

Chaotic 531

Chapter 531: Seeing Tie Ta Again (Two)

Ming Dong smiled happily at Ka Di Yun, but he made no moves to take out his Saint Weapon, "Just so that people won't say I was bullying children, I won't be too excessive. How about this, I'll stand here without moving and without striking back. If you can force me back or cause me to even take a single step back, I'll have lost. Sound good?" Ming Dong began to deemphasize himself; as an Earth Saint Master, he would really not be able to put a tiny Saint Master as an opponent in his eyes. Even if a battle skill was used, it wouldn't pose even an iota of a threat to him. The difference in power was just that big.

Ming Dong's words were spoken very casually, but everyone in the audience was able to hear them loud and clear. Regarding Ming Dong as some sort of lunatic, some of the more violent students couldn't help but curse him out.

"Who does this kid think he is? How f*cking cocky..."

"He doesn't look too different than Ka Di Yun in age, if he's really talking like that, it won't just be death that he'll get..."

"Who does he think he is? Even some of the teachers in our academy wouldn't dare speak to a battle skill wielder like Ka Di Yun"

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The arena had descended into a series of cursing as plenty of the more fiery students began to use their fingers to point at Ming Dong's nose and chew him out. Ka Di Liang and Ka Di Qiuli both stared at him with narrowed eyes, but the fury in them was hardly invisible.

"What an egotistical kid, he's actually speaking to big brother with such haughty words. Big brother has a battle skill, that prevents even an advanced Great Saint Master from making the same claims as he does. Unless he's an Earth Saint Master." After that, Ka Di Liang's eyes revealed a look of contempt in them before snorting, "But that's impossible. He doesn't look too different in age compared to big brother. If he's stronger than big brother, I don't doubt that, but there's no way he'd be at the Earth Saint Master level."

Ka Di Qiuli was muttering to herself with knit eyebrows as she stared at the confident look on Ming Dong's face. There was a feeling of unrest welling up within her, so she couldn't help but speak with worry, "Second brother, do you see how relaxed he looks? Do you think he'll have something to rely on?"

"Second sister, you worry too much. Even if he has something to fallback on, just what could he use to take big brother's attack without damage? The way I see it, that outsider came here for the express purpose of challenging him. After this, I'll make sure to investigate his background thoroughly and just what his history is if he is willing to try and make things difficult for our Ka Di clan." Ka Di Liang coldly spoke.

On the arena platform, Ka Di Yun's face had turned quite difficult to look at as he stared dangerously at Ming Dong, "Your Majesty, you seem quite arrogant."

“It is because I have the advantage to make me arrogant!” Ming Dong continued to smile.

Ka Di Yun’s face grew even darker. To his ears, Ming Dong’s words were without a doubt a challenge to him.

“Very well then. Allow me to see just what skill Your Majesty has then.” Ka Di Yun spoke angrily. Without another word, his giant two-hander flew toward Ming Dong to cut him down.

The giant sword carried a strong amount of Saint Force with it as it flew through the air toward Ming Dong’s waist with a faint whistling sound from its speed.

Ming Dong’s previous actions had clearly infuriated Ka Di Yun, and combined with the fact that he was a foreigner and not a student of Kargath Academy, Ka Di Yun held nothing back in this all-or-nothing strike.

Ming Dong still displayed a giddy smile on his face as he watched Ka Di Yun charge at him with his giant two-handed sword. He was still relaxed since such a strike wasn’t something he would even register as a threat.

As soon as the giant sword was about to chop down his waist, Ming Dong raised his right hand. Although this movement had been done very casually to him, it was practically fast beyond belief to the outside observers.

Ming Dong’s right hand was enveloped in a faint layer of the wind-attributed Saint Force. In that split-second, his forefinger and thumb had pinched together. In between those fingers, the giant two-hander had been caught.

Ka Di Yun’s eyes abruptly dilated in disbelief at how Ming Dong had used two fingers to stop his sword. Even his heart began to surge with emotions as if he was in peril.

“Y-yo... you caught my Saint Weapon with two fingers!” Ka Di Yun couldn’t help but exclaim in astonishment. His entire face was painted with a look of shock.

Ming Dong gave a mischievous smile, “What’s so alarming about that? Kid, do you dare say I’m arrogant now?”

Ka Di Yun’s face was quickly growing a pale-green color as his eyes flashed with a dangerous gleam, “Just who are you, and why are you trying to make things difficult for me?”

“I have no grievances with you, I merely wanted to play around with you and see the skill of the person that dared challenge my brother in the past. As for who I am, defeat me and I’ll naturally tell you.” Ming Dong displayed a ruminating look on his face as he released the sword that had been clamped with his fingers. “Continue to attack. Use your full strength. Only then will you have a sliver of a chance of forcing my hand. Naturally, you don’t need to worry. I won’t bully a child, so you won’t have to fear getting injured.”

This time, Ka Di Yun was not infuriated by the humiliating and condescending tone of Ming Dong. After this exchange, he had already come to realize just how strong Ming Dong was compared to him.

Ka Di Yun’s hands gripped his giant sword tightly as he glared at Ming Dong as if he was a viper. With a loud shout, he once again utilized his battle skill. His giant sword once more rippled with Saint Force as it

shot toward Ming Dong. A Saint Master using a battle skill would usually mean that it was the lowest tiers of the Human Tier Battle Skill, but even a Great Saint Master wouldn't be able to receive it head-on.

Ming Dong's hand began to flow with an even richer amount of wind-attributed Saint Force now. Just as the giant sword of Ka Di Yun was about to strike Ming Dong down, his hand flashed out and slapped the blade of the sword with incomparable precision.

"Pa!" The crisp sound of the palm striking the sword could be heard. In front of Ming Dong, the amount of accumulated energy in the sword had been like an ant to him that could effortlessly be displaced with a single palm strike. Furthermore, the energy transmitted to the Saint Weapon from the strike forced Ka Di Yun to stagger back several meters while the arms holding his sword began to shake and go numb.

Ka Di Yun could only stare at Ming Dong who was in front of him with wide-open eyes of shock. The waves in his heart reached a frenzied height instead of calming down from the sight in front of him. He could hardly believe his eyes when the very first strike, Ming Dong had clamped down on his sword with just two fingers despite Ka Di Yun using all of his strength. Then, even after using his battle skill to the fullest efficiency, his opponent had only needed a single slap for the energy in the sword to be scattered before it could be released. The strength of his opponent was so strong that it shocked Ka Di Yun down to his core.

Ka Di Yun was not the only one to be shocked at this scene. The entire audience had gone absolutely silent with thousands of students standing nearly transfixed at the spot, just staring at the arena. Many of them had expression of disbelief on their faces. At this moment, Jian Chen may have very well been the only person to keep his calm out of thousands of people. Though, even he revealed a look of helplessness and a forced smile.

Clapping his hands, Ming Dong looked at Ka Di Yun with a smile. Beckoning for him with a finger, he spoke, "Come now, let's try again. You just need to put a little more effort to knock me back."

Ka Di Yun could barely keep the dark expression off of his face as he stared at Ming Dong with a disturbed mind. Ming Dong looked to be no older than thirty years old, meaning that they were roughly the same age. Except the strength he possessed was absolutely terrifying. Even after using his battle skill to his fullest, Ka Di Yun had been unable to move Ming Dong. This was something that Ka Di Yun found very hard to accept.

"Sire, this is Kargath Academy. Outsiders are not permitted entry, and yet you have intruded anyways. You even interfered with a competition between students. Those are very serious violations of the rules of our Kargath Academy, prepare yourself to receive punishment for it!" At that moment, a stringently strict voice could be heard loud and clear through the grounds. At the same time the voice could be heard, a humanoid figure appeared in the blink of an eye before reappearing right in front of Ming Dong.

It was a middle-aged man with a rather ordinary facial appearance. However, the might he contained and the light in his eyes was terrifying. It caused each and every one of the weaker students to feel unable to look at him directly.

"It's the vice-headmaster, he has arrived..."

Following the appearance of this middle-aged man, the entire audience began to break out in a chorus of welcoming sounds.

The appearance of vice-headmaster Bai En allowed Ka Di Yun to show a relaxed look on his face as well as becoming delighted at the thought of the pain that would befall Ming Dong. Turning to the vice-headmaster, he spoke, "Vice-headmaster, he isn't a student of our Kargath Academy. Not only did he sneak into our academy grounds, he has meddled with the internal competitions of our academy."

"I will take care of this matter, you may head down." Bai En spoke to Ka Di Yun with his back to him. He showed a serious expression to Ming Dong.

Ka Di Yun did not speak another word. Bai En's appearance had solved his earlier awkward conundrum of being unable to back out. So with that solved, he hopped off the platform.

"So you're the vice-headmaster of Kargath Academy, it's nice to meet you!" Ming Dong smiled and cupped his hands in a polite salute to Bai En.

Bai En did not loosen his expression. Glaring dangerously at Ming Dong, he spoke rather woodenly, "You've violated the rules of our Kargath Academy. Come with me to see the headmaster and accept your punishment!"

"Headmaster? Do you mean Khafir?" Ming Dong laughed. He felt no pressure at all since he and Khafir were very well acquainted with one another.

Ming Dong's casual mention of Khafir's name caused Bai En's face to blanch. Furiously, he spoke, "Impudence! For just what reason could the name of the headmaster be said so easily by you?" As soon as his speech ended, Bai En started to move toward Ming Dong with a flash of his sword coming out to stab at him.

Chapter 532: Seeing Tie Ta Again (Three)

Vice-headmaster Bai En's sword traveled like an arc of lightning in an attempt to stab Ming Dong. His speed was far too fast for all of the students there to see his movements; even the after-images of the sword were impossible to spot.

Whether it was in speed or power, a battle between Earth Saint Masters would be many times stronger than a battle between Saint Masters. For the students who were merely Saints or perhaps Great Saints, they didn't possess the necessary strength to be able to carefully study this battle between Earth Saint Masters.

Seeing how Bai En was personally taking part in this fight, every single student let out a sudden gasp and focused their eyes on the battle in front of them. Although they wouldn't be able to study the battle in great detail, there was still a fatal attraction to the match. In their eyes, a battle between Earth Saint Masters was all too rare. Also, none of the students had ever seen the vice-headmaster fight.

Ming Dong's figure remained completely still where he stood while Bai En's sword stabbed through his chest without resistance. The students in the audience let out several gasp before crying out in cheers over Bai En's success. Those that didn't know of Ming Dong's strength figured that he had really been pierced through the chest by Bai En's sword.

However, Bai En wasn't cheerful at all. Instead, his expression grew solemn due to the fact that his sword hadn't felt anything at all. His sword had pierced through a mirror image that was already starting to fade away.

"Vice-headmaster Bai En, you're too slow! I'm already behind you." Before Bai En could even turn around, Ming Dong could be heard speaking from behind him.

Bai En was startled at this. He hadn't sensed Ming Dong make his way behind him at all, and judging from the closeness of the voice, Ming Dong was very close to his back. If Ming Dong were to strike at him, then it would be very hard for Bai En to dodge.

As a veteran of hundreds of battle, there was no hesitation in Bai En's movements as he slid to the side while simultaneously turning around to stab at Ming Dong behind him.

Ming Dong gently kicked off the platform with his entire body surrounded by wind-attributed Saint Force. Transforming into a cyan light, he easily dodged Bai En's strike.

However, Bai En continued to chase down Ming Dong. His legs stomped across the platform with a speed like a recently shot arrow to stab his single-handed sword into Ming Dong's chest.

Ming Dong wasn't angry. With a meaningful smile to Bai En, he retreated to the very edge of the platform before coming to a sudden stop. Then moving slightly to the left, he flew forward to cross by Bai En's side from the front. Just as the two crossed paths, Ming Dong's right palm began to swirl with wind-attributed Saint Force before gently striking Bai En's back.

Bai En had followed Ming Dong to the very edge of the platform, but it had been hard for him to suddenly stop in his tracks. When Ming Dong had slapped his back, there had been enough forward force in the palm that Bai En was sent flying off the stage thirty meters into the air before he finally dropped to the ground. Even then, the momentum within the strike had not yet fully dissipated. It caused him to tumble across the ground several steps before coming to a miserable stop.

Ming Dong and Bai En's fight had taken place in a split second with several exchanges, but the students hadn't been able to clearly see what the process of the match had been. However, there was one thing that was clear. Ming Dong was still standing on the arena while Bai En had somehow flown out from the arena at some point. According to the regulations of every fight on the arena, if one were to fall from the ring, then they would lose. With Bai En like this, it was very clear to see that he had lost.

When everyone realized the results of the match, every single student could only stare with wide open eyes in disbelief. Everyone could clearly see that their vice-headmaster Bai En had completely this match lost against this unknown stranger.

At this, even the three siblings from the Ka Di clan were speechless. They could only stand there in mute shock as they looked up at the arena. Although the three of them knew that the one standing on the arena was very strong, they didn't ever expect Ming Dong to be strong enough to the point where even the vice-headmaster Bai En would lose to him as well.

"Do... don't tell me... is he actually an Earth Saint Master?" Ka Di Liang found himself having difficulty speaking with the amount of shock he felt in his heart. Ming Dong looked rather young, close to his own brother in age, so he did not think that Ming Dong would be so strong.

Ka Di Qiuli and Ka Di Yun chose to stare at the arena with disbelieving eyes instead of answering their brother. With that expression on Ming Dong's face, the two of them had begun to feel a dangerous thought well up within them. Could it be that someone like their vice-headmaster Bai En was an insignificant person in comparison to him?

Like the others, Bai En looked back to Ming Dong in astonishment and complete surprise. As one of the two fighters in the match, he clearly felt that Ming Dong's strike had been relatively light despite causing him to lose.

Squashing the shock in his heart, Bai En leaped back onto the stage. With a complicated stare, he then cupped his hands together, "Thank you brother for being lenient!"

The words of Bai En were, to the students, like a bomb that had exploded as it brought another wave of shock to them.

Waving his hands in a carefree manner, Ming Dong spoke, "We are of the same side, and this was nothing more than for entertainment. If I were to really injure you, I'm afraid my brother would not let me off easily."

"Hahahaha. Friends, how could you not send me notice in advance of your coming? With me leading your welcome in person, would such a misunderstanding like this occur?" Just at that moment, an elderly sounding laugh could be heard from the sky as a white-robed figure descended with a smile.

"It's the headmaster..."

"The headmaster is here!"

Seeing the elderly figure, every single student immediately grew excited. Headmaster Khafir was an illustrious expert of the Gesun Kingdom that held plenty of prestige in the eyes of the students. However, he was very rarely seen among the students; some of the students had gone four or five years without seeing him even once. So, to see the headmaster now was an event that would cause no small amount of excitement for them.

Descending slowly onto the arena grounds, the headmaster of Kargath Academy gave a soft smile to Ming Dong.

"Headmaster Khafir, I didn't expect to see you here, haha. This outsider seems to have violated some rule of your academy, I hope you will not grow angry over this." Ming Dong cupped his hands and smiled back at Khafir.

"No no, how could I be? To have such a friend come sightsee around my Kargath Academy brings honor to it. I don't even have time to welcome you properly, let alone be angry." Khafir laughed merrily. Turning to look at Bai En, he spoke, "Bai En, your loss at the hands of my friend here is not wrong. If not for the leniency of my friend here, you would have fallen off this stage with severe wounds. Do not be as impulsive next time, understand?"

"This one understands." Bai En gave a respectful answer and turned with a complicated expression to Ming Dong. Feeling curious about Ming Dong's identity, he cupped his hands and asked, "Might I know what to call this brother here?"

Khafir laughed, "This friend here is called Ming Dong. He is an honored guest of our Gesun Kingdom. Bai En, you should know about the fame of Ming Dong here I presume."

"Ming Dong?" Bai En was taken back at first for a moment, but then the pondering expression on his face became a shocked one as he exclaimed, "Is he not the very same Earth Saint Master as the one who made use of a Heaven Tier Battle Skill to severely injure enemy Heaven Saint Masters at the northern stronghold, that Ming Dong!?" Bai En had not been quiet with his exclamation; therefore, every single student had been able to hear his words loud and clear, sending them all into an uproar.

"What? He's that Ming Dong from the northern stronghold?"

"If he's that Ming Dong, then it's no wonder he's that strong..."

"I heard that Ming Dong was already extremely close to becoming a Heaven Saint Master. He only just needs a single step to become one..."

"I heard that with a Heaven Tier Battle Skill, he was able to injure several experts of the Heaven Saint Master realm..."

After the battle of the northern stronghold, Ming Dong's name had been circulated around the Gesun Kingdom like wildfire. Practically everyone and everybody had heard of him, including the students of Kargath Academy. This battle had made him the idol of many students and a person to worship.

After knowing Ming Dong's identity, the faces of Ka Di Yun and his two siblings immediately lit up.

"So he was that Ming Dong? Hahaha, he is the hero that I, Ka Di Yun, admire so much. To lose at his hands, I, Ka Di Yun don't feel wronged at all. Not one bit!" Ka Di Yun gave a hearty laugh, for the bitter taste that was left in his mouth after his defeat had completely vanished.

"Eldest brother, he's... he's actually that Ming Dong!" Ka Di Liang's could only stare in bafflement at Ming Dong with shining eyes. Ming Dong's achievements were extremely known to them. Not only was he an Earth Saint Master at his age, he was also in possession of a Heaven Tier Battle Skill that could injure even Heaven Saint Masters. His militaristic achievements had long since made him a heroic figure to be worshipped in the eyes of the two and a goal that they both wished to reach.

Ka Ki Qiuli looked at Ming Dong with a flabbergasted expression as well. She didn't think that this extremely strong outsider would actually be the famous Ming Dong.

Now that headmaster Khafir had finally arrived, Jian Chen couldn't sit idly to the side any longer. Leaping onto the arena, he smiled and cupped his hands. "Headmaster Khafir, vice-headmaster Bai En!"

Seeing Jian Chen, Khafir let out an excited smile. "Haha, Changyang Xiangtian! From the moment I saw Ming Dong, I knew that you were here as well." Khafir eyed Bai En, "Bai En, this is the Imperial Protector of our Gesun Kingdom and the fourth master of the Changyang clan, Changyang Xiangtian!"

Chapter 533: Seeing Tie Ta Again (Four)

Upon hearing the name of Changyang Xiangtian, Bai En's face grew shocked once more. Hurriedly bowing to Jian Chen, he spoke, "Bai En pays his respects to the honored Imperial Protector!"

Although Jian Chen had once been a student of Kargath Academy, his status now was completely different from before. Not only was he a Heaven Saint Master, he was the very first Imperial Protector of the Gesun Kingdom in several hundred years. Compared to before, it was completely useless to try and compare statuses. Even a vice-headmaster like Bai En would have to bow to Jian Chen now.

As soon as the entire audience heard the fact that the white-robed outsider that came along with Ming Dong was the extremely famous Imperial Protector of the Gesun Kingdom, Jian Chen, everyone became stupefied once more. Straight away, a clamor could be heard as they all looked at him with looks of both adoration and fear.

If Ming Dong was a person to be idolized and worshipped in the hearts of the students, Jian Chen was a deity in comparison. One that they could never dare to offend.

In the past, Jian Chen had been a person of influence in Kargath Academy. Even now, the achievements he had accomplished in the academy had been preserved to the present times. The champion of newcomers, the one who had gathered a shockingly large amount of monster cores, and the one who had defeated the Saint Ka Di Yun despite not even being a Saint himself. Then finally, the very same Saint who had cut off Cheng Mingxiang's arm from the Hua Yun Sect while also forcing several other students to sustain injuries.

Each and every story Jian Chen was mentioned in caused the students of Kargath Academy to become extremely interested.

Now after a span of several short years, Changyang Xiangtian's strength had already reached the realm of the Heaven Saint Masters. Furthermore, he was also the Imperial Protector of the Gesun Kingdom. Such dazzling achievements like the ones that Changyang Xiangtian held were enough for every single student to deify him within their hearts. Even the envious students didn't dare to ever show this on the outside.

The entity that was known as a Heaven Saint Master was an existence that every student could only hope to look at in their lives. This was a boundary that many of them would perhaps never be able to reach in their entire lifetime.

Underneath the arena, Ka Di Qiuli's limpid autumn eyes widened in shock as she looked at the white-robed Changyang Xiangtian with a complicated look of envy.

"H-he's really Changyang Xiangtian? No wonder he felt so familiar to me." Seeing the handsome and positively brimming face of masculinity, Ka Di Qiuli began to mutter to herself. In her mind, she couldn't help but think back to the events that had happened in the past with every possible feeling she had ever felt.

Thinking back, Changyang Xiangtian, her, and her two brothers had only just entered Kargath Academy. Everyone wasn't even a Saint or had barely just become one. It had only been several short years since then. She and her two brothers were now the strongest in Kargath Academy, and her eldest brother Ka Di Yun had just recently made the breakthrough to become a Saint Master. They hadn't even left Kargath Academy yet while Jian Chen had, in these short years, become a high and mighty Heaven Saint Master.

Heaven Saint Masters were part of a world where everyone yearned to be.

Now that everyone knew that these two men were Changyang Xiangtian and Ming Dong, the only ones that could be relatively calm were the Ka Di siblings. Ka Di Yun and Ka Di Liang could only look at Jian Chen on the platform with complicated looks. For a long time, they were silent. They both could distinctly remember the rather unhappy feelings between the both of them way back then.

Despite becoming a Heaven Saint Master as well as becoming an Imperial Protector for the Gesun Kingdom, Jian Chen hadn't the slightest air of arrogance to him. Hurriedly lifting Bai En up, they began to speak several words of conversation.

"Ah, Changyang Xiangtian, you've finally returned. Please, come on over to my place and allow me to do the honor as the host." Khafir smiled. Jian Chen coming to Kargath Academy meant that he had not forget about this place. This little insight made Khafir feel joy and pride in his heart.

"Then, I'll trouble the headmaster with this matter." Jian Chen cupped his hands with a smile.

"Haha, no worries. No worries at all. You coming here brings great honor to the entire Kargath Academy." Khafir laughed merrily before slowly ascending into the sky to reach the tower in the center of the academy.

Unwilling to be left behind, Jian Chen began to gather the wind elements in the world to carry him and Ming Dong high into the sky. At a leisurely pace, he began to follow Khafir away from the arena, leaving behind a large group of students that could only look up in envy.

Soon enough, Jian Chen had brought Ming Dong to the tallest point of the tower where Khafir was. This was not only the place where Khafir conducted business, but it was also where he slept and received his guests to talk about several important things.

Khafir walked straight on over to the table and sat down. Calling for the two to sit down with him, he took out a bottle of wine from his Space Ring to serve to the two. "This is a drink that an old friend, who specializes in drinks, distilled for me. Its name is the Hundred Flower Wine; a drink that is made from a hundred different ingredients before being refined and distilled by an expert. It is precious enough that I rarely get to enjoy it. Come, take a sip and see how well the taste suits you."

Jian Chen and Ming Dong made no motions to be polite and took the drink to savor. With just a small mouthful, they both let out a sigh of praise, "It is truly a fine wine. Even in the palace, I wasn't able to drink something as delicious as this."

Jian Chen had drained his cup in a single gulp. It went without saying that Khafir had brought out an exquisite wine, but compared to the Hundred Grass Wine that the Ape King had bestowed to him, it was still quite lacking.

After finishing his drink, Jian Chen placed the cup gently back on the table. Then, taking out a jade bottle from his Space Ring, he said, "Headmaster Khafir, allow me to treat you to a genuinely matured bottle of wine." He took out the thousands of year old Hundred Grass Wine. Back then, the Ape King had gifted him roughly ten catty of the drink where Jian Chen had used nine out of the ten to increase his strength. All that was left was this single catty.

The very moment Jian Chen began to pour the Hundred Grass Wine for everyone to drink, a strong smell of wine began to flow out from the cups and fill the entire room.

Smelling the intense scent, the headmaster was startled. "What a wine! It is truly a fine wine. Even the scent alone is enough to make a man drunk from his heart on out. This is an exceptionally excellent wine. Changyang Xiangtian, where did you get such a wine?"

"Woah, Jian Chen, you've been hiding such a great wine from us! Quickly, pour us a cup, I want to try!" Ming Dong impatiently pushed his cup to Jian Chen with sparkling eyes.

Laughing, Jian Chen poured Ming Dong a cup, "Slow down a bit. This wine of mine is something even money can't buy. When I was in the Cross Mountains, I had to spend a great amount of time in order to convince the Ape King of the Spirit Apes to give me some. That was a beast of the Saint Ruler level, I don't have much of it left, so every little bit counts now."

Upon hearing that this was the wine given to Jian Chen by an Ape King of the Spirit Apes, Khafir's entire body began to wrack up as if experiencing a seizure. There was a look of utter disbelief in his eyes as he stared at Jian Chen. The Cross Mountains was a designated forbidden area for humanity. Every single person that entered that area was basically guaranteed to never come back out alive. He hadn't thought that Jian Chen was not only able to enter, but he was also able to convince a Saint Ruler level individual to hand over such an excellent wine. Such a feat was mind boggling.

Ming Dong didn't look surprised at all. He already knew that this wine had to be very hard to obtain and simply drank a sip of the Hundred Grass Wine. Then, closing his eyes from the intoxication, he began to relish the sensation of the fine wine entering his body.

Seeing the intoxicated look on Ming Dong's face, the wine enthusiast Khafir could no longer hold himself back. Pushing away the questions he had, Khafir pursed his lips and took a sip. Straight away, two bright rays of light could be seen in his eyes as he let out a praise of admiration, "Truly a splendid wine. Such a wine like this is something I have never drunk before! After drinking this, I feel as if every single wine I have tasted in my entire life is dull in comparison!" With that, Khafir drained the remaining cup in a single gulp.

Closing his eyes to bask in the intoxicated sensation, Khafir leaned back. This wine could not only increase one's Saint Force, it could also expand the spirit of the drinker. After drinking the wine, Ming Dong and Khafir couldn't help but close their eyes to experience it.

Jian Chen smiled as he looked at the two. When he had drunk the Hundred Grass Wine, he too did the exact same thing as these two.

Suddenly, Jian Chen started. Staring in surprise at the headmaster, he could see that there was a faint layer of the energy of the world gathering around the headmaster's body. The energy of the world began to grow even more intense before finally disappearing into his floating body. At the same time, a strong amount of energy dispersed from him in such a strong wave that it shook Ming Dong from his drunken stupor.

"What's happening?" Seeing how Khafir's body was suddenly floating in the sky, Ming Dong asked Jian Chen in confusion.

Jian Chen slowly pulled Ming Dong away before smiling, "Headmaster Khafir has made a breakthrough."

“What? A breakthrough?” Ming Dong was startled. Looking at the cup of wine in his hands, he let out a look of disbelief, “Don’t tell me he made a breakthrough after drinking a cup of wine!”

Jian Chen nodded his head without a word. The effects of the Hundred Grass Wine were something he was all too familiar with.

The headmaster’s body continued to disperse waves of energy one after another for some time before finally growing calm. His body gently descended back to the ground before he opened his eyes with apparent joy in them.

“Congratulations to headmaster Khafir for climbing to the next level!” Jian Chen congratulated.

Khafir broke out into a smile, “Hahaha. It is all thanks to this exceptionally fine wine, what a truly magical effect it has! Two years ago, I was at the pinnacle of the Third Cycle, but I found myself unable to make any more progress. I didn’t think that today I would be able to break through that bottleneck and become a Fourth Cycle Heaven Saint Master after drinking a cup of wine!”

“Does this wine really have such an effect like that?” Ming Dong was skeptical. Immediately following Khafir’s example, he poured the rest of the cup into his mouth and closed his eyes.

Afterward, Ming Dong had finally digested the rest of the wine into his body. Surprised, he spoke, “Although I didn’t breakthrough, I can feel my Saint Force growing even stronger. Furthermore, I feel that my willpower has grown stronger as well. This wine... this wine is a priceless treasure that even tens of thousands of gold wouldn’t be enough to purchase it!”

“What use is gold? This Hundred Grass Wine is something that only the magical beast clans would have. You won’t find such wine outside of their clans.” Jian Chen admonished.

“Jian Chen, pour me another cup!” Ming Dong pushed his cup to Jian Chen with a pitiful look.

Jian Chen placed the jade bottle back into his Space Ring with a pained look. “I don’t have much of this Hundred Grass Wine left, how can I support your drinking habits like this?”

Grimacing, Ming Dong muttered to himself, “If you don’t let me drink, fine then. I’ll wait until I become a Saint Ruler and go to that Spirit Ape for some.”

Jian Chen laughed after listening to Ming Dong’s words. Then turning to Khafir, he said, “Headmaster Khafir, I came this time to seek Tie Ta. After so many years, I wish to see my old friend. Where might Tie Ta be at this moment?”

Chapter 534: Golden Blood (One)

Khafir heartily laughed, “So you remember even that child Tie Ta. Unfortunately, Tie Ta left Kargath Academy to return to his hometown two years ago. I originally planned on going to visit him, but I had no time to go on such a trifling visit because of the four kingdoms allying together to attack us. I never found myself having the time to see him.”

“Ai, having said that, I am not qualified to be considered his master. Tie Ta is in a very crucial moment of his youth to be taught and educated, but I have taught him very little.”

“Headmaster Khafir shouldn’t worry himself with that. Despite the straightforwardness of Tie Ta, he is a very capable genius in how he trains himself. There’s no need for a teacher to guide him, he should be able to accomplish plenty with what he can teach himself. All that’s left for him is to gain experience, but that is something that can be gained later. As long as he experiences true combat, he’ll begin to improve rapidly.” Jian Chen laughed.

Khafir gave a nod of agreement, “I remember that Tie Ta once said to me that his hometown was in a small mountain village. I believe he said it was located a thousand or so kilometers to the north on a mountain that has a small city halfway up. I’m not too clear where it is precisely.”

A bright idea suddenly occurred to Jian Chen. He hastily brought out a map of the entire Gesun Kingdom and placed on the table as he began to inspect it.

Soon enough, Jian Chen found the corresponding topography that Khafir had spoken about. Pointing at the area, he declared, “This should be the place. There is a Third Class City here halfway up the mountains. I believe that Tie Ta’s residence will be somewhere nearby.”

Khafir looked at the place Jian Chen pointed at and nodded, “Yes, it should be in that general proximity.”

They left a short time later. Jian Chen stowed away the map back into his Space Ring and bade farewell to Khafir. He brought Ming Dong and him through the air as they rush in the direction of the mountain city.

With Jian Chen’s speed, it took roughly two hours before the two arrived at the small city. This Third Class city was known as “Loess City” and was established on a mountain with a area that was smaller than Wake City by a small amount. It was rather simple and crude with even the most rudimentary city walls left incomplete. Even the marbled roads that paved the streets were riddled with stones that peeked through the streets and made it hard for carts to travel over.

For the sake of not causing a disturbance, Jian Chen and Ming Dong had descended from the sky onto a path that would lead them to the city.

After entering it, Jian Chen walked into a store that sold all kinds of meat and placed down a gold coin. “Shopkeeper, I’d like to ask you about a person. As long as you tell me what I need to know, this gold coin will be yours.”

Even the devil himself would turn rocks for money, especially if it was just for such a tiny inquiry. A gold coin to the butcher was enough profit to cover several days worth of work. There was no way the shopkeeper would decline this offer. However, he did not grab at the gold coin in Jian Chen’s hand and instead said, “Little brother, speak. Whatever the case is, if this uncle knows, I will definitely inform you.”

“Shopkeeper, do you recognize a man named Tie Ta? He should be around my age.” Jian Chen asked.

Hearing this, the shopkeeper let out a delighted light in his eyes. Hurriedly, he said, “I know him, I know him! Is he not a dark-skinned kid with long hair? His skin is really dark and is quite the straightforward little guy, right?”

“Yes, that’s him. Shopkeeper, do you happen to know where he lives?” Jian Chen smiled and asked his next question.

The shopkeeper suddenly grew cautious and stared warily at Jian Chen and Ming Dong. Grimly, he asked, "Who are you two, and why are you looking for him?"

Knowing that the shopkeeper was afraid that he and Ming Dong were looking for Tie Ta for trouble, Jian Chen replied quickly, "Shopkeeper, we are students from Kargath Academy and old classmates of Tie Ta. We only wish to come pay him a visit."

Upon hearing that Jian Chen and Ming Dong were students of Kargath Academy, the shopkeeper immediately felt at ease. With an admiring smile, he said, "Ah, Kargath Academy is truly the greatest institute in our Gesun Kingdom. Every single student that is accepted to that place is truly a talent among talents. I've heard that the newest Imperial Protector of our Gesun Kingdom was once a student of Kargath Academy as well."

Jian Chen and Ming Dong smiled without saying a word at this.

Thinking for a moment, the shopkeeper answered, "Since you're the classmates of that kid, I'll tell you where he lives." With that, the shopkeeper pointed a finger in the direction behind him. "Head twenty kilometers down the mountain to where a brook is. There's a forest next to the brook. Enter the forest and there'll be a village. In the village is a row of houses, and in those houses will be where that kid lives."

"Couldn't you just say that there's a village twenty kilometers down the mountain? I feel ready to faint just hearing all those directions!" Ming Dong didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Jian Chen laughed before handing over the coin to the man. He left the city with Ming Dong. Leaping across the area at a rapid pace, they began to move to the back of the mountain. Twenty kilometers was truly too short of a distance for Jian Chen to feel like flying.

The bawling sounds of several beasts could be heard as they crossed the forest. Having not been even Class 1 Magical Beasts, neither Jian Chen nor Ming Dong paid attention to them as they traversed across the mountains at lightning quick speeds. Soon, there was a five meter long river that the two of them crossed over. With another quick hike through the forest, they indeed discovered a small village on the other end.

The village was rather small in size with roughly thirty or so families in it. The houses were arranged in a singular line and were rather clean and tidy. All around the village were a series of fields where all sorts of vegetation and paddies could be seen. Several of the peasants could be seen working in them as well.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both walked past the paddies until they arrived at the village entrance itself. Even after trudging past the fields, their shoes were still impeccably clean without a single spot of dust or dirt on it. The rich-looking robes the two of them wore caused them to look completely out of place in comparison to the peasant farmers who were all wearing coarse-looking clothing. So when the two arrived at this place, they caught the attention of all the villagers who began to grow nervous at their approach. Several of the villagers had already begun to clench their hoes and sickles tightly in preparation.

"What business might my two lords have here?" An aged, old man began to tremble as he approached the two and questioned them carefully.

Amiably, Jian Chen smiled to the elder and spoke with a kind tone. "Venerable elder, we are students from Kargath Academy along with Tie Ta, so we came today hoping to find him."

"Oh, so you're friends of Tie Ta." The elder let loose a sigh in relief. Then with a wave of his hand and a hoarse shout, he spoke, "There's no need to worry everyone. These two are students of Kargath Academy and came looking for Tie Ta, their old classmate!"

The previously nervous-looking villagers immediately grew relaxed after hearing his words.

There was a rather suspicious look on Jian Chen after seeing this display. This was clearly a rather unordinary reaction from the villagers.

"Venerable elder, was there something that happened here recently?" Jian Chen asked.

"Nothing, nothing at all!" The elder waved his hands before replying, "Tie Ta went to hunt in the mountains earlier this morning. I reckon he'll be back soon. Please, come sit in our village for a while!"

After a moment's consideration, Jian Chen agreed, "Very well, then we'll be troubling the villagers."

Just at that moment, a deep and resounding voice could be heard from far away, "Father, mother, grandfather, first uncle, second uncle, and aunties, I'm back!"

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both turned their heads instinctively only to see a rather well built man with dark skin come walking from far away with a wild boar hung over his shoulders.

"Tie Ta has returned, he's back! Oh, and he even brought back a giant mountain boar!" The elderly man cried out in excitement.

Ming Dong looked at the boar holding man with a rather disbelieving face, "Jian Chen, could this really be the Tie Ta you were looking for?"

Jian Chen smiled and nodded. "That's right, that's Tie Ta. When I was in Kargath Academy, he was the only friend I had. I see he's changed a lot after several years. Even I can barely recognize him, but his voice is still the same as back then."

At that moment, Tie Ta saw the two newcomers to the village. With a slight tremble of his body, he tossed the boar he was carrying to the ground and charged toward Jian Chen, "Who are you two? Strange, why is it that I feel as if you're familiar to me, have we met somewhere before?" There was an icy tone to Tie Ta's words. However, when he gave a closer look to Jian Chen, there was a suspicious glint in his eyes that soon turned to bewilderment.

Seeing Tie Ta, Jian Chen felt shocked as well. After many years without seeing each other, Tie Ta had already grown even bulkier than before. Small words aside, his body was practically a miniature mountain in size. Even at the height of 1.8 meters, Jian Chen could only reach Tie Ta's chest who seemed as if he was already reaching a height of 2.5 meters.

Jian Chen tilted his head up at the mountain-sized Tie Ta with a glittering smile on his face. "Tie Ta, after so many years, could it be that you've forgotten me?"

Hearing such a familiar-sounding voice, Tie Ta's eyebrows creased together in thought. "This voice..." he muttered before growing silent. Then, his eyes began to brighten as if he remembered something. He

looked joyously at Jian Chen with excitement. "You're... you're Changyang Xiangtian! Changyang Xiangtian, I... I remember what you sound like."

Jian Chen smiled happily, "Tie Ta, I thought for a moment that you had already forgotten about me."

"No, how could I? Changyang Xiangtian, I, Tie Ta, would never forget you even for the rest of my life. Hahaha, you are the best brother I've ever had. Do you remember back when we were hunting magical beasts in Kargath Academy? Those were the happiest days I ever experienced in my life! For the remainder of this life of mine, I won't forget that either." Tie Ta boomed with laughter before hugging Jian Chen in a tight embrace with vigor. Tears began to form in his eyes as he declared, "Changyang Xiangtian, I didn't think that you'd still be alive. This is great! I heard all about what happened between you and the Hua Yun Sect from teacher. I know that you had to flee your home into the ruthless continent that is our Tian Yuan Continent by yourself! But I never received any news from you after that, and I thought that I'd never be able to see you again!"

Chapter 535: Golden Blood (Two)

Tie Ta was exuberantly excited and filled with glee. Ever since he had attended Kargath Academy, Jian Chen had become the best of brothers to him. Tie Ta had felt his memories of Jian Chen etch deep into the bones of his body after the beast hunting competition in the forest, so they would never be forgotten.

When the weaker-looking Jian Chen was wrapped in the arms of what appeared to be a black bear for a hug, he suddenly felt a large amount of power constrict him. Realizing that this was the raw strength of Tie Ta, Jian Chen couldn't help but feel surprised. Compared to several years ago, Tie Ta was far stronger than he was in the past. Even with his body tempered and reinforced by the Chaotic Force, he still found it rather hard to take in the hug.

Gently pushing away Tie Ta's arms, Jian Chen looked up at the bear-like man with some shock, "Tie Ta, a few years ago, you were the same height I was, but you actually grew so much since then."

Tie Ta had calmed down quickly afterward. Rubbing behind his head, he laughed, "Even I don't know what happened, but in any case, I grew a lot in two years." As he spoke, Tie Ta looked as if he was reminded of something and began to show worry in his eyes.

Jian Chen had caught onto the worry in Tie Ta's eyes, prompting him to immediately ask in concern, "Tie Ta, if there is some sort of difficulty you have, tell me and I will help you through it."

"It's nothing, nothing at all. Changyang Xiangtian, this is the first time you've come to my home, come, sit, and talk for a moment." Tie Ta patted Jian Chen's shoulder with a hand, and began to lead him to a nearby wooden house. Before they could even take a few steps, Tie Ta suddenly realized that he had completely forgotten about Ming Dong. Laughing a little mischievously, he said with a low voice to Jian Chen, "Changyang Xiangtian, this must be your friend then!"

Jian Chen laughed and introduced him, "This is Ming Dong, my best friend."

Tie Ta's other hand went to shake Ming Dong's hand quite enthusiastically, "If you are a brother of Changyang Xiangtian, you are a brother of mine. Brother Ming Dong, let us walk."

"Tie Ta, there's guests in our village."

“Giant, are these two your friends?”

“Big bro giant, who are these two?”

By now, every single villager had surrounded the three with curious expressions. Everyone called out to him affectionately and with ease.

Smiling deeply, Tie Ta greeted everyone that greeted him one by one. After everyone left, they continued on their path to Tie Ta’s place.

The interior of his home was not too big, and it was split into six different regions: the kitchen, the dining room, and four rooms to sleep in. Aside from his own room, his parents shared one, his grandparents shared another, and the last one was occupied by his great-grandfather, who was already a hundred fifty years old, but could not cultivate Saint Force.

Sitting Jian Chen and Ming Dong down next to the table, Tie Ta took out an ordinary bottle of rice wine and some iced meat to serve to the two.

“Changyang Xiangtian, Ming Dong, my home is not as rich as the ones in the city, so I can only bring out this to serve.” Seeing how wretched the food and wine he had served were, Tie Ta could only force a hollow smile in embarrassment.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong were not fussy people in any shape or form. With a wave of their hands and a few polite words, the three began to eat large portions at a time. Despite the food being rather unremarkable in taste, this was the best that Tie Ta could offer. Just how could they not take even a single bite of it?

Placing a piece of barbequed meat into his mouth, Jian Chen stared at Tie Ta and spoke with a rather ambiguous voice. “Tie Ta, I heard that you left Kargath Academy two years ago and never came back. Did something happen back home?”

Tie Ta’s eyes immediately flashed with terror at Jian Chen’s words. His mouth slammed shut without even the tiniest of sounds to be heard.

Swallowing the final piece of meat in his mouth, Jian Chen concentrated his stare at Tie Ta and grimly inquired. “Tie Ta, tell me what situation you’ve found yourself in. Do you or do you not take me as your brother?”

Frantically, Tie Ta began to wave his hands, “No, that’s not it, Changyang Xiangtian. You misunderstand, you are the best brother I’ve ever had.”

“Then whatever it is that’s troubling you, say it. I may be able to help.” Jian Chen pressured. He was already certain of the fact that Tie Ta was in trouble. Tie Ta was one of Jian Chen’s good friends, so with him coming across trouble now, Jian Chen wouldn’t dare sit idly to the side.

“Tie Ta. Just say whatever it is on your mind to Jian Chen. Don’t worry about a thing. Jian Chen isn’t the same wandering type of person he was in Kargath Academy. Within the Gesun Kingdom, there isn’t anything Jian Chen can’t fix.” Ming Dong chimed in. The straightforwardness of Tie Ta was enough for Ming Dong to follow Jian Chen’s example and treat him as a very good friend. Those with a

straightforward and honest nature would often times be willing to help others, and would very rarely be the one to stab a friend in the back.

Tie Ta looked as if he had not yet made a decision and seemed to be hesitant. After nervously squirming where he stood for a good while, he finally steeled himself and bit his lips, "Changyang Xiangtian, Ming Dong, it's not convenient to say it here, let's go up the mountains first."

"Alright!"

Without hesitation, Jian Chen and Ming Dong stood up to follow Tie Ta up a hillside path. It was only after they had walked several kilometers into the depths of the mountains that they stopped.

"Tie Ta, just what in the world happened for you to come so far from your village?" Ming Dong asked out of curiosity.

Tie Ta was in an extremely worried state with his eyebrows pinched together in deep worry. Carefully looking left and then right with a prudent expression, he looked to see if anyone was around before letting out a sigh in relief. After a slight moment of hesitation, he asked Jian Chen a nervous question, "Changyang Xiangtian. What color do you think blood is in humans?"

"Do I even need to answer? Of course it's red. Why would you ask that?" Jian Chen asked in confusion.

"Aside from red, is there any other colors?" Tie Ta pressed on.

"Yes, but only magical beasts would have such colors." Jian Chen replied.

"Then would those blood colors be likely to appear within humanity?" Tie Ta was growing even more anxious by this point.

Ming Dong replied with himself as soon as Tie Ta asked. "What? Of course not, or at least, not that I've ever heard." Then, Ming Dong realized something strange. Amazed, he looked back at Tie Ta and asked, "Tie Ta, why would you ask me such a bizarre question unless..."

Jian Chen was becoming aware of the situation and let out an incredulous expression as well.

Clutching at his head in pain, Tie Ta's eyebrows furrowed even deeper together with concern.

"Changyang Xiangtian, Ming Dong, I have said my secret. You can't tell this to anyone else; not even my parents know about this secret."

Jian Chen and Ming Dong both nodded their heads together in solidarity.

"You two have guessed it already. My blood is not at all red in color, it has the color of what one might expect to find in a magical beast. Combined with my physique, do you think that I might not be even human?" Tie Ta spoke in anguish.

Ming Dong and Jian Chen looked at each other for a moment with startled eyes between the two. Tie Ta's words were like a clap of thunder to their minds and stunned them into an unsteady state for a decent amount of time.

Even a three year old would be able to answer with confidence what blood color a human had. It was without a doubt red without any chance of it being something else. Whatever other color appeared in a magical beast was never to be seen in a human before.

“Impossible, how could the blood of a human be any other color but red? Tie Ta, are you sure you saw it right? Perhaps you didn’t see it clearly enough.” After the shock wore off, Ming Dong cried out in utter disbelief.

“I couldn’t have. I am a coarse person, but even I have sharp enough eyes to see my own blood. If you don’t believe me, then cut my arm and see for yourself.” Tie Ta replied in anguish. The color of his blood had clearly been tormenting him something fierce and made him believe he was some sort of monster.

Ming Dong didn’t hesitate to grab a nearby leaf that was falling to the ground. With a sudden movement of his hand, the leaf immediately sliced over Tie Ta’s dark-skinned arms, but the skin remained unbroken.

Dumbfounded, Ming Dong’s mouth dropped open. “Well f*ck me if that’s true. How is your skin so thick?” Although Ming Dong had used a single tree leaf, it contained a large amount of Saint Force that made it incomparably sharper than an iron sword. If such a sharp weapon wasn’t able to cut Tie Ta’s arm, that could only mean his body was far stronger than that.

Even Jian Chen was stunned by Tie Ta’s physique. While he knew since a long time ago that Tie Ta’s physical strength was extremely strong, he didn’t think that it would reach such an obscenely high level.

“Normally when I come across some prey like the wild animals, they wouldn’t be able to harm me no matter how much they bite.” Tie Ta looked rather pleased at that.

“Let me try again!” Ming Dong was determined to try again. With another leaf, he began to pour a lot of Saint Force into the leaf before trying to cut Tie Ta’s arm once more.

This time the cut had more strength put into it than before, but even then, only the superficial part of the skin was broken. Not a single droplet of blood could be seen coming from it.

“Your skin is far too thick. It’s practically the same level of a Class 5 Magical Beast. If I don’t have my Saint Weapon, then I doubt I’d be able to see you spill blood.” Ming Dong exclaimed in shock.

“Let me try then!” Jian Chen took Tie Ta’s arm into his hand, and allowed a bit of the azure and violet Sword Qi to emanate from his fingertip. He then gently sliced his skin.

In front of the Sword Qi of the azure and violet Sword Spirits, Tie Ta’s tremendously strong body was like a piece of tofu. Without any wasted effort, his skin revealed a cut, and golden blood immediately began to spill from it.

Seeing the golden blood gushing out, Jian Chen and Ming Dong were both dumbfounded. The both of them could only look at the blood with expressions of utter shock. Tie Ta’s blood was indeed not red but golden.

Chapter 536: Golden Blood (Three)

Seeing the blood slowly flow from his arm, Tie Ta sighed, “Changyang Xiangtian, take a look. Is my blood not red?”

“How... how did this happen?” Jian Chen whispered with a stunned voice. Tie Ta’s blood being a golden color was far too strange to even imagine.

“Jian Chen, look! His blood is even glowing!” Ming Dong suddenly pointed at Tie Ta’s arm with a finger and wide open eyes.

Looking back at Tie Ta’s arm, Jian Chen could see that the golden blood dripping down Tie Ta’s arm was indeed shining. If not for the fact that they were in a relatively dim place, this glow would have been very difficult to discover.

Jian Chen could only feel even more shock at this point. Not only was Tie Ta’s blood golden, it also had a golden glow to it. Such a sight like this was completely unheard of and unprecedented.

“Tie Ta, how did your blood become like this?” Jian Chen asked in shock.

“I... I don’t know either.” Tie Ta looked helpless. He too was completely confused on how his blood had become golden in color.

“According to my knowledge, the blood of magical beasts is the only blood that can have variations in color. Humanity has never had any other color but red for their blood. This is simply too unbelievable to see. Tie Ta’s blood is golden.” Ming Dong exclaimed.

“Jian Chen, look at my body and how dark-skinned I am. Would you say I’m a human, a magical beast, or even a monstrosity?” Tie Ta looked to Jian Chen with a face of dread and terror. He was extremely afraid of what he could possibly be.

“You should be fine!” Jian Chen’s eyes narrowed together as he spoke. Whatever was happening to Tie Ta was simply too bizarre to understand.

After a while, Jian Chen asked, “Tie Ta, did you eat anything strange in the past?”

Thinking for a moment, Tie Ta shook his head, “No. I’ve only ate the standard fare, whether that is the meat of the wild animals or the food from the academy.”

“Then you never ate any strange fruit or strange plant either?” Ming Dong asked.

“None, I’ve never ate anything like that.” Tie Ta shook his head again.

“Then when did you realize that your blood was golden? Did you feel some sort of strange sensation or something different in your body at any time?” Jian Chen persisted.

Tie Ta paused to think. “One day in Kargath Academy, I was hunting for magical beasts by myself when I came across a strong one by accident. When it drew blood, I realized at that moment that my blood had become golden.”

With a questioning murmur to himself, Jian Chen spoke, “How queer. When we came across the azure wolves in the forest, I clearly remember your blood still being red. How could it have suddenly become golden!?” Jian Chen’s eyebrows furrowed together in deep thought before suddenly thinking of something. “Tie Ta, from the day I left Kargath Academy to the day you realized that your blood became golden, did you realize your body was undergoing any type of transformation?”

“None. Everything was normal. It’s only after I formed my Saint Weapon that I felt my strength increase every day. Even if I did not cultivate, it would increase without stopping. Furthermore, my body grew taller as well, just look at how tall I am now.” As he was speaking, Tie Ta seemed to have remembered something and piped up, “Ah! I remember that while I was condensing my Saint Force to form my Saint Weapon, I felt my entire body grow extremely hot. Practically every part of it felt as if there was a ball of fire within my body. Do you think that’s the reason?”

Jian Chen grew silent as he couldn’t help but think about when he had condensed his own Saint Weapon. At that time, the azure and violet light had appeared all of a sudden within his dantian. Tie Ta had felt an unbelievable wave of heat through his body. This was extremely unusual since an ordinary person materializing their Saint Weapon would only feel their strength increase and not any other symptom.

“It would appear that the problem is most likely because of that.” Jian Chen muttered.

“Where was the problem?” Tie Ta’s eyes lit up as he studied Jian Chen with an anxious, nervous face.

Hesitating, Jian Chen replied, “It should be from the moment you made your Saint Weapon. Some sort of mutation happened in your body at that time. However, that’s just my guess since I’m not clear on just what could possibly turn your blood golden.”

Left with no clear answer still, Tie Ta scratched at his head in vexation. Distressed, he asked, “Just what in the world is happening? If this continues, do you think I’ll become some sort of monster?”

“Tie Ta, you needn’t worry. Your blood is indeed unique; according to what I know, the blood of some magical beasts is quite special. Some don’t even have golden blood. With blood like yours, this may be a blessing in disguise instead of misfortune.” Ming Dong comforted him.

“But, but...” Tie Ta clearly did not seem to accept that reply.

“There’s no buts about it. Ming Dong is right. This is a blessing and not a misfortune that cannot be avoided. Tie Ta, you don’t have to be so vexed. It will do nothing to solve your problem. Instead, you should accept the fact and stop spending your time worrying about it.” Jian Chen sternly spoke. Having said that, he couldn’t help but think back to the bitter experiences he once had. At that time he didn’t know about the secrets of the azure and violet Sword Spirits, nor why they had taken up residence within his dantian. Despite being so vexed about them, they had not been a source of calamity for him. Instead, he had profited from them with plenty of good results.

“Fine then. I won’t worry so much about it anymore. Who cares if I’m a human or monster? Even if I become one, then I’ll just live my days in a place without humans.” With the comforting of Jian Chen and Ming Dong, Tie Ta finally decided to accept his predicament.

“That’s the spirit, just learn to accept it. You fear your golden blood, but it might be a symbol of your innate uniqueness. Don’t forget that you have a natural blessing.” Jian Chen laughed as he took out a towel from his Space Ring to wipe away the blood on Tie Ta’s arm. When the towel wiped away the blood, Tie Ta’s arm was without any traces of the injury as if it had never happened.

“Eh? Your injury has already healed, what a powerful recovery rate!” Jian Chen cried out in shock.

Tie Ta laughed, “My body heals quickly even after being injured.”

“Could this be the magic of your golden blood?” Ming Dong was astonished as well.

Jian Chen waved his hand in resignation, “Forget it, there’s no point in talking about it anymore. No matter how much we try to find an answer, we’ll only be making blind guesses as things stand. Tie Ta, it’s been years since we last met, let me see just how much you’ve improved since then.”

Tie Ta had finally cracked open a smile at his words. “I haven’t slacked off at all these past few years. Everyday I’ve cultivated so that even now, I’m a middle Great Saint Master. Changyang Xiangtian, how’s your strength now? You may have beaten me when we were in Kargath Academy, but who knows whether or not you’ll beat me today?”

It was between laughter and tears that Ming Dong looked at Tie Ta, “Tie Ta, you look down too much on Jian Chen! Even Heaven Saint Masters find themselves dying at Jian Chen’s hand. As a Great Saint Master, Jian Chen could move a single finger to defeat you.”

Turning pale with fright, Tie Ta cried out, “What? Even Heaven Saint Masters died because of him? Is that really true? Forget it then! We’re not fighting. There’s no way I’ll fight with you!” Frantically, Tie Ta shook his hands and stared at Jian Chen as if he was the true monster.

Laughing, Jian Chen was about to say something when Ming Dong suddenly piped up first, “Tie Ta, I’ve heard from Jian Chen that you’re unnaturally strong. Why not fight with me then?”

The naturally straightforward Tie Ta was not modest this time as he inquired, “My strength is quite strong, yes. Can you take it? What if I hurt you somehow?”

Unable to laugh or cry, Ming Dong replied, “If you can injure me, I’ll ram my head into the tree and kill myself!”

“No no no, that won’t do! You’re the brother of Changyang Xiangtian and the brother of mine by extension. How could I possibly allow you to do such a thing? Let us not fight and wait for another opportunity then.” Tie Ta didn’t realize the meaning behind Ming Dong’s words, so they had scared him greatly.

Ming Dong’s leg staggered so violently that he nearly fell to the ground. Smiling hollowly, he said to Jian Chen, “Jian Chen! Your brother here is... he’s... he’s too naive!”

Jian Chen couldn’t help but smile. Tie Ta was truly a simplistic thinker and wouldn’t think too much on such problems like these.

“Tie Ta, you shouldn’t underestimate Ming Dong. He already stands at the pinnacle of the realm of Earth Saint Masters. There is only a string’s width of a step before he becomes a Heaven Saint Master, but even a Heaven Saint Master wouldn’t be able to easily harm him. You needn’t worry about this.” Jian Chen spoke to Tie Ta.

“Aaah? That can’t be, even Ming Dong is that strong? How can you two be so amazing? I already thought that I was strong enough, but even now, you two are even stronger than I am.” Tie Ta’s self confidence had taken a tremendous setback after that.

Ming Dong pulled back at his sleeves with a smile, "Tie Ta, you can rest assured now. Come, fight me without holding back. If I as a Sixth Cycle Earth Saint Master am injured by a Great Saint Master, then I, Ming Dong, won't be able to continue my life in this Tian Yuan Continent anymore."

"Fine then. Since you're already an Earth Saint Master, I shouldn't be able to harm you. Prepare yourself then, I'll start now!" Tie Ta stood up. He was serious now. With a crackling sound from both of his giant fists, he immediately struck at Ming Dong's chest with the slight booming sound of thunder following close behind.

Ming Dong stood there without a proper stance, but his palms were filled with the wind element energy. Becoming a blur, his hands flew up to his chest to block Tie Ta's fist.

"Bang!" When the palm and fist collided, there was a deep muffled sound as if the sound of thunder could be heard echoing through the air, forcing the hearts of anyone that heard it to skip a beat.

Jian Chen was slightly startled. Staring in bewilderment at Tie Ta, he could sense that Tie Ta's fist had a strength that was far beyond what was to be expected. When Tie Ta's fist impacted against Ming Dong's palm, there had been a thunderous sound that penetrated the bones and organs with enough force to rupture them.

After the vibrational force from the palm and fist subsided, Tie Ta staggered back a few steps. Ming Dong's body shook violently for a moment, but instead of staggering back, his feet dug deeper and deeper into the ground.

There was a startled expression on Ming Dong's face as well as he exclaimed, "What force! No wonder Jian Chen said you are naturally blessed!"

Seeing that Ming Dong was still standing there, Tie Ta had a look of worship on his face, "Brother Ming Dong, you're truly amazing! My fist wasn't able to even knock you back. Then I'll go with my full power then, be careful now!"

Chapter 537: Xiao Family

A smile remained on Ming Dong's face, "Come then. I, Ming Dong, will accept your strike, so go all out without reserve!"

"Yahoo!" Tie Ta roared as he began to build up power in one of his fists to strike at Ming Dong. The first fist had already given him a decent understanding of just how large of a gap there was between he and Ming Dong. So this next fist would contain his entire strength without holding back.

As soon as Tie Ta's fist lashed out, the sound of muffled thunder appeared again. Just from the sight alone, one could tell that this punch was far stronger than the previous one with thunder breaking out continuously.

The amazement in Jian Chen's eyes had grown even more noticeable as he observed Tie Ta. This ordinary-looking punch from Tie Ta seemed as if it carried some sort of secret. A secret capable of making the sounds of thunder follow his fist while only being a Great Saint Master.

Ming Dong could sense the abnormality of Tie Ta's supposedly normal punch as well. His fists began to gather even more of the wind element into a thin layer of cyan light around his palms. With lightning fast speed he protected his body by blocking Tie Ta's dreadful punch.

"Crack!"

Another muffled sound similar to a clap of thunder could be heard with a force that seemed to penetrate even the human body. It allowed both Jian Chen and Ming Dong to feel their hearts forcibly skipping a beat.

This time, Ming Dong was unable to maintain his mountain-like position like before. His body began to shake violently as his feet slid back several steps, leaving an impression each time he staggered back.

The backlash Tie Ta had received was equally strong. His feet involuntarily staggered back several meters before finally stopping. However, when he saw that Ming Dong remained unharmed, he couldn't help but feel more admiration for him. With a low voice, he said, "Brother Ming Dong, you're really amazing! Even with my full strength, I accomplished nothing against you."

But Ming Dong couldn't feel the same happiness at all. Gently shaking his arm to get rid of the numbness, he looked strangely at Tie Ta before asking seriously, "Tie Ta, you didn't use a battle skill or anything when you punched me, correct?"

Jian Chen looked seriously at Tie Ta as well. Those two strikes had been unusual; not only did they release a strange sound after striking, but at the moment of impact between the two hands, there was a resultant explosion that had been enough to shock the internal organs of both participants.

"Battle skill? Not at all; I've never learned one before. Both of my fists just now were just from my own strength." Tie Ta smiled.

"Tie Ta, when you punch, do you feel anything out of the ordinary?" Jian Chen seriously questioned.

"No? Everything seems normal, Changyang Xiangtian, why do you ask?" Tie Ta was utterly confused on why Jian Chen had been so questioning.

Seeing the vacant look on Tie Ta's face, Jian Chen gave up asking more. He knew that he wouldn't be able to get any answers even if he did, but the fists Tie Ta revealed just now left a huge question in his mind. Jian Chen didn't know just how a punch from Tie Ta could have such a strange sound that could also affect even his internal organs.

"Jian Chen, this is probably because of the golden blood in Tie Ta. That golden blood he has in him is really too strange, but it's all the more proof that Tie Ta is not an ordinary person." Ming Dong spoke.

Thinking to himself, Jian Chen found there was Ming Dong a point to his words and gave up questioning it any longer. "Let's go back then."

"Okay, we'll head back then. But you two have to keep this secret of mine between us three." Tie Ta pleaded with the two.

"Don't worry, we won't say a word." Jian Chen promised.

Afterward, the three men began to walk back to the village. As soon as they arrived, they could see several dozen figures disputing with the weapon-wielding villagers.

Upon seeing the dozen distinctly dressed figures, Tie Ta's eyes seemed as if they would spit fire with anger. Howling, he cried, "Those bastards came again? It seems like the lesson I taught them last time wasn't enough!" With that, Tie Ta began to dash off toward the group.

"Tie Ta has returned, he's returned..."

"Bro giant has come back! Come quickly and beat these bastards up..."

"Kid, you've returned! Quickly throw these guys out..."

As soon as they saw Tie Ta return, every single villager looked as if a heavy weight had been lifted from their shoulders. They knew just how strong Tie Ta was, and as long as he was here, then those men would have no leg to stand on.

When the distinctly dressed figures saw Tie Ta approach, their faces were startled and frightened because of him. However, as if a sudden thought had occurred to them, a confident smile appeared on their faces.

Tie Ta quickly came to a stop in front of the villagers with a furious scowl aimed at the ten newcomers. "You annoying guys came back again? Did you not get beat up enough by me?"

"Tie Ta, you're too savage. We are men from the Xiao family. Our young master has already become a disciple of the Blackwind Sect, and the personal disciple of the sectmaster himself. With his illustrious standing, you are nothing more than a blade of grass to him. How could you compete with us? If you continue to be so unbridled like this, then you'll be causing trouble for the entire village." One of the youths spoke.

"As if I gave a sh*t who you are. Blackwind Sect? I'm not afraid of them. Don't think that you'll be able to leave with her in hand. If you don't leave now in fact, I'll make sure to use my fists to drive you out." With that, Tie Ta's knuckles began to crack in anger because of the group in front of him.

"Tie Ta, you can't even tell good from bad. The fact that our young master has taken favor to someone from your village should be a blessing, but you don't even cherish that fact. Don't you know just how many blue-blooded daughters would love to marry our young master within the Gesun Kingdom?" A blue-robed youngster spoke in a serious manner. If not for the fact that he had eaten his fair share of losses to Tie Ta, he wouldn't have bothered to waste so much time trying to squabble with him.

At that moment, Jian Chen and Ming Dong caught up. Looking casually over to the group of well-dressed individuals, he asked, "Tie Ta, what's going on?"

Furiously, Tie Ta explained, "The Xiao family saw that sister Qiu Yue was quite pretty, and want to kidnap her to wed her to the young master of the Xiao family. They've tried multiple times already, but I've managed to beat them back each time. However, it's always been a short interval between each attempt, how annoying!"

The dozen men from the Xiao family could see that Jian Chen and Ming Dong were by no means ordinary figures due to their robes and presence. While they were aware that the two could be from an

influential family, the men did not see the two as a serious threat at all. With the young master becoming a disciple of the sectmaster of the Blackwind Sect, their family position within the kingdom would rise with the tide, making them a family that few would offend.

“Who are you two? This is a matter between them and the Xiao family. Be sensitive and get lost. To offend our Xiao family is to offend the Blackwind Gate; a result that neither of you two would be able to afford.” A thirty year old young man pointed a finger at the two with a domineering presence and an unbridled voice.

“Do you want to die!?”

Jian Chen’s and Ming Dong’s face darkened for a moment before Ming Dong cried out. An azure light streaked past as he instantly flew toward the one that spoke, and slapped him across the face with his palm.

“Pa!” A clear resounding slapping sound could be heard before the young man was sent flying by Ming Dong’s slap. Ruthlessly tumbling to the ground three meters away, he staggered back up with a face that was dripping with blood.

Spitting out several bloody pieces of his teeth, the young man venomously glared at Ming Dong. As he opened his mouth to speak, the pain from the slap he received was far too much for him to withstand, forcing him to wince and close his mouth.

“What tool are you to think you can speak to us like that?” Ming Dong glared in disdain at the youth.

Ming Dong’s powerful slap subdued everyone there. Regardless whether they were the men from the Xiao family or the people from the village. None of them could speak due to shock.

The villagers all knew just how strong the Xiao family was in their hearts. With Ming Dong harming one of them by slapping them in the face, they were all worried about what the Xiao family would do in retaliation. The men from the Xiao family were astonished that Ming Dong would do such a thing however.

“We... we... we’re from the Xiao family. The young master of our Xiao family is the disciple of the Blackwind Sect’s sectmaster. Do you really wish to offend our Xiao family and taste the consequence!?” One of the youths cried out with fear and shock at Ming Dong.

“I’ve never heard of the Xiao family or whatever it is. If your entire group wishes to live, then hurry up and get lost. Never come back to this place, otherwise even if I forgive you, my brother will not do the same.” Ming Dong icily smiled.

The men from the Xiao family were furious, but they could not speak even a word. Ming Dong’s action of hurting one of their comrades had sent fear into their hearts. They knew that this youth was far stronger than Tie Ta and far more vicious as well. He wasn’t willing to hold back in his strength at all.

“We’re leaving!” The men from the Xiao family didn’t feel like staying here any longer and left the village with the injured member held high.

Seeing their retreating figures, one of the elders let out a concerned murmur, "We've definitely angered them this time. The Xiao family is extremely strong; if they decide to take revenge, then our village will be in trouble."

"Uncle, you needn't worry. If the Xiao family truly does dare come back, I will make sure to help you settle the problem." Jian Chen smiled with a look of disdain for the Xiao family in his eyes.

Although he had never heard of the Xiao family, he had indeed heard of the Blackwind Sect. They were one of the powers of the Gesun Kingdom, but they were far inferior to the Hua Yun Sect. To feel so empowered by having their young master accepted as a disciple was a clear indicator of their actual strength.

"My two lords, thank you for resolving my problem, Qiu Yue cannot thank you two enough." At that moment, a delicate voice could be heard from behind them.

Jian Chen and Ming Dong turned around by instinct only to see a rather pretty young woman who looked to be around eighteen years old. Her pretty face contained a slight tenderness.

Chapter 538: Leaving for the Xiao Family

Observing the delicate and sincere face of Qiu Ye, Ming Dong let out a mischievous laugh, "So you're Qiu Ye. How pretty! It's no wonder that the men from the Xiao family are so willing to come here multiple times to wed you to their young master or something."

Despite growing up in a small mountain village, Qiu Ye had a face that even most aristocratic daughters would envy. It could not really compete with a national beauty, but if she were to set foot in the open world, she certainly would be considered a rather rare type of beauty.

Qiu Ye's face reddened in shyness as she listened to Ming Dong compliment her.

"Brother Ming Dong, don't bully my sister Qiu Ye, alright? Otherwise, even if I can't beat you, I still won't forgive you." Tie Ta grumbled at Ming Dong, he was very protective of Qiu Yue.

Ming Dong strangely glanced at Tie Ta with a mischievous smile, "Tie Ta, I only gave her two small compliments and you're already so tense. Don't tell me you like little Qiu Yue."

Tie Ta's face reddened in embarrassment. Stuttering, he spoke, "N-no. Qiu Yue is by far too pretty of a woman, how could a coarse person like me fit with her?"

Ming Dong continued to strangely stare at Tie Ta with an exaggerated smile, "I was only joking with you at first, but I didn't think that I'd actually hit the nail on the head. Brother Tie Ta, love is something that should be said out loud, don't you know? With you stifling it within your own heart, just how could you win the affection of a woman's heart?"

Ming Dong's words caused Tie Ta's ears to turn bright red. After shuffling around for what seemed like half the day, Tie Ta finally managed to speak, "Brother Ming Dong, don't make fun of me here okay? I can't say anything else."

Ming Dong gave a hearty laugh at this. He glanced at Qiu Yue a couple times. He could see that the barely eighteen year old Qiu Yue had turned so shy because of Ming Dong and Tie Ta's conversation that her head was threatening to bury itself into her chest.

At this display, Jian Chen and Ming Dong gave a knowing look to each other. With their eyesight, it was natural to see that there was a good opinion of each other between Tie Ta and Qiu Yue. However, what they couldn't believe was that a woman that had grown up to be so pretty had fallen in love with the mountain that was Tie Ta.

"Haha, this giant here is our village's most competent, most successful, and most amazing person. Everyday he is able to hunt and bring home a wild animal for the village. My Qiu Yue would go with Tie Ta, but she is also the treasure of my family. For the rest of this life of mine, I would never be able to have anything as precious as her." A plain but sincere middle-aged woman laughed; she was Qiu Yue's mother.

"Qiu Yue is the most beautiful lass in our village. Many of the other villagers have expressed their desire to marry her, but none of them have ever been as competent as Tie Ta. In my opinion, out of this entire village, only Tie Ta has the ability to gain this treasure." An elderly man spoke with a gravelly voice. In these past few years, Tie Ta would go to the mountains every day and hunt for a wild beast before splitting it with everyone in the village. This had earned him the love and respect from everyone in the village to a very deep level.

Listening to the praises of the villagers, Tie Ta could only shake his head modestly and smile, "Uncle, aunty, I am nowhere as good as you say I am."

A middle-aged woman with a wrinkly appearance could no longer handle the cheerful discussion about Tie Ta and Qiu Yue any longer. She began to impatiently speak, "Aiyah aiyah, stop it with these talks; the most important manner is how are we going to deal with the Xiao family now? This isn't like before where they were slightly injured. They definitely won't let us go this time. I bet that the next time they come, it won't be with a small party of weak messengers."

"That's right! We shouldn't be discussing this at all. We should be making plans to deal with the Xiao family. Although Tie Ta can fight, he won't be able to fight against all of them. Not only that, but I'm sure that the next group from their family will be filled with highly skilled martial artists." A man with a metal hoe slung over his shoulders grimly spoke with concern shown all over his face.

In this village, Tie Ta was the strongest. While there were some others that cultivated, they were no stronger than a Great Saint at most. The rest of the villagers were ordinary commoners so weak that they would be toppled by the Xiao family if the two sides fought.

Seeing the worry on everyone's faces, Tie Ta couldn't help but try to comfort them all, "Uncle, Aunty, you all don't need to worry. I will protect the village for sure. No matter how many people come, I will knock them all back."

Jian Chen laughed as he said, "Tie Ta, this problem isn't as bad as you think it is. Villagers, you may all rest assured. Since this problem was caused by me, it would only be natural that I help you resolve it."

Jian Chen's words had caused many of the villagers' faces to light up, prompting one of the middle-aged men to ask in a hurry, "Milord, is what you say true? Will you truly be able to resolve this problem?" From Jian Chen and Ming Dong's robes, the villagers could see that they were no ordinary people. They just had to have some sort of power behind them. When they heard that Jian Chen would personally

settle this giant issue with the Xiao family, the villagers felt as if they had managed to grab ahold of that final strand of straw that anchored them to life.

Although the Xiao family was of no major importance in the Gesun Kingdom, in such a small village like this, they were an unbelievable might that could not be defended against.

Jian Chen smiled and nodded in a friendly manner. Despite the people in front of him being the lowest of the low in terms of social hierarchy, Jian Chen treated each and every single one of them as equals without arrogance.

“Everyone may rest assured. I will take care of this issue with the Xiao family and guarantee that they will never cause a commotion for the village again.” Jian Chen confidently spoke.

Jian Chen’s words elicited an explosion of joyous shouts. Everyone’s faces revealed smiles of great joy. Although the Xiao family had only sought Qiu Yue and not the entirety of the village, the villagers felt extremely close with one another due to the limited numbers they had. As a solidified front, whenever one family had troubles, the entire village also had troubles. When Qiu Yue had come across this problem, everyone else felt quite anxious about it.

“There’s no time to lose then. We’ll head straight for the Xiao family and resolve this straight away. The sooner we do so, the sooner everyone may rest in peace. Ming Dong, Tie Ta, let us depart!” Jian Chen spoke.

With a joyful expression, Tie Ta responded, “Alright! In any case, you two are much stronger than I am. With you two around, I doubt that the Xiao family would dare try to be excessive with us.”

“Excessive?” Ming Dong couldn’t help but smile in contempt, “Who do you think my brother is? To have him personally come to the Xiao family is already giving them face. Just what right does the Xiao family have to dare be excessive to him. They wouldn’t even have time to try and beg for our favor!”

After the plans were made, Jian Chen and the other two left the village and rushed to the Xiao family.

The Xiao family was a clan that had been established only a few dozen years ago. Situated within the First Class City known as “Huangge City”, they were one of the three biggest powers there and were consequently a short distance away from the village.

As soon as the three exited the mountains, Jian Chen carried Ming Dong and Tie Ta into the air toward Huangge City.

“Woah, Jian Chen, you’re really amazing if you can fly! Can all Heaven Saint Masters fly through the sky like this?” The muffled voice of Tie Ta could be heard. In his voice, the delight from flying for the very first time could be heard.

Zooming through the sky at a tremendous speed, they quickly traveled hundreds of kilometers away from the village in the direction of the city. Using the wind element to cover Ming Dong and Tie Ta’s body, Jian Chen guided them all straight to Huangge City. Then locating the Xiao family’s location on a map, they touched down where the clan should be living.

Jian Chen and the other two descended into the empty space of the Xiao family’s courtyards with the guards of the family instantly noticing their arrival. Even the observers from the outside of the

compound had seen them descend from the sky, causing a tremendous clamor to appear. News that a Heaven Saint Masters had graced their city with their presence had subsequently spread like wildfire.

Several middle-aged men came running out of the compound as soon as they saw Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta descend to their courtyard. Staring at the three in astonishment, they immediately bent their backs in respect. One of the men among their group respectfully yelled out, "This one is the captain of the guards for the Xiao family. We welcome your presence into our home."

Jian Chen's eyes calmly swept over the soldiers with an expressionless face, "Call out the head of the Xiao family to greet us!"

"Yes, this one will notify him straight away. If my lords would please relocate themselves to the halls to rest while I notify the master." The guard nodded his head in an attempt to curry favor. This was the very first time he had ever gotten close to such an individual like a Heaven Saint Master. He was so terrified of saying the wrong thing that he was afraid to confirm their identities.

"There's no need. The person I am looking for should be here." Jian Chen calmly responded while looking straight ahead.

A group of people could be seen hurrying over. There were about twenty to the group, both young and old. At the very front was a forty year old middle-aged man.

When the group saw Jian Chen and the other two, they looked at them with suspicion. Everyone had been called to hurry on over when they heard that several Heaven Saint Masters had touched down in the Xiao family's compound. However, they couldn't help but question when they saw their faces; Jian Chen and the other two were far too young. It was not at all the appearance a Heaven Saint Master would have.

Despite the suspicion in their minds, they didn't dare judge them just by looks. A Heaven Saint Master was still an individual their family could hardly afford to offend. Bowing down to the three men, the middle-aged man that stood at the group respectfully said, "Honored Heaven Saint Masters, this one is the head of the Xiao family, Xiao Yun. I welcome milords to my Xiao family, and give thanks to the honor you have given us by visiting."

Chapter 539: Tie Ta Enters the Party

"There is no need for lord Xiao to be so courteous. This one is Changyang Xiangtian. I came here today to discuss business with the house of Xiao." Jian Chen spoke in a moderate manner.

However, when the name "Changyang Xiangtian" was heard, everyone from the Xiao family was stunned. Staring in disbelief at the young but handsome face of Jian Chen, their eyes simply couldn't believe it.

"If this one may ask, are you possibly the very same Changyang Xiangtian as the fourth master of the Changyang clan?" The head of the Xiao family's voice trembled as he inquired. The name Changyang Xiangtian was equivalent to a clap of thunder to his ears. It was a very famous name in the Gesun Kingdom. Not only was he a genius chosen by the heavens, he also became a Heaven Saint Master just after entering his twenties, and he became an Imperial Protector for the kingdom — a position that even the king himself would not be able to outshine.

“That is indeed this one!” Jian Chen declared.

The faces of even the highest-ranking members of the Xiao family immediately changed. Bowing deeply to the ground, they called out, “We pay our respects to the Imperial Protector!” At this, there were fluctuations to the voices of the men from their respect and admiration. For the Imperial Protector of the Gesun Kingdom to suddenly appear within their home, it was a great honor to the house of Xiao. But what made them worried was that the Imperial Protector had come out of the blue, meaning that it was unknown whether he would bring fortune or misfortune.

“Respectful and honored Imperial Protector, please come and take a seat within our halls. Allow the Xiao family to play host to the best of our abilities.” The head of the Xiao family respectfully but nervously spoke

“That won’t be necessary. Lord Xiao, this one has come to deal with something that requires a discussion. After it is resolved, this one will be leaving.” Jian Chen replied.

“Whatever is the command of the honored Imperial Protector, our Xiao family will do our best to fulfill your endeavors! To accomplish such a task would be a great honor to my family. Even ten thousand deaths would not be enough to stop the entirety of the house of Xiao!” The head fawned without even bothering to hide his attempt to curry favor.

Previously, if one were to inquire which party was the strongest within the Gesun Kingdom, it would without a doubt be the Hua Yun Sect besides the royal family. However, after the failed invasion of the Gesun Kingdom by the four kingdoms, the situation had drastically changed. At the current moment, the Changyang clan held the title of the strongest whereas the Hua Yun Sect and the royal family couldn’t even compare.

Even if the half a million strong elite soldiers from the Qinhuang Kingdom were to be excluded from the garrisoned troops at Lore City, the Changyang clan had far more Heaven Saint Masters tucked away within it than the entirety of the Gesun Kingdom at its golden age. The fact that a dozen or so Heaven Saint Masters defeated the ones from the Heavenly Eagle Kingdom was no secret either.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Changyang clan had already eclipsed the royal family as the strongest faction. Even the Hua Yun Sect could not compare with its three Heaven Saint Masters.

From the Changyang clan, the fourth master, Changyang Xiangtian, played a crucial and very influential role. When the head of the Xiao family heard the name that belonged to the young Imperial Protector of the kingdom, he suddenly felt a little terrified. At the same time, he felt that this would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to seize the tree that was Changyang Xiangtian and climb to the sky. Through this, the Xiao family would have nothing to worry about and could survey the entire Gesun Kingdom without fear. With a hasty amiable face, the head began to try his best to show the desire he felt for his family to help the Changyang clan.

However, Jian Chen was not moved by the man’s friendly demeanor. With a calm voice, he said, “Lord Xiao, a few men of yours have been making trouble for a woman in my brother’s village as of late. I hope that you will discipline the parties involved. I would hate to have to come back here in the future, and in the case that I do, do not say that I am heartless.” Jian Chen’s voice grew progressively colder as he spoke.

The head of the Xiao family along with the other high-ranking members all grew startled. Already their faces grew ruinous as sweat began to pool on their foreheads.

It was with incomparable terror that the head of the Xiao family knelt on his knees. He said with a quaking voice, "I beg the honored Imperial Protector to quell his anger! A misunderstanding has occurred because of my inability to discipline my family. I, Xiao Yun, will strictly punish those few men and return a satisfactory compensation to the Imperial Protector. This slight from my family will not be repeated."

"I hope you will do as you say. I will not look into the matters of the past, but there better not be a next time." Jian Chen icily replied.

"There won't be a next time, I can guarantee it!" Hua Yun hurried to respond with terror. He was already keenly clear that if the fourth master of the Changyang clan were to act against his Xiao family, then even the Blackwind Sect they had tried so hard to become friends with would be helpless to do a thing for them. Even the Hua Yun Sect, which was many times stronger than the Blackwind Sect, would be unable to go against the Changyang clan; such an act was unthinkable for any weaker sect like the Blackwind.

"Go and apologize to the villagers in person." Jian Chen spoke.

"Ye-yes. I will do as instructed straight away." The man nervously bobbed his head up and down without daring to speak back.

Seeing that an agreement had been made, Jian Chen nodded his head in satisfaction. Looking back to Tie Ta, he asked, "Tie Ta, are you happy with how this problem has been solved?"

"Hahaha, very satisfied! Changyang Xiangtian, you really do have a great face; I didn't think that you would be able to solve this problem so easily!" Tie Ta happily laughed. The fact that the problem with the Xiao family had been resolved with barely any energy made him feel very cheerful.

"Now that we've concluded this business here, let's return!" With that, Jian Chen began to will the wind element to carry Ming Dong and Tie Ta up into the air. Within several seconds, the three of them disappeared into the horizon.

The entire Xiao family watched Jian Chen and the other two fly away. They all let out sighs of relief when they could no longer see the three. Standing there with some lingering fear, everyone's faces were drenched with sweat.

Letting out a sigh to release the tension he felt, Xiao Yun's facial expression hardened as he looked at the other power-wielding members of the family. He ordered, "I want you all to search for the ones who dared offend the fourth master of the Changyang clan at once! Search them out, and do not let them off!"

"Yes, my lord!" Everyone obeyed with equally serious expressions. They were all crystal clear that this case had given the entire family a giant heap of trouble, in fact, possibly a colossal amount of trouble.

Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta all flew back to the mountains at a fast speed before finally touching down in a vegetation filled area to walk the rest of the way to the village.

After entering the village, Tie Ta excitedly told the villagers the happy news that Jian Chen had resolved their issues. It was with great joy that the entire village began to look at Jian Chen and Ming Dong with feelings of appreciation. For a good while, only thousands of words of appreciation were spoken for the two.

After appeasing the villagers, Jian Chen was pulled in to talking with the other villagers by Tie Ta while his mother went off to the kitchens to cook up plenty of dishes to receive Jian Chen and Ming Dong.

“Hey, Changyang Xiangtian. I recall that back in Kargath Academy, our strengths were pretty much the same. How is it after these few years, you’ve become so strong? Don’t tell me that you have some sort of secret to make yourself stronger, teach me it then!” Tie Ta gave a pleading look to Jian Chen. On the continent, practically every cultivator desired a way to increase their own strength. Even the honest and straightforward Tie Ta was no exception.

With a hearty laugh, Jian Chen replied, “Of course there is a secret, but whether or not you can take the same road I do is unknown.”

“What secret is it? Tell me now. I, Tie Ta, will definitely become as strong as you. Even the head of the Xiao family was bent into submission by you. If I can become just as strong as you, then I could let the village live a generation filled with peace.” Tie Ta spoke with excitement.

“This secret’s nothing complicated, even I could tell you.” Ming Dong spoke first. “Tie Ta, if you wish to increase your strength in a flash, the best method would be to explore the outside world and gain some experience. If you waste your time in a village with your talent, it would only stifle your future. Not only is the outside world brilliant, it will teach you many things and is far stronger than the village here.”

Tie Ta pensively scratched his head, “Really? I guess what you say has some sense to it. Back in Kargath Academy, Changyang Xiangtian wasn’t too far away from me in strength, but after that, he left Kargath Academy to wander the continent. After so many years, I didn’t think that his strength would be so strong as it is now. Could the experience gained from traveling the Tian Yuan Continent be truly that great on gaining experience in a short period of time?”

“Tie Ta, Ming Dong isn’t lying. It’s only when you go out and explore the outside world that your strength will improve quickly. You’ll learn plenty of things that you would never have been able to experience or see. It’s fortunate that I have a mercenary group that I’ll be developing in the next two days. As of right now, I need some manpower to help out, so if you’re willing, you might as well join my mercenary group. In the future we can all venture the continent and develop this mercenary group even more to become the strongest group in the continent.” Jian Chen spoke.

Tie Ta’s eyes began to sparkle with some excitement as he spoke, “Then wouldn’t that mean we would be able to travel together?”

“Of course!” Jian Chen laughed.

“Great then. I, Tie Ta, will follow in whatever you guys will do. Wherever you go, I will go.” Tie Ta responded with an excited face.

After successfully inviting Tie Ta to join the Flame Mercenaries, Jian Chen revealed a happy smile, "Tie Ta, then why don't you say your goodbyes to the village. Tomorrow, we'll go back to my home for a trip and then we'll introduce you to my friends."

On the second morning, Jian Chen and the two gathered all the villagers to give their goodbyes before leaving the village.

Outside the village entrance, the entire populace of the village convened to give one last farewell to Tie Ta.

"Brother giant, you have to return as soon as possible!" Qiu Yue's eyes glistened with reluctance as she looked up the giant body that was Tie Ta.

Looking back at Qiu Yue, Tie Ta displayed a rather complicated look on his face. Waving his hands, he said, "Sister Qiu Yue, I'll come back as soon as possible. Wait until then, and I'll be able to protect the entire village. If you don't dislike this coarse person that I am, then wait until I come back with some money. I'll... I'll... I'll come back and marry you." Tie Ta mustered up the rest of his courage to speak the last phrase, but after he finished speaking, his dark face turned red.

Qiu Yue's entire body began to tremble as if she had been moved by his words. Wiping a tear from her eyes, she said, "Brother giant, Qiu Yue will await your return..."

Chapter 540: Leaving for the Blue Wind Kingdom

After leaving the village, Jian Chen, Ming Dong, and Tie Ta flew straight to Lore City.

After about two hours of leisurely travel, they finally arrived back in Lore City where they then walked straight to the Changyang clan.

"We our pay our respects to the fourth master!" Soldiers saluted Jian Chen in the streets with respectful expressions when Jian Chen passed by.

Waving his hand, Jian Chen commanded, "Continue your patrol!"

"Yes!" The guards responded in unison before going back to their patrol.

"Changyang Xiangtian, is this your home? It's huge!" Tie Ta gasped in amazement as he scoured the place.

Laughing, Jian Chen replied, "Come on, let's go to where I live. I'll introduce you to some friends." Jian Chen then guided Tie Ta in the direction of a palace-styled building. He came across some servants and said, "Go and notify Dugu Feng, Senior An, and Yun Zheng to tell them to meet me here."

Afterward, Jian Chen took Tie Ta into his own palace. As soon as they entered it, Tie Ta, who was ignorant of the outside world, was stunned by the layout and arrangement of the house. Every so often, he would stop to look around the place with an envious expression.

"Changyang Xiangtian, this is your living space right? Your family has to be very rich I bet." Tie Ta sighed in admiration.

Tie Ta looked like a farm boy coming into contact with city life for the very first time, prompting Ming Dong to say, "Tie Ta, you don't need to be so envious. Wait until you become strong enough, you'll get this sort of treatment all of the time then."

Tie Ta's eyes gained a determined light to them as he listened to Ming Dong, "Well! I'll do my best to increase my strength!"

At this moment, Dugu Feng, Yun Zheng, and Senior An came walking in from the outside. As soon as they entered, Senior An's loud and rough voice could be heard, "Jian Chen, you're finally back! When will we be heading out? I'm a person that enjoys traveling the world! Staying around here everyday is killing me."

Smiling, Jian Chen replied, "Have a seat everyone. I'll introduce you all to my friend."

After everyone took a seat, Jian Chen introduced Tie Ta to the group. After several words of conversation, they all began to grow relaxed.

Jian Chen thought for a moment before announcing, "Now that we're all here, we'll leave tomorrow morning. Go back and prepare yourselves. Whatever you need to buy, get it today. Make sure all of your preparations are finished today."

"We leave tomorrow? Changyang Xiangtian, where are we going?" Tie Ta asked.

"The Blue Wind Empire!"

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After leaving his room, Jian Chen went off to find his parents Changyang Ba and Bi Yuntian so he could explain his departure.

Although both Changyang Ba and Bi Yuntian were reluctant to see their child depart from them again so soon, they knew that their child had already grown up to become a man who had plenty of things to do. There was no way Changyang Xiangtian would be able to reside in their home his entire life, so the two parents clamped down on their thoughts and spoke nothing more.

Looking for Xiao Tian and the others, Jian Chen told them that he would be leaving first to develop his mercenary group. Xiao Tian and the others understood that there was no need for them to stay within the Changyang clan anymore, so they gave their farewells. The next morning, they would leave the Gesun Kingdom to return to the Qinhuang Kingdom.

Jian Chen even paid a visit to Kendall's wife and child, whom he promised to look after on Kendall's behalf. The matters of Sans had weighed heavily on Jian Chen's mind, leaving him ashamed and guilty. Many a times he would try to find a way to heal or make up for the destroyed Saint Weapon of Sans, but as of yet, Jian Chen had found no methods.

The next morning, Jian Chen held the sleeping tiger cub and gathered with Ming Dong, Tie Ta, Dugu Feng, Yun Zheng, and Senior An in the courtyard of the clan. All of the high-ranking members came out to send Jian Chen off because of his high-ranking status in the clan. Right outside, several Class 3 Magical Beasts mounts had been prepared by the guards. The beasts stood by the gates.

“Xiangtian, your silly second sister Mingyue left the family a long time ago without a trace. Despite all our attempts and efforts to try to find her, not even a single hint can be found. When you’re traveling in the outside, please help find my girl.” The second aunt Yu Fengyan implored Jian Chen. For her daughter to disappear without a trace for so long, made her worry as a mother.

“Second aunt, rest assured, I will definitely try my best to find second sister.” Jian Chen seriously replied. His second sister Changyang Mingyue had cared for him in the past. So now that she had disappeared, even Jian Chen worried for her.

Bi Yuntian pulled You Yue’s hand toward Jian Chen, “Xiang’er, with your strength, you could travel across the outside world and very few people capable of attacking you. Why not bring You Yue with you? She grew up in the imperial palace her entire life. The only other place she knows of is Kargath Academy. The outside world is still unknown to her, so it would be a good thing to relieve You Yue’s boredom.”

Jian Chen glanced at You Yue. She was wearing a short skirt today with a very casual amount of makeup. It gave her a rather heroic demeanor while she stood shyly by Bi Yuntian’s side. Everyone could already see that she was prepared to travel long distances by the way she was dressed.

Thinking for a moment, Jian Chen felt that he wouldn’t come across anything too dangerous while he was in the Blue Wind Kingdom. Combined with You Yue’s preparations to travel, there was no way he could easily decline. At last, he finally agreed to the request with a smile, “Very well. If You Yue wishes to travel outside to relieve her boredom, then why not let her travel with us?”

The princess’ face revealed a happy smile at those words. Ever since she was young, the princess would rarely be able to see what the outside of the palace looked like.

Bidding farewell to everyone from the clan, the party of seven finally mounted their magical beasts and began to set off away from Lore City.

After leaving Lore City, Jian Chen continued to the area where the Eastern Deity Swords were garrisoned on the outskirts of Lore City. Upon seeing the three generals, Jian Chen spoke a few words to them before leaving the camp on his mount.

Qin Wuming and the other two generals watched Jian Chen and his group ride away into the distance until they disappeared from view. Speaking up, Qin Wutian asked, “Father, now that the business in the Gesun Kingdom is over and the Imperial Protector himself has left, when should we leave?”

Qin Wuming just laughed, “Withdrawing our troops from here? That’ll be hard. Quite hard indeed. Even if we rush to the Qinhuang Kingdom, it’ll take well over a year with the speed of our army. Although the Space Gate from the Dazhou Kingdom is nearby, it would take a large amount of monster cores, in fact, it’d take an exorbitant price.”

“Does that mean our army will be garrisoned here then?” Qin Wujian asked.

Qin Wuming nodded his head, “Correct. Originally when his Majesty ordered half a million of our soldiers to go to the Gesun Kingdom, he hadn’t planned on their return. The Gesun Kingdom is far too weak, but with the connection between the Imperial Protector and the royal family of the kingdom, we cannot afford to offend either side. Thus, his Majesty had decided to assist the Gesun Kingdom while

also helping out the Imperial Protector himself. With his talent, he will eventually become a Saint Ruler later in his life. So to rope in such an individual without enticement and investments would be foolhardy.”

“I see now. Father, then will the three of us remain here in this place as well?” Qin Wujian asked.

Qin Wuming smiled, “Remaining behind here isn’t too bad of a thing perse. A Saint Ruler is an extremely great entity. In their eyes, we Heaven Saint Masters are just ants that aren’t worth considering. As of right now, the Imperial Protector hasn’t yet become a Saint Ruler, so this is a good chance for us to foster a good relationship with him. When he breaks through to become one, then we’d be able to have him help us with any trouble we might come across. Even more so, if we have the support of the Imperial Protector, then even the army wouldn’t complain or be too impudent.”

“I understand now. This was all planned by his Majesty himself. Indeed, this is a good chance. If the Imperial Protector becomes a Saint Ruler and is willing to back us, then father will even have the chance to be promoted to be the general of the kingdom’s army.” Qin Wutian spoke in realization.

Qin Wuming nodded his head with a smile, “That is what it means to keep the fertile waters within your own fields. His Majesty is a very wise ruler that is capable of controlling everything within his hand. Even if he cannot, he will do his best to keep us in their good graces.”

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On an official road that zigged and zagged, seven magical beast mounts could be seen running at high speeds in a fluid motion. They left behind a trail of dust as they passed.

“Changyang Xiangtian, how long will it take for us to reach the Blue Wind Kingdom at the rate we’re going?” You Yue asked Jian Chen from his side.

Thinking for a moment, Jian Chen responded, “At this current rate, it should take two or so days before we arrive. It’s not as if we’re rushing there.”

Then, with a small pause, Jian Chen looked to the princess, “You Yue, call me Jian Chen in the future rather than Changyang Xiangtian.”

“Okay. This must be the name you used after you left the Changyang clan?” The princess sweetly smiled.

“Correct!” Jian Chen nodded.

“So you changed your name. No wonder I never heard about you when teacher said the Changyang clan couldn’t find you. Jian Chen’s a fine name to hear though. Changyang Xiangtian, I’ll call you that from now on as well.”

The group of people continued to laugh and chat to each other as they traveled. When it came to thinking about the mercenary group he had once commanded, Jian Chen’s thoughts practically flew over to Wake City.

After so many years have passed, he was unclear just how the mercenary group developed.