waiter quickly brought over the dishes that Jian Chen had ordered, and carefully placed them on his table.

While Jian Chen ate breakfast, he also listened in on the the idle gossip from the surrounding mercenaries. Although the restaurant was extremely chaotic, the mercenaries gathered here had all

traveled extensively, and quite a bit of interesting and up-to-date matters could be learned from their words.

At this moment, a few mercenaries walked into the restaurant. There was a total of five men; three of them looked like 20-30 year old youths, while the other two looked like 40 year old middle aged men. They wore the same cyan colored robes, and identical silver colored emblems in front of their chests. All of them were from the same mercenary group, and judging by their emblems, the group wasn't of a low level either.

Five people entered the restaurant together. They all looked around for seats, however it was currently the peak hours, and all of the restaurants tables were already filled. There were no available spaces left.

"Such bad luck, to think that there are no more seats." A slim, frail youth wearing a cyan colored robe cursed.

A youth stood on one side, his gaze sweeping across the restaurant. It finally stopped on the table that Jian Chen was currently occupying by himself and he laughed, "Gan Hou, who said there aren't any more spots? Look, isn't that a free table right there? Even though it'll be a bit crowded if we all cram into a single table, it's not impossible."

Aside from Jian Chen, there were still quite a few people occupying tables alone. However, that group of people could tell the others were not people they could pick fights with. Only Jian Chen appeared to be completely powerless. Thus, the youth's attention naturally locked onto Jian Chen.

The people's gazes all gathered onto the white-clad Jian Chen. After noticing that Jian Chen's appearance didn't look over 20, they smiled evilly. Afterwards, the five walked in together.

Once he arrived in front of Jian Chen, the youth called "Gan Hou" patted Jian Chen's shoulder, and said with a smile that didn't quite reach his eyes, "Young friend, this table is now occupied by us. It's better if you switch to another."

Jian Chen knit his brows and raised his head. His gaze swept across the expressions of the five people. Once his Soul determined that the five weren't actually that strong, his heart immediately calmed, and said, "I'm sorry, but I also need this table right now." Jian Chen wasn't at all afraid of the consequences. Although two of the people were quite old, their strength wasn't very significant.

After all, the strength of one's power didn't solely depend on age. There were some people with outstanding talent, and had become renowned peak level experts at a young age. On the other hand, some of the more mediocre people would spend their whole lives unable to condense Spirit Weapons and overcome the threshold to becoming a Saint.

Gan Hou's expression sank, and coldly stared at Jian Chen as he said, "Brat, don't refuse a toast only to be forced to drink a forfeit. If you're wise, get out of my sight right now."

TL Note: Don't hesitate do something until being forced to do it.

Although Jian Chen's situation was naturally drawing the attentions of others in the restaurant, however such things happened quite often on Tian Yuan continent, and wasn't anything new. Therefore, everyone watched the situation unfold, as if watching a show, and had no intention to help out.

## Chapter 83: Desert Mercenary Group

Upon hearing Gan Hou's words, Jian Chen's originally nonchalant face turned into one full of killing intent. Although Jian Chen was currently rather weak, that did not mean he was easily intimidated.

Gingerly putting down his chopsticks, Jian Chen's lips moved slowly as he spoke, "With your paltry numbers, you don't have the right to make me move from this table."

Gan Hou looked stunned at this answer for a moment before sneering at Jian Chen coldly. There was a hint of undisguised killing intent within his eyes; it appeared that Jian Chen didn't know what mercy was when it was given to him, Gan Hou wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson. To Gan Hou, Jian Chen's weak appearance along with his young age made him look like someone who wasn't an expert.

"Kid, you really don't know kindness when it's handed to you, so why don't you let brother Gan Hou teach you a lesson! Be sure to remember it!" He immediately swung out with his palm towards Jian Chen's face. His palm was traveling so fast, that before it had even reached its destination, a fierce palm wind blew across Jian Chen's hair. This signified that Gan Hou's hand was not lacking in strength at all.

Jian Chen's eyes flashed dangerously as his right hand grabbed onto the chopsticks and stabbed into Gan Hou's outstretched palm.

Jian Chen's right hand moved so fast that no one could see his movements. Before Gan Hou could even react, Jian Chen's right hand had already made contact with Gan Hou's palm. All people could see was Jian Chen's chopstick stabbing deeply through Gan Hou's palm, piercing through it as easily as if it were a hot metal knife cutting through butter.

"Ah!" The intense pain from his palm caused Gan Hou to cry miserably as he held his injured hand. His screams echoed throughout the restaurant, causing everyone to hear him clearly.

Immediately afterwards, the restaurant was filled with gasps of shock. What happened was very different from what they were expecting, causing everyone to look at Jian Chen in surprise. However, those who were slightly more discerning saw Jian Chen use a single chopstick to stab through Gan Hou's hand, their faces became heavy and hardened. The following looks towards Jian Chen also slightly changed; quite a number of them carried deep shock.

To use a flimsy wooden chopstick to stab someone's hand, just how strong did someone have to be to do that? At the very least, no one in the restaurant would be able to perform such a feat.

Immediately after stabbing Gan Hou, Jian Chen's right leg lashed out and connected with Gan Hou's chest. The kick had sent Gan Hou's weak body flying back three meters before he crashed into a table and pitifully fell to the ground.

The mercenaries who had been sitting at that table quickly left the area to avoid getting involved. Although Jian Chen did not seem old, the strength he demonstrated, as well as the vicious way he had dealt with things, intimidated many people in the restaurant. After this display, the few mercenaries who were eating at that table naturally didn't dare to offend Jian Chen over such a small matter.

Seeing Gan Hou's end, the four other mercenaries that came with Gan Hou immediately looked on with disbelief. Although their expressions recovered afterwards, they looked at Jian Chen with eyes full of cold murderous intent.

“To think you’re picking a fight with the Desert Mercenaries, you must be tired of living.” One of the youths shouted angrily. A giant sword appeared in his hand, and he immediately shot towards Jian Chen.

Jian Chen gave a hidden smile then snorted quietly. In an instant, the silver white sword with the words “Light Wind” engraved on it appeared in his own hands.

The Light Wind Sword was Jian Chen’s sword in his previous life. During his time as a wanderer, his sword had gained a fearsome reputation that every martial artist knew of. And within this new world, he was still using an identical Light Wind Sword; Jian Chen’s feelings towards his sword were very deep.

The moment the Light Wind Sword appeared in Jian Chen’s hands, it immediately transformed into a streak of silver lightning under Jian Chen’s control, and flew at the other man at an inconceivable speed. Before the youth’s sword could even get halfway towards Jian Chen’s sword, it had already stabbed towards the youth’s throat with a demon-like speed. The point of the sword halted right at the moment of contact on the outermost layer of thin skin at the throat, causing some blood to slowly drip down his throat for everyone to see clearly.

Feeling a tinge of pain from his throat, the youth’s expression became deathly pale in an instant, completely drained of blood. Sweat began to gather, covering his whole forehead in the blink of an eye. He made a great effort to keep the greatsword in his hand frozen in midair. His body was locked into a firm posture, as he didn’t dare to move even a single inch. The youth’s appearance looked as if a mysterious force was keeping him locked in place.

Seeing how nobody knew when the silver sword had appeared at the youth’s throat, the clamor around them had descended into a strange silence. Everyone’s eyes went wide as they looked at Jian Chen wield his Light Wind Sword; no one could believe what had just happened.

In regards to how the sword arrived at the youth’s throat, only two or three people in the restaurant had caught a glimpse of the sword traveling through the air. Most of the people there weren’t even able to see the flash of silver, and only saw the point of the blade appear before the youth’s throat.

It was as if time had stood still as everyone held their breaths. After a while, the sounds of everyone inhaling cold breaths could be heard breaking the silence of the restaurant. At that moment, everyone was looking at Jian Chen with expressions of surprise.

As for the youth who was being held at swordpoint, he didn’t dare move. His fear was that if he were to move, the sword would pierce into his throat.

“My fellow brother, please stay your hand. We are part of the Desert Mercenaries, and this was our fault. I hope that you’ll let our companion go.” A middle aged man spoke with some moderation and showed a face full of sincerity.

Hearing this, Jian Chen’s gaze shifted towards the middle aged man who spoke. After a brief moment of hesitation, he slowly lowered the Light Wind Sword in his hand and said to the youth, “Scram!”

Hearing Jian Chen, the youth that was held at swordpoint glared at him with an indignant expression for a brief second. But owing to the fact that he just escaped a disaster, he didn’t dare to say a single word.

The Light Wind Sword disappeared from Jian Chen's hands as his gaze coldly swept across them. He then pulled out a single gold coin and placed it at the table. "Waiter, this is for the meal!" He stated flatly before exiting from the restaurant.

After such an event, Jian Chen didn't wish to stay there any longer. Since he had already eaten and drank, he was content.

Afterwards, the youth that was released by Jian Chen, he glared at Jian Chen with murderous intent. Glancing at his three other companions with a knowing look, they all nodded at the same time. Following this, the four of them acted in unison, as if they had long since prepared for this to happen. They all summoned their Saint Weapons and immediately charged at Jian Chen from different positions, aiming towards several vital parts on Jian Chen's body at the same time.

Hearing the sounds of activity happening behind him, Jian Chen's eyes narrowed as he started to leak an intense killing intent from within his eyes. Swaying slightly, his body had already flashed forwards two meters with an extreme speed just as the weapons slashed at where his back was just moments ago, causing them to just narrowly miss him. Using sheer skill, he had managed to escape the encirclement. At that moment, Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword materialized in his right hand once more as Jian Chen immediately turned around to face the four men. With just a single step he closed the gap between himself, and the four people. His right arm abruptly shook, and his Light Wind Sword stabbed at the closest middle aged man with an insane speed.

Just like a silver streak of lightning, the Light Wind Sword had already closed in on the middle aged man, stabbing towards his throat.

The middle aged man wasn't weak at all and was much stronger than the first youth. The moment he saw Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword stabbing towards him, the middle aged man's face immediately hardened, before bringing back his sword that he already slashed outwards to replace it protectively across his neck.

"Ting!"

Just as the middle aged man finished this movement, the Light Wind Sword's tip pierced the flat side of his sword, causing a metallic sound to ring out. A small, shallow mark appeared on the flat side of his blade.

Seeing how his sword was blocked, Jian Chen sneered, and his eyes flashed once more. The next moment, the Light Wind Sword had a hazy glow burst out from the blade. It did not look very strong, but it was actually concealing its sharpness. No one from the restaurant could detect that hidden power however, and when Jian Chen stamped forward, he simultaneously twisted his body in midair to form a horizontal rotating line. His Light Wind Sword began to rotate at high speeds as well, before flying forward with Sword Qi adding to its power.

"Hissss!"

An unpleasant sound echoed throughout the restaurant as the Light Wind Sword began to rotate at a lightning quick speed. That violently strong penetrating power bore a two finger wide hole through the man's sword like a hot knife through butter, leaving behind a deep cavity through the sword. Entering

through the cavity and under the disbelieving gaze of the middle aged man, Jian Chen's sword pierced deeply into his throat.

Jian Chen landed gracefully on his toes as he pulled out his sword from the throat of the middle aged man. Without stopping, he moved towards the other three before they could react, and with another silver flash of his sword, he stabbed at the youth who had originally attacked him.

"Ai!"

Against the extremely fast movements of Jian Chen's sword, the first youth was far too weak to do anything to resist. Before he could even react, the Light Wind Sword had already pierced through his neck, spilling blood everywhere.

Before anyone could even take a breath, Jian Chen had already killed two people with extreme haste. This type of speed was absolutely unimaginable to everyone watching.

Even after killing two people, Jian Chen showed no change in emotions. Instead, he stared at the remaining two people and his sword abruptly shook again. But as he was about to set forward to kill the two, unimaginably, they immediately recalled their Saint Weapons. They began to kowtow onto the ground while crying out loudly, "Spare our lives oh, great, swordsman. Spare our lives! We beg of you to spare us, we will never bare our weapons towards you ever again!"

Chapter 84: Wake City

Seeing the two remaining mercenaries act in such a way, everyone in the restaurant looked on in shock. Not long after, their expressions changed to a 'just as expected' attitude. There were all sorts of people in Tian Yuan Continent; some would rather lose their lives than to bow their heads and admit their errors. Others only clung onto their lives and were scared of death. These people would sooner sell off their brothers, and even their friends, when their lives were threatened.

Jian Chen slowly lowered his sword; the point of the sword now faced the ground. Staring coldly at the two people begging for their lives, Jian Chen's brows furrowed as he gazed at the two with contempt. When it came to people who were afraid of death like this, he was disgusted by them.

Upon seeing Jian Chen lower his sword, the two mercenaries that were kowtowing really thought that he was letting them go, and they smiled in relief. But before they could be happy for too long, a single phrase made the smiles on their faces go rigid.

"I had already let you go before, but it's a shame that you didn't cherish it. The time for forgiveness is over." A cold and indifferent voice came from Jian Chen's mouth. Just as he finished talking, his right hand burst into motion, appearing like a hazy shadow. Immediately sweeping forward with an extreme speed, the Light Wind Sword transformed into a silver streak, stabbing the two people.

The Light Wind Sword moved so fast that the two people didn't even get a chance to react. Slashing gently across their necks, small lacerations could be seen, and large amounts of blood began to pour out, dyeing their necks red.

If the two mercenaries had wanted to resist while Jian Chen wished to kill them, he would have had to expend a little more effort, and they could possibly have even escaped from Jian Chen if their luck was good. Unfortunately, they had already been intimidated by Jian Chen's might, which had been

demonstrated when he killed their two companions with a lightning fast speed. This blew away any notions of running away or resisting, making it easier for Jian Chen to kill them.

After effortlessly killing the two, Jian Chen turned around to look at the last terrified mercenary. Like a shining beam of light, the Light Wind Sword slashed at his neck as well.

The five members of the Desert Mercenaries had all been killed by Jian Chen before anyone could breathe more than a dozen times.

Jian Chen didn't react at all to the five deaths; instead he pulled out a few gold coins from his Space Belt and placed them on the table. "These gold coins are for you to clean up this place." With that, Jian Chen left the restaurant unhurriedly.

The Tian Yuan Continent was a cruel place where disputes and murders ran rampant. So murder was a common thing that everyone was used to. Even though a murder had happened within the restaurant, the other customers wouldn't care. As long as they weren't involved, they would treat it as a good show to watch, without it having any affect on their appetites.

The other customers watched Jian Chen leave and the entire restaurant descended into an odd silence. At this point, every person had forgotten about their food and just stared blankly at Jian Chen, and then back at the five dead mercenaries. They didn't believe what had just happened in this restaurant.

For a while, the odd silence permeated the restaurant before a loud sigh of admiration could be heard—

"What a fast sword, they couldn't even react to it. And what precise control he had! I've traveled the Tian Yuan Continent for many years and never have I ever seen anything like that!" A middle aged man wearing blue robes said. He was one of the few that could catch a glimpse of Jian Chen's movements.

"That man looked to be quite young, yet quite strong. His movements were also vicious, and each blow was a fatal one. If he isn't from a major clan, then he must have an excellent master backing him up."

"I don't know what his name is, but with his strength, it'd be nice if he could join my mercenary group. If he does, then my group's strength would increase." A male said.

Another male youth spoke out in reply to him, "Don't even dream about it; he looks much younger than you, yet he has this much strength. These kinds of people would not have a simple background. We are just a small mercenary group that has no chance of attracting such an expert. Not only that, he just killed five mercenaries from the Desert Mercenaries; their group won't take this offense lying down. So even if we were to be able to bring him into our group as a member, it is quite possible that we'd also attract huge trouble. After all, we're still an extremely tiny and weak group in comparison to the strong, thousand man Desert Mercenaries."

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After leaving the restaurant, Jian Chen arrived at the Mercenary Union in order to find a mission to protect some caravans. Since they were all going to cities that were close by, Jian Chen could take these missions despite his low mercenary level.

Wake City was a third class city, but despite its ranking, the city walls were on par with a first class. This was because the nearby mountain range was filled with many strong magical beasts. Those magical

beasts would often raid the city with an all out frontal assault, so while Wake City wasn't very large and could only be considered third class, the citizens had constructed an extraordinarily strong and secure wall to protect themselves from the magical beasts.

In the afternoon, the fierce sun started to release a strong glow, and that intense illumination prevented everyone from lifting their heads. Many of the mercenaries on the road had started to squint to prevent their eyes from being hurt by the sun's rays.

Outside of Wake City, a caravan group of two or three hundred people slowly trekked towards the city gates.

"The weather can go and die, why is it so hot? How can people survive this weather?"

Within the caravan group, a \*\* year old cursed out loud. Grabbing his water canteen, he ruthlessly chugged away at it.

Not too far away from the thirsty man, a youth with simple clothing sat on top of a white horse with a serene face, looking as if he were sleeping.

The youth was rather ordinary looking, and had a very common appearance. From his looks, he seemed to be around twenty years old or so.

Despite the fact that the scorching sun was currently high in the sky, this youth was tightly wrapped in clothes. The material wasn't very thick, but a normal person still wouldn't be able to take the heat in such a state. The most astounding fact was that there was not a single drop of sweat on the youth's forehead.

Compared to the mercenaries and merchants in the caravan that had either naked torsos or were sweating furiously, this youth's appearance was clearly strange. Although quite a few of the mercenaries and merchants had cast peculiar looks towards the youth, they didn't attempt to strike a conversation with him.

This youth was Jian Chen.

Jian Chen slowly opened his eyes and indifferently looked at the large city wall in front of him. During the past 2 days on the road, he had followed the caravan and finally arrived at Wake City. Jian Chen had specially chosen Wake City as it was a good place for himself to stay; he planned on living in Wake City for a period of time. That way, he'd be able to diligently improve his strength by a whole new level with the help of monster cores from the nearby Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Chapter 85: Going Alone into the Magical Beast Mountain Range

After successfully escorting the caravan to Wake City, Jian Chen left the caravan and headed straight towards the Mercenary Union to register the completed assignment. With this, he was able to earn a bit of reputation and a small amount of money.

Because Wake City was so close to the Magical Beast Mountain Range, the number of mercenaries that stopped to rest here were much greater than any other city. The majority of the mercenaries had their eyes set on the favorable living conditions here, and tended to stay around for a long term period. It was

extremely convenient to enter the Magical Beast Mountain Range and hunt magical beasts in exchange for money.

Although the dangerous factor of hunting magical beasts was much greater than escorting caravans, it was also an extremely profitable task. There were many people who lost their lives to magical beasts daily. But because the monster cores had such great value and were in high demand, many mercenaries were willing to risk their lives for the profits gained from hunting magical beasts.

After all, monster cores were simply too precious in Tian Yuan Continent. Since almost everyone needed them, the amount they required was quite large. After gaining monster cores, they could directly absorb the energies within them to quicken their cultivation rate. In addition, even if one didn't personally use them, one could easily exchange the cores for a considerable amount of money.

The mercenary union was extremely noisy due to there being many mercenaries inside. A union as large as this was filled with hundreds of people. The majority of the men had naked torsos, and their robust builds could clearly be seen from their bare muscles. It seemed as if they displayed their bodies to demonstrate how powerful they were.

Under such blistering hot temperatures as well as the poor ventilation system within the union, the sour odor of sweat pervaded the air and assaulted the nose. It made Jian Chen, who very rarely experienced this type of odor, knit his brow, and use a hand to lightly pinch his own nose.

After leaving the mercenary union, Jian Chen went around the city to replenish his supplies. He bought a map of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, and then headed straight out of Wake City. Under the scorching sun, he advanced forward alone to the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

The Magical Beast Mountain Range was only about 30 kilometers away from Wake City. After rushing towards the mountains on horseback, Jian Chen finally arrived at the edge of the Magical Beast Mountain Range two hours later.

A stretch of forest bordered the edges of the Magical Beast Mountain Range and deep inside the forest was a large mountain range. Within the mountain range were numerous magical beasts. The environment inside was vile as well, and according to the description of the Magical Beast Mountain Range from the map, there were countless poisonous vipers and insects within the forest. Not only that, swamps could also be found all over, and if a person were not careful, they could sink into one. Without the help of a companion, it would be extremely difficult to escape with their life.

The proverbs once said that fortune and danger live together. So while the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts had many dangers, at the same time, there was also treasure to be found. The Magical Beasts frequently fought each other, so upon their deaths, their monster cores would be preserved. If one had good luck, then they would be able to come across a few magical beast corpses that still had their cores, and collect them, but the chances of that happening were still rather low.

Monster cores could be used by the magical beasts as well, but the lowest rank of magical beasts didn't know if or how it could be used and only operated on instinct.

Jian Chen sat on his horse with his head facing the verdant forest in front of him. "From today on out, this forest will be my training ground where I shall gain some experience." Dismounting, he stroked the horse gently on its head and without caring if the horse, that had accompanied him for quite a number

of days, could understand him he said, "Go on, you're free now, go wherever you want to go." Afterwards, Jian Chen turned around and headed towards the forest within.

"Neigh!"

The horse behind him stamped on the ground firmly as it looked at Jian Chen as it was saying goodbye.

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After covering a stretch of road, Jian Chen finally entered the depths of the forest, and without stopping, continued on his path towards the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts.

The forest had weeds everywhere that reached the height of a regular person, completely blocking his vision. In this type of environment, one could lose their way if they weren't careful.

Every few steps Jian Chen would jump onto a huge tree to view the surrounding routes around him to ensure that he hadn't lost his path, allowing him to keep track of where he was. Every so often, he would find a viper hidden in between the blades of grass, but with his "Soul", he could easily perceive it and take care of the vipers whenever they appeared.

After traveling for 4 hours, Jian Chen finally entered the depths of the forest, where ferocious beasts were beginning to gradually appear.

At that instant, a dark green figure leapt out from the weeds, and attempted to attack Jian Chen from behind with extreme speed.

Just as the dark green figure approached Jian Chen, a white light flashed past, and a silver sword suddenly appeared. It accurately pierced into the green figure's concealed body with unmatched quickness.

The moment after the sword made contact, Jian Chen's body swayed, and he shifted half a meter to the side. The moment he moved away, a soft 'bang' could be heard as the dark green figure fell at where Jian Chen had just been standing.

Only now was he able to clearly see that the dark green figure was a beast that looked similar to a leopard. Its neck was already soaked with blood that continuously poured out from its deep wound.

Jian Chen's gaze swept across the leopard-type beast lying on the ground. He then continued to advance into the forest. He could tell from a single glance that the beast was only a normal wild animal; it wasn't even a Class 1 Magical Beast. There were absolutely no monster core that could be retrieved from within its body; otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to kill it so easily.

"Roar!"

"Aooo!"

As Jian Chen continued to travel deeper into the forest, the howls of magical beasts gradually started to fill the air. There were many different types of cries; some were unpleasant as they sounded like the wails of malicious spirits that made anyone hearing it feel terrified.

At that moment, Jian Chen suddenly stopped in his tracks. He turned around, and his eyes flashed with a serious light as he stared towards his side. The silver Light Wind Sword materialized in his hand.

This was the first time Jian Chen displayed such a serious expression since he first entered the forest.

A faint 'sha sha' sound emitted from the location Jian Chen was looking towards. Shortly after, a dusty yellow scorpion slowly appeared within Jian Chen's line of sight.

The scorpion was extremely large. Its body alone was a meter wide, and two meters long. A poisonous stinger hung from the end of its tail, which was at least 5-6 meters long. Right on its head, a pair of jade, beady eyes started to flicker with a strange glow.

The scorpion headed straight towards Jian Chen. Only after it was 5 meters away from Jian Chen did it stop its advance. Its bright eyes flashed with a strange glint as it locked its gaze onto Jian Chen, brandishing its pincers at Jian Chen as a "zhi zhi" sound came from its mouth.

The silver Light Wind Sword in Jian Chen's hand was enveloped in a hazy glow. Immediately, he attacked first and his body blurred as he shot towards the scorpion with his blade.

His original intent in coming here was to kill magical beasts, so he naturally wouldn't hold back after encountering one.

The scorpion's reaction was quick; as soon as Jian Chen began to move, the poisonous stinger at the end of its tail blurred, and rapidly darted at Jian Chen.

"Ding!"

Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword simultaneously shot out towards the scorpion's poisonous hook. As the two made contact in midair, a clear sound that was similar to metal striking metal rang out. The collision generated a powerful aftershock that caused both Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword and the scorpion's hook to recoil backwards.

With only a slight sway of his body, Jian Chen had already retreated back quite a few meters. He looked at the poisonous stinger of the large scorpion in shock. The hardness of it had surpassed his expectations. Jian Chen reckoned that even a superior type steel could not compare to this scorpion's stinger. Moreover, the power that it contained was immense. After a single collision with it just now, Jian Chen's arm had already begun to feel numb.

"The scorpion in front of me should be a Class 2 Magical Beast." Jian Chen muttered to himself as he fixed his bright eyes on the scorpion.

#### Chapter 86: Hunting for Poisonous Scorpions

Although Jian Chen had killed quite a few Class 2 Magical Beasts in Kargath Academy before, the ones in the Magical Beast Mountain Range were on a completely different level. The Class 2 Magical Beasts in Kargath Academy were not even equivalent to some of the Class 1 Magical Beasts in this mountain range. Moreover, the magical beast that he had encountered was one indigenous to the Magical Beast Mountain Range.

Just as Jian Chen was distracted, the poisonous scorpion didn't give him any time to relax, as its six powerful legs began to scamper across the floor. In a blink of an eye it covered dozens of metres and

arrived in front of Jian Chen as its poisonous green pincers widened menacingly and pincered towards Jian Chen's head.

Encountering a local magical beast for the first time in the mountain range, Jian Chen did not dare to be negligent. He had learned the hard way in his previous life that being careless only led to disaster.

Jian Chen's expression immediately grew solemn. He tilted his head, dodging the giant scorpion's pincers by a hair's breath. He then gathered strength in his feet and pushed off the ground, leaving a deep footprint in the ground as his body burst forwards towards the poisonous scorpion's much smaller head. The Light Wind Sword in his hand was once again enshrouded in that hazy white light as Jian Chen aimed it straight at the scorpion's tiny eyes.

The eyes, throat and heart were three of the most fatal and weakest parts of the body. That much Jian Chen understood, but this poisonous scorpion had a neck that could not easily be pierced due to the angle. Not only was the neck rather short, but it had scales that were interwoven with each other to protect it. Under this circumstance where it was impossible to determine how tough the scales protecting its neck were, Jian Chen had decided to attack its eyes.

Although Jian Chen was very confident in his precise and powerful stab, the defenses of some magical beasts were also just as tough. Thus, he wasn't 100% sure that he would be able to penetrate the scales and deal a serious injury to the beast.

Jian Chen's sword traveled towards the scorpion with blinding speed, his sword had already reached the scorpion's eye.

Just as the Sword Qi enhanced Light Wind Sword as he was about to pierce the scorpion's eye, it suddenly opened its mouth and spat out a pungent green blob of poison. Almost as if it were being controlled by a mysterious force, it flew quickly towards Jian Chen. At the same time, the scorpion's eye shut and the head dodged towards the side, avoiding the Light Wind Sword.

The Light Wind Sword's speed was matchless, and so even at this crucial moment where the scorpion desperately tried to dodge, the scorpion wasn't able to completely avoid the sword. In the end, the sword slashed open the scorpion's outer eyelid.

While the Light Wind Sword hit the scorpion's outer eyelid and it paused for a bit as it encountered resistance. After a moment, the amazing amount of Sword Qi around the sword caused it to break through the strong defenses of the eyelid and stab through into the eye of the scorpion successfully.

Simultaneously, Jian Chen's entire body was covered by the green fog of poison.

"Hiss!"

As it felt the sharp pain in its eye, the scorpion let loose a hoarse scream. A dark green fluid began to leak out of the injury in its eye, and its great mouth opened wide, revealing rows of needle-sharp teeth. Its overall appearance was extremely terrifying.

The poisonous mist floated around. Jian Chen, who was shrouded inside the fog, retreated outwards, in a sorry state, as fast as lightning to escape. Right now, Jian Chen's appearance was the complete opposite of his previous state; his whole body was covered with a layer of dark green poison. His coarse

clothing had begun to disintegrate at an alarming rate, and even his originally short hair had begun to fall off as green threads.

Feeling a painful burning sensation throughout his body, Jian Chen's face hardened before growling, "What a strong poison!" Quickly, Jian Chen grabbed onto the melting clothes before tearing them off from his body while using his Saint Force to counter the poison that made contact with his skin.

Jian Chen looked at the one eyed scorpion that was still crying out in pain. He knew in his heart that this was the perfect time to kill the scorpion. With a flash of killing intent, he dashed towards it without even stopping to take out a spare change of clothes from within his Space Ring, making him completely naked while moving to finish off the scorpion.

Jian Chen's movements were agile and nimble, and he quickly flashed to the poisonous scorpion's side. With a shake of his arm, he reached out as fast as lightning, moving the Light Wind Sword in his hand so fast it appeared to be just a ray of silver light. It shot towards the scorpion's throat, and in that instant, the blade suddenly exploded with sharp Sword Qi. Although it didn't seem to be very powerful, that Sword Qi was similar to a sharp blade.

Like a streak of lightning that briefly illuminated the world with a gorgeous and magnificent light, and it immediately disappeared without a trace momentarily afterwards.

"Ding!"

Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword accurately struck the poisonous scorpion's throat. When the blade came into contact with the dense scales covering the scorpion's throat, a clear sound similar to metal striking metal rang out. However, the scales' defense was quite strong, it was only able to withstand the Light Wind Sword for an instant before the blade sharpened with Sword Qi broke through, and pierced deeply into the throat.

"Si!"

The poisonous scorpion once again cried out miserably. The single, intact eye pulsed with a strange, dark green glint as its thick pincers quickly jabbed forcefully outwards towards Jian Chen. The 5-6 meter long poisonous hook behind it blurred as it flew over Jian Chen's head and tried to pierce the back of Jian Chen's head.

Jian Chen pulled out the Light Wind Sword buried in the scorpion's throat. His feet pushed off the ground, and his body sailed through the air as he jumped onto the scorpion's wide back.

"Hiss!" "Hiss!"

The poisonous scorpion was evidently extremely annoyed by the fact that Jian Chen had jumped onto its back. It began to violently shake its body, wailing unpleasantly as it recklessly waved its giant pincers around in the air.

Based on the scorpion's current state, it appeared that the injury on its throat that Jian Chen had just inflicted didn't harm it that much.

Seeing that the scorpion was still as ferocious as it was before, Jian Chen frowned. He couldn't help but mutter, "Its ability to stay alive is really too great, to think that it still hasn't died." Because the

scorpion's body was so massive, Jian Chen once again realized how limited his strength was. Aside from attacking the two vital regions of its eyes and throat, he couldn't find any other way to harm this scorpion.

At that moment, Jian Chen heard a faint ripping sound. Without any hesitation, Jian Chen flashed horizontally to the side.

Just as Jian Chen dodged to the side, the shining dark green poisonous hook flew over his head, and then ruthlessly pierced the scorpion's own back.

A soft sound could be heard as the strong, plated section of its outer shell was pierced through by its own sharp poisonous hook. Under its own sharp poisonous hook, its shell did not offer a whit of resistance, and was easily pierced through. The sharp hook buried itself deeply into the scorpion's own body, and dark green blood began to flow out from the wound.

Seeing this scene, Jian Chen's expression clearly went blank. However, immediately afterwards, he couldn't help but feel unsure of whether to laugh or cry. He had really never imagined that the poisonous scorpion would be stupid enough to actually hurt itself.

The scorpion tugged at its poisonous hook. But because it was already deeply buried within its body, its movements instantly pulled out a chunk of flesh as well. The scorpion felt such intense pain that it ceaselessly wailed in pain as its entire body shook. That fierce pain was enough to disperse any further thoughts about pulling the hook out.

Whenever a human or creature receives a serious injury, there will be a cushion of time where the strength that they exhibit, as well as their reaction speed, will be at its worst.

Jian Chen saw this, and grasping the perfect timing, his body flew high up into the air as he jumped off the scorpion's back. The Light Wind Sword in his hand flashed with a silver light, and pierced towards the scorpion's other eye.

Because the scorpion was feeling fierce pain from its back, its reaction time had greatly slowed down compared to its normal reaction speed. In addition, Jian Chen's blade's every movement was incomparably fast. In the scorpion's current state, it was extremely difficult to evade or withstand Jian Chen's lightning fast sword.

The Light Wind Sword accurately penetrated the poisonous scorpion's other eye without resistance.

Jian Chen showed a pleased expression. He exerted more strength into his hand, forcing the Light Sword even deeper into the scorpion's eyes. Eventually, after thrusting at least half of the 4/3 meter long blade into the scorpion's eyes, he finally managed to injure its brain.

This time, the poisonous scorpion no longer struggled or made any move to resist. Its entire body shuddered a few times before it fell like jello to the ground. With a loud bang, its enormous one meter tall body fell to the ground.

Jian Chen slowly pulled out his Light Wind Sword. His brows knit together at the sight of the scorpion's bright green blood and white fluid covering his treasured sword. With a single thought, the green and white fluids covering his sword slid off the blade, and it instantly returned to its original appearance.

Jian Chen's gaze circled around the poisonous scorpion corpse for a bit, then raised his Light Wind Sword to pierce through the skull. However, the Light Wind Sword had just gone through the outer shell of the head before getting blocked. Even though the poisonous scorpion was already dead, its outer shell's defense was still just as strong as before. There was no way Jian Chen could break through its defense with a casual wave of his sword.

"This snake skin is really thick!" Jian Chen furrowed his brows, and sighed, "Forget it, I might as well conserve my energy. The magical beasts here come and go randomly. If I preserve my extra strength, then that is an extra layer of protection for my life. I'll just retrieve this monster cores by going through its eyes." Saying this, Jian Chen resumed his actions. After great effort, he was finally able to retrieve the monster core stored within the scorpion's skull.

#### Chapter 87: Surviving in the Mountain Range

Looking at the thumb sized monster core, Jian Chen couldn't help but smile, "It really was a Class 2 Monster Core; look at the purity of the energy inside! Not only that, this Class 2 Monster Core is much better than the ones I found at Kargath Academy. It really is true that the magical beasts in the Magical Beast Mountain Range are stronger than the ones in the Kargath forests."

After collecting the monster core, Jian Chen lowered his head to look at his body that was now dark shade of green. However, his body wasn't injured at all. Since he had been refining his body since he was young with the special techniques from Azulet Sword Law, his physique was really strong. So even though the poison caused his body to feel some pain, it couldn't get past his skin and enter his body. The majority of the damage was being counteracted with his inner Saint Force. So while his entire body was tainted with a green poison, the only symptom he felt was a slight burning sensation.

Jian Chen looked around himself and listened attentively, "There probably isn't a water source here, so I won't be able to wash this off. I guess I'll have to handle this roughly." Plucking a few tree leaves, he began to wipe off the excess venom while pulling out a new change of clothing from within his Space Belt. Although this place was extremely large and there wasn't be anyone around, Jian Chen had no hobby of walking around naked.

After changing his clothes, Jian Chen walked away from where the carcass of the scorpion lay without a care at all for it. Although magical beasts had many important parts that could be harvested and sold off for a high price, this scorpion was just a Class 2 Magical Beast. If he were to sell this, he wouldn't be getting much since it wasn't a precious type of material, plus, Jian Chen had plenty of Purple Coins to spare, so he today did not care for such a little sum of money.

While the beasts that were born and grew in the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts were much more powerful than those in Kargath Forest, they were much rarer than the ones in Kargath Forest. After all, while the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts may not be the largest in the Tian Yuan Continent, it was still vast in its own right. The magical beasts in the mountain range were all scattered about, so meeting a magical beast was not impossible, but rather quite rare.

For the entire day Jian Chen slowly walked deeper into the mountain range. By nighttime, he had only seen two magical beasts, excluding the previous Class 2 Poisonous Scorpion, these two were both Class 1 Magical Beasts.

The moon was hanging high up in the sky and basked the earth with its lunar glow. However it did not reach into the forest where darkness reigned supreme, so one couldn't even see their fingers if they stretched out their hand in front of their faces. With the abundant amount of leaves covering the forest, the weak lunar lights wouldn't be able to penetrate through onto the ground below.

Meanwhile on a flat piece of ground, a large bonfire burst into life and lit up the night with its dancing flames.

Jian Chen knelt by the bonfire with a stick in his hand as he slowly cooked a piece of meat that was speared through. Slowly, the meat began to caramelize as the fat began to slowly drip off onto the fire below, sputtering it out.

After eating his fill, Jian Chen pulled out a unique smelling herb from his Space Ring and sprinkled it on the surroundings. This herb was one of the few things that every mercenary entering the forest would need to prepare. Before resting, if one were to sprinkle this herb in his surroundings, it would be able to repel the majority of poisonous creatures from disturbing him. Of course, this medicine was only useful towards normal animals, and had no effect on magical beasts.

After using the herb, Jian Chen immediately leapt onto a nearby tree. Sitting cross legged on a slightly flatter branch, Jian Chen took out another faintly sweet smelling herb from within his Space Ring and started to sprinkle it on his body. This white colored herb was very effective in suppressing one's Qi, preventing his qi from escaping which might attract any kind of wild beasts while he was sleeping at night. After all, both the wild animals and the magical beasts in this mountain range had extremely acute senses of smell. Although this powder wouldn't be able to completely hide Jian Chen's Qi, it could at least conceal it from the senses of normal animals.

The mountain range had many magical beasts as well as wild animals. The reason why wild animals were called so was because they had no monster core within their bodies. Wild animals were also not as strong as a Class 1 Magical Beast, similar to humans that hadn't yet manifested their Saint weapons.

Although the wild animals weren't strong and anyone who dared to enter the Mountain Range of Mystical Beasts could easily kill them, when it came to cultivating or sleeping at night, no one would want to be bothered by a wild animal. Therefore, practically every mercenary who entered the mountain range or slept outdoors overnight would be prepared, and bring a good amount of this type of herb.

After the safety preparations were complete, Jian Chen took out a big handful of monster cores and distributed them between his two hands. Jian Chen slowly closed his eyes and began to absorb the energy from the monster cores.

The energy from the monster cores started to flow out at an extremely terrifying speed towards Jian Chen, before funneling into his body via his pores and nostrils crazily. This absorption rate naturally placed a slight burden on Jian Chen, causing his pores to feel a slight ache from expanding. Throughout his entire body, there was no area that did not hurt.

Although it was aching a little, this was not enough for Jian Chen, who had a strong willpower, to mind it much.

The energy of the monster cores had a berserk element to it. If it weren't for Jian Chen using the World Essence to strengthen his body since he was young which meant that his internal organs and his fundamentals were made to be a lot stronger than most others, he would have been heavily injured alone by the berserk element contained within the energy of the cores, nevermind the fact that he was absorbing the energy into his body so crazily.

Following the absorption of the large amount of energy, the berserk element accumulated inside Jian Chen's body. When the berserk element reached a certain point, a large absorption power started to surge from Jian Chen's dantian, pulling these elements continuously towards the dantian, before finally being absorbed by the two glows of azure and violet.

On Tian Yuan Continent, if a practitioner wanted to rely on the monster cores to cultivate, then they would need to clear away the berserk element within the energy and absorb the pure energy remaining. Just removing that element from the energy would take a lot of time, and even then, the berserk element wouldn't be completely removed, and would leave behind some harmful effects within the body. So while there were many people who relied on using monster cores to cultivate, not many would continue down that path. Every so often, a person would need to stop using monster cores and completely refine the energy absorbed, in order to not suffer from any negative effects.

Though with Jian Chen, he could absorb and refine the energy from the monster core without fear of the consequences which was possibly due to the glows within his dantian. The moment the energy entered his body, the berserk element would immediately be absorbed by them, allowing for Jian Chen to absorb the energy from the monster cores without fear. This was why Jian Chen had such a large advantage over the other cultivators.

Following the steady absorption of the monster cores, Jian Chen could clearly feel the Saint Force slowly growing larger and larger in his dantian. Although it might look slow to the naked eye, Jian Chen understood that this speed compared to others was really fast. At this rate, it would not be long until he would breakthrough to become a Great Saint.

On the second day, when the sunlight passed through the small chinks between the dense tree leaves, Jian Chen, who was sitting cross-legged and cultivating, slowly opened his eyes. He then flipped in the air, jumping down from the tree, and smoothly landed on the ground below.

Jian Chen stretched his body for a bit. After consciously feeling his inner Saint Force, he couldn't help but smile. He could clearly sense that his current Saint Force was much more powerful than when he had first condensed his Saint Weapon. Based on his calculations, his current strength was most likely already at the level of a Middle Saint.

Although he was only a Middle Saint, it had been less than a month since Jian Chen had first condensed his Saint Weapon and broken through to Sainthood. If anyone else heard that Jian Chen had managed to become a Middle Saint only less than a month after, they would definitely find it hard to believe.

After eating some food to fill his stomach, Jian Chen once again continued on his journey.

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Time quickly passed by. In the blink of an eye, a month had already passed. at the foot of the Magical Beast Mountain Range, a youth wearing a coarse set of clothing was currently facing a pitch-black, panther-type magical beast that was a meter tall and three meters long.

The youth held a long, thin, silver sword. He stood tall and straight, seeming to be as immovable as a mountain. His face was brightly colored by mud and dust, making it impossible to make out any of his facial features.

The panther-type magical beast was glaring at the youth opposite of it with a ferocious glint in its eyes. It roared deeply, and began to fall into a crouching position. Its hind legs firmly planted into the ground, preparing to attack at any moment.

#### Chapter 88: Great Saint

“Hou!” Suddenly, the loud growl of the panther-like magical beast was heard. It leapt into the air with such force that its pawprint was visibly imprinted on the ground, as its entirely black body transformed into a black shadow that shot towards the youth ten meters away. While in midair, the black panther began to open its large jaw that revealed its sharp teeth that could fill a person’s heart with dread.

The youth smiled coldly as the silver white sword within his hand started to emit a faint white glow. With a single slash, the sword tip flew towards the black panther’s opened mouth.

The sword was traveling extremely fast, just like a flash of lightning. However, the black panther’s reaction was very fast, so when the sword reached its jaws, the black panther tilted its head to the side, barely dodging the incoming attack. However the sword was still traveling too fast to be evaded completely, so it grazed its head. It left a very noticeable wound on the black panther’s shaggy head.. However, the black panther’s speed did not slow down at all; maintaining its previous speed, it shot towards the youth in front of it.

The corners of the youth’s mouth tilted upwards, as if revealing a mocking expression. His eyes radiated a flash of killing intent. Hoisting the sword in his right hand, he immediately stabbed towards the black panther once more.

This speed was faster than before, almost bordering the inconceivable. The black panther wasn’t able to dodge the sword this time and so the sword speared through its throat before it could even react. Due to the panther’s momentum, the sword in its throat penetrated even more deeply. The sword only stopped after it was completely buried in the panther’s throat up to its hilt. The other side of the sword was already covered in blood as it pierced through the back of the panther’s neck. Blood started to drip from the inclined sword onto the back of the black panther.

The youth slowly pulled out his sword from the black panther. Afterwards, the blood on the sword strangely started to gather at the tip of the sword, and drip onto the ground. In the blink of an eye, the originally bloody sword had regained its original bright luster.

On the hilt of the sword were two words—Light Wind.

This youth was Jian Chen, who was adventuring around the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts alone. Unknowingly, he had already stayed in the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts for a month. This whole

month, Jian Chen had remained in the outskirts of the mountain range, not going deeper in or farther out.

During this month, Jian Chen would explore the outskirts of the mountain range during the day, and cultivate during the night. During this period of time, he had focused primarily on improving his strength, unlike back in Changyang Mansion where he had to slow down his cultivation speed so that his performance wouldn't be too outstanding. Because of that, Jian Chen's strength had practically skyrocketed in the course of a month. He had already broken through from a Peak Saint to become a Great Saint.

In this short month, Jian Chen went from a Primary Saint to a Great Saint. If this speed was to be found out by the public, then it would send a huge shockwave throughout the continent. This was because for any regular person, it would take two or three years to go from a Primary Saint to a Great Saint. Even geniuses would need around a year, so Jian Chen's frightening speed was unheard of. Unbeknownst to everyone else, he had already set a new record in the history of Tian Yuan Continent. But this would be a piece of history that would be buried deep, never to be heard about by anyone.

Since he had broken through to the Great Saint level, Jian Chen's fighting strength had skyrocketed as well. The current him could easily hunt down a Class 2 Magical Beasts, and he had already set his sights on Class 3 Magical Beasts.

The Light Wind Sword dissected the black panther, before a bloodstained but white monster core came bouncing out, which was caught by Jian Chen.

Jian Chen casually used a handful of grass to wipe the bloody monster core clean even though he himself could care less about the amount of blood on it.

Looking at the single core in his hand, Jian Chen smiled and murmured to himself, "My luck today is not that bad, I've collected 12 Class 2 Monster Cores already."

After grabbing the core, Jian Chen didn't pay any further mind to the black panther's corpse and left the area.

Jian Chen carefully trekked inside the mountain range. He was now a Great Saint, so it could be said that he was a lot stronger than before. However, he was in the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts so he didn't dare to be careless. He knew clearly that while his position was currently in the outskirts of the mountain range, he would still be able to encounter some stronger magical beasts that came from the deeper parts of the mountain range, ones that Jian Chen currently wouldn't be able to handle .

It could even be said that the current Jian Chen was very vigilant. Carefully looking around constantly, he had to be extra careful, especially with the hidden swamps since they were very hard to detect. From far away, the flatlands and swamps couldn't really be differentiated. But the moment one walked over a swamp, they would be devoured by it, and wouldn't be able to escape without another person's help.

Right at this moment, Jian Chen's ear twitched. He began to shout with a great big smile, "Water, I can hear the sounds of water! There's water around here." Jian Chen immediately headed towards the direction of the water with great speed.

Not too long after, Jian Chen passed through some tall weeds and finally reached a small stream. This creek was only three meters wide and wasn't too deep. Yet the water was so clear that the stones on the bottom of the river could be clearly seen.

Seeing this river, Jian Chen smiled with joy. This was the first time he had come across a water source since entering the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts. And after all the time he had spent here, the clean water he had in his Space Belt was almost all gone. If he hadn't found a water source soon, he had considered leaving the forest.

Looking around the place, he inspected it to ensure it was safe, before pulling out a few canteens from within his Space Belt before kneeling down to fill them with water.

After a few more canteens were filled, Jian Chen threw off his clothes and jumped into the stream to wash away the sweat he had built up on his body.

Not even a few seconds after Jian Chen started to bathe, his face suddenly changed expression from a relaxed one to a battle ready expression in an instant. Immediately leaping up into the air from the water, he materialized his Light Wind Sword into his right hand, and stabbed downwards with it.

#### Chapter 89: Silver Striped Golden Snake

Just as Jian Chen stabbed downwards with his Light Wind Sword, a golden vine-like thing flew out of the water and attacked Jian Chen.

When Jian Chen's sword and the golden vine-like thing collided into each other, Jian Chen's downward momentum was stopped. His whole body maintained a stabbing posture while he was suspended in midair. The tip of his sword accurately pierced the head of the golden vine-like creature.

This scene lasted for a span of two breaths. Suddenly, from the forest next to the river, another golden vine suddenly burst out from the tall grass and flew at Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's face didn't change from the sudden ambush. Bracing his arm as he prepared to borrow the power of the golden vine-like thing below him to gain momentum, he kicked off of his attacker and whirled through the air, landing firmly down by the riverside. The moment he hit the ground, he immediately sprinted to where his clothes were and put them on.

After putting on his clothes, Jian Chen looked up to assess the golden vine-like thing only to find out that it was a golden snake. Its entire body was golden in color, but there were a few silver lines going from the top of its head to its tail. It was also long in length; just the exposed area alone was almost 6 meters long. The moment Jian Chen noticed the silver streak on its body, he was stunned. It seemed like he had remembered something, as his face suddenly changed dramatically. He couldn't help but exclaim loudly, "Silver Striped Golden Snake!"

The Silver Striped Golden Snake was something that Jian Chen had read about before from the books in the academy's library. It was a rare magical beast that was regarded as the emperor of serpents. In the entire Tian Yuan Continent, considering the tens of thousands of magical beasts, the population size of Silver Striped Golden Snakes barely even reached three digits. .

The Silver Striped Golden Snake wasn't precious because of its rarity, but because of its body. Whether it was for meat or blood, it was very valuable. The venom in its body was especially precious; it belonged

to the type of goods in the Tian Yuan Continent where there was no market, even if people offered high prices for them.

This was because if this highly toxic venom was specially refined, it could even kill a Peak Heaven Saint Master. Moreover, purging this venom was impossible. Unless one had the blood of the Silver Striped Golden Snake, there was no other method; even a Radiant Saint Master wouldn't be able to do anything about it. Although the Light Saint Force had mystical healing effects, and could detoxify many poisons, it simply couldn't remove the unique and highly toxic venom that a Silver Striped Golden Snake possessed, as well as several other rather special types of venom. At most, a Radiant Saint Master would only be able to temporarily suppress the poison; however, completely purging it was impossible.

Also, the Silver Striped Golden Snake was different compared to any other snake. Not only was it long it was also relatively thin. It could be said that a few Silver Striped Golden Snakes that reached the Class 5 Magical Beast rank would reach up to a hundred meters long, but their widths would not even be thirty centimeters wide.

A Class 6 Silver Striped Golden Snake was able to control the size of its body, and could even shrink its body down to one or two meters long.

Not only were Class 6 Silver Striped Golden Snakes very strong, but rumors said that they could fly through the air and burrow into the ground. Its venom was unrivaled, and even a Heaven Saint Master would be afraid of the consequences of being infected by one.

In the ancient records, a hundred years ago in the Holy Empire, a Class 6 Silver Striped Golden Snake had laid waste to a King City with the population of ten million people in the time it took for a candle wick to burn out. Every single person was killed by the potent venom even decayed corpses. All that was left in the city was the stench of fresh blood that rose endlessly into the air.

After this horrifying event, the Holy Empire sent out over ten Heaven Saint Masters to go kill the Silver Striped Golden Snake. But before half a day was over, seven of the Heaven Saint Masters were killed by the poison with the remaining few having serious injuries or were poisoned heavily. However not long afterwards, the remaining few experts that were poisoned died as well.

This event had caused every single Saint Ruler in the Holy Empire to become shocked. In the end, a Saint Ruler finally fought the Silver Striped Golden Snake in an earth shattering battle that had only led in the withdrawal of the beast instead of killing it.

But in the end, everyone knew how strong a Silver Striped Golden Snake could become.

Recalling the information he had read about this beast back in Kargath Library, Jian Chen looked at the golden colored snake with a horrified look of disbelief. His heart couldn't help, but begin to race rapidly. He didn't think that he would come across the rare Silver Striped Golden Snake in such a desolate place like the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts; it was only the outskirts of the Mountain Range, where it should've been hard to even encounter one on the entire Tian Yuan Continent.

Sweeping his eyes over the wrist sized snake attentively, Jian Chen had to concede to the fact that he had come across a Silver Striped Golden Snake.

“What terrible luck, how could I come across such a thing?” Jian Chen quickly calmed himself, but inwardly, he was still cursing to himself. He knew how terrifying a Silver Striped Golden Snake could be despite never seeing one in real life. Just reading about it was enough for Jian Chen to understand that with his current Great Saint strength, fighting against a Silver Striped Golden Snake was extremely troublesome.

Jian Chen heavily stared at the Silver Striped Golden Snake only ten meters away from him, his gaze filled with vigilance. He gripped his sword tightly as he thought about the fact that the Silver Striped Golden Snake he encountered was no ordinary magical beast. A single mistake could possibly cause him to lose his life today.

This was definitely the most dangerous encounter that Jian Chen had experienced since he had first entered the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts. It was to the point where he was unsure if he would be able to leave the place alive.

If it was any other strong magical beast that Jian Chen couldn't defeat, he would still be able to run away. But the moment he recognized the Silver Striped Golden Snake, he had already given up all such notions. He was fast; even if he just relied on his Saint's strength, he could surpass the speed of a wind attribute practitioner. However, Jian Chen was sure that his speed was incomparable to the snake's; he wouldn't even be qualified to carry the shoes for the snake if it owned any.

That was because the Silver Striped Golden Snake was extremely fast while running in a straight line. Although it wasn't the fastest magical beast, when it came to the ones that crawled on the ground, the Silver Striped Golden Snake was in the top three. When compared to humanity, unless you had the wind attribute and were multiple ranks higher than the snake, then you wouldn't be fast enough to outrun it.

“When seeing a Silver Striped Golden Snake, one cannot run away in a straight line, or else a dead end will be the only thing that'll greet them. I don't know how strong this snake is either; if it is a Class 1 Magical Beast, then the danger will be significantly smaller, and I might be able to kill it. If it's a Class 2 Magical Beast, then there will be a bigger threat to my life, but I should be able to run away from it with no problem.” Jian Chen muttered. Right now, his only wish was for the snake to not be too strong; otherwise, he didn't think he would be able to leave this place alive.

As Jian Chen was pondering to himself in that brief moment, the Silver Striped Golden Snake suddenly opened its mouth and spat out a gray poisonous mist that quickly floated over to where Jian Chen stood. As it floated over, every single plant life in the mist immediately began to wilt, and even the larger trees were noticeably changing. In a flash, it looked as if its very life was being drained away quickly.

The moment the gray gas drew closer, Jian Chen's head started to feel a little dizzy. At the same time, Jian Chen felt as if his strength was being sucked right out of him.

Feeling the change that was happening in his body, Jian Chen's eyes widened in shock; he realized the Silver Striped Golden Snake could directly contaminate the air with its poison. Now he finally knew how terrifying the poison was; it was no wonder that the poison could easily kill a Heaven Saint Master.

Without hesitating, he bit down onto his tongue with his teeth. The piercing pain from his tongue finally cleared away the dizziness he was feeling. After that, he jumped further back, and began to circulate his Saint Force around him so that the strength draining sensation was weakened.

Once again calming himself down, Jian Chen narrowed his eyes in concentration. Although he hadn't fought the Silver Striped Golden Snake yet and only experienced its poison, Jian Chen could deduce that this snake was at the very least a Class 2 Magical Beast.

Seeing the poisonous fog float closer, Jian Chen didn't hesitate before immediately holding his breath. His legs glided across the floor as he ran further away from the poison.

The moment Jian Chen began to move, so did the snake. Turning into a golden streak of light, it flew towards Jian Chen at a speed multiple times faster than him.

Although the Silver Striped Golden Snake was only the size of his wrist in width, it was still very fast. In the blink of an eye, it had already caught up to where Jian Chen was, with its mouth wide open: ready to bite his neck.

Right as the Silver Striped Golden Snake was about to bite into Jian Chen's neck, Jian Chen tilted his head in this crucial moment and retreated backwards. At the same time, his Light Wind Sword flickered into view in his right hand. With a single swing, a silver light came trailing behind the blade, slashing at the snake. With a large amount of Sword Qi concentrated together, the sword trail left behind looked like the lunar moon, and left a dazzling effect. Jian Chen had used his entire strength in that one swing.

The Light Wind Sword met no obstructions as it smoothly stabbed towards the Silver Striped Golden Snake. But there was no excitement on Jian Chen's face; in fact, his face had started to look quite unsightly, as his sword didn't pierce through the scaly skin of the snake. Not a single mark could be seen on the scales.

"What a strong defense." Jian Chen gasped, his face deathly pale; because of his cultivation methods, his attacking power was extraordinarily strong. Although he only had the power of a Great Saint, his attack was not much weaker than a Saint Master's. But an attack with his entire strength hadn't left even a single trace on the Silver Striped Golden Snake. By this point, Jian Chen was aware that this Silver Striped Golden Snake was at the very least a Class 3 Magical Beast, maybe a Class 4 Magical Beast. This was not a fight Jian Chen could afford to have.

If it were an ordinary Class 3 Magical Beast, Jian Chen would have to expend a little more energy to kill it, but the Silver Striped Snake couldn't be evaluated the same way as a normal magical beast could.

#### Chapter 90: The Magical Power of the Soul Sword

While Jian Chen was dazed, the Silver Striped Golden Snake's unproportionately small head compared to its non-matching large mouth had turned and nipped at Jian Chen's neck once more. Brandishing its sharp fangs, a continuous stream of gray colored poisonous mist flowed out from its mouth.

Sensing the wide open jaws of the snake biting towards him, Jian Chen immediately tilted his head to the side to dodge the gaping maw of the beast. Immediately after, his furious footsteps moved him around to the back of the Silver Striped Golden Snake. Jian Chen's Light Wind Sword shined brightly as he swung it down onto the snake's body once more, refusing to believe that it would be ineffective.

The Light Wind Sword accurately stabbed against the skin of the Silver Striped Golden Snake, but only stopped at the very first layer of the snake's scale, unable to penetrate any further. The thin golden skin

was as like an impenetrable fort; no marks would remain on it even from a full powered blow of Jian Chen.

Seeing this, Jian Chen's face became even more grim. His mood, after discovering how ineffective his sword was, had completely dropped. The Silver Striped Golden Snake's powerful defenses had left Jian Chen with no options, as his strongest attacks against the powerful defense of the snake were like a child's scratches, wouldn't cause any harm.

Jian Chen didn't hesitate at all. Immediately recalling his sword, he gathered strength in both legs to jump off the ground. Before the snake could react, his body was already high up in the air. After getting his bearings, he borrowed the power of the tree branches and flew towards the abyss of the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts.

The Silver Striped Golden Snake's strong defense wasn't something Jian Chen could handle. All Jian Chen could do was run away into the depths of the mountain range in hopes that another strong magical beast would somehow attract the Silver Striped Golden Snake's attention. This was the only way Jian Chen would be able to escape. Although this method would be braving huge danger, there was no other choice.

Jian Chen knew that there were many mercenaries within the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts that he might be able to draw support from to help stall the Silver Striped Golden Snake. However, the mountain range was simply too vast, and the chances of meeting up with another mercenary was quite slim.

Jian Chen flew into the air, using the tree branches on either side of him to catapult himself into the direction of the mountain range. Right behind him was the Silver Striped Golden Snake that was in close pursuit, its tongue continuously flickering up and down. The upright part of its body was 6-7 meters long.

The snake was fairly long, and its body dimensions weren't scaled completely yet. At that moment Jian Chen hadn't seen the features of the snake completely. However, he could estimate that judging from what he had seen from the Silver Striped Golden Snake so far, it was at the very least fifty meters long.

Jian Chen continued to run in an S shaped trajectory while looking for obstacles in hopes that the Silver Striped Golden Snake would be blocked.

"Rawr!"

Suddenly, the roar of a tiger could be heard nearby. The sound of its arrival quickly headed towards Jian Chen's direction, and soon after, Jian Chen saw a three meter long black tiger appear within his line of sight. The tiger's eyes glinted with an ominous feeling as it looked at Jian Chen, but just as it was about to pounce at him, a golden vine-like body fifty meters long appeared before it.

The moment it saw the golden snake, it was as if the black tiger had received an electrical shock. All of the fur on its body flew straight up as the ominous glint in its eye withered away to nothing in an instant. Fear replaced the ominous glint as it looked at the snake. Not daring to stay any longer, the black tiger quickly ran away with its tail between its legs.

Although the Silver Striped Golden Snake was a serpent, if put in a crowd of magical beasts, most magical beasts would not dare try to bother it.

This type of situation had happened in the mountain range many times before. Jian Chen had come across many different types of magical beasts, but this was the first time he saw one retreat so fast after seeing the Silver Striped Golden Snake. This black tiger had practically pissed itself without a sound, as it gloomily began to run away. There wasn't a single magical beast here that would dare provoke the Silver Striped Golden Snake behind him.

An hour later, Jian Chen was already close to the abyss of the Mountain Range of Magical Beasts. The forest was growing more and more lush, causing Jian Chen to encounter more obstacles in his way. Right behind him, the Silver Striped Golden Snake was chasing him relentlessly. It was as if the snake had determined that Jian Chen was its prey; despite coming across a vast amount of magical beasts, its gaze continued to remain locked onto Jian Chen.

"Hiss!" The snake's head disappeared with a blur as it nipped at Jian Chen once more.

Jian Chen was constantly keeping track of the situation behind him, and so the moment he saw the snake move towards him, his legs pushed off of the sturdy tree branch he was on. The sudden force propelled him to the side, causing the snake to miss.

Over and over again, Jian Chen continued to dodge the snake's attacks. The Silver Striped Golden Snake grew angrier with each failure, as the dangerous glint in its eyes intensified. Suddenly, a long, golden snake tail quickly flew out from the tall grass toward Jian Chen.

Jian Chen's expression changed as he noticed the tail come at him. Noticing the sturdy tree branch to his side, he immediately jumped and kicked away from his spot without hesitation. His entire body was then sent flying forward towards a large tree with dense, leafy branches.

The tail of the snake immediately changed its angle and shot at Jian Chen with breakneck speeds. It caught up to Jian Chen in an instant, and began to wind around his waist tightly.

As the tail wound around his waist, Jian Chen's face turned pale with fright. The Light Wind Sword began to glow brightly, immediately slashing down at the tail. But because the outer scales were extremely tough, Jian Chen's sword left no marks at all.

At that moment, a stinky stench wafted on over as the Silver Striped Golden Snake's mouth, which was even larger than its body, could be seen. In a flash, it flew towards Jian Chen's neck, and was about to clamp down on it.

Without any time to prepare himself, Jian Chen immediately thrust his Light Wind Sword at the snake's mouth in alarm.

But the snake was cunning, and it twisted its head to dodge the sword. Afterwards, the snake opened its jaws wide and sunk its sharp fangs deeply into Jian Chen's left shoulder.

Feeling the intense pain in his left shoulder, Jian Chen's face drained of blood. The venom of the Silver Striped Golden Snake was very strong, and once bitten, the only antidote was the lifeblood of the snake. There was no other method; even a Radiant Saint Master wouldn't be able to cure it.

But the scales of the Silver Striped Golden Snake were far too strong for Jian Chen's current strength to even leave a mark on, let alone bypass them to acquire blood.

Seeing the snake tightly biting down on his shoulder, Jian Chen grew even more panicked by the second, and his expression became crazed. Influenced by this state of mind, Jian Chen's "Soul" became unprecedentedly active, as a hazy picture of the scenery around him came into view in his mind. Although this feeling was very faint, if Jian Chen was not sensing it intentionally, he wouldn't be able to feel anything. However, as his emotions currently were very agitated, he did not notice this fact.

"Ah!" Jian Chen bellowed into the sky. Without even caring if he could break through the snake's defenses or not, he brought the Light Wind Sword up into the air before swinging the sword back down, in hopes of beheading it.

The moment the Light Wind Sword came down, it was as if Jian Chen's spirit connected with the sword in his hand. It was like the two had completely merged into one, without any distinction. The union was so smooth that it brought up an indescribable feeling within his heart, as if his sword was his spirit and his spirit was his sword.

At the same time, the azure and violet glows within his dantian began to flicker, as a weak light ray started to spread throughout his body from these two points of light. While Jian Chen himself was unaware of this, the rays had already started to spread from his head.

"Shing!" The sword in Jian Chen's hand emitted a loud sound as a formidable amount of Sword Qi completely enveloped the sword. This time, the Sword Qi looked as if a dense fog had covered the sword. The blade within was indistinct, making it hard to see.

"Ding!" The Light Wind Sword viciously smashed into the head of the Silver Striped Golden Snake. A light noise rang out; this time, the strong Sword Qi had allowed the sword to cut through the first layer of the super strong defensive snake scales. Immediately, a deep looking wound appeared on top of the snake's head, and fresh blood began to flow profusely from the wound.

"Hiss!" The Silver Striped Golden Snake hissed out in pain. Its bite on Jian Chen's shoulder was loosened, and it slithered away from him. Its eyes were closely locked onto Jian Chen, as it flicked its forked tongue out repeatedly.

Seeing the bloody wound on the snake's head, Jian Chen was momentarily stunned. But soon afterwards, a joyous expression formed on his face.

"So it seems the Spirit Sword can break through the Silver Striped Golden Snake's defenses." Jian Chen cheered inwardly. Under his deliberate control, the sword and his spirit had joined together so that the sword became the spirit and the spirit became the sword. This type of miraculous fusion that Jian Chen had clearly felt made him feel as if this sword was his life, his soul.

As Jian Chen's connection between the sword and his spirit deepened, the violent Sword Qi around his Light Wind Sword grew even sharper. It was as if this large amount of Sword Qi was completely controlled by his spirit.

Not too experienced with such a mysterious sensation, Jian Chen loosened his hold on the Light Wind Sword. The sword that was completely enveloped with Sword Qi didn't drop to the ground, but instead

hung queerly in midair. It slowly ascended, finally stopping around Jian Chen's nose level a meter away from him. The tip of the sword directly pointed at the Silver Striped Golden Snake.

"Shing!" A clear, drawn-out sword cry was heard from within the Light Wind Sword.