

# The Brilliant Fighting Master

## Chapter 7: The Winter Hun

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“It was so fast. Did you see it?”

“Fast, precise, and ruthless.”

“How did he do it?”

“Maybe he practiced before. But it didn’t look like it.”

Beasts of the soldier level were a piece of cake to the disciples in Cloud Six.

But it wasn’t easy to end the beast’s life in only one fatal strike, as Jiang Chen did.

Jiang Chen had no idea how he had done it either. At the moment the wolf started to rush at him, his heart rate began to accelerate, the whole world was moving in slow motion to him, and out of instinct he saw every flaw in the animal’s movement, so that he struck it without any hesitation.

“That’s how fighting feels. My blood was boiling. Fantastic!”

Jiang Chen had been a graceful child in the Sacred Zone and had nothing to do with killing. He managed perfectly well with only his resourcefulness.

But deep in his heart, he was longing for real power, like any man does.

With that wonderful first step, things started to get smoother. Jiang Chen started to practice Tai Ji Wan on these beasts.

An hour later, the two guards following Jiang Chen were extremely shocked. Although it’s easy to kill beasts of the soldier level, the difficulty varies by species.

Killing a wild wolf in one strike doesn’t mean you could do the same to other species, like tigers or leopards, which moved with great speed.

However, no matter which species Jiang Chen was facing, he could kill it in one strike.

“A fighting genius?”

“Probably.”

Then something made them hesitate.

“He is walking deep into the woods. What shall we do?”

“Looks like beasts of the soldier level are too easy for him and he wants more challenges.”

The Wind Move Guard didn't show up unless it was an emergency. They should only head off a danger that Jiang Chen was unable to deal with.

But now, Jiang Chen went into the woods on his own initiative. They felt quite stressed, since they couldn't go ahead to stop him.

“Let's follow him. Let's get closer.”

There was more foliage in the remote part of the mountain. It was also quieter, as if all beasts had disappeared.

Jiang Chen tried to be as cautious as possible. Any beast he met there would definitely be a general level.

Jiang Chen would count on his Tai Ji Wan to face a general level beast alone. He had mastered the knack of it during the hunting.

Suddenly, heavy, hard footsteps stomped behind Jiang Chen.

It was a black bear, weighing more than 500 kilograms, as big as a mountain. Nothing on this mountain could stop its path.

“Damn!”

The two guards were quite apprehensive. They had been focusing on Jiang Chen's front side, and had never imagined that the attack would come from behind.

The black bear was big and strong. It seemed clumsy, but could run faster than a horse.

They shot it with two arrows. The black bear sped up just before the arrows were about to hit it, so they dropped to the ground.

“What a shrewd bastard!”

The guards turned pale. If Jiang Chen died in their presence, they would have no chance of surviving either.

The damn black bear was nothing to them. The problem was, it was too far away!

The black bear was only five meters away from Jiang Chen, and it had already started to rush at him.

The 500 kilogram beast started to accelerate instantly. Its steel-like claws could tear apart Jiang Chen’s body as easy as pie.

Facing the surprise attack, Jiang Chen wasn’t panicked. He took a step back quickly, leaving space in front of him to gain speed. Then he started to rush with his scimitar.

“Don’t, Young Master!”

The guards were frantic.

It was a general level beast, and it was a bear! How powerful its impact could be! Jiang Chen, who was still in Cloud Six, was too soft to handle it. He could be crushed into mincemeat.

But it happened before the guard could finish his words.

The two closed their eyes. But the expected noises didn’t occur. Instead, it was the black bear that was screaming.

They looked over and found Jiang Chen was getting up from the ground. There was a wound as big as a washbasin in the chest of the black bear.

“What?!”

They took a deep breath upon seeing this wound, not understanding how this was done.

The genuine Qi of Cloud Six plus a scimitar could in no way have made such a big wound. Even a Cloud Nine couldn't do that. A Cloud Nine could kill in one strike, but its genuine Qi couldn't cause such a wound.

"Young Master, are you all right?"

They were more concerned about Jiang Chen's safety than with the bear.

"I am fine. You don't have to rush like this."

Jiang Chen waved at them. He seemed too calm after a fight between life and death.

This was the power of manipulating the genuine qi in a spiral manner. After a long day, he had mastered the Tai Ji Wan.

As he had expected, the holy pulse was able to handle damage perfectly.

"Let's continue." Jiang Chen went ahead.

The two guards came to themselves when watching Jiang Chen going away.

"Could Young Master's state have already been recovered to Cloud Nine?"

"It's impossible. I am sure he is a Cloud Six. He wasn't hiding his state during the fighting."

"But if a Cloud Six could do this, what will happen if he achieves Cloud Nine?"

The two suddenly felt that the east courtyard wasn't so hopeless as they imagined.

...

When dusk was falling, all hunting disciples were coming back one after another. The disciples' winter hunt wouldn't last for days.

Then the Wind Move Guard came back as well. They were finally relieved when the day was over.

The Wind Move Guard would be the ones to blame if any disciple had an accident.

All of a sudden, some news made the whole team of the Wind Move Guard turn pale.

Jiang Chen hadn't shown up yet!

As time went by, many disciples started to have a lively discussion.

Maybe he died inside, Jiang Jian thought. His face didn't show any sympathy. If it were true, he would cheer up at the news. It would be a perfect ending for the west courtyard.

The Second Elder was frowning. Anyone could tell how anxious he was.

But Jiang Chen appeared when the Second Elder was about to search the mountain.

He looked much worse than anyone else, as if he had experienced some serious fighting.

"How slow you are! Why should everyone wait for you?"

Jiang Jian was very disappointed, scolding bitterly. The two guards who protected Jiang Chen whispered something in the Second Elder's ear to explain why they had returned late.

The reason was simple. It was because Jiang Chen had gone too far. Of course it would have taken longer to come back.

The Second Elder looked at Jiang Chen profoundly after the guards' report.

"Fall in!"

All disciples on the lawn stood in their previous positions instantly.

"Now we are going to count the number of the beasts you've killed. For every soldier level beast, you will be awarded ten silver coins. For every general level beast you will be awarded one Gathering Qi Pill. Besides that, the beasts you've hunted will be sent over to your houses."

Many disciples from the ordinary families got very excited at the news with all of the meat and silver coins.

But these were not enough for the disciples from the Jiang Mansion. What they desired was honor.

Jiang Jian especially, who was holding his head high, seemed to have gotten a harvest of beasts.

As soon as the first disciple in the first row made one step forward, a guard started to report her result.

“Five soldier level beasts.”

This was a sixteen-year-old teenager girl. She was in Cloud Six of the Condensing Qi State. This was a pretty good result for her. At least she looked very satisfied.

“Any objection?” the Second Elder asked.

“No,” the girl confirmed.

It turned out that the Wind Move Guard’s job wasn’t only to protect the disciples, but also to precisely memorize their results.

They reported the next ten-odd disciples’ results, whose prey were all soldier level beasts; only the number differed. The situation remained the same until it was Jiang Jian’s turn.

“Sixteen soldier level beasts, and one general level beast.”

Jiang Jian looked pretty proud of himself when he heard his achievement, and received great attention as he had expected. Everyone was excited at the news since a general level beast was still beyond reach for them. They didn’t even dare provoke such a beast.

But Jiang Jian had killed one! Although it was possible that he did it in collaboration with others, it was him to whom people attributed this feat. It was natural that he would get more awards when he went back.

In this way, Jiang Jian ranked first.

The process continued when the noise finally died away. Jiang Chen became the center of attention when it was his turn. Jiang Jian whistled and smirked. "Jiang Chen looks like a mess, as if he had had three desperate fights. I can't wait to know his result."

"He might just have rolled on the ground," Jiang Jun, who was punched by Jiang Chen earlier, said sarcastically. The disciples of the west courtyard burst into laughter on hearing him speak, which sounded harsh.

In the meantime, the disciples of the east courtyard lowered their heads. On their faces appeared a mixed expression which was difficult to read. The two guards who had protected Jiang Chen looked at each other. Then one of them took one step ahead and reported seriously, "Twenty soldier level beasts and five general level beasts!"

The smirks on many people's faces were frozen instantly. They couldn't believe what they had just heard. But the guards sounded so sonorous and forceful. They couldn't be wrong.

The news set everyone on fire. The achievement of killing twenty soldier level beasts was already amazing, but it was neglected. What excited people was the second part of the guard's report.

Five! Five general level beasts! What does that mean? It was already amazing that Jiang Jian killed one general level beast in collaboration with others. But Jiang Chen killed five general level beasts alone! It was unimaginable.

"It's impossible. The Wind Move Guard must have helped him. Otherwise it is impossible..." Before Jiang Jian could finish this sentence, he had already felt the severe look from the Second Elder and other guards. He realized how inappropriate his words were and shut up immediately.

However, he was unwilling to throw in the towel, since his father was expecting great news from him. He approached challenging him in a new way. "Jiang Chen, do you dare take a punch from me? You killed five general level beasts, so I suppose you shouldn't be afraid of my punch."

The atmosphere became awkward. The disciples looked at Jiang Jian confusedly. The difference between two cloud levels was as much as a bull's force. Especially when it came to palm against palm, Jiang Chen was in an unfavorable situation. Jiang Jian was obviously being a bully, and he knew that. That's why he didn't say that this was a contest.

Many who were as doubtful as Jiang Jian about Jiang Chen's achievement looked over to him, curious to see whether he would take the challenge. It looked like that if Jiang Chen denied, his achievement would be questioned and his effort of that day would be totally wasted.

"Fine. I'll take a punch from you."

Jiang Jian was sneering inside. If he won by this punch, he would get the chance to make a fuss. "Don't worry. I won't make too much of an effort."

"Well, you should."

"Don't try to bluff me."

Jiang Jian jumped into the air and flew over to Jiang Chen, throwing a haymaker. As soon as his vigorous genuine Qi started to function, all grass and leaves along his way were blown down.

Jiang Chen started to attack at the same time. Both the guards and the Second Elder found the air stirred by Jiang Chen's arms very unusual. It was whirling. They didn't understand why.

Bang!

When their two palms hit against each other, the complacent expression on Jiang Jian's face was frozen instantly, and then he turned pale. The next thing he knew, he was thrown into the air.

The result was decided in just one punch, but it was Jiang Jian who lost. Why? Why had the one in the lower cloud level won? Many rubbed their eyes to make sure what they saw was real. When they found it was real, they were left speechless.

Jiang Chen smiled. That was the power of spiral Qi.

Jiang Jian wasn't injured. He continued their war of words after he got up. "No big deal. You have been able to beat me since long ago. You've had no progress at all."

"Well, better than you. I'll break your legs if you break into the east courtyard again!" Jiang Chen scolded.



Jiang Jian said coldly with a livid face, "You can only show off here. That's all. You won't get so lucky when the spring festival comes."

"You think so?"

Jiang Chen didn't take it seriously, which made Jiang Jian angry. However, it did matter to Jiang Chen, although he pretended it didn't. Among these disciples, Jiang Jian was in the highest level. If that represented the best ability of the new generation of the Jiang Mansion, they wouldn't be able to survive in the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

The thing was, those elder excellent disciples were no longer hanging out with these babies. They were having adventures in the Hundred Thousand Mountains and had found some fame. For example, Jiang Jian's brother, who was one of them, was studying in Cangnan Institution in the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

The winter hunt signified the start of winter. A few months later it would be the spring festival. The travelling disciples would all return by then. In addition, many strong men who were travelling around would come to the Jiang Mansion to join the celebration.

That was why Jiang Jian was so arrogant. Even though Jiang Chen could have gone back to Cloud Nine by then, he hadn't had any real progress in the past year.

Looks I have to try harder.

The winter hunt wasn't enough to reignite his grandpa's confidence in the east courtyard. Jiang Chen had to do better.

The spring festival would be the best opportunity.

There are still three months left. It should be easy for me to achieve the Gathering Yuan State by combining the use of a method and the holy pulse. Jiang Jian's face will be funny then.

...

Jiang Chen felt great on his way back. It was an amazing thing to acquire others' admiration and respect by displaying your actual strength. He didn't

rush to go back to the east courtyard. Instead, he decided to wander about downtown.

He hadn't paid much attention to this place since he arrived in the Nine Heavens Continent. But Jiang Chen had travelled to many places in the Sacred Zone and had seen many brilliant and rare landscapes. This small mountain town didn't look interesting to him at all.

"Child Chen."

"Child Chen."

He didn't realize he was already in the east courtyard's area until more and more people on the streets were greeting him. No matter what happened to the east courtyard, there were always some kindhearted people who respected him sincerely.

That was because his father was a great man. The east courtyard had earned a lot of money during these years, but the taxes they levied on citizens was the lowest, which was almost a miracle.

"Child Chen, the west courtyard is making a scene in the Holy Clothing Shop. Would you like to go and have a look?"

"Oh, really?"

The west courtyard kept making all kinds of excuses to take over the east courtyard's properties. Jiang Chen was informed of this, but hadn't seen it in person. So he went to the Holy Clothing Shop. As expected, many people were gathered outside of the shop. Quarrels could be heard from outside.

"Li Hong, what are you up to? This is the east courtyard's shop. Why should you people take it over?" It was Fan Tu's voice. It was difficult not to identify his loud voice.

Li Hong? He is one of the stewards of the west courtyard. He and Fan Tu are enemies. Jiang Chen knew this wouldn't end well.

The Holy Clothing Shop was a clothing shop, not to be belittled. It possessed several textile dyeing factories. All clothing textiles in the Southwind Ridge came from this shop. The winter had come. People would need to buy new clothes. It was expected that the business would keep growing during the next

a few months. The west courtyard chose this occasion to scramble for it, so that they could kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

“Both the east and the west courtyard are Jiang Mansion’s properties. Your east courtyard is declining and short-handed at the moment. Many industries have been affected by this situation and they are making much less revenue now. In the end it’s your Jiang Mansion that will be troubled. That’s why I am here. I am trying to help you take care of the business.”

Jiang Chen saw Li Hong’s cheeky face as soon as he passed through the crowd. Li Hong totally ignored Fan Tu’s angry stare.

“Shut up! Get out of here!” Fan Tu didn’t want to argue with him at all.

“You ungrateful wretch. You think the east courtyard is still the previous east courtyard? Your lord has been gone. How dare you be so arrogant?” Li Hong flew into anger as well and said something strong.

“I still can give you a good punch.”

“I don’t think so.”

The two fell silent. The onlookers read the situation and stepped back to leave them more space. Fan Tu had no intention to argue, but rather, was willing to fight. So was Li Hong.

“Looks you are not convinced. Fine. I’ll convince you with my fists!” Li Hong had hardly started to attack before his voice faded away. He was using his palm to attack. A hot wave appeared from nowhere as his palm was moving. It would look like a fire dragon if the wave were stronger.

“Come on!” Fan Tu shouted loudly and threw his fist. The two big men soon crossed swords.

Pang!

The palm and the fist hit each other. The two men were as motionless as a statue. However the blue flagstones on which they were standing were crushed into numerous pieces. The spray of gravel struck through the billboard above them. The situation frightened the onlookers so much that they took some more steps back.

“Your state has been enhanced. That explains why you are so overconfident.”

Fan Tu curled his lip. Then he threw another punch. “Not only the state.”

Li Hong smiled mysteriously. His raised left palm produced countless shadows instantly, layer after layer. At the moment he threw his palm over they overlapped all of sudden. Another encounter between the palm and the fist. But this time Fan Tu suffered great loss. He couldn't help stepping back in succession, and would have fallen down if he hadn't made an effort to keep standing.

“You!” It was totally unexpected for Fan Tu that the man who used to be his punching bag could throw such a powerful punch.

“Haha, Fan Tu. How was it? My new palm method wasn't bad, right? You'd better throw in the towel now and get away from here so that I can take over the Holy Clothing Shop smoothly!”

“You wish!” Fan Tu was in pain, but he insisted on fighting.

Jiang Chen, who was watching the fight, knew that Fan Tu had no chance to win. He stepped forward in time and said, “Stop.”

“Young Lord.”

“Young Master Chen.”

Li Hong wasn't one of the descendants of the Jiangs, which was easy to tell by his surname, so of course he couldn't insult Jiang Chen at will like Jiang Jian did. But there was still no respect shown at all in his greeting.

“Steward Li, Steward Fan has just recovered. His wounds haven't been entirely healed yet. There is no honor in winning over him like this.”

“Oh yeah? He doesn't look so weak.” Li Hong turned up his nose at him. Fan Tu was embarrassed. It wasn't so terrible to lose. But it would be quite awkward if you didn't want to admit the fact that you'd lost.

“Steward Fan would be fully recovered in seven days. You two will have another fight then.” Jiang Chen squinted at Li Hong, didn't give him any chance to argue, “If Steward Fan loses, the Holy Clothing Shop will be handed over to your west courtyard.”

“Seriously?” Li Hong was overjoyed.

“Young Lord!”

Fan Tu was shocked. He wouldn't hand over the shop that casually, even if he couldn't win. Even though the east courtyard couldn't keep the shop, he would in no way allow the west courtyard to benefit from it. But Jiang Chen was the Young Master of the East courtyard. The west courtyard would take advantage of his promise.

“Deal. Everyone here will be my witness. We'll have another fight here in seven days.” Li Hong nailed it down immediately for fear that he would regret it.

“Don't rush. It's unfair that we only bet on my property. If, Steward Li, you lose, what will we get?” Jiang Chen said.

“If I lose?”

Li Hong hesitated. He asked, “What do you want, Young Master Chen?”

“One hundred Fiery Dragon Horses.”

It's almost impossible for the average horse to walk in the mountains during wintertime, but it's not the same for Fiery Dragon Horses. They are descendants of the ancient fierce beast, Fiery Dragon, and are not afraid of bitter cold. Fiery Dragon Horses meant everything in the Hundred Thousand Mountains in winter. In Fan Tu's opinion, Jiang Chen had made a smart bet.

However...It was impossible for him to win!

“Sure. Deal.” Li Hong answered confidently.

Fan Tu felt a great responsibility.

On their way back, Fan Tu couldn't let his loss go and finally said to Jiang Chen, “Young Lord, it's no big deal that Li Hong's state has been greatly enhanced. However, it looks he has learnt a very powerful palm method! I don't think I can match it.”

“Take it easy. His palm method isn't that frightful. Steward Fan, I'll teach you a set of fist methods which can secure your victory seven days from now.”

“Fist method?”

Fan Tu looked at Jiang Chen doubtfully. Gao Yue told him not to inquire after any secrets of Jiang Chen after he was cured by him, unless Jiang Chen started to talk by himself.

After they returned to the East courtyard, Jiang Chen got a pen and a piece of paper and wrote down a martial arts lesson.

“Dorje Subduing Demon.”

Jiang Chen wasn't strong enough to practice this fist method. But it was perfect for Fan Tu to practice.

“Wow...”

Fan Tu, who took the whole thing with a grain of salt, glanced at the paper Jiang Chen gave him and was immediately interested. He became too excited to talk. Jiang Chen said seriously, “As long as you get to the entry level, it will be a piece of cake to beat him. But you have to promise me to destroy the copy later and keep it a secret forever.”

“I see, Young Lord.”

They didn't have too much time to waste. Fan Tu went back to his place with the copy of the fist method. Jiang Chen didn't take this seriously since he was quite confident. The Dorje Subduing Demon was one of the collections of the Over Cloud Palace. This fact was enough to explain how tremendous it was.

I will start to practice seriously, too.

What Jiang Chen had been doing was only to recover his meridians, but at the time, he was going to practice a method for real.

The previous Jiang Chen, who already died, had practiced a method taught by his father. It was a great method that everyone in the Hundred Thousand Mountains would like to practice. Thanks to this method, he had been able to achieve Cloud Nine by sixteen years old. However, it was only okay for Jiang Chen.

He had some better options. Besides, practicing a method didn't have so many requirements as practicing a secret method did. All methods aim to take

in the spirits of the universe. There are only differences in characters. Those characters are obedience, willingness, pillage, and devouring.

The obedience is the most popular. Most of the methods will teach you how to communicate with the spirits of the universe, obey them and let the spirits in naturally.

The voluntary is more powerful. This character will attract the spirits of the universe to come to you voluntarily.

The pillage is easy to understand as well. It means whether the spirits are willing or not, you'll take them in by pillage.

The devouring is the most powerful and the least popular. It's quite similar to the pillage. But the pillage is such a bossy method that the spirits gotten from it are not pure enough. As a result, there will be risks as time passes.

But the devouring is different. No matter if the spirits are pure or not, the devouring will convert them to pure genuine Qi and store it in the body.

The character differences of these four methods are correspondent with four levels in the Nine Heavens Continent, which are sky, earth, black and yellow. The obedience is the yellow level and the devouring is the sky level.