

Black Iron 1021

Chapter 1021: A New Variant

Hundreds of sets of experimental installations such as vials and glassware, large or small were orderly placed in a room of the palace tree which covered over 2,000 square meters. Some vials and glasswares contained various colorful liquids, which were still bubbling...

Complete organs of demon knights and specimens of demon fighters were immersed in some vials and glassware.

Some colorful weird ptomaine miasmas were floating in some sealed professional laboratory vessels and gradually corroding pieces of bloody flesh...

This room looked a bit grim and terrifying; however, a voodoo pharmacist or a researcher in microorganisms would definitely flicker their eyes and feel that they'd come to the paradise if they came here.

This was the microorganisms evolution lab of Castle of Black Iron. The equipment in this lab might be nothing different than similar labs in the outside world; however, due to the special abilities of Castle of Black Iron, this microorganisms evolution lab must be one of the greatest labs among humans.

After creating Heller, Zhang Tie had transferred the management of the evolution of various living beings and species in Castle of Black Iron to Heller. He only waited for the results instead of caring about the processes.

It was Zhang Tie's first time to come to this microorganisms evolution lab.

When Zhang Tie was cultivating in the private room of his airboat, he received Heller's information. Heller said that he wanted to show something important to Zhang Tie; therefore, Zhang Tie entered Castle of Black Iron.

Even when the full-moons demon miasma completed its mutation, Heller had not used the word "important".

Therefore, Zhang Tie wondered what made Heller meticulous.

"Heller, what do you want to show me?"

Standing in front of so many glasswares, Zhang Tie glanced over the dozens of triangular flasks on the lab table as he wondered what Heller was going to show him.

Being silent, Heller just took one of the triangular flasks and gave it to Zhang Tie, "Here's the latest variant of essential-energy aura yeast. It's very special; I think Castle Lord should take a look at it!"

"Over these years, haven't we got dozens of variants of essential-energy aura yeast? Is there anything special with it?"

Over so many years, the essential-energy aura yeast that helped Zhang Tie to establish his undertaking already had dozens of variants. However, all those variants had various shortcomings. Not all the variants were perfect or available; therefore, those variants were not that valuable practically.

"Castle Lord will understand once you take a look at it."

Zhang Tie took that flask which was filled with faint yellow liquid. Watching the beer-like liquid, he shook it and found that the liquid was very clear and didn't have any impurity.

"Is this thing fermented by the latest variant?"

"Yes!"

After hearing Heller's answer, Zhang Tie opened the glass cork of the triangular flask and moved its mouth close to his nose.

In a split second, an extremely strong smell of alcohol escaped out of the triangular flask.

Zhang Tie had smelt alcohol; however, the alcohol inside the flask smelt more spicy than common alcohol.

"Alcohol?"

"Almost like that!" Heller replied as he gave another triangular flask to Zhang Tie, "Here's the common alcohol, Castle Lord can make a comparison by yourself!"

'Almost like that?' Heller' words faintly startled Zhang Tie. He took another triangular flask and smelt the liquor inside it. Zhang Tie felt that the liquid in this flask smelt like normal alcohol, which was not spicy and looked transparent.

Zhang Tie tasted a bit of the faint yellow alcohol. Only after touching a bit of it, Zhang Tie had felt his tongue numb. That flask of special alcohol smelt too stimulative and was not drinkable at all.

"Given the taste, this flask of faint yellow alcohol was spicier than common alcohol. Is there anything else special?"

Watching Zhang Tie tasting it, Heller revealed a smile, "Castle Lord, have you forgotten about the fuel that you added to your Faerie-dragon T9?"

After being reminded by Heller, Zhang Tie's heart raced. He watched the two flasks of alcohol in his hands and directly poured some in two burning crucibles respectively. After that, he shot out a sparkle from his fingers which split into two sparkles in the air before falling into two burning crucibles respectively like two fireflies.

A cyan flame flared up as high as 16 cm in front of Zhang Tie at once from the burning crucible which held the faint yellow alcohol...

By contrast, the common alcohol was burning calmly and steadily in another crucible, the flame of which was only about 7 cm in height.

The flame of the faint yellow alcohol was much fiercer, hotter and higher than that of the common alcohol.

From the effect, the flame of the faint yellow alcohol didn't remind people of alcohol.

Standing in front of the two burning crucibles, Zhang Tie's face looked cyan and kept flickering.

After quite a while, the flames in the two crucibles almost died out at the same time. Zhang Tie stretched out his fingers and touched the bottoms of the crucibles. He found the bottoms of the crucibles were still very clean, leaving no dust or remnants as if nothing had been burned inside yet.

Besides water and carbon dioxide, burning alcohol would leave nothing at all.

After swallowing his saliva, Zhang Tie asked Heller, "What's the fuel value of this new alcohol?"

"The fuel value of this new alcohol could reach 11,000-12,000 kilocalories per kg!" Heller replied, "Our latest variant of essential-energy aura yeast is featured by very single and powerful fermentation properties. Products being fermented by this variant would almost not contain any aura, namely, being inedible. However, this variant could extract the maximal energy and fuel value of the substance being fermented. When we ferment something with this variant, we would gain such a new alcohol which has an extremely high fuel value!"

After hearing Heller's words, Zhang Tie rushed out of the microorganisms evolution lab and came to the library of the palace tree almost at the fastest speed.

Watching Zhang Tie's back, Heller revealed a faint smile as if he had understood Zhang Tie's intention...

Zhang Tie had collected over 1 million books from Waii Subcontinent in the library of the palace tree. These books were inclusive and covered all aspects. Many of them were publications from before the Catastrophe.

Zhang Tie remembered that he had read something useful from a delicate publication before the Catastrophe.

After darting into the library as fast as a lightning bolt, Zhang Tie circled around the bookshelves which were higher than 10 m in the library for a short while before he found his target. He sprung up and rapidly took a book from the last layer of the bookshelf.

This book was a publication in Hebrew before the Catastrophe. Although it had been over 800 years old, it was still well preserved.

The book had a delicate hardcover, on which there were a propeller-driven airplane, a bus and some engine models before the Catastrophe. Beside these patterns were a lot of dense sugarcane field. It was a professional magazine targeted at engineers and professional readers. Its name was "New Energy".

In the middle of this magazine, Zhang Tie saw the topic of this magazine "Bacelia the big country in planting sugarcane starts the alcohol energy plan after the petroleum crisis"

There were two subtitles below the topic "Bacelia's first ethanol-fueled airplane made a maiden flight successfully on October 5th after ethanol service station and bushes were spread across the country".

Under this subtitle, there was another line of eye-catching scarlet letters "Three petroleum groups strictly condemn that Bacelia government for destroying local energy supply structure and quota plan"

Zhang Tie rapidly turned to the page about the introduction of an alcohol-driven airplane——

"The first alcohol-driven airplane successfully accomplished its maiden show in Salaburg City, Bacelia Country on October 5. Before this, this airplane called "Hope" had completed 300 hours' trial flight being driven by alcohol. The pilots claimed that the "Hope" was in very good condition..."

Zhang Tie skimmed over this passage so as to gain the key information that he wanted.

"[Hope] is jointly developed by Bacelia Airplane Manufacturing Company and Bacelia University. Being renovated from a mustang propeller airplane which was fueled by petroleum, this plane adopts a Lycoming 320 horsepower 6-cylinder engine. It could hold 2 people..."

"Engineers declared that ethanol-driven airplane is more durable than petroleum-driven airplanes; additionally, its driving efficiency was 7% higher than that of petroleum-driven airplanes..."

"It was Bacelia government's another major measure after modifying 1/3 of the buses across the country into dual-purpose buses..."

"On the very day the "Hope" accomplished its trial flight successfully, Bacelia Airplane Manufacturing Company had received the orders of 150 ethanol-driven airplanes from the farmers and sugarcane producers in this country. Farmers and sugarcane producers in Bacelia Country had not imagined that what they planted could be used to produce alcohol and could help airplanes fly in the sky. Therefore, farmers and sugarcane producers were very spirited. What counted most, the cost of this sort of airplane was only 1/3 of that of traditional petroleum airplane. Additionally, this new-energy airplane would not cause any pollution in flight. By contrast, petroleum-driven airplanes would produce a lot of harmful gases and pollute the air..."

"Coolio, a sugarcane producer said that he would save a lot of money by using this new sort of airplane to spray pesticide. Additionally, it was more convenient for him to do short-distance travel..."

"An official of Bacelia Airplane Manufacturing Company expressed that alcohol-driven mini aircraft were in research and development..."

"If the alcohol energy plan could be implemented smoothly, Bacelia, as the biggest alcohol producer in this region would become an energy output country..."

After skimming over the content, Zhang Tie flew off once again and took out another magazine called "New Energy" from the bookshelf. Compared to the earlier one, this magazine's cover was black which felt especially depressive. Given the date of publication, Zhang Tie knew that it was published half a year later after the earlier one.

There were two titles under the cover.

"A coup broke out in Bacelia Country, the ex-president of Bacelia was killed by guns in the coup"

"The new Bacelia Parliament has passed the energy use act and will forbid the production and sales of all the alcohol-driven airplanes; additionally, the alcohol fuel of buses will be strictly mixed with petroleum according to certain proportion"

"The three top petroleum groups provided a loan of 120 billion gold coins for Bacelia government so as to recover the domestic orders"

...

After putting back the two publications before the Catastrophe, Zhang Tie was in deep meditation. According to the introduction of one of the magazines, in the age of humans before the Catastrophe when the petroleum would dry up, as a major energy in that age, the fuel value of gasoline was 10,450-11,250 kilocalories per kg; however, the fuel value of alcohol before the Catastrophe varied from 6,000-7,000 kilocalories per kg. In that age, humans had already developed a complete set of means to replace gasoline with alcohol. All the internal combustion engines being driven by gasoline could be driven by alcohol only after minor modifications.

Before the Catastrophe, alcohol didn't become a popular fuel because of political reason instead of technical reason. It was the profits of petroleum groups that killed the possibilities.

In the Black Iron Age, the reason that alcohol was not a popular energy source lay in the marvelous changes that happened after the Catastrophe, causing the fuel value of alcohol to decrease a lot. As a result, alcohol couldn't meet the demand for internal combustion engines anymore. Sports cars like Faerie-dragon T9 had to use external combustion engines instead of internal combustion engines.

'The latest mutated essential-energy aura yeast could produce an alcohol whose fuel value varies from 11,000 to 12,000 kilocalories per kg through fermentation. This figure is much greater than that of alcohol before the Catastrophe; it even surpasses that of gasoline. Doesn't it mean that I could produce many machines and equipment which were driven by gasoline before the Catastrophe and run them, such as propeller airplanes which moved faster than airships, high-performance buses and armored vehicles which had greater assaulting capability on the battlefield?'

Zhang Tie was startled by the wholly new possibilities and prospects brought by the mutated essential-energy aura yeast.

'This alcohol might bring an energy and industrial revolution in the Black Iron Age.'

...

Two days later, when Zhang Tie had recovered his composure and was cultivating with crossed legs in the cultivation room of the airboat, the doorbell rang. Zhang Tie then opened his eyes.

Liu Xing's voice drifted from outside, "Hermit, we've arrived at Fire Dragon Bounty Territory!"

Chapter 1022: Golden Invitation Card from Iron-Dragon Sect

In the Provincial Governor's Manor, Yougzhou City, Yougzhou Province...

A receptionist who came from Huaiyuan Palace took a golden invitation card and hurriedly passed through the winding corridors and parlors in the provincial governor's manor before coming to the Crape Myrtle Palace where the provincial governor always took a rest and received the guests.

"Is provincial governor receiving a guest now?" The receptionist asked a guard standing outside the Crape Myrtle Palace in a low voice.

After the guard whispered something into the receptionist's ear. The receptionist took in a deep breath before waiting outside the Crape Myrtle Palace quietly in a modest manner to be called in...

Anyone whom provincial governor was receiving now was qualified to let the receptionist wait whether in Huaiyuan Palace or Youzhou Province.

It was August, the crape myrtle flowers in the parterre outside the Crape Myrtle Palace were in a vigorous flowering phase while being surrounded by bees and butterflies. As provincial governor felt that crape myrtle flowers were vigorous yet not excessively gorgeous, a lot of crape myrtle flowers were planted in this parterre of the Provincial Governor's Manor of White Tiger Platform 3 years ago. Therefore, this parlor was renamed as Crape Myrtle Palace and became the very place where provincial governor received his trusted subordinates.

In the provincial governor's manor of Youzhou Province, being received by provincial governor in the Palace of Brightness was utterly different than being received in the Crape Myrtle Palace.

After ruling Youzhou Province for 4 years, Zhang Taixuan had already established his authority in Youzhou Province; Huaiyuan Palace also stabilized its position as the first clan in Youzhou Province. Therefore, some rules in the provincial governor's manor were unconsciously spread over Youzhou City and were enjoyed by people.

Since Zhang Tie issued the article "The Inscription on Gravestone of the Despicable" in the forum of the Mountain of Brightness, Huaiyuan Palace and Zhang Clan had been smooth in all aspects. Even those who didn't expect Huaiyuan Palace to be smooth in all aspects became silent in recent years. They didn't offend Huaiyuan Palace anymore in case of being a target for all.

In the territory of Youzhou Province and the Northeast Military Region, almost everyone thought that Zhang Tie was wronged, although people in other places might not think so.

On one hand, Huaiyuan Palace was holding the immense power of Youzhou Province; on the other hand, a backbone of Zhang Clan was wronged and had to escape everywhere. Under the formidable and touching dual atmosphere, Huaiyuan Palace officially rooted in Youzhou Province, even in Taixia Country and expanded its living space.

The Crape Myrtle Palace was bright and clean. Outside the glazed rosewood partitions, the breeze blew by, bringing in a faint fragrance. A brilliant crape myrtle exposed its twigs outside the window as if it wanted to push inside the window so as to adorn the room with a bit brilliance...

It was hot outside the palace; by contrast, it was cool and comfortable inside it. In the four corners of the room, four tin-copper toads were holding ice cubes in their bellies. Widely opening their mouths, the four toads were silently spitting cool air so as to drive away the heat...

Zhang Taixuan was sitting behind a long table and sipping tea with a man on the opposite.

The one who sat on the opposite of Zhang Taixuan was Zhang Yang, Zhang Tie's elder brother. After 4 years, Zhang Yang looked steadier as he had entered his heyday in terms of physical strength, spiritual energy and ability.

Zhang Yang wore a black golden boa silk robe with a thin and black mustache. His eyes flickered, shooting out shrewd, heroic eye light. Even though being on the opposite of the clan head, he was still personable, neither being humble nor pushy.

Even in the territory of the entire Northeast Military Region, everyone had known that the family of Zhang Yang, the biggest shareholder of Jinwu Business Group was the richest family in Youzhou Province or the Northeast Military Region, not to mention those in Youzhou Province. Zhang's all-purpose medicament was like gold bars that could be produced constantly. Of course, such a family would be rich.

In Taixia Country, people used to describe "rich" people as "earning 1 dou of gold each day". This expression was evidently dwarfed by Jinwu Business Group. Because Jinwu Business Group could definitely make one ship of gold per day.

Now, the airships which were queuing up in Jinwu City for loading all-purpose medicament had to leave gold two times the weight of the vials of all-purpose medicament. Therefore, it was not excessive to say that Jinwu Business Group could make one ship of gold per day.

2 years ago, Jinwu Business Group which had promoted to be the noblest VIP of Golden Roc Bank had already been able to enjoy the free protection of two knights arranged by the Golden Roc Bank. Due to the special relationship between Jinwu Business Group and Heavens Fortune Sect, Heavens Fortune Sect also dispatched a knight powerhouse to directly reside in Zhang Yang's family as the head of the bodyguards of Zhang's Mansion. Last year, Jinwu Business Group spent a lot on purchasing a floating airboat from Heavens Fortune Sect. Therefore, Zhang Yang became the second one who had a private floating airboat after Zhang Taixuan in Youzhou Province.

This year, according to intelligence, Zhang Taixuan knew that Zhang Yang traveled to Chaosang Subcontinent by floating airboat one month ago and recruited 2 more knights and many powerhouses on different levels below knights from there.

That was to say, 5 knights were serving Zhang Yang, which was almost equal to the number of elders of Huaiyuan Palace.

Zhang Yang had just come back from Chaosang Subcontinent. During the period when Zhang Yang was in Chaosang Subcontinent, of course, Zhang Taixuan as the provincial governor of Youzhou Province neighboring Chaosang Subcontinent knew what happened in Chaosang Subcontinent.

"Is that done by you in Immortal Wind Country?" Zhang Tiexuan slightly blew the tea water as he asked Zhang Yang with a calm look.

"The emperor of Immortal Wind Country is old and muddle-headed. The royal prince is tyrannical and immoral. I went to change a royal prince for them..." Zhang Yang said calmly as he also slightly blew his tea water before having a sip.

Zhang Taixuan knew that Jinwu Business Group had managed in Chaosang Subcontinent for a long time. It was really out of his imagination that Jinwu Business Group could have such a big power over there. He threw a glance at Zhang Yang as he felt that this young man had become more tolerant, decisive and vicious after Zhang Tie was framed and escaped away.

Fengjing City, the capital city of Immortal Wind Country had almost become ruins with a casualty of over 300,000 soldiers and commoners. The forces and armies that were loyal to the earlier royal prince were absolutely uprooted. However, Zhang Yang described it so casually.

"Chaosang Subcontinent is neighboring Taixia Country. All the countries on Chaosang Subcontinent have relations with major clans in Taixia Country. Honestly, Most of the royal households and high-ranking government officials in Chaosang Subcontinent are just watchdogs and agents of major clans of Taixia Country in Chaosang Subcontinent. Tang Clan of Yanzhou Province is on the back of Immortal Wind Country..." Zhang Taixuan reminded Zhang Yang.

"You could exchange everything with money!" Zhang Yang smiled as he put down his teacup, "An elder of Tang Clan went to Immortal Wind Country together with me. He killed the No. 1 knight on the side of the royal prince of Immortal Wind Country..."

"An elder of Tang Clan also went there?" Zhang Taixuan let out a sigh, "Is that worthwhile?"

"Immortal Wind Country is just a tiny country. It doesn't have any powerhouse or valuable resources. However, I like how it trains its dare-to-die soldiers, who might be useful in the future. As long as they are dauntless and could advance wave upon wave, I prefer to take it as a business, whether it's profitable or not..."

"Hidden forces are surging in Taixia Country. You'd better be careful!" Zhang Taixuan said with a distant look.

"After the news that Emperor Xuanyuan is missing drifted from the Earth-elements Realm, it has been spread over Taixia Country only in a few days. Even the kids on the streets know that. Huaiyuan Palace should prepare for it as soon as possible!" Zhang Yang suggested as a shrewd light flashed across his eyes.

After throwing a glance at Zhang Yang, Zhang Taixuan nodded. After being silent a few seconds, Zhang Taixuan replied, "It seems that Yanghe Prefecture should build a high-profile Class A city. With a Class A city on our back, people would feel safe!"

"If Huaiyuan Palace wants to build a Class A city, Jinwu Business Group will bear half of the expense!" Zhang Yang said generously, which meant that he had to spend billions of gold coins.

"What does Jinwu Business Group need?"

"Whether the alchemist bombs that our clan stored should be cleared..."

Zhang Taixuan nodded, "The marriage between Zhu Clan of Yanzhou Province and Huaiyuan Palace..."

"Just let them send the woman here!" Zhang Yang didn't even care about who was that woman. Because it didn't matter at all. He only knew that Zhu Clan was a major clan in Yanzhou Province, whose woman was definitely not ugly. Whatever!

The two people then exchanged a glance with each other before nodding at the same time silently...

After having a cup of tea, Zhang Yang got up and bade a farewell to Zhang Taixuan. Zhang Taixuan saw him off until the entrance of Crape Myrtle Palace...

Watching Zhang Yang walking out of there with a confident look, those guards and the receptionist standing outside the Crape Myrtle Palace bowed towards Zhang Yang respectfully at the same time.

Jinwu Business Group today could never be matched by that yesterday. In late years, with the foundation of Jinwu Business City and the gradual expansion of Jinwu Business Group, Zhang Yang's status and position in Zhang Clan of Huaiyuan Palace could almost match that of clan elders.

Zhang Taixuan touched the fingerstall. Until Zhang Yang disappeared behind those brilliant crape myrtle flowers did Zhang Taixuan turn his eyes to the receptionist of the Provincial Governor's Manor, "What's the matter?"

As an earth knight, he had long heard what did the receptionist talk with the guard just now. Therefore, he knew that receptionist had something to report to him.

The receptionist trotted forward before bowing towards Zhang Taixuan. At the same time, he presented the golden invitation card to Zhang Taixuan with two hands. At the sight of the eye-catching golden invitation card, Zhang Taixuan's pupils narrowed at once...

Because there were the qi and image of an earth knight on the golden invitation card. The image was a ferocious and grim fire dragon with two wings.

In the knight's world, this indicated that the one who delivered this golden invitation card was a noble earth knight.

After opening it, Zhang Taixuan only saw one paragraph:

—On August 18, I will hold the opening ceremony of Iron-Dragon Sect in Xuantian City, at the foot of Yangui Mountain, Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. I've prepared some drinks to invite all the dignitaries in Huaiyuan Palace to attend it.

The signature was—Cui Li, the Fire Dragon Hermit, also the owner of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory.

"What a fierce dragon..." Zhang Taixuan read the golden invitation cards twice. Feeling its weight, after considering it a few seconds, he turned around and told the receptionist, "Invite the elders of Huaiyuan Palace to discuss something in White Tiger Platform..."

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On the same day, many major clans in Youzhou Province, Tongzhou Province and Yangzhou Province in the territory of the Northeast Military Region which neighbored Fire Dragon Bounty Territory received the same golden invitation card.

Zhang Yang received the same golden invitation card when he returned home...

Chapter 1023: The New Look of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory (I)

After coming to the Fire Dragon Bounty Territory, Zhang Tie spent 2 days in finishing the formalities with the land resources administration of the Northeast Military Region and left border piles around the Fire

Dragon Bounty Territory. From then on, Fire Dragon Bounty Territory became Zhang Tie's private territory.

Being in the southwest of Yangui Mountain in Taixia Country, Fire Dragon Bounty Territory covered 1.34 million square miles and neighbored Youzhou Province, Tongzhou Province and Yanzhou Province in the territory of the Northeast Military Territory of Taixia Country. There were 18.76 million people who could move freely and 10 cities in the bounty territory.

3 of the 10 cities were in Miyun Prefecture in Youzhou Province, namely Tianxuan City, Xinlu City and Langyun City respectively. Tianxuan City was a Class II Level B city, which was the largest one in the three cities with more population; Xinlu City was a Class II Level C city; Langyun City was a Class III Level B city.

4 of the rest 7 cities were in Xingyuan Prefecture in the territory of Tongzhou Province, respectively Anning City, Xuesong City, Yande City and Qinghe City; all of them were Class II Level C cities.

Dashang City, Wugong City and Dongyang City in Gaoping Prefecture of Yanzhou Province where the hub of the Northeast Military Region was located in, were divided into Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. Dashang City and Wugong City were Class II Level B cities while Dongyang City was Class II Level A city.

As Tianxuan City was in Youzhou Province and was one of the only two Class II Level A cities in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory, Zhang Tie directly chose the opening ceremony of Iron-Dragon Sect in Tianxuan City.

Zhang Tie entrusted the official post of Northeast Military Region to deliver his golden invitation cards on August 1; on the same day, two notices had been posted in Tianxuan City, Xinlu City, Langyun City, Anning City, Xuesong City, Yande City, Qinghe City, Dashang City, Wugong City and Dongyang City on the same day.

The first notice was——Cui Li, the owner of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory establishes Iron-Dragon Sect and will recruit apprentices in the Fire Dragon Bounty Territory.

The second notice was——all the cities in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory will select local representatives. From then on, all the cities, districts, counties, towns and villages in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory will be autonomously managed by the delegations on all levels.

After the two notices were posted for 1 day, the entire Fire Dragon Bounty Territory had been boisterous. Not only that, but the two notices in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory also spread over the all the prefectures in three neighboring provinces as fast as the wind.

Local representatives autonomy had existed in Taixia Country since far-ancient times. The so-called democratic parliament and the other forms of organizations in other continents were actually borrowing the intelligence of Taixia Country although they looked advanced. This sort of organization had existed in Taixia Country for thousands of years. However, as Fire Dragon Bounty Territory was almost as large as a prefecture in a province, the selection of local representatives became unusual.

The cities in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory were previously administered by the government of Taixia Country. Each city in the territory had a mayor and administrative agencies on different levels which were dispatched from the royal government of Taixia Country. However, after this territory was rewarded to Cui Li and was renamed by him, its property had changed; the officials on different levels

could almost be ignored as the existence of agencies and officials in the entire Fire Dragon Bounty Territory would completely determine the owner's willingness, except for the taxation and judicial agencies. The selection of local representatives indicated the willingness of the owner of this territory clearly.

The so-called local representatives were composed of local dignitaries.

According to the notice, each city of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory would organize a local representatives association which contained 21 members. Any legal resident in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory would be qualified to be a candidate and be received and finally appointed by the Cui Li, the owner of this territory as long as he or she could gain 3000 people's support in terms of signature, regardless of gender and age.

Once local representatives associations were established, each city would have 21 local representatives, who would wield the scepter of the city and be as powerful as the mayor.

The moment this news was spread, all the dignitary clans in the cities of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory became active at once. If one of their clans could become a local representative, their clan would gain both fame and wealth. Of course, all the clans were drooling about it.

What was more eye-catching was the news that Cui Li, the Fire Dragon Hermit, also the owner of Fire Dragon Bounty Hermit was going to recruit apprentices.

The news that Cui Li the Fire Dragon Hermit cultivated the marquis-level secret method "Fire Dragon Sutra" had already been spread over. If anyone could join the Iron-Dragon Sect and become Fire Dragon Hermit's direct apprentice, he or she would rely on an earth knight who had a private bounty territory and might learn a powerful marquis-level secret method. Such a good news was nothing different than a shortcut towards the fame and wealth. Therefore, this news shocked the neighboring regions at once. Across the Northeast Military Region, even major clans with knights were moved by this news, not to mention commoners.

After Cui Li delivered his golden invitation cards and notices, Tianxuan City which was not eye-catching in the Northeast Military Region immediately became the focus of the entire Northeast Military Region. As a result, more and more airships and people arrived at Tianxuan City abruptly...

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On the early morning of August 6th, the couple of Boss Liu of Yuean Hotel in the south of Tianxuan City got up before daybreak.

Yuean Hotel covered about 700 square meters. With a 4-storey building and two courtyards, it contained more than 30 guestrooms. Although being limited in area and ranked medium among the hotels in Tianxuan City, it was the achievement of the couple after over 20 years' hard work. Therefore, the couple always did many things in the hotel themselves.

Starting from August 2nd, the business of the hotel suddenly became flourishing. The hotel, the greater part of rooms of which were usually vacant was full in only a couple of days. Not only the couple, but even the lads in the hotel also became busy.

"Those who have been living in Heavens No. 1 and No. 2 since yesterday are rich fighters from Yanzhou Province. They are a bit picky nicky. As they don't care about price, you'd better buy some good ingredients from the marketplace..." Boss Liu's wife told boss Liu seriously when he was going to buy ingredients from the marketplace with his lads in the early morning.

"Cooks are a bit busy, you'd better pay more attention to them!" Boss Liu also warned his wife.

"I see. I've invited Aunt Liu in our neighborhood and my youngest aunt from Zhao family to give us a hand in the kitchen today. They're diligent; they will arrive soon. You can leave now!"

After hearing that his wife had made an arrangement in the kitchen, Boss Liu sat in the back of a tricycle as he told a lad to leave.

Those who came to buy ingredients in the marketplace so early were mostly bosses of hotels and restaurants and stewards and lads of major clans in the city.

After buying various fresh vegetables and fruits, Boss Liu caught sight of a hunted snow deer. It might be hunted last night as its flesh was fresh and tender. When he thought of those rich guests from Yanzhou Province, he shared the snow deer with Boss Zhou of another hotel after reaching an agreement. After weighing it, he loaded it in his tricycle.

After finishing all this in half an hour, Boss Liu came to the old storefront of Rongshengxiang and took the fresh beef and mutton.

As Boss Liu often visited here, at the sight of Boss Liu, the lad of Rongshengxiang immediately carried the beef and mutton into his tricycle without being requested by Boss Liu.

The moment the basket of beef and mutton were loaded, the vehicle sunk faintly.

It was a bit too much today!

Boss Liu mumbled inside as he told the fatty Boss Zhao inside Rongshengxiang, "Boss Zhao, the meat today looks too much. Yuean Hotel doesn't need so much meat today. Because it's too hot, they might go bad tomorrow!"

"Hahaha, it's not too much, it's not too much. Just take it. I will give you 20% off..." Boss Zhao replied with a smile.

After hearing the reply of Boss Zhao who was known as miserly, Boss Liu became dubious. After checking those beef and mutton once again, he found that they were all fresh and qualified. He then mumbled inside, 'How does this miser turn so good today?'

At this moment, Boss Zhao walked towards him with a big smile as he took out a roll of white cloth and said, "Hehhehheh, Boss Liu, don't think too much. The biggest shareholder Qian of Rongshengxiang is collecting the signatures these days. He said that Rongshengxiang was holding preferential activities these days to the old guests. As long as Boss Liu do us a favor by signing your name here and take it back to have your lads sign their names or press their fingerprints one after another, in the next 1 month, Boss Liu will enjoy the same discount..."

After hearing Boss Zhao's words, Boss Liu widely opened his eyes with an amazed look, "Ahh, the biggest shareholder Qian is competing for the local representative of Xuantian City?"

In the hotel, by listening to the discussions of guests from all walks of life, Boss Liu knew all the big events that happened in Youzhou Province and Taixia Country. Boss Liu knew that Fire Dragon Bounty Territory was going to select local representatives almost the moment the notice was released.

"Our biggest shareholder Qian is also an influential figure in Xuantian City. He has over 10 pastures, farmsteads and slaughterhouses; 1/3 of meat in Tianxuan City are supplied by our biggest shareholder Qian. Now that the others could attend the selection for local representatives, our biggest shareholder Qian could also attend it!" Boss Liu immediately became solemn at the sight of Boss Liu's amazed look, "Does Boss Liu feel that we're humble and look down upon our butchers?"

Boss Liu hurriedly revealed a smile, "You're thinking too much. I just wonder that biggest shareholder Qian has over 4,000 staff. He only needs to request all of his staff to sign their names for him. He doesn't need ours at all!"

"Hahaha, the more supporters there are, the more glorious our biggest shareholder Qian will be. It's said that Boss Feng in Tianxuan City is also competing for local representative; additionally, she has collected over 5,000 signatures. Although our biggest shareholder Qian was a butcher, he has contributed a lot to Tianxuan City these years such as paving roads and building bridges. Whatever, he could at least match a prostitute..."

Boss Feng was another legendary female hero in Xuantian City. As the top prostitute in the 27 brothels across Xuantian City, her fame in the "entertainment circle" could match that of the biggest shareholder Qian in "catering industry" in Xuantian City.

Chapter 1024: The New Look of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory (II)

When Boss Liu and the lad returned to Yuean Hotel by tricycle, the day had just broken.

At this moment, the guests in Yuean Hotel started to get up and have breakfast. As a result, the hotel gradually became boisterous.

Boss Liu took out the roll of white cloth which was given by Boss Zhao as he thought inside, 'It's just a matter of signature. Although it sounds fresh, it's not a big deal. Although the biggest shareholder of Rongshengxiang was a butcher, he's generous. It's actually not bad if he could become a local representative. In the future, I might gain some advantage from him.'

According to Boss Zhao, many butchers and hotel bosses in Xuantian City supported the biggest shareholder Qian. He had also collected many signatures from the farmsteads in the rural areas outside the city. It was said that the biggest shareholder Qian had already gained over 6,000 signatures.

After the selection for local representatives started a few days ago, it had already become more and more interesting. Many dignitaries, rich men and influential figures in many industries had started to canvass.

It might be the same in other cities.

Boss Liu remembered Boss Zhao's request. After taking out the roll of white cloth, he told all the lads and his wife to sign their names on it, including the two women who came here to give a favor to them

in the kitchen. Those who didn't sign their names would press down their fingerprints on it. After dealing with it, Boss Liu put away the white cloth and started to arrange the affairs in the hotel.

He would give the roll of white cloth full of names to Boss Zhao tomorrow.

Soon after 9 am, almost all the guests in the hotel had already gotten up. The hotel was also selling breakfasts such as steamed stuffed bun, noodles, peanuts, porridge, rich puddings, assorted cold or hot foods and pot-stewed meat. Many idlers would come here to have breakfast, morning tea and listen to storytelling by the way.

By 9:30, the dining hall in the hotel had been covered with people. Many of them were especially here to listen to storytelling. Many old people came here with their grandsons.

The moment the angular storyteller in cyan gown sat down at the only table on the stage by raising his robe and had a mouth of tea water, the entire dining hall became quiet. Even those kids stopped uttering as they watched the storyteller with widely opened black eyes.

With a sound of "Shua", the storyteller unfolded the paper fan with plum blossoms on it suddenly and waved it. Even the lads who were responsible for adding tea water for the guests in the dining hall trod slightly as they pricked up their ears.

The storyteller was telling "The Legend of Black Iron Hero". The moment this book was published 3 years ago, it had become popular across Taixia Country. As a storyteller, if he cannot tell "The Legend of Black Iron Hero", he would be shameful of telling others that he was a storyteller.

"Zhang Tie experienced a bloody battle in Selnes Theater of Operations and was framed by the moles of demons in the allied human forces. Selnes Eagle broke its wings and almost lost his life. Finally, the entire Selnes Theater of Operations collapsed. Zhang Tie couldn't bear it alone; therefore, he had to evacuate towards the south as he fought the vanguard of the demons corps. Tens of millions of demonized puppets were as dense as a tide, which would destroy cities and countries wherever they were. Any humans in front of them would be eaten; any god in front of them would be slaughtered. They were like tens of millions of wild beasts with bloody eyes which could devour everything. Wherever they passed by would become barren land. They rolled over the entire north region of Waii Subcontinent and surged all the way towards Norman Empire..." The storyteller said as he opened his foldable fan and waved it. Along with his tone, facial expressions and movements, the storyteller attracted everyone's attention in a split second. From then on, the entire dining hall was filled with his sound. All the audience in the dining hall were immersed in the dramatic plots...

Many audiences had not realized that two hours had already passed...

When the storyteller patted the judge's gravel on the table, everybody at present was shocked...

"Right then, a boom as loud as millions of muffled thunders sounded. The entire land then started to shake like screening rice shaff by quivering the winnowing fan, causing sand and rocks to jump. Tens of millions of demonized puppets at the foot of Nein City of Norman Empire were all vacant as they thought that it was an earthquake. Zhang Tie was fighting three powerhouses of Three-eye Association on the city gate and would soon be in a crisis. All of a sudden, the city wall started to shake heavily and almost fell down. The 3 powerhouses of Three-eye Association were shocked. Seizing this opportunity,

Zhang Tie broke off the encirclement and jumped onto the top of the city gate which was over 20 m high and looked in the distance..."

At this moment, the storyteller stood up and put his hand over his forehead as if he was looking in the distance.

"Zhang Tie looked in the distance as his heart raced. My god, a white line in the far like a rolling cloud sea as higher as 100 m was surging towards Nein City in an overwhelming manner. Dear guests, what do you think that white line is..."

"Do you remember that there's a marshal called Lin Changjiang in Norman Empire? He's also a member of Hua people of Taixia Country. Speaking of Lin Changjiang, he's really excellent. His real status was a talented apprentice of Heavens Fortune Sect in Taixia Country. Dozens of years ago, he came to Waii Subcontinent at the order of the sect and made preparations for resisting demons. After coming to Norman Empire, Lin Changjiang had been responsible for building the largest irrigation project in the north of Norman Empire—the Imperial Dam. The white line over 400 miles away from Nein City was the flood that was poured down from the Imperial Dam of Norman Empire. How much water? 80 billion cubic meters. Do you know what does that figure mean? It's irresistible. 80 billion cubic meters of water could inflict the entire Miyun Prefecture..."

"Nein City was the graveyard of the tens of millions of demonized puppets in Marshal Lin Changjiang's plan. Heavens Fortune Sect was good at fortune telling. As long as dozens of years ago, they had known that Nein City would be collapsed by tens of millions of demonized puppets in this holy war. Therefore, Marshal Lin Changjiang built a dam in the upper reach of Nein City so as to store water and prepare for today's trick..."

After hearing this, all the audience who had been immersed in the story exclaimed one after another.

"At that moment, Marshal Lin Changjiang didn't know that Zhang Tie was fighting demonized puppets at the foot of Nein City. Neither did Zhang Tie know Marshal Lin Changjiang's trick. After hearing the abnormal sounds in the distance, the three powerhouses of Three-eye Association who fought Zhang Tie just now also jumped onto higher places and looked in the distance. When they figured out what happened, they were all scared too much and exerted their full efforts to escape away. They just hated that they were born with just two legs. The white line was surging towards Nein City like tens of thousands of galloping horses. In the blink of an eye, it had covered everything and destroyed everything in Nein City in an overwhelming way. It was even much more powerful and irresistible than the greatest knights..."

"Tens of millions of demonized puppets were collapsed at once. They escaped in all directions only to survive themselves in this overwhelming flood. In such a critical situation, everyone else would almost lose their lives, except for Zhang Tie. Watching the over 100 m higher huge waves, Zhang Tie burst out into laughter as he shouted, "The god helps me!"

"After saying that, Zhang Tie sprung up from the top of the city gate and stepped onto the top of the surging waves like how he saved a beauty in Hidden Dragon Island as a Yaksha. On the top of the huge waves, he just overlooked the embarrassed looks of the tens of millions of demonized puppets like a yaksha cruising the ocean and a dragon swimming in the sea!"

"In water, the demonized puppets were like sh*t; how could they defeat Zhang Tie in that situation? Zhang Tie walked on waves as freely walking on the plain ground. As long as he waved his longsword, he would send demonized puppets' heads flying away. Stepping on the huge waves like Nezha, Zhang Tie soon caught up with the three powerhouses of Three-eye Association. Only after waving his sword twice, he had sent two heads flying off..."

"However, he missed the third one. Zhang Tie didn't think too much about that at that moment. He just continued to kill those demonized puppets who were struggling on the waves and made a cool massacre. Zhang Tie didn't imagine that the one who escaped could bring him a great meritorious deed in the future..."

"There's a poem for this accident—The rolling waves were covered with blood; the young hero behaved dauntlessly like a Chinese dragon; the heavens fortune broke through tens of millions demonized puppets; the yaksha stepped on huge waves across Nein City..." After finishing the poem, the storyteller patted the judge's gravel, causing another sound "Pah" as he continued, "If you want to know what happened later, please listen to it tomorrow!"

The moment they heard the word "tomorrow", the dining hall was filled with regrets and complaints.

"Ahh, it's just come to the climax..."

"Continue, continue..."

Someone shouted while the storyteller cupped his hands and bowed towards all directions, "Dear guests, this old man is too thirsty and become breathless. I could barely continue. If you want to listen to my story, please come here tomorrow. Finally, this old man will make an advertisement for Boss Feng—8 pm tonight, Boss Feng will have the top 8 prostitutes in Xuantian City play a "Mudan Pavilion" in Pear Fragrance Garden. What's more, Pear Fragrance Garden will be free tonight. You only need to select Boss Feng to be the local representative of Xuantian City!"

After saying that, the storyteller walked off the stage and bade a farewell to Boss Liu before leaving...

In the dining hall, nobody had noticed that a tower-like tough guy in a cloak was standing in the corner of the dining hall on the 2nd floor and watching the storyteller leaving with a dumbfounded look. At the same time, the tough man mumbled inside, 'What the hell! When did this daddy kill a demon in Nein City?'

Chapter 1025: The Legend of Black Iron Hero

Since Zhang Tie came to Fire Dragon Bounty Territory, after finishing the handover formalities of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory and authority confirmation, Zhang Tie always wandered around alone. He almost traveled all the 10 cities and Yangui Mountain Range in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. After a few days' travel, Zhang Tie was already familiar with the local customs and practices.

Zhang Tie came back to Xuantian City in the morning. When he found this common hotel which was a bit boisterous, he entered it to have some food. By the way, he would learn about the situation in Xuantian City. Zhang Tie thought that the simplest way for him to be familiar with a place was to listen to the free

chat of those people from all walks of life in the mass-gathering public places like teahouses, pubs and hotels.

However, it was out of Zhang Tie's imagination that he could listen to the "Legend of Black Iron Hero", in which he was the main character.

This story was vivid. Some contents were real although being processed artistically; some were fabricated reasonably. As a result, Zhang Tie's image turned full and real which was righteous and hot-blooded just like a vivid legendary figure.

'What the hell?'

Zhang Tie wondered about it very much.

After hearing that Boss Feng was going to have the top 8 prostitutes in Xuantian City play "Mudan Pavilion" in Pear Fragrance Garden tonight, the audience in the dining hall started to discuss Boss Feng while they shifted their topic to the selection of local representatives of Xuantian City. After bidding a farewell to Boss Liu, the storyteller left the hotel under the guidance of a lad.

"Boss Feng is our heroine in Xuantian City. It's said that Boss Feng only sold her talents instead of her virginity when she was young. Later on, as she was very shrewd, she rented a hub and gradually expanded her business..."

"I was told that Boss Feng never forced her girls to sell their virginity. As long as those girls could work enough years for her or make enough money to redeem themselves, Boss Feng will recover their freedom on her own initiative. If any of them meets her Mr. right, Boss Feng will even gift her a dowry. The third son of the mayor of Xuantian City wanted to sleep with Ruoxi in Phoenixflute Pavilion, Boss Feng stopped him as Ruoxi had already met her Mr. right. It displeased the third son of the mayor; as a result, he had people damage half of the entire Phoenixflute Pavilion..."

"If not, how could the geishas exert their full efforts to work for Boss Feng?"

"But it's a bit improper for a woman who was once a geisha to attend the selection of local representatives..."

...

When those people were discussing on the 2nd floor, Zhang Tie stood up. After throwing a gold coin onto the table, he followed the storyteller downstairs.

"Sir, you've paid too much; wait a moment, I will give you the change..."

The food and tea water that Zhang Tie consumed were worth at most 2 silver coins. However, Zhang Tie dropped 1 gold coin. It really was too much. Therefore, at the sight of the gold coin, Boss Liu hurriedly stopped Zhang Tie.

Boss Liu was not short; however, his top of the head could only touch Zhang Tie's elbow.

"Your stretched noodles and steamed puffed buns tastes good, keep the change..." Zhang Tie waved his hand. In Zhang Tie's eyes, gold coins were already nothing different than silver coins. He just paid in terms of gold coins in case of change.

Additionally, Zhang Tie found that he liked the satisfied looks of these commoners caused by one gold coin because it would remind him of himself when he worked as a human sandbag for others in the Iron Thorns Fighting Club. Behind each generous deed, Zhang Tie was warning himself to think like a commoner and not to get lost because of wealth and strength.

No matter how many buildings one had, he only needed one bed to sleep on; no matter how many fertile arable lands one had, he could not eat more than 7kg's food per day; no matter how many gold one had, he could only wear 1 kg's silk and linen cloth at most. Even knights would have unfortunate moments or even die; therefore, even as an earth knight, Zhang Tie still treated himself as a commoner.

Boss Liu felt happy as he had not imagined that the tower-like tough man was such rich. After watching Zhang Tie's look carefully, Boss Liu said, "If you like my food, you can always come here. Given your special sturdy figure, I will keep your look deep in mind. If you come here in the future, I will not take your money anymore!"

Zhang Tie threw a glance at Boss Liu as he had not imagined that Boss Liu was really good at doing business. Although it was just a few silver coins, his words sounded very comfortable.

Zhang Tie burst out into his laughter as he patted Boss Liu's shoulders. Closely after that, he clattered downstairs...

After coming to the gate of Yuean Hotel, Zhang Tie looked left and right and found that thin frame less than 50 steps away on the bustling street. He sped up and patted the storyteller's shoulder. The storyteller turned around. Zhang Tie's eyes flickered as he said, "Follow me..."; closely after that, he walked towards the teahouse in the distance.

The storyteller just followed after Zhang Tie at the same speed all the way towards the teahouse.

After coming to the teahouse, Zhang Tie ordered a tranquil compartment and entered it, followed by the storyteller.

After taking a seat, Zhang Tie pointed at another seat in the room and told the storyteller to sit down.

"May I know your name?"

"This old man is Liu Yuqing!" The storyteller's eyes looked clear as he replied fluently. However, he felt that the words of the tough man in front of him were as euphonious as music from heavens. As a result, he just followed the tough man's will and replied honestly.

"How many years have you told stories?"

"This old man has told stories for 26 years!"

"Did you fabricate the Legend of Black Iron Hero?"

"No, the Legend of Black Iron Hero was written by Mr. Jingan..."

'Mr. Jingan?' Zhang Tie slightly frowned as he had not heard about this name before, "Who's Mr. Jingan?"

"Mr. Jingan is a great novelist. His novels are most popular among storytellers..."

"How long have you told the Legend of Black Iron Hero ?"

"About 2 years!"

"Who let you tell the Legend of Black Iron Hero in Xuantian City?"

"This old man doesn't know who's he. Two years ago, a strange guest gave me the novel Legend of Black Iron Hero and told me that I could gain 10 gold coins a month in my account of Golden Roc Bank if I kept telling this book in Xuantian City. After saying that, that guest gave me 10 gold coins as the advance payment for the first month. You know, storytellers could make 3-4 gold coins a month at most. Those poorer could make at most 1 gold coin a month. Therefore, from then on, I started to tell the Legend of Black Iron Hero in Xuantian City. In the second month, I really gained 10 gold coins in my bank account. Therefore, I have been telling Legend of Black Iron Hero every day in Xuantian City until now..."

"What about the other storytellers in Tianxuan City? Are they also telling Legend of Black Iron Hero ?"

"2 years ago, the novel Legend of Black Iron Hero had been popular among storytellers and guests in the Northeast Military Region. You could listen to the story in each city, even in the towns..."

"Whether the other storytellers will also gain 10 gold coins a month as a payment by telling the same story?"

"I have no idea. However, in the last sacrificial anniversary of my teacher, I met a junior fellow apprentice who was mainly telling stories in Yanzhou Province. He told me that he had the same experience as me. As long as he told Legend of Black Iron Hero , he could also gain 10 gold coins a month in his bank account. As my junior fellow apprentice was younger and healthier than me, he was paid 12 gold coins that month by telling Legend of Black Iron Hero in the teahouses of towns outside the city where there was no storyteller. As a storyteller, the more you tell Legend of Black Iron Hero and more audience you have, the more money you will get..."

"Where can I buy the novel Legend of Black Iron Hero ?"

"You could find it in all the bookstores in the city. Previously, there was only novel, now you can even buy a comic book..."

After knowing that he could not get any intelligence from the storyteller, Zhang Tie dropped a gold coin on the table. After that, he stood up and walked out of the room.

...

After Zhang Tie left the room for 2 minutes, the storyteller who was sitting quietly at the table suddenly quivered all over. He looked around the room in a vacant expression before uttering, "Ahh, what's wrong with me? Why am I here? Shouldn't I have returned home? Why am I drinking tea here?"

...

After leaving the teahouse, Zhang Tie felt that this event was a bit weird. Besides being confused about that, he felt deeply moved. Therefore, he took a walk on the street and looked for a bookstore.

Only after a few minutes, Zhang Tie had found a bookstore and entered it.

"Boss, do you have Legend of Black Iron Hero ?"

The clerk pointed at a bookshelf a few meters away.

Zhang Tie walked over there and noticed a very delicate novel Legend of Black Iron Hero in the most eye-catching place. Beside it, there was a set of many delicate comic books of Legend of Black Iron Hero. At the sight of the figures on the cover of the comic book, Zhang Tie felt it was very interesting. Therefore, he stretched out his hand to take it. Out of his imagination, another person on his side also stretched out her hand to take the same comic book. Therefore, their hands pressed on the same book.

Zhang Tie turned around and saw a pair of beautiful, big and black eyes...

A young lady in many precious headwears was watching him with a strong 7-8-year-old boy in her hand.

At the sight of this woman, Zhang Tie was shocked inside because she was Lv Shasha, his junior fellow apprentice on Hidden Dragon Island...

Chapter 1026: Being Always Together

Zhang Tie's memory returned to Hidden Dragon Island where he met Lv Shasha for the first time.

When he saw Lv Shasha for the first time, she was crying and said that she missed her home and her mother so much while Du Yuhan was comforting her.

In Zhang Tie's memory, Lv Shasha was always the most shy and sensitive one among his junior sister apprentices. As there was a bit misunderstanding between him and her, this bashful junior sister apprentice was even afraid of him for quite a long time. Although being together with a lot of junior sister apprentices, Lv Shasha still dared not see Zhang Tie face-to-face each time...

He met Lv Shasha and the other junior sister apprentices in Jinwu Castle of Hidden Dragon Island last time. At that time, he and his junior sister apprentices were all drunk. After performing a fist position and a swordsmanship and reciting a poem, Zhang Tie broke his double fish swords by battle qi as his "unique" gift to these junior sister apprentices...

From then on, Zhang Tie didn't use double swords anymore.

That night, he drank too much. In his memory, Lv Shasha, Du Yuhan and Qu Liangying were all drunk. Many junior sister apprentices even cried...

That was the most beautiful and memorable night.

That night was very special.

The ever youth, the passionate, innocent, nice and simple emotions, those which were described and undescribed all turned into merry laughter and tears. After that night, all these had vanished in the battle flames of the holy war. After that, Zhang Tie went to the Selnes Theater of Operations being far away from Hidden Dragon Island and didn't see these junior sister apprentices anymore...

A few years ago, when he returned to Youzhou Province, he heard that most of these junior sister apprentices had married others. Some of them like Guo Miaolu were still in hard-working cultivation as they wanted to further increase their battle strength...

Zhang Tie didn't bother those who had got married. As for those who were still in hard-working cultivation, Zhang Tie told Huaiyuan Palace to look after them stealthily. Zhang Tie didn't go to see them either. Something had better be buried deep in mind.

It was really out of his imagination that Zhang Tie could meet a junior sister apprentice in a bookstore of Xuantian City after many years later.

Lv Shasha was still as beautiful as before; however, she was more mature. The former innocent maiden had already become a young lady although she was still as reserved as before. That little boy's eyes and face was very similar to that of Lv Shasha. At the sight of the little boy, Zhang Tie knew that he's Lv Shasha's son.

Zhang Tie became a bit absent-minded as he had mixed moods inside...

The reason that Lv Shasha gazed at Zhang Tie with her widely opened eyes was that she had not imagined that a tough man could be interested in the comic book Legend of Black Iron Hero ; additionally, that large bamboo rain hat on Zhang Tie's head looked a bit weird.

'Is this man a lunatic?'

Before Zhang Tie withdrew his hand, Lv Shasha had already withdrawn her hand rapidly with a disgusted and terrified look. After that, she turned around and told her son, "Xiaozhi, let's take a look in other bookstore!"

When Lv Shasha said this, she pulled her son back a bit stealthily in case of stirring up Zhang Tie.

"No, mom, I will read Legend of Black Iron Hero. We've been in many bookstores and they were all out of stock..."

"Hush!"

Zhang Tie revealed an embarrassed smile. As an earth knight, if the news that he quarreled with a little boy for a comic book in a bookstore was spread over, it would shock many people. Therefore, he took that comic book and gave it to that boy, "Here you go. I will read this version. I was just wondering that this novel had a comic book just now..."

As Zhang Tie said, he took the novel...

"Xiaozhi, say thanks to the uncle..."

"Thank you, uncle!" The boy called Zhang Tie in an innocent way when he received the comic book with a big smile.

"Ahh, you're welcome, you're welcome..."

Lv Shasha was still as reserved as before. Only after a brief dialogue with Zhang Tie, she had pulled her son away.

Zhang Tie was a bit thrilled. He wanted to say something; however, when he thought up his current status, he could only rub his face and see Lv Shasha off.

After dropping a gold coin, Zhang Tie took that novel and walked out of the bookstore.

Outside the bookstore, Lv Shasha and her son entered a black limo while a driver opened the door for them. At the sight of Zhang Tie coming out of the bookstore, the boy even waved his hand towards Zhang Tie.

'The origin of the license plate of the black limo is Xuantian City; it seems that Lv Shasha married someone in Xuantian City.'

A whim occurred to Zhang Tie's mind when a tracing feather shot out of his forehead and attached to the black limo.

The limo ran away leaving smoke...

Outside the bookstore, Zhang Tie skimmed over the novel. With his current spiritual energy, he could absolutely skim over 100 lines in one second. He could read one page and keep it deep in his mind as fast as taking a photo.

The main character of the novel was him. The story started from Blackhot City. The contents and framework of the novel were mainly based on his article "The Inscriptions on the Gravestone of the Despicable". Of course, there were artistic creations, processing and modifications.

After turning over 20 pages, Zhang Tie noticed a plot which he had not experienced—It was already dark when Zhang Tie finished his part-time job and was going back home. Suddenly, Zhang Tie saw a poor beggar lying on the roadside nearby the railway station of Blackhot City due to hunger. Out of sympathy, the kind youth bought a loaf of bread for the beggar from the nearby bakery. He had not imagined that the beggar was a powerhouse who just traveled across the human world with a cynical mind. After having the loaf of bread gifted by the youth, the beggar gifted a secret method to the youth and taught him how to use the unique secret disguising method. As a result, the youth immediately mastered the senior skills to change his looks...

When Zhang Tie read this plot, he could almost confirm it right away that the contents in this novel were not fully written by Mr. Jingan. This plot could only be fabricated by Donder because Zhang Tie's disguising skills were taught by Donder. Besides Donder, nobody else knew it; neither did Zhang Tie say it to others.

As an evidence, the image of Hua Boss Tang of a grocery in the novel was too excellent, he was handsome, generous and wise. In the novel, Boss Tang could be the model of all the middle-aged men. According to the description, Boss Tang was absolutely a philosopher who enjoyed the average life and the beacon light and first teacher of Zhan Tie. Damn! What made Zhang Tie speechless was that Boss Tang was not horny at all, 'A female boss in Blackhot City even courted him by spending money on him, f*ck...'

The plots about Zhang Tie at home were not fully fabricated out of the void, because only Zhang Tie's elder brother knew some details.

Zhang Tie understood it at once, 'It must be my elder brother and Donder who joined hands to clarify my innocence using Legend of Black Iron Hero.'

'It's definitely an unprecedented masterpiece for beautifying my personal image. All the storytellers across Taixia Country have become my pluggers. As long as I paid them some money, I would have numerous fans and adorers in Taixia Country. If the Supreme Court in Taixia Country doesn't cancel off my arrest order, Taixia government will lose many people's support and have to bear too much stress and condemnation.

The Legend of Black Iron Hero and the Inscriptions on the Gravestone of the Despicable once being coordinated with each other would resist numerous soldiers for Zhang Clan and Huaiyuan Palace.

Zhang Tie had not imagined that he could be as hot as the sun at high noon across Taixia Country after becoming a murderer.

'You must be kidding me.'

Although it looked ridiculous, it was real.

Over the past 4 years, although Zhang Tie was not at home and didn't even contact his family members, his family members and friends were always on his side. They were trying their best to clarify his innocence so that he could return to the public.

On the roadside, Zhang Tie spent less than 10 minutes in reading the entire story, regardless of the amazed looks of the passers-by.

The end of the story was about the merciless situation. After fighting hundreds of millions of demonized puppets to the end in Waii Subcontinent, Zhang Tie came to Taixia Country. After being outstanding in the competition for the provincial governor of Youzhou Province for Zhang Taixuan and inflicting the Heavens Reaching Church, he was framed by demons and Heavens Reaching Church. Although he survived the trap with his own ability, he had to escape everywhere with the fabricated crime as a touching, tragical hero...

Such an end was very outraged. However, in the spirit of law worshiped by Taixia Country, the order of arrest issued by the Supreme Court of Taixia Country was irrevocable. Therefore, the end of this story tested the result of the wrestle between conscience and the spirit of the law in Taixia Country. Whether did you believe that the hero was still the hero or the dubious evidence was still effective?

After putting this novel which was of special meaning to him into his coat and sensing the current location of that limo, Zhang Tie strode towards the direction where the limo was leaving for...

...

Over 10 minutes later, Zhang Tie came to a tranquil and spacious avenue in the south of Xuantian City. After throwing some glances at the signboard "Sun Mansion", Zhang Tie strode away before arousing the attention of the guards.

It should be a major clan in Xuantian City. The small limo was right in the courtyard of Sun Mansion.

"Many people from all walks of life come to Xuantian city lately, as a young madam and young master have just come back from outside, you'd better be vigilant in case of any followers..."

"Yes, sir, Steward Sun. It's said that master wants the young master to learn from Fire Dragon Hermit. Young master is wise, he will definitely be recruited..."

"Such a major event has nothing to do with you. Watch out your mouth..." Steward Sun reproached a guard...

Although it was over 100 m away, the dialogue between some people at the gate of Sun Mansion still drifted into Zhang Tie's ears...

...

After hearing this, Zhang Tie felt a bit weird as he returned to his foothold in Xuantian City...

Chapter 1027: Being as Boisterous as a Marketplace

Zhang Tie's foothold was in an official manor of Xuantian City. The moment Zhang Tie reached the periphery of that official manor, he had been startled by what he saw.

The periphery of that official manor had been crowded with limos and beautiful carriages. Both sides of the greater part of a street were crowded with people with various gifts.

"Oh, ministry councilor Liu, nice to meet you..."

"Is that Boss Qu..."

"Wuh, and landlord Gao..."

Although there were many people outside the official manor, they just waited there patiently and greeted and chatted with those familiar ones beside them in a low voice. Although they were standing outside the official manor, they were still followed by their bodyguards and stewards who were lifting many cases, large or small, which almost occupied half of the avenue outside the official manor.

"It's said that the mayor's steward is also queuing up ahead of us?" A person in brilliant silk gown in front of Zhang Tie was whispering to another guy who was queuing up.

"Even idiots would come, if not in the official uniform of Taixia Country and have been dispatched away from Xuantian City, I'm afraid that Lord Mayor has long been waiting here himself!"

"Yea, Fire Dragon Hermit is a qualified earth knight. It's said that he has made great meritorious deeds in the Earth-elements Realm and has even killed over 2 earth-level demon knights. He's very prestigious..."

"Have you seen the red airboat in the official manor? It's said that Fire Dragon Hermit won it from a shadow knight elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect through a bet. Unbelievable..."

"But I was told that Fire Dragon Hermit had killed almost 4 earth-level demon knights in the Earth-elements Realm..."

"Two of them didn't leave any evidence; therefore, they could not be counted in Fire Dragon Hermit's meritorious deeds. However, all the others had witnessed that..."

"According to your news, Fire Dragon Hermit should be the No. 1 powerhouse in Youzhou Province, more powerful than provincial governor..."

"Hush, watch out your words..."

Zhang Tie heard many whispers like this. The moment Zhang Tie wanted to push into the gate of the official manor, some bodyguards beside a fat ministry councilor instantly turned around and watched Zhang Tie with unpleasant looks before reproaching him, "Bro, don't you know about queuing up when you want to pay a formal visit to Fire Dragon Hermit?"

'F*ck, this daddy has to queue up to return to my own residence?'

Zhang Tie watched those people dozens of meters in front of him and found that he could not explain it to these people clearly; therefore, he directly took off his bamboo hat and revealed his signboard "bald head" before shouting, "Liu Xing!"

The moment Zhang Tie shouted, those in front of him turned around and watched him at the same time.

"Be quiet before the manor of Fire Dragon Hermit!" An old man turned around and gave Zhang Tie a lesson like an experienced elder.

The moment the old man finished his words, the gate of the official manor was in an uproar while those queuing up in front of the gate hurriedly dodged away. At the same time, a team of black armored fighters rushed out of the gate and opened a way for Zhang Tie by force.

Those who were queuing up outside the gate of the official manor hurriedly gave a way to the team of fighters with big smiles.

It was said that those fighters were all brave warriors from the top four armies in Taixia Country who had experienced bloody battles in the Earth-elements Realm. They were also Fire Dragon Hermit's entourage. Of course, those who were waiting outside the official manor dared not stir up them.

Under the amazed looks of so many people, the team of black armored fighters opened a way from the crowd and came all the way to Zhang Tie's front. The team leader was Liu Xing.

"Fire Dragon Hermit!"

At the sight of Zhang Tie, Liu Xing hurriedly gave a bow to Zhang Tie.

After hearing Liu Xing's words, everybody else at present widely opened their mouths like being filled with some duck eggs. The entire street was pretty quiet; especially those bodyguards and that old man who reproached Zhang Tie just now whose faces had blushed too much while they were quivering all over due to fear.

"What's wrong with these people?" Zhang Tie asked Liu Xing.

"They come from all the cities in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. After knowing that Fire Dragon Bounty Hermit is living here, these people have sent requests to pay formal visits to Fire Dragon Bounty Hermit. As hermit is traveling outside these days, they just waited here!" Liu Xing answered.

Zhang Tie nodded silently as he directly came onto the steps of the gate of the official manor in the welcome of those black-armored fighters.

This official manor was the former official reception mansion of Xuantian City, which was especially used to receive dignitaries from other places. The Department of Protocol of Xuantian City was also in this manor. The official manor was in the best location of Xuantian City; there was an airport in the official manor. The entire official manor was like a luxurious showplace in the city. It contained pavilions, terraces, venues, independent courts and hotels. Therefore, after coming to Xuantian City, Zhang Tie chose this place as his residence. Additionally, he chose this place to hold the opening ceremony of his Iron-Dragon Sect. As this place belonged to him, he had the right to dispose of it freely.

Standing on the steps of the gate, Zhang Tie looked at those people who were waiting outside the official manor. Those people then hurriedly bowed towards Zhang Tie. Nobody at present could straighten up. Zhang Tie found that there were over 1,000 people outside his official manor.

Given these people's clothes and demeanors, Zhang Tie knew that they were major clans and landlords in the 10 cities of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. Of course, in front of an earth knight, the so-called landlords and major clans were as trivial as ants, because there was a sharp difference between them and Zhang Tie in power, position, battle strength and wealth.

However, killing was not the only element in this world because development is closely related to these people. After all, this world was composed of many commoners. Knights were just a small part of people on the top of the pyramid.

Zhang Tie's figure was as sturdy and tall as the Mighty Miracle God. Standing on the steps, he looked very dignified.

"Who among you excels at civil engineering, especially building palaces?" Zhang Tie put it straight.

Soon after Zhang Tie finished his words, a swarthy and rich middle-aged man at his 50s raised his hand at once when the others were still confused about Zhang Tie's intention.

"You're?"

"Fire Dragon Hermit, I'm Lu Yishan, the biggest shareholder of Threerocks Engineering Group in Dashang City, Gaoping Prefecture, Yanzhou Province. Threerocks Engineering Group has a long history and remarkable reputation. Being founded by my ancestor, it's qualified to build a Class I City in Taixia Country. We're good at civil engineering, especially building palaces!" Lu Yishan answered calmly although in a faintly quivering tone.

"Hmm, not bad, come here!" Zhang Tie waved his hand towards Lu Yishan.

In the admiring eye light, Lu Yishan held his breath and walked to Zhang Tie's side calmly and bowed towards Zhang Tie once again before standing respectfully on a place two steps lower than that of Zhang Tie on the latter's side.

As a result, Lu Yishan became outstanding among those visitors outside the official manor at once.

Seeing Lu Yishan standing on Zhang Tie's side, some representatives of engineering groups of some major clans felt pretty regretful. They had not imagined that they could miss such a good chance to approach Fire Dragon Hermit only after being faintly hesitated.

When those guys were hesitating whether would they raise their hands now, Zhang Tie opened his mouth once again.

"Who has an alcohol brewage plant among you?"

This time, 3 people raised their hands at once.

Even in this age, alcohol also had special functions. Besides being used as fuel for sports cars such as Faerie-dragon T9, alcohol could also be used in medical services and food processing, etc.. Therefore, it was reasonable for some clans in the 10 cities in Fire Dragon Territory to run alcohol brewage plant.

"Well, you three, come over here!" Zhang Tie called the three people to approach to him.

In the others' admiring looks, the three well-dressed people came to the steps below Zhang Tie.

"Who could produce machines?" Zhang Tie tossed out another question.

This time, 5 people raised their hands. Zhang Tie let all of them move to his side...

"Which clan is most disgusting?"

After hearing this question, all the others exchanged glances with each other. This time, nobody raised hands. At the same time, everybody moved their eyes onto an emaciated old man in a black robe unconsciously. The old man was standing in the crowd with a cold look; two servants were standing on his side with gift packages; although it was bustling in the surroundings, there was open land beside him.

Noticing that everybody else was looking at him, the old man hesitated. Finally, he raised his hand.

"Fine, you, come here!"

Under the amazed eyes, the old man moved to a step beside Zhang Tie. Standing alone on the other side of Zhang Tie, he looked unsocial.

"Which clan have the most servants and worship kindness in accordance with strict disciplines as well as enjoy the good reputation among the public?"

This time, people became hesitated once again. Many people wanted to raise their hands; however, after looking around and measuring their own deeds, they finally didn't raise their hands, except one person who gritted his teeth and raised his hand bravely.

"Who're you?"

"Hermit, this humble man is Wang Chongde, the master of Wang Clan, Yushun Palace in Ning'an City. Wang Clan is known for its strict disciplines. Although being not that famous, we warn our disciples and servants to behave meticulously every day. We would reflect our home disciplines three times a day since young. All of us protect living beings and never kill any animals. Wang Clan provides free porridge in Ning'an City all the year round at the request of our ancestors. As long as Wang Clan have food to eat,

we will keep providing free porridge all the year round. Therefore, after hearing Hermit's question, I recommend myself shamelessly. If Hermit thinks that I'm improper, please forgive me!" The one who raised his hand said in a flurried way.

"Since how many years has your clan provided free porridge in Ningan City?"

"Starting from this humble man's great-grandfather, Wang Clan has provided free porridge for 71 years, 8 months and 21 days ceaselessly in Ningan City, regardless of the weather!"

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter which could almost be heard across the city, "Good, Wang Clan of Yushun Palace. A kind family must have a good fortune. This hermit will bring a good fortune to your clan today so as to satisfy the God's will. Listen, now that Wang Clan could provide free porridge over 70 years constantly, 7 disciples of Wang Clan could enter my Iron-Dragon Sect. If they're talented, they could receive all the contents of my secret method Fire Dragon Hermit !

After hearing Zhang Tie's reply, the master of Wang Clan immediately knelt down on the ground and forcefully kowtowed towards Zhang Tie, "I, Wang Chongde, thanks to the great favor of Fire Dragon Hermit on behalf of the ancestors of Wang Clan!"

When he raised his head once again, Wang Chongde's forehead and eyes both turned red. Being extremely thrilled, he quivered all over.

"Hmm, come over here!"

Wang Chongde then picked himself up and patted dust off his clothes. Closely after that, he walked to Zhang Tie's side very respectfully.

At this moment, all the others threw their shocked eyes at Wang Chongde.

Nobody could imagine that Wang Clan, Yushun Palace in Ningan City could have such a special treatment like a carp leaping into the dragon's gate.

However, the master of Wang Clan was right. Many people at present had heard about Wang Clan's disciplines. They all knew that he was telling the truth. Therefore, they couldn't find any fault with him.

"The others could leave!" Zhang Tie swung his sleeves as he led those people whom he had selected into his official manor...

Chapter 1028: I Have My Own Consideration (I)

After entering the official manor, Zhang Tie took a seat in a parlor beside a brook. At Zhang Tie's order, Liu Xing and the other black-armored fighters brought those selected ones into an assembly hall and received them for the time being. After learning what happened here during these days when he left the official manor from Liu Xing, Zhang Tie told Liu Xing to bring them in the parlor one after another.

During the period when Zhang Tie left the official manor, the requests to pay formal visits to Zhang Tie had filled many baskets. It was polite for them to send requests to pay formal visits to Zhang Tie. Liu Xing and the other black-armored fighters didn't know Zhang Tie's will; therefore, they just received all the requests and waited for Zhang Tie's decision.

The one who was brought in the parlor first was Lu Yishan, the former greatest shareholder of Threerocks Engineering Group in Dashang City, Gaoping Prefecture, Yanzhou Province.

Although Fire Dragon Hermit was known as a dauntless hero, he was not rude. Therefore, Lu Yishan was not as intense as before. Although recovering his composure a bit, he still behaved meticulously in front of Zhang Tie.

"Take a seat!" Zhang Tie casually pointed at a chair in the parlor and told Lu Yishan, who was of his dad's age, to take a seat.

"Erm...I...I'd better stand up...in front of hermit!" Lu Yishan said carefully.

In Lu Yishan's eyes, Fire Dragon Hermit was almost on the same level as the provincial governor. In front of such an influential figure, of course, he dared not sit. It was already his great honor to be received by such an influential figure. It was honorable enough for engineering groups like his to sit in the same room with the city mayor after many years' efforts, not to mention an earth knight.

"Cut the crap!" Zhang Tie glared at Lu Yishan.

"Yes, sir...yes, sir...yes, sir..." Lu Yishan was scared too much that he hurriedly sat down on the chair with a small half of his butt on the edge of the chair while putting his hands on his legs in a very docile look.

"Do you know why I fetch you here?" Zhang Tie asked Lu Yishan before throwing a glance at him.

After throwing a glance at Zhang Tie, Lu Yishan gritted his teeth and replied, "Does Fire Dragon Hermit want to build a Class I city in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory so as to set people's minds at rest?"

After hearing Lu Yishan's words, Zhang Tie became faintly stunned. Zhang Tie then replied, "You think this hermit wants to build a Class I city in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory?"

"I'm really happy that Hermit favors me. Therefore, I just put it straight. If it's improper, please forgive me !" Lu Yishan cupped his hands towards Zhang Tie.

"Go ahead. I will not blame you for whatever you say!" Zhang Tie waved his hand.

"If so, Lu Yishan will put it straightforward..." After recovering his composure, Lu Yishan answered, "It's said that Hermit has just come back from the Earth-elements Realm. With your status and position, you definitely know that Emperor Xuanyuan is missing. This event has been spread over the commoners. As the holy war has broken out, it's unstable both domestically and abroad. In the holy war, only solid cities and castles could set people's minds at rest. As there's not a Class I city in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory now, if you want to shape a supreme image in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory, I suggest you to build a Class I city!"

Lu Yishan's words were out of Zhang Tie's imagination. Zhang Tie had not imagined that the news that Emperor Xuanyuan was missing could be spread over the commoners in Taixia Country so fast. Even businessmen like Lu Yishan had known it and were thinking about the countermeasures. This was actually not good for Taixia Country as a whole. It indicated that the aftermath of the event that Emperor Xuanyuan was missing had just come to a start.

Actually, Zhang Tie did not fetch Lu Yishan to build a Class I city. However, Lu Yishan's words reminded Zhang Tie. From the perspective of a knight, it was almost the same whether there was a Class I city or not. However, in the holy war, Class I city was of a special meaning for commoners.

"What's the expense of a Class I city?"

"It depends. A basic Class I city which could meet all the indicators and functions would cost you 200 million gold coins to 250 million gold coins. More advanced Class I cities like some of the nine immortal provinces would cost far more 200 million gold coins as its functions and defense facilities are much better than Class I cities in Taixia Country after many generations' construction of a clan. There's actually not an upper limit for that. Additionally, since a few months ago, it had been spread over Taixia Country that Emperor Xuanyuan was missing. Therefore, the number of clans which would build Class I cities abruptly increased. Out of the demand, raw materials such as steel and cement are constantly rising. Now, it will cost over 15% more to build a Class I city than that a few months ago..."

Lu Yishan answered professionally.

The Saint Peterburg cost Zhang Tie 90 million gold coins as the most magnificent city across Ice and Snow Wilderness; however, any Class I city in Taixia Country would cost almost 200 million gold coins. What a sharp difference!

"Now that the number of clans which are going to build Class I cities abruptly increases, could you Threerocks Engineering Group receive an order to build a Class I city in Yanzhou Province?"

After hearing Zhang Tie's question, Lu Yishan's face turned embarrassed at once, "Hermit...erm...Hermit, you might not know that. In Taixia Country, those who could build Class I cities are all real major clans. The Class I cities built by these major clans are always be involved with the secrets of the clans, such as the arrangement of hidden ways and weapons. As these secrets were very sensitive and might be easily exposed to the public if they were contracted to outsiders; therefore, these Class I cities could only be built by their own engineering groups. Our Threerocks Engineering Group is mainly responsible for building official projects. We are doing some small projects, but we've not received any task on building Class I cities..."

Zhang Tie understood that the government in the provinces and prefectures would not build Class I cities in a big way at such a critical moment. Even the current building plans would be prolonged for the time being. Because of the news that the Emperor Xuanyuan was missing, the commoners started to be scared. If the government exerted its utmost to build Class I cities at this moment, it would make commoners more scared. Some cunning guys might even stir up trouble in Taixia Country with it.

Touching his bald head, Zhang Tie replied, "We need to build a Class I city; however, we should not do it right now. This Hermit wants to establish Iron-Dragon Sect first! Otherwise, it would be ridiculous if we didn't even have a foothold."

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Lu Yishan understood at once. He almost wanted to slap his own face. He only thought about the importance of a Class I city from his point of view; however, he forgot about the importance of Iron-Dragon Sect for Fire Dragon Sect, which was even more urgent than building a Class I city. Although he thought that he had opened his mind to Fire Dragon Hermit; however, he was still too anxious for profit in Fire Dragon Hermit's eyes.

Lu Yishan revealed a bashful smile as he twisted his body restlessly and asked, "Hermit, where are you going to build Iron-Dragon Sect?"

"After looking around these couple days, I find that the Xuantian 18 mountain peaks in Yangui Mountain Range are very beautiful and magnificent. This Hermit wants to establish Iron-Dragon Sect based on Xuantian 18 mountain peaks..."

Standing in Xuantian City, people could look at the Yangui Mountain Range in the distance, especially the contour of the Xuantian 18 mountain peaks in Yangui Mountain Range. Therefore, this city was named Xuantian City.

These days, Zhang Tie was considering the location of Iron-Dragon Sect. Among the major sects in Taixia Country, besides Gold and Power Law, almost all the major sects were in famous mountains, rivers or isolated overseas islands. Some were even in very secret places. 'My Iron-Dragon Sect has to rely on a famous mountain or river too.' As Yangui Mountain was magnificent with a special terrain, Zhang Tie decided to establish Iron-Dragon Sect in Yangui Mountain Range. Given that Xuantian 18 mountain peaks were grotesque in Yangui Mountain Range, Zhang Tie chose it as the core of his Iron-Dragon Sect.

"Ahh, Hermit, do you really want to choose Xuantian 18 mountain peaks as the foundation of Iron-Dragon Sect?" Lu Yishan was amazed.

"Yes!" Zhang Tie nodded.

"How large do you want?"

After combining Lu Yishan's question with the discussion between two of them about building a Class I city, Zhang Tie had a bizarre thought. Zhang Tie recalled the surrounding terrain of Xuantian 18 mountain peaks that he had seen in the air as he burst out into laughter at once.

"Hahahaha, your words remind me. How about making it large? Why not combine the territory of Iron-Dragon Sect with a Class I city? I mean building an unprecedented sect, also a mountainous city in Yangui Mountain with the benefit of its terrain. In the future, the population in Iron-Dragon Sect will be planned according to that of a basic Class I city. Of course, we can develop step by step..."

Lu Yishan was startled at once. Closely after that, his heart pounded. It was a tough challenge and a great opportunity for Threerocks Engineering Group.

"Hermit...do you really want me to undertake this project?" Lu Yishan asked in a timid way after forcefully swallowing his saliva. At this moment, he really didn't believe that Zhang Tie could entrust him to undertake such a "major event" only after chatting with him a short while. In other places and periods, Threerocks Engineers Group would spend a lot of time and efforts in getting such a big project.

"Cut the crap, who else if I don't let you do that?" Zhang Tie glared at Lu Yishan before putting it straightforwardly, "You will take charge of this project. Don't waste my time. I will pay you according to the market price. If you could accomplish it perfectly, you will have an award..."

Lu Yishan immediately sprung up from his chair and bowed deeply to Zhang Tie. He felt being moved and impulsive like how a person would die for the one who favored him as he said, "Our Lu Clan in Dashang City will definitely live up to Hermit's trust even at the cost of our lives..."

Chapter 1029: I Have My Own Consideration (II)

Soon after Lu Yishan left with excitement, Liu Xing had brought in another 3 people.

They all had private alcohol breweries.

Like Lu Yishan, the three people also behaved very meticulously when they entered.

The slightly younger one was more than 30 years old, the other two were at their 50s. All of them behaved politely and looked rich.

Zhang Tie told them to sit. After exchanging a glance with each other, the three guys also put a small half of their butts on the edges of their chairs in a very meticulous way like how Lu Yishan did.

"Well, you can introduce yourselves now!" Zhang Tie said as he waved his hand.

"Hermit, this humble man is Fang Tong, the master of Fang Clan in Qinghe City!" The eldest one stood up on his own initiative and introduced himself after throwing a glance at the other two.

"Do you have a private alcohol brewery?"

"Fang Clan indeed have an alcohol brewery in Qinghe City!"

"How large?"

"It could produce over 2,000 tons of alcohol each year!" Fang Tong answered respectfully when he just lowered his head and looked at the ground.

"Hmm, not bad, take a seat!" Zhang Tie nodded.

After Fang Tong sat down, another 50-year old guy in a blue silk robe picked himself up.

"Hermit, this humble man is Chen Zihui, from Chen Clan, Muqing Palace, Langyun City. I'm the younger brother of Chen Zihao, the master of Chen Clan. As my elder brother is in Guanzhou Province, he could not come back to pay a formal visit to Hermit on time; after knowing that Hermit is arriving at Xuantian City, he especially told me to come to Xuantian City to learn from Hermit on behalf of Chen Clan!"

After throwing a glance at Chen Zihui, Zhang Tie revealed a smile, 'This guy is really talkative.'

"Do you also produce alcohol?"

"Chen Clan has produced alcohol for over 50 years. We could produce over 40,000 tons a year!"

"Hmm, take a seat!" Zhang Tie nodded.

After Chen Zihui sat down, the youngest one hurriedly stood up. After bowing deeply to Zhang Tie, he opened his mouth, "This humble man is Li Tao, the head of Zhongpin Business Group in Dongyang City!"

Zhang Tie threw two glances at Li Tao and found that he was a shrewd and able man with flickering eyes. Additionally, he had already reached LV 13 4-star battle general and was one with the greatest battle strength among the 3 people.

"You're not a native of Dongyang City, right?"

"I really admired your insight, Hermit, this humble man is indeed not a native of Dongyang City. This humble man comes from Li Clan, Wansheng Palace, Wuhua Prefecture, Zhuozhou Province. As I'm a branch of Li Clan and the second son in my family, I went out to survive myself and expand undertakings outside after becoming mature. Fortunately, I have some undertakings in Dongyang City. I have a business group and a small alcohol brewery which could produce 1,000 tons of alcohol a year."

'Li Clan from Wansheng Palace?' Zhang Tie's heartbeat accelerated faintly when he recalled the major clans in Taixia Country, 'Li Clan is a major clan in Zhuozhou Province. Li Clans are all very famous in Taixia Country. It's even more powerful than Huaiyuan Palace. In such a large clan, as there are too many descendants from branches, not each of them could be well taken care of. Therefore, such a clan would encourage young descendants to establish undertakings outside. Li Tao must be one of them. There are many people like Li Tao in Huaiyuan Palace.'

'However, even after coming from major clans in Taixia Country, not each of these clan descendants who established undertakings outside could make a success. Sometimes, the signboard of major clans just granted them with a background of a young member of a family holding official rank for generations. There were numerous youngsters like this. If they wanted to establish some undertakings, they had to exert their utmost efforts. Big billows beat the sands, many young men who had the background of major clans could achieve nothing after making efforts many years in Taixia Country. By contrast, Li Tao is an able man as he could establish a bit undertaking in Dongyang City. Even guys like Zhu Dabiao was almost stewed alive by Master Jiang when he came to Youzhou Province for investment with the background of the grandson of the provincial governor of Yanzhou Province.'

Zhang Tie nodded and told Li Tao to sit down.

"I'm a straightforward man. I need your favor!"

"Hermit, what can I do for you?" Fang Tong asked as he slightly inclined forward.

"I will build an alcohol brewery in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. Hmm, it's a bit large..." Touching his bald head, Zhang Tie continued, "Precisely, it should be an alcohol production base. As you're all running alcohol breweries and are familiar with this industry, I want you three to do that for me!"

"How large do you want, Hermit?" Chen Zihui asked as he was a bit shocked by the word "base".

"At least 500,000 tons of alcohol a year!" Zhang Tie answered casually.

After hearing the figure, Chen Zihui and Fang Tong were startled so much that they almost slid off their chairs when their mouths could almost hold a duck's egg.

"5...500,000...tons?" Fang Tong would treat it as a joke if it was not from Zhang Tie's mouth. At this moment, there was not even an alcohol production plant that could produce over 100,000 tons of alcohol a year across Taixia Country. If this plant was founded, it must be the largest one in Taixia Country. However, it might also be a joke in the end...

"What? You cannot do it?" Zhang Tie looked a bit solemn.

"We can, but..." Fang Tong became silent after looking at the other two.

"Go ahead..."

"If so, this humble man will put it straight. If Hermit wants to build an alcohol production base which could produce 500,000 tons of alcohol a year, we will have no technical problems as technologies on this aspect have been very advanced; however, after the alcohol production base is established, it might not run smoothly!" Fang Tong said while gritting his teeth.

"What do you mean by not run smoothly?"

"Hermit, you might not know much about business. In the industry, we have to consider the market demands. There's not such a large market in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory the neighboring Youzhou Province, Tongzhou Province and Yanzhou Province. Now, the alcohol production capability and market in the three provinces are already saturated. The fluctuations in both supplies and demands are very small; additionally, the profit of alcohol in the three provinces has reached its lowest limit. Take Fang Clan's alcohol brewery as an instance, after deducting the depreciative cost of equipment and the cost of labor forces, the profit of alcohol of Fang Clan is only 4% these years. Additionally, as long as the transportation distance is over 600 miles, our profit will reduce to zero. If our alcohol was transported to other places, it would become very expensive plus the cost of transportation. As a result, it could not match the alcohol that's produced in the other places. Even if we make a discount, we will sustain loss too. The more we produce, the more we will lose. Even if you could afford it for the time being, you could not afford it forever. It's the law of market, therefore..."

Fang Tong stopped because he had made it clear. It wasn't a problem for them to produce an alcohol production base which could produce 500,000 tons of alcohol a year; the problem was that such an amount of alcohol could not be consumed in the region within 600 miles with Fire Dragon Bounty Territory as the center. Such a production base would definitely sustain a loss; the more it produced, the more it would lose. Therefore, the three people didn't promise Zhang Tie at once.

Based on Fire Dragon Hermit's social status, it was normal for him to not know much about business. Nobody dared mock him. However, the three people understood it. Because they were alcohol producers and had been in this industry for so many years. They must know this industry clearly. If they ruined the task assigned by Fire Dragon Hermit, they would not bear it. It was not a joke. If Fire Dragon Hermit mistook that the three people were cheating him, they could only chop off their own heads so as to seek for the forgiveness of Fire Dragon Hermit.

After hearing Fang Tong's words, Zhang Tie revealed a smile. As he grew up in a family which sold rice brew and always did a part-time job in a grocery when he was young, of course, Zhang Tie knew the relationship between the cost of the commodity and the market capacity. Of course, these people didn't know about his background.

After looking around Fire Dragon Bounty Territory these days, Zhang Tie saw exuberant corn fields in the wild as it was August. As corns were drought-resistant, worms-proof with a high yield, many places in the north of Taixia Country were planting corns; especially in the provinces of Northeast Military Region. After the holy war broke out, out of the demand of the war, many places started to expand the planting area of corns. Across Fire Dragon Bounty Territory, the corn plantation area almost reached 1 million hectares.

Through Zhang Tie's preliminary calculation, the over 1 million hectares of corn fields could produce over 12 million tons of maize straws in total in the standard that each mu of land could produce 800 kgs' maize straws.

Previously, most of these maize straws would be burned by local farmers after summer harvest; only a few parts of them would serve as fuels in rural areas. A small part of fresh maize straws could also serve as fodder. However, generally, over 80 of maize straws were burned and used to fertilize the arable lands.

Two months later, when the autumn began, black smokes caused by burning maize straws would be seen everywhere in the fields of Fire Dragon Bounty Territory.

'Although maize straws are useless to others, they are valuable to me.'

'Because nobody could imagine that I have gained the latest variant of essential-energy aura yeast. I could produce high-power alcohol only with maize straws...'

Chapter 1030: I Have My Own Consideration (III)

With maize straw as the raw material of alcohol, the cost of the same amount of alcohol was only 0.01 times that of the others.

'On average, with only 4 tons of maize straws, I would be able to produce 1 ton of high-power alcohol and two more tons of special plant fiber pulp. Those special plant fiber pulp could be used to make paper and paperboards. Additionally, they could be even used to make burning rods and balls like honeycomb coal after being mixed with some pulverized coal and coal cinders. Finally, after the 4 tons of maize straws finished their chemical reactions, besides alcohol and plant fiber pulp, I could get hundreds of kgs' organic fertilizers.'

Heller only presented Zhang Tie the most valuable alcohol in Castle of Black Iron.

'Even if I could only take advantage of half of the deserted maize straws in Fire Dragon Bounty Territory each year, I would gain over 1 million tons of high-power alcohol, over 2 million tons of special plant fiber pulp which could be used as fuel or made into paper boards and hundreds of thousands of high-power organic fertilizers a year.'

What a profitable business!

A whole set of industrial chains could be fully developed centered on maize straws.

'Such a cheap high-power alcohol doesn't have a good market? Even if it's used to make incendiary bombs, its supply will definitely fall short of its demand. I don't need to worry about its sales volume at all, not to mention that this is a high-effective clean energy.'

Compared to Waii Subcontinent, alcohol could be used in more industries in Taixia Country, not to mention its users. For instance, the automobiles being driven by alcohol on the highways in Taixia Country definitely outnumbered that in Waii Subcontinent.

'As an alcohol with a higher fuel value, even if I only added it into the common alcohol appropriately, the thermal energy and fuel value of the common alcohol would increase greatly. With such a mixed alcohol as a fuel, those automobiles with external combustion engines would have better performance and could run farther at the cost of less fuel. It's priceless, not to mention that I could develop tentative machines.'

'As for the plant fiber pulp, whether it's used to make paper or combustibles, it would have a great advantage in cost. It's always profitable.'

'As for the organic fertilizer, it could be taken as extra gains.'

'With the trivial mutated essential-energy aura yeast, I could reach a paramount position in Taixia Country once again...'

'However, it's unnecessary for me to explain it to Fang Tong and the other two guys. I only need them to follow my orders and accomplish the tasks for me.'

The latest variant of the essential-energy aura yeast enabled Zhang Tie to understand another law—never look down upon any trivial matters or lives. Because the values of the trivial matters or lives might only be judged by the creator. It's these trivial matters or lives that bring him to higher realms constantly, such as earthworms, sand-scale fish and yeast.

"You don't need to worry about the sales volume of alcohol. You only need to establish the alcohol production base according to my requests. Additionally, I will make some modifications to the fermentation process of alcohol production..." Zhang Tie said as he directly took out the drawings of the alcohol reactor that had been designed by Edward, Aziz and Agan from Castle of Black Iron. In order to adapt to the fermentation of maize straws, the new reactor was different than common ones on its inlet and outlet. This new reactor has three outlets in different shapes in three locations, which corresponded to alcohol, plant fiber pulp and organic fertilizer respectively.

When Fang Tong and Chen Zihui were confused about Zhang Tie's request, Li Tao, who had been silent, immediately stood up and promised Zhang Tie, "This humble man will definitely live up to your trust and accomplish Hermit's task at the fastest speed with the best quality!"

Zhang Tie threw a glance at Li Tao as he thought inside, 'The young man who leaves his major clan to establish his own undertaking is really more enterprising than the others. Fang Tong and Chen Zihui might still be thinking about how to persuade me; however, Li Tao has already stood out. This man is more decisive and enterprising, which is what I need urgently now. As to the other two, now that they've missed the good opportunity, they could only blame themselves for that.'

"Well, you will be responsible for this task. Let's make the address of the alcohol production base neighbor Gaoping Prefecture in Yanzhou Province within Fire Dragon Bounty Territory. I only have one request—leave space for renovation and expansion near the base!"

As Yanzhou Province was the hub of Northeast Military Region, with Commander Cheng on its back, those who were jealous about the alcohol production base would not dare destroy it easily. This was why Zhang Tie chose this place as the address of the alcohol production base.

The reason that he told Li Tao to leave space for expansion and renovation near the base lay in that Zhang Tie was not sure about the ultimate purpose of the plant fiber pulp in the future. As Zhang Tie had not seen the paper being made of the plant fiber pulp, he had to leave space for building a paper pulp production base neighboring the alcohol production base. If the fact was that the paper being made of the plant fiber pulp was not competitive in Taixia Country, he would teach common farmers to mix the plant fiber pulp with pulverized coal and coal cinders and make them into honeycomb coal themselves. He didn't need that bit of money at all.

After Li Tao walked forward, Zhang Tie gave him the drawings of the alcohol reactor. Li Tao took it with two hands in a very respectful manner. Closely after that, Zhang Tie asked him, "How much do you need to build this alcohol production base?"

"Although the production and fermentation equipment of alcohol are huge, they are produced in many plants across Taixia Country. Therefore, they are not expensive. We can customize them in plants. As it's in the territory of Hermit, the land rent fee will be free. We only need 5 million gold coins to build it!" Li Tao replied calmly as his eyes flickered, "Although I'm not in the army, after promising Hermit to do that, it's as effective as a military pledge. I'd like to press my fingerprints on a military pledge. If I could not accomplish it with 5 million gold coins, I would chop off my own head!"

Zhang Tie appreciated the attitude of this disciple of Li Clan very much as Li Tao had a dauntless spirit, which was urgently needed on the battlefield.

"How long do you need?" Zhang Tie asked.

"4 months!"

"How about 3 months?"

Li Tao clenched his fist as he looked a bit solemn and nodded forcefully. At the same time, he squeezed some words out of his teeth, "3 months!"

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter as he instantly took out a pile of gold checks, each of which was worth 100,000 gold coins. After that, Zhang Tie said, "Here are 5 million gold coins. If you could accomplish it in 3 months, I will promise you a bright future so that you could return to your hometown and Wansheng Palace with wealth and fame one day. Even the Li elders of Wansheng Palace will treat you politely!"

"Thank you, hermit!" Li Tao looked faintly surprised. Closely after that, he took Zhang Tie's gold checks and returned to his own seat while bowing his body.

In the past couple of minutes, Fang Tong and Fang Zihui just watched what happened in front of them like onlookers. Watching Zhang Tie deliver the task of building an alcohol production base to Li Tao and Li Tao promise to accomplish this task at the cost of his life in a brief talk, the two people felt like dreaming.

"Well, you can leave..." Zhang Tie waved his hand.

Until they heard Zhang Tie's last words did Fang Tong and Chen Zihui wake up from the dream.

'We can leave? It has nothing to do with me?'

Looking at Zhang Tie who was drinking tea at his seat and slightly quivering his throat, Chen Zihui wanted to say something else; however, Liu Xing had already appeared in front of 3 of them and made a hand gesture to invite them to leave.

Finally, Fang Tong and Chen Zihui were taken out of the parlor with a confused look by Liu Xing.

After leaving the parlor, being stimulated by the sunlight, Fang Tong and Chen Zihui woke up at once. At this moment, the three people had been over 50 m away from the parlor and were walking in the garden near the brook in the official manor. There were so many willows on both sides of the brook. When the breeze blew by, the twigs of the willows started to swing. After waking up, Fang Tong and Chen Zihui both felt that their moods were as vacant as those twigs of willows.

"Boss Li, why did you..." Fang Tong watched Li Tao with widely opened eyes.

Watching the two people, Li Hui knew what they were wondering as he asked in reply, "Does your clans have earth knights?"

After exchanging a glance with each other, Fang Tong and Chen Zihui shook their heads.

"What do you mean?"

Li Tao replied with a smile, "Li Clan of Wansheng Palace has an earth knight. He's the grand elder of our clan. Previously, my position in Li Clan was not remarkable; I didn't even have a chance to meet the grand elder since I was young. Although I've not met him, I have known one thing since young; it's also what my first teacher taught me!"

"What's that thing?"

"If you're not an earth knight, never conjecture what an earth knight is thinking about from your view. Because the world of earth knights is different than that of us. It's said that earth knights are worshiped as deities in subcontinents or remote lands. An earth knight's experience, opinions, ability and realm are absolutely out of a commoner's imagination. As a commoner below knight level, we'd better be modest in front of an earth knight. Many times, what you think and concern about are nothing but a joke in the eyes of an earth knight! There's a proverb in the Western Continent that the moment humans think, the God will laugh. Actually, it might be more proper if this proverb was changed into the moment commoners think, the earth knight will laugh..."

When Fang Tong and Chen Zihui were still considering about Li Tao's reply, Li Tao had already cupped his hands towards the two people as he said, "As this humble man has to accomplish the emergency task assigned by the Hermit, I have to leave Xuantian City right now. See you!"

After saying that, Li Tao had strode away, leaving Fang Tong and Chen Zihui standing still there with a confused look.

In the parlor, although being far away, Zhang Tie had heard all the words that Li Tao told the other two people.

Zhang Tie let out a sigh inside, 'What a Li Clan! Although being just a branch disciple, being immersed in the deep background of the clan since young, his talent could really not be matched by commoners. As long as there's a chance, he will be able to catch it.'

This implied the deep background of major clans! Those clans without any earth knight would never know about the realm and world of earth knights. A commoner should never worry about what an earth knight stuck to. If not having his own considerations, how could an earth knight make important decisions?

When Fang Tong and Chen Zihui were still standing still in confused looks, the third batch of people had passed by them and walked towards the parlor where they had just left. Some familiar ones even hailed them on the way; however, they found that Fang Tong and Chen Zihui were disappointed and absent-minded.

After quite a while, Chen Zihui shook his head as he revealed a bitter smile and cupped his hands towards Fang Tong before saying, "Brother Fang, this time, we might really have missed a good opportunity. When my elder brother comes back, I even don't know how to explain it to him...the young man is really regarded with respect...alas...see you..."