

Black Iron 1271

Chapter 1271: Ice and Flames

In early July, the news that Zhang Tie shared properties with each other aroused a shock in Youzhou Province. It was normal for brothers in ordinary families to share properties with each other; however, Zhang Tie and Zhang Yang were almost the most popular ones in Youzhou Province. Of course, this news was attractive in Youzhou Province.

Additionally, Zhang Tie declared a message in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory soon after sharing properties with his elder brother—Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was looking for business groups and clans across Taixia Country to produce Fiery Oil through cooperation. This news made the news that Zhang Tie had shared properties with his elder brother more shocking.

Soon after this message was released, many major clans became spirited.

In the past months, perhaps even Zhang Tie had not realized that Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory had become the focus of many clans across Taixia Country.

Except for idiots, anyone could realize the great value of Fiery Oil in economy and military; especially, Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory had already proved the value of Fiery Oil with new engines and airplanes. As a result, those major clans couldn't wait to cooperate with Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

However, those who were qualified to be involved in the business of Fiery Oil in Taixia Country were definitely not ordinary business groups or clans. Besides focusing on the cooperation with Fiery-Dragon Bounty Territory on Fiery Oil, they were also focusing on Xuanyuan Hill.

In Xuanyuan Hill, Meng Shidao the leader of the Gobbling Party was destined to take over the position of prime minister of Taixia Country, which was one of the most remarkable positions in Taixia Country.

Everybody had known the animosity between the Gobbling Party and Zhang family of Huaiyuan Palace; especially Zhang Tie.

As Meng Shidao was going to ascend to the peak of his power in Taixia Country, many major clans in Taixia Country were weighing the advantages and disadvantages of cooperation with Qianji Hermit and Huaiyuan Palace on Fiery Oil.

Because of the hesitation, wait-and-see attitude of those major clans in Taixia Country towards Fiery Oil, Fiery Oil which had an extremely sensational effect and a time-epoching significance in black iron age didn't arouse too much attention across Taixia Country except in Youzhou Province and the northeast military region.

Of course, it was just a superficial and temporary phenomenon; in the final analysis, the great value of Fiery Oil couldn't be ignored.

Those major clans were slowly considering and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of cooperation with Fiery-Dragon Bounty Territory on Fiery Oil as none of them would like to offend the top three chancellors in Taixia Country first; however, in Taixia Country, there were always many people who didn't care who were top three chancellors.

After Lord Guangnan's Mansion and Heavens Fortune Sect declared that they started to produce Fiery Oil within their own territories, those major clans in Taixia Country gradually became relaxed.

The current situation was as follows: a group of hungry kids was drooling as they watched a cage of steamed stuffed buns. However, when they saw an adult with a whip in hand a few meters away, they hesitated at once. Those kids exchanged glances with each other and were itching for a try; however, nobody dared rush out first. They were all waiting for someone brave to rush out...

Those kids were clear that they would not be punished if they all rushed out at the same time; however, the one who rushed out first would be punished for sure.

When these kids were hesitating, two adults walked over there and picked up the steamed buns before enjoying them.

Those kids kept swallowing their saliva as they longed for the steamed buns.

Those kids were major clans in Taixia Country while steamed buns referred to Fiery Oil. Of course, the 2 adults were Heavens Fortune Sect and Lord Guangnan's Mansion.

When these kids were hesitating, another one walked to the table and started to enjoy the steamed buns.

This one was Guan Clan of Mingwu Palace, the very clan of Guan Qianchong the commander of Black Armor Army of Taixia Country.

Guan Clan was the third partner of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory on Fiery Oil. Guan Clan of Mingwu Palace's participation in the feast of sharing Fiery Oil made those hesitating major clans relaxed at once. Besides preparing to cooperate with Qianji Hermit to produce Fiery Oil, Guan Clan also brought the orders for Fiery Oil and airplanes to Fiery-Dragon Bounty Territory. Later on, Black Armor Army even assigned 2,000 crews of airships to learn how to drive airplanes in the aviation academy in Fiery-Dragon Bounty Territory...

Black Armor Army was one of the top 4 armies in Taixia Country. Such an army was almost a good model of all the other armies in Taixia Country. To a certain extent, the attitude of Black Armor Army was as same as that of the top 4 armies, the military and the commander-in-chief, one of the top 3 chancellors in Xuanyuan Hill.

Black Armor Army needed Fiery Oil, what did this mean?

It meant that the military and the commander-in-chief of Taixia Country thought that the value of Fiery Oil to armies was much more important than the reputation of the Gobbling Party even the moods of Meng Shidao.

Now that Black Armor Army had expressed their stance, of course the other 3 top armies in Taixia Country stood on the side of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Now that the top 4 armies had expressed their attitude, not to mention the provincial and prefectural armies across Taixia Country. As a result, the market of Fiery Oil in Taixia Country was opened at once.

Except for profit, those private armies of major clans would also regard the top 4 armies of Taixia Country as their good models and try their utmost efforts to enhance the military capability of their

private armies by Fiery Oil. Even Lord Guangnan's Mansion, Heavens Fortune Sect and Guan Clan had stood on the side of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, not to mention the other major clans.

Right then, the news that Qianji Hermit and his elder brother shared properties with each other spread over. Closely after that, the news that Qianji Hermit was looking for cooperators to produce Fiery Oil spread over Taixia Country.

Especially the second news which was really a timely rain for those major clans who had been longing to cooperate with Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Now that Qianji Hermit had thrown out the olive branch, many people's dream would come true.

Therefore, Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was filled with airboats once again.

Only after a few days, Qianji Hermit had declared in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory that all the major clans that had cooperation and marital relations with Tang Clan the Shengzhou provincial governor's clan would be excluded from this feast for Fiery Oil. Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory would never collaborate with these clans.

After hearing this news, someone was muddle-headed; someone felt pleasant; however, those major clans which collaborated with Tang Clan in Shengzhou Province became dumbfounded completely.

Everyone knew that the Tang Clan was the backbone of the Gobbling Party. But why Qianji Hermit fired Tang Clan this time? After inquiring about it secretly, they had known the reason. It turned out that a grandson of Tang Gaolin the Shengzhou provincial governor talked rubbish in Jinwu City by slandering the relation between Qianji Hermit and Zhang Yang a few days ago. Later on, he was put behind upon bars in Jinwu City. After this event deteriorated, the Supreme Court assigned an exclusive official to save him out of there. Even so, his ramblings and this event still spread over Jinwu City and Youzhou Province. Qianji Hermit even shared properties with his elder brother due to this event.

Qianji Hermit was infuriated. Of course, he would vent his spite on Tang Clan.

Provincial governors' clans like Tang Clan must have marital relations with a lot of clans. Now that they had marital relations with each other, it was normal for them to have trade ties. Actually, major clans in Taixia Country were always close to each other through marital relations and trade ties.

Therefore, Qianji Hermit directly prevented these major clans which had relations with Tang Clan from sharing the feast of Fiery Oil out of fury...

Only after Qianji Hermit released the message for 2 days, the marital relation between Tang Clan and another major clan in Shengzhou Province had blown up...

Zhang Tie's one sentence sent many clans in Shengzhou Province and the neighboring provinces in general turmoils...

Fiery Oil, crop failure, the aftermath of the catastrophe of bloody figures, the threat brought by the remnants of Heavens Reaching Church. This July was not only hot but also berserk...

Among disruptions, the news that demons corps appeared outside a barren province in the west of Taixia Country and many cities collapsed in one day struck everybody in Taixia Country like a basin of icy water in winter...

Chapter 1272: The Return of Minling Swordsmanship Sect

An airboat slowly landed at the airport of Xuantian Peak of Iron-Dragon Sect...

Zhang Tie, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian were all standing in the airport, followed by Zhang Tie's disciples and some stewards in Iron-Dragon Sect. It was a grand scene in Iron-Dragon Sect.

It had been late July. At about 1 pm, the sun was right above their heads. However, as there were many tree shadows in Xuantian Peak, it was not very hot over there. Additionally, cicada's chirps sounded very melodious, leisure and pleasant. However, a solemn atmosphere still diffused among those disciples unconsciously.

This airboat belonged to Bai Suxian. After Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi dealt with the affairs of Minling Swordsmanship Sect in Guzhou Province, they returned to Iron-Dragon Sect officially today by this airboat.

Without this airboat, it would take Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi at least 4 more months to make a round trip from Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory to Guzhou Province.

Watching the slowly declining airboat, Zhang Tie revealed a faint smile.

After receiving the news that demons invaded the barren province of Taixia Country, Zhang Tie had ended up his short period with his wives and kids and returned to Iron-Dragon Bounty Territory.

Thankfully, with the establishment of Iron Heart Pavilion and the adjustment of the liquors' taxation of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, the domestic affairs and businesses in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory were also gradually on the right track. Although some aspects still needed adjustment, Zhang Tie didn't need to be worried about that. Iron Heart Pavilion and Donder had gradually controlled Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

He always stayed with his family members for short periods. Over these years, Zhang Tie really had less time to accompany his family members as a husband or a father. Take this time, a few months, as an instance, it was the longest period that he had ever accompanied with his family members. Therefore, Zhang Tie always felt a bit guilty when he left his wives and kids.

However, he had to leave them. Zhang Tie was the real man at home, a human fighter, a knight in Taixia Country and the master of Iron-Dragon Sect and the owner of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Numerous people were focusing on him. Each of his movements could influence the fates of millions of families and tens of millions of people. When the demons corps appeared in the barren province in the west of Taixia Country and the battle flames and smokes of the holy war covered the land of Taixia Country, Zhang Tie had to assume the corresponding responsibilities for each identity.

As the force of demons was still in the westernmost part of Taixia Country, Youzhou Province in the northernmost part of Taixia Country seemingly became the rear area of Taixia Country. That was to say, demons would not arrive at the northernmost part of Taixia Country in a few years even dozens of years. However, if Zhang Tie didn't make a response to it until the demons arrived at the northeast military region or Youzhou Province, how could Zhang Tie and Iron-Dragon Sect resist the demons corps which had swept over the most part of Taixia Country?

Therefore, the appearance of demons corps in Taixia Country meant the start of the second fight between Zhang Tie and demons since the fight in Waii Subcontinent.

Zhang Tie felt a bit guilty about O’Laura and Linda; however, he was a bit moved by Bai Suxian who was on his side.

Over these months, Bai Suxian had been cultivating quietly in her own mansion on Immortalsgathering Peak of Iron-Dragon Sect instead of scrambling for Zhang Tie’s care with the other women. Zhang Tie knew that Bai Suxian wanted to compensate O’Laura and the other wives by having them stay with Zhang Tie alone.

Zhang Tie had not imagined that Bai Suxian could be that considerate and understanding.

After realizing the lovely aspect of Bai Suxian, Zhang Tie suddenly pulled Bai Suxian’s hand and pinched it forcefully regardless of the eye light of his disciples behind them.

Bai Suxian turned around.

“It’s my honor to have you on my side!” Zhang Tie directly told Bai Suxian through a secret means.

“You bet?” Bai Suxian replied while blinking her eyes.

“Ahem...ahem...” Mountain Lifting Hermit pretended to cough twice. Zhang Tie and Bai Suxian then looked at each other with a smile tacitly.

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When the airboat landed and the hatch door opened, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi got off the airboat immediately.

“Master...”

The deep bow that Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi made towards Zhang Tie also meant that the identities between both parties had been fixed. From then on, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi joined Iron-Dragon Sect officially.

“It’s nice that you’ve come back. It’s nice that you’ve come back. From now on, we will be of the same family. Your residences and courtyards on Immortalspring Peak have been completed. You’re welcome to come back. From then on, you two will be the elders of Iron-Dragon Sect and the owner of Immortalspring Peak!” Zhang Tie smiled as he helped Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi stand up.

Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi then nodded towards Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian.

There were over 1,000 disciples behind Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi, who were original disciples of Minling Swordsmanship Sect. They tidily got off the airboat in lines before kneeling down and kowtowing towards Zhang Tie, “Master...”

These disciples of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi might have understood their identity in Iron-Dragon Sect. As Zhang Tie was a legendary figure in Taixia Country. All the disciples of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi would like to join the sect of Qianji Hermit. With the protection of Qianji Hermit, they would be safe.

It was the first time for most of the disciples of Minling Swordsmanship Sect to meet Zhang Tie. Therefore, many people couldn't help but glance at Zhang Tie stealthily. Zhang Tie's young look shocked everyone greatly. Facing the fame and imposing manner of Qianji Hermit, those people dared not breathe smoothly at all.

Zhang Tie threw a glance at these disciples of Minling Swordsmanship Sect. 'These disciples of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi were not bad. The lowest rank among over 1,000 people were LV 6 fighters while the highest rank was LV 14 battle demon. After these people joined Iron-Dragon Sect, it would be more boisterous here. Immortalspring Peak might have most disciples in one period in the future.

"From today on, you will be the disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect in Immortalspring Peak. As the master of Iron-Dragon Sect, I will be fair in giving out rewards or punishments. Additionally, all the resources in Iron-Dragon Bounty Territory will be open to you. All the rules in Iron-Dragon Sect originate from filial piety, obedience, loyalty and righteousness. When you are in the Iron-Dragon Sect, be filial to the seniors; when you are outside, you need to follow your superiors like how you do at home. In Iron-Dragon Sect, you need to respect seniors and be friendly to your fellow apprentices sincerely. As Taixia Country was going to break out a large-scale war and the battle smokes of the holy war had been suffusing in the northwest border of Taixia Country, as human cultivators, you should shoulder the responsibilities voluntarily. The ultimate loyalty and righteousness is to kill demons and eliminates moles as soon as possible in order to protect your home and country. You should practice hard in Iron-Dragon Sect and be ready to join in the war at any time so as to live up to what you've learned. Additionally, you should make military exploits in the chaotic world. You have to believe in karma. In the void, universal laws manifest in an extremely fantastic and mysterious way. If you want to promote to a knight and form chakras, you have to choose the bright way no matter what you're pursuing for, wealth or position. Bear my words in mind."

Zhang Tie encouraged these new disciples with a solemn look.

His words sounded genuine and plain as if they contained endlessly deep meaning. Not only the 1,000-odd disciples, even Lu Zhongming, Lin Huanxi and Zhang Tie's disciples were shocked by his words.

"Yes, master!" The 1,000-odd disciples bowed towards Zhang Tie once again.

Zhang Tie let some of his favored disciples show around these new disciples in Xuantian Peak so that they could be familiar with the environment in Iron-Dragon Sect. Closely after that, Zhang Tie, Lu Zhongming, Lin Huanxi, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian entered the main hall to discuss issues.

The main hall of Iron-Dragon Sect was even more magnificent than that of the shrine palace of Huaiyuan Palace. The diameter of the huge sandalwood pillars in the main hall was about 4 m. The obsidian floor in the main hall reflected the shadows of these people.

After entering the main hall, Zhang Tie sat down in the main seat. All the other 4 people sat on Zhang Tie's two sides respectively.

Just now, these knights still revealed a faint smile. The moment they entered the main hall, the atmosphere became solemn at once.

Before opening his mouth, Zhang Tie put his hand in his coat and pretended to fumble for a short while before taking out 2 finger rings and pushing them in front of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi.

As black iron knights, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi immediately identified that they were precious space-teleportation equipment at the sight of the nanobeads and bizarre runes.

Although having promoted to knights for so many years, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi had not received any precious space-teleportation equipment yet.

The couple then exchanged a glance with each other.

“Master, these...” Lu Zhongming asked hesitantly.

“These are for elders of Iron-Dragon Sect. From now on, the two space-teleportation finger rings belong to you. As elders of Iron-Dragon Sect, you could have 6 earth-element crystals per month. Additionally, Iron-Dragon Sect would allocate 2 million gold coins to Immortalspring Peak each year. The amount of money would be dominated by you two...”

Black iron knights could have 6 earth-element crystals per month as same as the treatment in Lion Fortress. It was a rich treatment for any black iron knight. Additionally, 2 million gold coins a year was also a big amount of money. Actually, when in Guzhou Province, Minling Swordsmanship Sect had never made so much money a year.

Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi were shocked so much by Zhang Tie’s generosity...

Chapter 1273: Xuanyuan Command

“Erm...the two space-teleportation equipment...is too expensive. Additionally, the monthly provision of our peak is too much...” Lu Zhongming said bashfully.

“This is the treatment for the owner of each peak and each elder of Iron-Dragon Sect. Don’t decline any more. The space-teleportation equipment belong to Iron-Dragon Sect; however, you have the usage right. Don’t have any mental burden. As for the monthly earth-element crystals, Iron-Dragon Sect has countless money; additionally, Lord Guangnan’s Mansion and Heavens Fortune Sect will convert some of my profits into element crystals and send them to me every year. So will the other cooperators. Therefore, you don’t need to worry that such a bit provision would drag down Iron-Dragon Sect. If you two could promote to an earth knight in the future, it might also be a good thing for our Iron-Dragon Sect...” Zhang Tie threw a glance at Mountain Lifting Hermit quietly after saying that.

Mountain Lifting Hermit directly showed the space-teleportation equipment that Zhang Tie gave him to them as he said, “I’ve also got a space-teleportation equipment presented by the master. Don’t decline any more. As Taixia’s overall situation is becoming more and more chaotic, it’s safer if we could have a space-teleportation equipment. Now that we’ve joined Iron-Dragon Sect, just follow the rules!”

“If so...we will... keep them...”

Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi threw a glance at each other before taking their space-teleportation finger rings.

There were 72 earth-element crystals and gold notes which were worth 1 million gold coins in each space-teleportation finger ring. These provisions could meet the demand of Immortalspring Peak and the cultivation of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi in next year.

Lu Zhongming sighed with feelings inside as he looked at Zhang Tie, 'What a Qianji Hermit! Although it has just been a few months, Zhang Tie has become more profound and more imposing than before. It seems that his cultivation base had entered a mysterious realm. At the sight of him, I will regard him with reverence.'

Over these months, although Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi were not in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, they had also heard about what Zhang Tie did in the Sacred Iceland Kingdom. When they thought about Zhang Tie's influence in the Sacred Iceland Kingdom and the mysterious heavens knight on his back, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi both felt that Zhang Tie had other secrets. They could never seek through Zhang Tie.

When Zhang Tie manifested his trump cards such as immortal bloodline and Fiery Oil before they left, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi both felt that they had known Zhang Tie pretty well. However, a few months later, they both felt that they seemingly knew nothing about Zhang Tie.

As Qianji Hermit often manifested his new trump cards, he was more awe-inspiring.

After considering such a rich treatment, the couple exchanged a glance with each other. They both felt that they had made a correct decision by joining Iron-Dragon Sect a few months ago.

"That's it!" Zhang Tie finally revealed a faint smile after seeing Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi put away their space-teleportation finger rings as he added, "Thankfully, you came back today; if you came back two days later, you might not meet me for a period as I have to leave Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory 2 days later."

"Master, you've also received the Xuanyuan command?" Lin Huanxi realized it at once.

"Huaiyuan Palace is a major clan in Youzhou Province. The head of Huaiyuan Palace is Youzhou provincial governor. Additionally, I have a bounty land in Youzhou Province. I received the message 3 days ago. According to the request of the Xuanyuan command, each clan with knights in Youzhou Province should at least assign 1/3 of its knights to receive the order of gathering. This time, I will go to the west border of Taixia Country to fight demons together with the other 2 elders of Huaiyuan Palace, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Suxian!" Zhang Tie said calmly.

Being issued by Xuanyuan Hill, Xuanyuan command was an emergency mobilization order to gather knights in Taixia Country, which represented the authority of the imperial court of Taixia Country and Emperor Xuanyuan. All the major clans, aristocratic official families, noble families of power and influence, sects, churches and knights who had one more city or over 6,000 square miles' land should receive Xuanyuan command, including the top 7 clans in Taixia Country.

It only took Xuanyuan Hill less than 10 days to deliver the emergency Xuanyuan command since demons were found in a barren province in the west of Taixia Country.

Last time, Taixia Country delivered Xuanyuan command since the second holy war had broken out for over 30 years. Given the emergency of this Xuanyuan command, it must indicate the extremely critical situation outside the barren provinces of Taixia Country in the west. The demon corps and knights in the west of Taixia Country could not be resisted unless all the knights across Taixia Country were mobilized.

It was not a good omen for anyone living in Taixia Country. Those knights who were experienced in fighting demons immediately realized the great dangers. At this moment, human knights were urgently needed to resist demons in the west of Taixia Country. It was so urgent that Xuanyuan Hill had to deliver Xuanyuan command to gather human knights in Taixia Country regardless of the shocks and panics.

Actually, shocks and panics were inevitable after the Xuanyuan command was delivered!

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"We will leave with you too, master!" Lu Zhongming immediately said.

"If you leave too, nobody would be responsible for Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory and Iron-Dragon Sect anymore. Additionally, you couple have been busy moving homes these months, you'd better be familiar with the current situation facing Iron-Dragon Sect and Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory first..."

After finding that Lu Zhongming still wanted to urge, Zhang Tie interrupted him calmly, "Each holy war would last long. It will not end in 5 years or 1 decade. Although our Iron-Dragon Sect is a bit famous, it's not a major clan in Taixia Country; neither could it stand any large consumption. Iron-Dragon Sect should not assign all the knights in order to respond to the Xuanyuan command. 3 knights are enough. We should spare some strength to respond to more dangerous situations. You could go there by shifts in the future!"

Looking at Zhang Tie's calm expression, Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi finally nodded.

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This summit of Iron-Dragon Sect only lasted less than 1 hour. After confirming some other affairs of Iron-Dragon Sect, they adjourned. Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi returned to Immortalspring Peak; Mountain Lifting Hermit left one sentence before flying towards Pines Peak, "Remember to call me when we're leaving..."

The Pines Peak had the fewest population among all the 18 mountain peaks. As Mountain Lifting Hermit preferred to be quiet, he only kept some servants on his peak.

Only Zhang Tie and Bai Suxian were on Xuantian Peak.

Standing on the top of Xuantian Peak and watching the prosperous scenery at the foot of the mountain together with Bai Suxian, Zhang Tie finally let out a sigh, "What if we could have 2 more years to prepare?"

Although Zhang Tie knew that demons would come sooner or later, he still sighed with emotions about such a fierce and swift attack of demons.

These days, Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was developing fast in all aspects. There were already 4 high-power alcohol production bases and 3 air cavalry training academies. Besides that air cavalry training academy in Xuantian City, Zhang Tie increased another 2 air cavalry training academies outside Ning'an City and Wugong City respectively. Those aviation students of Fire-Dragon Corps who had just grasped how to drive airplanes immediately became aviation coaches so as to barely meet the demand of the new aviation academies.

Starting from Commander Cheng, each major clan in the northeast military region had started to have their clan disciples learn how to drive airplanes in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. Even though Zhang Tie rose the training fee of the pilot to 10,000 gold coins per person, he could still not weaken the passion of those major clans in the northeast military region.

After black armor army assigned people to learn how to drive airplanes, the aviation academy outside Xuantian City became more popular.

As for the first batch of aviation pilots trained by Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory, besides those who were kept for instructing new students, Zhang Tie had already assigned all the others to cooperate with clans and business groups within the northeast military region to build other aviation academies. Commander Cheng also supported it very much. However, it was still too hasty...

Besides aviation academies, except for meeting the basic demand for teaching in aviation academies, all the air cavalry type-I airplanes produced in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory during this period had been purchased the moment they left the factory even though Donder priced it as high as that of an airship.

Generally, those business groups and clans only bought 1 or 2 airplanes. Therefore, they didn't care about the price of the airplane. Zhang Tie also knew what did they want to do by purchasing those airplanes. All the air cavalry type-I might have been demolished after being purchased for the sake of learning, imitation and modification, etc... Therefore, Zhang Tie supported them pretty much instead of opposing them.

Given the large size of Taixia Country, even though Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory expanded its airplane production capacity by 10,000 times, it couldn't meet Taixia Country's demand for airplanes. Zhang Tie only wanted to stimulate it. As there were so many elites in Taixia Country, Zhang Tie even expected that the official and some clans in Taixia Country could manufacture better engines, airplanes and Fiery Oil depending on their powerful accumulations in manufacturing as soon as possible...

If they could have 2 years' development, they would face an utterly different situation; however, demons didn't spare them 2 years...

Chapter 1274: Gathering

2 days after Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi officially returned to Iron-Dragon Sect and became the owner of Immortalspring Peak, Zhang Tie, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian had to leave for gathering.

2 days flashed by. During that period, Zhang Tie returned to Jinwu City and bade farewell to his dad, mom and elder brother. After hearing that the old man Zhang Haitian was getting worse these days, Zhang Tie paid a visit to the old man in Yiyang Prefecture.

Since he participated in Zhang Tie's rotating chakra ceremony, the old man had been getting worse in the latest months. At the sight of so many age spots on the face and hands of the old man and his much dimmer eye light, Zhang Tie felt grieved more or less.

No matter what animosity it was in the last generation, Zhang Tie was still blood-related to the old man. Additionally, the previous small conflict between Zhang Tie's family and the old mansion had long faded away after Zhang Tie became an elder of Huaiyuan Palace.

The old man was very happy to see Zhang Tie. After taking medicine, he talked with Zhang Tie for quite a while at his full spirit. After that, he became sleepy. Therefore, Zhang Tie bade a farewell to Zhang's old mansion.

After leaving Zhang's old mansion in Yiyang Prefecture, Zhang Tie returned to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory. After telling his wives something, he went back to Iron-Dragon Sect and waited for the arrival of the airboat.

After Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi joined Iron-Dragon Sect, Iron-Dragon Sect had 2 more knights. This event could definitely arouse a shock in Youzhou Province in normal times; however, at this critical moment, due to the arrival of demons, it didn't win too much attention of the public.

At a bit later than 3 o'clock on the afternoon of July 28th, a provincial governor's airboat approached Xuantian Peak of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory when it was sunny with leisure clouds...

All the disciples of Iron-Dragon Sect were crowding outside the main hall of Xuantian Peak. After Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi returned to Iron-Dragon Sect, the disciples on Immortalspring Peak immediately accounted for most of the disciples in Iron-Dragon Sect.

Zhang Tie's disciples, Zhang Su, Donder, Li Tao, Lu Yishan and the hit-plane brotherhood were all here.

Zhang Tie looked up at the airboat before telling Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi, "When we're not here, please look after Iron-Dragon Sect and Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory for us".

"Don't worry, master, we will definitely safeguard the foundation of Iron-Dragon Sect and Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory for the master!" Lu Zhongming told Zhang Tie while cupping his hands with a decisive look.

Zhang Tie nodded as he looked at Zhang Su and Liu Xing, "You should lose no time in training Fire-Dragon Corps. Continue to recruit soldiers and military officers. Although Fire-Dragon Corps don't need to fight on the battlefield this time, you might have to take action next time..."

"Don't worry, master..." Liu Xing promised solemnly as Zhang Su nodded.

Looking at those familiar faces, Zhang Tie became silent although he had a lot of words to say.

The members of hit-plane brotherhood were watching him silently with complexed eye light.

The hotel business managed by Barley and the other guys of hit-plane brotherhood was growing much better. Only after a few years, their business had spread over Youzhou Province. However, this business was still too trivial compared to Zhang Tie's undertakings, insight and layout.

They bore brotherhood deep in mind. However, over these years, as Zhang Tie grew stronger with an increasingly high position, the difference between him and the other members of hit-plane brotherhood grew sharper. They could barely have any common language. It was not one's problem; the only problem was that commoners such as Barley made a bosom friend with a knight who was famous among humans.

After coming to the front of the members of the hit-plane brotherhood, Zhang Tie revealed a faint smile silently. He just patted the shoulders of Barley, Bagdad, Irving, Hista and Leit one after another.

Although Zhang Tie remained as young as before in Blackhot City, the members of hit-plane brotherhood had been over 30 years old and changed their looks. Even Irving kept his beard as he grew much stronger and maturer than before.

When Zhang Tie patted their shoulders one after another, their eyes turned red as they felt warm inside. They knew that Zhang Tie still regarded them as brothers.

“I was told that you’ve been a dad for 2 months!” Zhang Tie asked as he patted Doug’s shoulder. Doug threw a customary glance at Barley with slightly red eyes as he took in a deep breath and stroked his head. He wanted to say something; however, he didn’t know whether it was the proper moment for him to say that.

Zhang Tie glanced around these years as he said with a smile, “If you believe in me, you could send your sons to Iron-Dragon Sect. I’m sure I will help you teach them well. I dare not say all of them could promote to knights but I’m sure that they would be greater than their father!”

Doug nodded forcefully. So did Barley and the other members of the hit-plane brotherhood. They had been longing for that for a long time; however, they didn’t know how to say. Because they knew that all the disciples in Iron-Dragon Sect came from major clans across Taixia Country or had rich experience in fighting demons in the earth-elements realm. As outsiders, Barley and the other members of hit-plane brotherhood had just got a firm foothold in Taixia Country these years. They could never match these people on Zhang Tie’s side. Even Bagdad who was most diligent in cultivation was only LV 7. Bagdad’s cultivation speed was normal for commoners. The others didn’t share the miracles with Zhang Tie.

“I’ve told Donder. This year, a piece of land will be divided from Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory for building a city. Besides hotel management, you will also be responsible for managing the new city. I hope you could have a real foothold in Taixia Country. As we’re all so busy, you guys couldn’t continue to be indolent in duty!” Zhang Tie smiled as he said casually which shocked the members of hit-plane brotherhood pretty much.

From hotel management to city management, it was a tremendous leap for these members of hit-plane brotherhood in their lives.

After saying that, Zhang Tie waved his hands towards them as he flew off towards the airboat in the sky with Bai Suxian and Mountain Lifting Hermit before they made any response to him.

“Wish suzerain (master) (owner) to safeguard humans by killing more demons on behalf of our country...” Thousands of people said in unison.

...

That airboat suspending above Xuantian Peak was exclusive to Zhang Taixuan. It only took Zhang Tie, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian over 10 seconds to arrive at the open deck at the entrance of the airboat.

Zhang Taixuan the Youzhou provincial governor, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu of Huaiyuan Palace and a lot of knights in Youzhou Province were on the deck.

The moment Zhang Tie landed, he had cupped his hands towards the surroundings as he said, “Sorry for being late, provincial governor and all the other friends...”

Zhang Taixuan was here to pick those knights of the clans in Youzhou Province who had received the Xuanyuan command as Youzhou provincial governor according to the regulation. Therefore, Zhang Tie didn't call Zhang Taixuan clan head, but provincial governor.

Besides Zhang Taixuan, Zhang Tie knew most of the knights on the deck.

Lu Dingzhi the clan head of Lu Clan and the other two elders of Lu Clan nodded towards Zhang Tie.

Gu Clan assigned 3 knights here too. However, Gu Dashou the clan head of Gu Clan and Gu Qingyun the one who was regarded as the future star of Gu Clan were not here. The head of the 3 knights of Gu Clan might be Elder Gu Qinglong whom Zhang Tie got acquainted with in the competition for the title of Youzhou provincial governor 2 years ago. It was Zhang Tie's first time to see Elder Gu Qinglong since the competition for the title of Youzhou provincial governor.

At the sight of Elder Gu Qinglong, Zhang Tie had discovered that this Gu elder might always be in closed cultivation these years. This time, Elder Gu Qinglong's power looked much greater than that 2 years ago as his chakra grew thicker. He had just promoted to 5 change realm of the black iron knight.

Previously, Zhang Tie was unable to see through the realm of the black iron knight; however, after grasping Purgatory Samsara Method, having lotus-flower eyes and promoting to an earth knight, Zhang Tie already had an exceptional sensing capability about the realm of black iron knights. Generally, only by throwing a glance at the opponent, he would know the cultivation base of that person.

Generally, one's cultivation base and forming schedule of one's chakra could be barely known by outsiders. Therefore, Han Zhengfang could hide his real identity and cultivation base for so many years with the secret methods of Bloody Soul Sutra. However, this situation seemingly didn't exist for Zhang Tie as he could almost see through all the low-level knight's cultivation bases.

Zhang Tie wondered whether it was related to the Purgatory Samsara Method, his lotus-flower eyes or his great spiritual energy. He had asked Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian about that; however, the two people had not heard that any other knights in Taixia Country could have this special ability.

After Zhang Tie arrived at the deck, Elder Gu Qinglong threw a glance at Zhang Tie for a short while. As the muscles near his eyelids jumped, he nodded towards Zhang Tie in a reserved way.

During the past 2 years, Elder Gu Qinglong had just reached one realm higher as a black iron knight. However, this insidious "junior" knight who yelled "win people by virtue" in the White Tiger Platform of Youzhou City had promoted to an earth knight unconsciously. When Gu Qinglong left his back room, Qianji Hermit's fame had already spread over the country. Even Elder Gu Qingyun who was always Gu Clan's pride was also dwarfed by Zhang Tie's brilliance. Therefore, Elder Gu Qinglong felt pretty embarrassed...

Chapter 1275: An Enlightenment

Besides Lu Clan and Gu Clan, Zhang Tie was also familiar with a couple of elders of Yan Clan of Chaoyang Prefecture, Liu Clan of Changshan Prefecture, Ximen Clan of Xingbei Prefecture, Sun Clan of Guide Prefecture in Youzhou Province at present. Of course, there were also some strange faces. However, Zhang Tie was familiar with over 3/4 of the 40-odd knights on the airboat.

Although Gu elders felt complexed, the other clans' elders didn't think as much as them; instead, they all nodded towards Zhang Tie with smiles as they came over here to greet Zhang Tie and Mountain Lifting Hermit. Zhang Tie immediately felt like being a moon surrounded by a myriad of stars. As the clan disciples of many knights on the airboat were Zhang Tie's indoor disciples, of course, they treated Zhang Tie much better.

Not to mention that Zhang Tie was an earth knight. In the knight's world, people won respect by battle strength. As an earth knight and Qianji Hermit who enjoyed a great reputation among humans, of course, Zhang Tie was especially venerated.

Guo Hongyi was also at present.

Zhang Tie remembered that Guo Clan might only have 3 knights. He had not imagined that Guo Hongyi could come here alone.

Being independent among those male knights, Guo Hongyi was distant, arrogant and pretty eye-catching.

When Zhang Tie looked at Guo Hongyi, Guo Hongyi was looking at him too.

Soon after Zhang Tie threw a glance at Guo Hongyi, his arm had been tightly embraced by Bai Suxian and pasted onto her plump and soft breasts. Guo Hongyi turned around at once.

It took them 2 minutes to greet Zhang Tie.

...

"Qianji Hermit and the other two knights of Iron-Dragon Sect have arrived. 38 knights should arrive; however, 43 people actually arrived. Please take a rest for the time being. We will set for Yanzhou City now!" Zhang Taixuan in provincial governor's uniform said. Closely after that, the movable cover slowly covered the deck while the airboat left for Yanzhou Province.

As Zhang Tie's Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory was between Yanzhou Province and Youzhou Province, Zhang Tie, Elder Muray, Elder Muyu, Bai Suxian and Mountain Lifting Hermit boarded the airboat in the end.

Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian actually didn't need to come.

Mountain Lifting Hermit was always alone. Although being an elder of Iron-Dragon Sect, he didn't have any undertaking in Youzhou Province. Neither did he have any family in Taixia Country. Even if he didn't come here, nobody would blame him.

Bai Suxian's another identity was the princess of Lord Guangnan's Mansion. As Lord Guangnan's Mansion also responded to the Xuanyuan command by assigning many knights to join the war. Therefore, Bai Suxian didn't have to come.

Additionally, some clans assigned 3 knights when they only needed to assign 2. With 1 more knight, although it seemed that these clans had contributed more to the war, actually, it was just a method for the clans to protect themselves. Because on the battlefield, 3 clan knights who were familiar with each other could form a 3-in-1 battle formation. Through long-term practice and cooperation, the 3-in-1 formation was far more powerful than average. After forming a 3-in-1 formation, the 3 clan knights

could have a much greater viability in the battlefield. That was to say, 3 clan knights could have a greater chance to survive back than 2 clan knights.

After Zhang Taixuan's words, they all entered the airboat from the deck.

There was also a lobby inside the provincial governor's airboat. Some drinks and food were put on the tables. This lobby still looked very spacious after holding fewer than 50 knights. After Zhang Tie's group arrived, all the knights who responded to the Xuanyun command within Youzhou Province had arrived.

If it was in peaceful time, when so many knights across Youzhou Province gathered, they might feel like chatting with each other. However, at this critical moment, of course, they didn't feel like having a party anymore. It would take them over 3 hours from Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory to Yanzhou City by airboat. After greeting each other and Zhang Taixuan's brief speech as Youzhou provincial governor, they had taken seats. With closed eyes, they entered meditation with crossed legs or took out earth-element crystals from their portable storage bags and absorbed them.

On the battlefield, if they could have a bit greater battle strength, they would have a bigger chance to survive themselves. On this occasion, of course these human knights wouldn't like to waste their time. Only the personages Zhang Taixuan and Lu Dingzhi seemingly shared the same interest as they felt like playing the game of go.

Mountain Lifting Hermit and Bai Suxian also found a place to sit down respectively. Under the "admiring" looks of those people, Mountain Lifting Hermit took out a water-element crystal from his portable space-teleportation equipment and started to absorb it.

After finding that all the others were cultivating with crossed legs, Zhang Taixuan and Lu Dingzhi left the lobby too. Zhang Tie called Elder Muray and Elder Muyu out of the lobby by a secret means.

They didn't feel strange when the 3 people left. After all, Zhang Tie was the grand elder of Huaiyuan Palace. It was too normal for a grand elder to talk something to two elders of the same clan.

After being far away from the lobby, Zhang Tie drew the two people into a mini-conference. The moment they entered the room, Zhang Tie had pretended to fumble something in his coat before taking out something and putting an item on each elder's hand.

"Erm, we're all elders of Huaiyuan Palace...I got these items from Earth-element Realm by good fortune. I will...lend it to you. You could have a greater chance to survive on the battlefield with it. When you come back and don't need it...you could give it back to me then!"

After saying that to the two elders, Zhang Tie directly opened the door and left before the two elders made any response.

At the sight of the item in their hand, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu were shocked greatly, mentally and spiritually...

"This is..." Elder Muyu swallowed his saliva forcefully as he looked up at Elder Muray.

Elder Muray's hand also quivered as he said, "There is something inside it..."

In the two space-teleportation finger rings, there were various medicaments, food, water and over 200 earth-element crystals, which could enable a knight to survive 10 years in Taixia Country without any

supply. Additionally, there was a brilliant silver secret longsword which was used for close combat floating in the space of each finger ring.

Except for Zhang Tie, only Zhang Taixuan the clan head of Zhang Clan obtained a provincial governor's space-teleportation finger ring when he took the chair of Youzhou provincial governor.

Zhang Tie gifted 2 space-teleportation finger rings for one time; additionally, there was a silver secret item in each space-teleportation finger ring. What a generous deed!

Elder Muray and Elder Muyu had not imagined that Zhang Tie could give them such a rarity after calling them out.

"Qianji Hermit could always bring us surprises..." Elder Muyu sighed with emotions as he was completely convinced by Elder Mushen...

"Put it away, it's Elder Mushen's sincerity..." Elder Muray also sighed with feeling.

As this equipment could bring them a greater chance to survive themselves on the battlefield, of course, the two people would not decline it.

The moment Elder Muyu was going to put on the finger ring, he found that Elder Muray directly strung it onto a mithril rune necklace before hiding it under his clothes carefully. Elder Muyu became hesitated for a second before taking off the finger ring from his finger and hanging it over his neck with a necklace.

Being low-key was always good!

If a black iron knight wore a portable space-teleportation finger ring, it would be too eye-catching as only some powerful elites in very few super clans and top 7 sects of Taixia Country could wear it.

After putting on the finger ring, the two elders smiled at each other before opening the door and returning to the lobby...

...

Zhang Tie and the two elders of Huaiyuan Palace had not noticed that the finger of Zhang Taixuan which wore a colorful finger ring slightly moved when Zhang Tie took out the two space-teleportation equipment from Castle of Black Iron.

Besides Zhang Taixuan who was walking, nobody else had noticed that.

"Brother Lu, here we are..." Zhang Taixuan pushed open the door of the silent room, revealing one table and two cattail hassocks which were folded with each other.

"Hahaha, it's my first time to play the game of go with brother Taixuan, brother Taixuan, hope you do not reserve your skills..." Lu Dingzhi laughed.

"Brother Lu must have a great psychological diathesis as you're still interested in playing the game of go before going to fight demons on the battlefield in the west border of Taixia Country. Through having "hand talk" with brother Lu, I'm also learning how to be quiet in the chaos and nourish my vital spirit like you..." Zhang Taixuan said modestly.

"I'm overpraised; my ability to nourish my vital spirit is far worse than that of the late sages of Taixia Country. Hope you do not laugh at me!"

The two people laughed as they started the game of go...

...

This time, Zhang Tie didn't mean to show off his wealth by presenting two space-teleportation equipment and two silver secret items to Elder Muray and Elder Muyu; neither would like to draw the two elders over to his side. He just did that for his conscience. On the battlefield between humans and demons, even knights would be killed easily. As a member of Huaiyuan Palace, Zhang Tie just expected that the two elders of Huaiyuan Palace could have a greater chance to survive on the battlefields on the premise of his own ability. If Zhang Tie didn't give any favor to the two elders of Huaiyuan Palace and the two elders finally died on the battlefield, Zhang Tie might be conscience-stricken for the rest of his life.

Zhang Tie knew that Elder Muray had a silver secret longbow; however, the longbow was only suitable for long-distance combat; instead of close combat. Therefore, he directly left a weapon that was suitable for close combat in each space-teleportation finger ring.

Only in a few days, Zhang Tie had gifted 4 space-teleportation equipment. However, he still had a lot of space-teleportation equipment. Others would definitely be shocked greatly if they knew that.

After gifting two space-teleportation equipment to Elder Muray and Elder Muyu, Zhang Tie also returned to the lobby and sat next to Mountain Lifting Hermit with eyes closed. He visualized dozens of abacuses in his mind and started to calculate at the same time.

In the next 1 minute, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu came back too. They also sat somewhere with common looks and started to cultivate quietly.

After a short while, the lobby had been quiet although over 40 knights were inside it.

...

Zhang Tie was carrying out four arithmetic operations by 27 abacuses at the same time in mind.

After coming back from Ice and Snow Wilderness, Zhang Tie's spiritual energy roared once again. As a result, Zhang Tie could do 27 tasks at the same time.

However, Zhang Tie felt that he had reached the upper limit of "thousands of beads mental sutra" and his multi-tasking ability. After reaching this step, even though he could visualize more abacuses at the same time, he couldn't operate the 28th abacus at the same time.

27 was a miraculous figure.

Hua people said that 9 was the extreme of numbers. 27 was three times that of 9. 27 was also the cube of 3. 27 was a natural number, odd number, composite number and the 7th number of Lucas Sequence. $1/27$ was an infinite number of circles whose repetend was 037...

Like that the numbers of fruits bore by the small tree were limited, Zhang Tie knew that multi-tasking skill was also limited.

Through constant attempts, Zhang Tie could also visualize over 1,000 abacuses in his mind at the same time, even more. Zhang Tie felt that he still had surplus spiritual energy. However, no matter how much he tried, he could only manipulate 27 abacuses independently at the same time. He could have all the other abacuses move; however, he could only calculate 20 kinds of equations by all the other abacuses at the same time instead of doing independently.

After trying it for quite a while and confirming that he couldn't operate 28 abacuses independently at the same time, Zhang Tie finally gave it up. The moment Zhang Tie prepared to eradicate those abacuses in his mind, the scene that over 1,000 abacuses gathered with each other suddenly reminded Zhang Tie of something.

Zhang Tie ran his spiritual energy while over 1,000 abacuses in his mind moved at the same time.

However, this time, Zhang Tie didn't use those abacuses to do any arithmetic calculations; instead, he gathered those abacuses and turned them into some huge walls being covered with beards of abacuses...

These huge walls immediately reminded Zhang Tie of those dense calculation gears like sugar-coated haws on sticks in those steam computers...

They were so similar.

'What if I could visualize those round beards as gears and all the other components of a steam computer? If so, I could visualize a steam computer in my mind.'

An enlightenment flashed across Zhang Tie's mind...

...

"We're arriving at Yanzhou City..."

Before Zhang Tie tried it, a voice had sounded...

Over 3 hours had passed so fast...

Zhang Tie opened his eyes at once...

...

Chapter 1276: Gathering (II)

"We're arriving at Yanzhou City. You will set for the west border of Taixia Country with all the other knights across the northeast military region from here. Zhang Taixuan wishes you could give a big blow to the demons for the safety of Taixia Country; hope you could return safely as soon as possible. I'm waiting for you with a banquet!"

The moment Zhang Tie opened his eyes, he had seen Zhang Taixuan standing in the lobby and talking to them. After saying that, Zhang Taixuan deeply bowed towards them.

The hatch door of the airboat had been opened. All the knights from Youzhou Province started to get off the airboat one after another. Zhang Taixuan just stood on one side of the hatch door with crossed hands in front of his body as he saw off those knights.

Zhang Tie also stood up and walked towards the exit with Mountain Lifting Hermit, Bai Suxian, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu. However, he became hesitated slightly when he passed by Zhang Taixuan.

‘I’ve not received the news of Lan Yunxi for a long time. I wonder whether Lan Yunxi has become the goddess of Yaogong Palace of Taiyi Fantasy Sect? Will Lan Yunxi go to the battlefield in the west border of Taixia Country this time?’

Not until Zhang Tie found that he could not see Lan Yunxi anymore did he realize that he had forgotten to leave a remote-sensing communications device in the necklace of patron for the sake of communication.

Sometimes, when you missed someone for too long, you might be accustomed to it. When that person stood in front of you, you would forget how to catch her.

Zhang Tie couldn’t help but want to ask Zhang Taixuan about Lan Yunxi; however, he finally said——

“Clan head...after I leave Youzhou Province, please take care of Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory and Jinwu City for me!”

Zhang Taixuan threw a deep glance at Zhang Tie before revealing a faint smile, “Elder Mushen, don’t worry!”

After such a brief talk, Zhang Tie got off the airboat.

Not knowing why, Zhang Tie always felt being estranged from the clan head of Huaiyuan Palace. The feeling was utterly different than that marked by the other elders of Huaiyuan Palace.

‘Is it the stress like how a young man meets his father-in-law or because Zhang Taixuan is hard to approach due to deep considerations as the clan head of Huaiyuan Palace?’ Zhang Tie was perplexed...

When Zhang Tie got off the airboat, he had long forgotten about those distracting thoughts. A huge military camp appeared in front of him under the setting sun.

Being outside Yanzhou City, the camp was within the jurisdiction of Yanzhou City. It was about 20 miles away from Yanzhou City. Right on the hillside in the camp outside Yanzhou City, the high and magnificent city walls of Yanzhou City in the far turned glow under the setting sun.

Yanzhou City was both the provincial city of Yanzhou Province and the hub of the northeast military region. Yanzhou City was also a class-A city; however, Yanzhou City was much larger than Youzhou City. As Yanzhou City had developed for hundreds of years, its prosperity could never be matched by that of Youzhou City which had just been established.

Zhang Tie could see many open uncultured lands; however, Zhang Tie saw many uneven buildings outside Yanzhou City. The density of population around Yanzhou City was definitely over ten times even dozens of times greater than that around Youzhou City.

Airboats were rising and falling in the training fields which covered over 80 square miles. Whenever an airboat landed, someone would get off it.

Zhang Tie got off one of these airboats.

All the people who got off these airboats were imposing human knights in different costumes. They all looked around as if they were something.

Needless to say, Zhang Tie knew that they were also called here by Xuanyuan command like him.

The moment Zhang Tie got off the airboat, he had felt the intense atmosphere filling the military camp.

...

"Knights from Youzhou Province gather in the blue region on the training field... Knights from Youzhou Province gather in the blue region on the training field..."

...

"Knights from Mozhou Province gather in the black region on the training field... Knights from Mozhou Province gather in the black region on the training field..."

...

"Knights from Chaozhou Province gather in the green region on the training field... Knights from Chaozhou Province gather in the green region on the training field..."

...

The moment he got off the airboat, Zhang Tie had heard a loud sound. Zhang Tie looked up and saw a human knight in battle armor suspending in the sky above the military camp while fully releasing his qi and repeating those monotonous decrees in a majestic manner like a huge humanoid loudspeaker.

Mountain Lifting Hermit looked up as his pupils contracted. At the same time, he muttered, "Shadow knight..."

"If not a shadow knight, how could he control so many knights?"

"That's true!" Mountain Lifting Hermit nodded.

"This knight is a high chancellor in Black Armor Army..." Bai Suxian whispered.

"How do you know that?"

"High chancellors of Black Armor Army always have evident features on their battle armor. I've seen that in Lord Guangnan's Mansion!"

Zhang Tie threw a glance at that shadow knight as he nodded and said, "Let's go gather in the blue region first..."

Perhaps Zhang Tie would feel that shadow knight was awe-inspiring previously; however, after defeating a shadow knight himself, Zhang Tie had not been afraid of shadow knights anymore although shadow knights were still powerful in Zhang Tie's heart.

Zhang Tie looked around and found the other knights getting off airboats were also shocked by that humanoid loudspeaker. Hearing that sound, they went to their own region consciously.

43 knights from Youzhou Province also walked towards their own region in the training field. Only after a short while, they had arrived at their location.

It was a drill ground in the military camp. It was a high rostrum on the opposite of the drill ground. The drill ground had been divided into 8 regions. Each region had an eye-catching color and could be easily identified. They were respectively red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, purple and black which corresponded to Youzhou Province, Gaozhou Province, Mozhou Province, Tongzhou Province, Qiongzhou Province, Yanzhou Province, Huizhou Province and Chaozhou Province respectively. After getting off their airboat, those knights went to gather in different regions.

After arriving at the drill ground, Zhang Tie immediately realized that too few knights came from Youzhou Province. Each region on the drill ground covered dozens of mu and could hold thousands of people. The other regions were crowded as they all held 300-1000 knights. Only the blue region for Youzhou Province contained 43 knights, forming a sharp contrast with the number of knights in the other regions...

Chapter 1277: Gathering (III)

"Ahh, there are very few knights in Youzhou Province."

"Youzhou Province was just a barren province a few years ago. It has just been established. The province is vast and sparsely populated. It's already something for them to have these knights..."

"They even assigned 2 top beauties. They really feast my eyes." One guy said while clicking on his tongue.

As very few knights came from Youzhou Province, the 43 knights attracted the attention of many other knights, causing hot discussions...

As they had few people, Bai Suxian, Guo Hongyi and Zhang Tie became very special. In Taixia Country, the number of female knights was much fewer than that of male knights. It could be said that female knights were rarities in Taixia Country. Any female knight would attract great attention wherever they were, not to mention Bai Suxian and Guo Hongyi who were distant and brilliant respectively.

Zhang Tie was more outstanding. Among all the knights at present, no one else was younger than Zhang Tie. Among the other knights, the youngest ones were black iron knights who were at their 20s. Given Zhang Tie's look, he was absolutely like a teenager. Even a 17-year old black iron knight would become the focus of the public, not to mention that Bai Suxian was standing on Zhang Tie's side like a well-behaved wife. Being set off by such a brilliant and mature female knight, of course, Zhang Tie was most eye-catching at present.

"Who's that 17-year old knight beside that female knight over there? How could he be so young?"

Many eye lights were thrown onto Zhang Tie.

"It's said that there's a young talent in Gu Clan of Youzhou Province called Gu Qingyun. He's been a knight at a young age. Is that person Gu Qingyun..."

"Impossible. Haven't you seen the 3 people in yellow clothes? They are elders of Gu Clan. I know Elder Gu Qinglong. That young man is not on the side of Gu elders..."

"No more guesses. The youngest knight among the knights from Youzhou Province is Zhang Tie, Qianji Hermit, also the owner of Iron-Dragon Sect. The female knight on his side is the princess of Lord Guangnan's Mansion..."

"Yes, yes, yes. That person is Zhang Tie the Qianji Hermit. I remember his photo when Qianji Hermit was framed by Heavens Reaching Church and wanted by the Supreme Court a few years ago. His looks remain unchanged..."

"It's said that Qianji Hermit could maintain his young look and that he favored mature and brilliant women. It seems true..."

Hearing those discussions in the surroundings, Bai Suxian threw a glance at Zhang Tie with a kind smile. Zhang Tie stroked his nose bashfully as he swore, 'Damn, they don't talk about so many good things that I did in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory; but only pay attention to which kind of woman I like. Are all knights that gossipy?'

In the discussions, an airboat landed as another team of knights got off the airboat. The latest team of knights then walked over here from afar. Before arriving at the drill ground, one person among those knights had burst out into laughter, arising the attention of so many people at present.

"Hahaha, I've not imagined that I could meet Qianji Hermit here. After the fight with the hermit, I've got some new enlightenment on fix position. It's a pleasant thing in my life to fight demons together with Qianji Hermit in the west border of Taixia Country..." Nangong Sheng strode out of those knights as he said while cupping his fists towards Zhang Tie.

Nangong Sheng said loudly with a passionate and heroic look. He expressed the fact that he was defeated by Zhang Tie in another manner as he felt that it was not a shame or a failure but manifesting that he was qualified to fight Qianji Hermit. After hearing his words, many knights on the drill ground moved their eyes onto Nangong Sheng's face.

Zhang Tie was clear about Nangong Sheng's thought; however, out of kindness, people with a smile should not be beaten. After suffering a loss in front of Zhang Tie, Nangong Sheng had changed his attitude towards Zhang Tie greatly and respected him pretty much. In his rotating chakra ceremony, Nangong Sheng even sent a heavy gift to him; therefore, Zhang Tie would not make Nangong Sheng embarrassed at this moment.

Nangong Sheng just liked putting on his airs and was a bit obsessed with fame and gain. Although he was good at sailing with the wind, he was not too evil or vicious. Of course, Zhang Tie could forgive him.

Under the gaze of the public, Zhang Tie also cupped his fists towards Nangong Sheng as he said, "Master Nangong, I'm overpraised. I'm just fulfilling my responsibility after receiving the Xuanyuan command. By contrast, Immortal Fist Position Sect is more generous. In order to respond to Xuanyuan command, all

the owner and the elders of your sect have come. I really admire about the loyalty and braveness of master Nangong and the other two elders of Immortal Fist Position Sect!”

After hearing Zhang Tie’s praise, Nangong Sheng immediately looked as brilliant as being shone by a searchlight. Even the two elders behind him chested out unconsciously. Nangong Sheng glanced around as if he was a hero before replying, “Thanks for your praise, Qianji Hermit. All the knights of Iron-Dragon Sect have arrived too. Besides hermit, Mountain Lifting Hermit and Princess Bai had also arrived. You’re more admirable. Hopefully, I could see hermit’s powerful fist position on the battlefield in a few days...”

Zhang Tie knew that Nangong Sheng might not know that 2 more elders had joined Iron-Dragon Sect. However, he didn’t need to explain it to Nangong Sheng at this moment; instead, Zhang Tie just nodded with a smile. Closely after that, Nangong Sheng and the other two elders of Immortal Fist Position stood in the region of knights from Yanzhou Province.

The talk between Nangong Sheng and Zhang Tie confirmed Zhang Tie’s identity. Through their talk, the others also knew that Iron-Dragon Sect and Immortal Fist Position assigned both owner and all their elders to respond to Xuanyuan command. To be honest, Iron-Dragon Sect and Immortal Fist Position were really “loyal and brave”.

Therefore, Iron-Dragon Sect and Immortal Fist Position won many people’s respect at once.

The other airboats constantly landed as more and more knights got off the airboat and entered their own region on the drill ground.

Compared to the constantly growing number of knights from the other provinces, the number of knights from Youzhou Province remained unchanged.

The knights of Zhu Clan the Yanzhou provincial governor’s clan and Qian Clan the Tongzhou provincial governor’s clan also arrived constantly. All the clan elders who were familiar with Zhang Tie greeted Zhang Tie by nodding towards him with a smile or having a brief talk with Zhang Tie. Watching all this, many people who were observing Zhang Tie stealthily made a new comment on Qianji Hermit——Qianji Hermit is not only powerful and famous but also have a high popularity. He’s never that kind of narcissistic person.

As more and more knights arrived at the drill ground, Zhang Tie sensed the great power of Taixia Country as the center of humans for the first time.

The entire 8 provinces across the northeast military region assigned over 10,000 knights here. Except for Youzhou Province, each of the other provinces had assigned at least 1,000 knights here. Among them, major provinces such as Qiongzhou Province, Yanzhou Province, Huizhou Province and Chaozhou Province assigned about 2,000 knights here respectively. Such a contingent of human knights was unimaginable in Waii Subcontinent.

Many knights at present wore clothes with the same color and uniform. At the sight of them, people would know that they came from the same clan.

Zhu Clan the Yanzhou provincial governor’s clan assigned 18 knights; Qian Clan the Tongzhou provincial governor’s clan assigned 11 knights. The number of knights assigned by the two clans was at most

average among those clans in Yanzhou Province and Tongzhou Province. In the region of knights from Tongzhou Province and Yanzhou Province, many clans assigned 20-30 knights here.

“Although there’re clans who have the history of thousands of years in Taixia Country, there are no provincial governors who were in office for over 100 years. Except for the position of Youzhou provincial governor which was competed for when Youzhou Province was established, all the provincial governors in other provinces are directly appointed by the supreme court or Xuanyuan Hill. The provincial governor from one clan could at most serve a few times from over 10 years to dozens of years. After that, they would either promote to higher positions or resign. Actually, all the major clans in each province had provincial governors. In many people’s eyes, if a clan could have a provincial governor, that clan would be a major clan. The provincial governors of Qian Clan and Zhu Clan have just been in office for a few years; it was reasonable that their clans’ backgrounds couldn’t match that of the other clans in Yanzhou Province and Tongzhou Province. Those major clans which could assign dozens of clan knights might have clan members serve in Xuanyuan Hill or the top 4 armies in Taixia Country or be unrivaled in one region as an independent sect or have a bosom relationship with the top 7 sects of Taixia Country even if they do not have provincial governor at present.”

When Zhang Tie was wondering about such a grand scene, Bai Suxian told him in secret means which helped Zhang Tie see light suddenly.

After the two clans’ knights arrived here for a few minutes, an odd-looking airboat declined. Closely after that, the hatch door was opened while a team of over 200 knights in red-black boa silk robe got off the airboat under the leadership of a shadow knight, which included over 20 earth knights. They were all steady and solemn. Each of them wore a bamboo hat with a rectangular, odd-looking luggage on their back. The moment they got off the airboat, they had entered the region for knights from Mozhou Province, increasing the number of knights in Mozhou Province greatly. As a result, it aroused the attention of the public.

“They’re knights of Fraternity Palace from Mozhou Province...”

“Mo’s head clan...”

Someone exclaimed...

Chapter 1278: Strict Military Dicipines

‘Head Clan?’

It was Zhang Tie’s first time to see the head clan. To be honest, Zhang Tie was indeed shocked by the great qi field of Mo Clan.

One clan could assign over 200 knights to respond to the Xuanyuan command. What a super powerful clan!

“What’s the relationship between Mozhou Province and Mo Clan of Fraternity Palace?” Zhang Tie asked Bai Suxian through a secret means.

As Bai Suxian grew up in Lord Guangnan's Mansion, she was constantly influenced by what she saw and heard. Bai Suxian was very familiar with various inside stories, relations and allusions of officialdom of Taixia Country. Therefore, Bai Suxian was qualified to be Zhang Tie's consultant.

"Before Mozhou Province was established, Mo clan of Fraternity Palace had rooted in Mozhou Province and had a great influence over there. When Mozhou Province was established, Mo clan of Fraternity Palace was already a very powerful local clan. Mo clan of Fraternity Pavilion is also the head clan surnamed Mo; additionally, Mo clan is also called Mo sect. The core of the ideology of Mo sect originates from the far-ancient sage in Taixia Country. The name of Mozhou Province is also related to Mo sect and Mo clan. Over the past hundreds of years, at least 10 Mozhou provincial governors came from Mo clan; 2 clan heads of Mo clan had even taken the office of commander of northeast military region. Although Mo sect is not as outstanding as the top 7 sects in Taixia Country, they deserve our respect..."

"Which is more powerful, Mo sect or the Gobbling Party?"

"Mo sect might not have greater influence than that of the Gobbling Party; however, Mo sect is definitely more solidarity and cohesive than the Gobbling Party. Even top 7 sects are not as solidarity as Mo sect. Only Mo clan of Fraternity Palace in Mozhou Province is a clan and a sect in Taixia Country!"

"Mo clan has too many knights!"

Bai Suxian threw a glance at Zhang Tie with a faint smile as she said, "You should know how they request their knight-level descendants?"

"How?"

"All the knight-level descendants of Mo clan should at least deliver 100 babies for Mo clan. If they couldn't reach that target, they would be severely punished in Mo clan. Those who deliver more babies would be rewarded. Ordinary members of Mo clan are also proud of having more babies!"

'At least 100 babies? Domestic discipline?' Zhang Tie almost popped out his eyes as he said, "That's too exaggerated. Knights could afford that, what about ordinary members of Mo clan?"

"It's not exaggerating for Mo clan to assign so many knights here. Additionally, Mo clan is famous for its skilled craftsmen. Mo clan's wares are well-known across the world. Additionally, Mo clan is also a rich clan in Taixia Country. Besides, Mo clan also worships frugality. It's said that Mo knights usually wear cloth gowns and straw sandals and take coarse food and drinks. My father told me that Mo clan of Fraternity Palace is the most frugal and rigorous clan in Taixia Country..."

Zhang Tie understood it right away. Although Mo clan's regulation seemed inflexible, if they could strictly follow this rule for hundreds of years, Mo clan and Mo sect would be very powerful. To a certain extent, delivery was fighting; people were power. The clans with more babies would be advantageous over those clans with fewer babies. Although this advantage didn't seem evident at the beginning; when it reached a scale, the advantage would be decisive.

Of course, it was not difficult for a rich and frugal clan to raise a lot of kids.

When Zhang Tie thought about that, he threw a glance at the team of Mo clan of Fraternity Palace. Coincidentally, a shadow knight who led the team of Mo clan was watching him.

That was an old man with a wrinkled and unpretentious face. The moment they looked at each other, they became slightly shocked at the same time. However, Zhang Tie felt that that old man was not hostile to him. Zhang Tie then slightly nodded towards the shadow knight of Mo clan. The elder of Mo clan also nodded towards Zhang Tie with a faint smile.

After the knights of Mo clan arrived here for a short period, some more airboats arrived. After that, no more airboats landed for over 10 minutes.

The moment Zhang Tie thought that these might be all the knights in the northeast military region, he saw 5 black airboats as long as over 1,000 m flying towards here from the north with a strong killing qi. They directly suspended above this military camp. The moment the airboat arrived, some human shadows had shot off the airboats, making people giddy. In a split second, 5 people had stood on the rostrum.

One person in the middle of the 5 people was an old man who had snow-white long eyebrows and cold eyes. The moment the old man arrived, Zhang Tie had felt like seeing an aggressive, towering mountain peak which was composed of longswords in front of his eyes with a strong sense of oppression. People could barely look straight into his eyes. The moment the old man glanced over from the rostrum, it felt like tens of thousands of sword qi sweeping over the drill ground. Some knights' longsword directly jumped out of their sheaths. As a result, so many people at present changed their faces while the entire drill ground was filled with the hums of swords...

'What a realm!' Zhang Tie was also scared. Given the strong qi of this old man, he felt like the king of swords. In front of this old man, Zhang Tie felt that his so-called cultivation base as sword sage was just a laughingstock. Who dared say that he was a sword sage in front of this old man?

The shadow knight who was suspending in the sky just now was also on the rostrum right beside the old man. Additionally, Commander Cheng of the northeast military region and the other two strange knights were also on the side of the old man.

"I'm Ye Qingcheng..." The old man opened his mouth which sounded metallic. The moment he opened his mouth, all the hums of swords across the drill ground had stopped while there was an uproar among the knights as if this name was magical.

"This is the former marshal of Black Armor Army, the class I Pillar Marshal of Taixia Country. He has already retired since the last holy war..." Bai Suxian said beside Zhang Tie.

Undoubtedly, this old man was a heavenly knight.

"At the request of Emperor Xuanyuan over 10 years ago, this old man would be responsible to rule the army of knights within the northeast military region as long as Xuanyuan Hill delivered Xuanyuan command to summon knights to fight demons. Here's the Xuanyuan tiger-shaped tally that Emperor Xuanyuan gave me!" The old man explained as a brilliant tiger-shaped tally which was about 33 cm in length appeared in his hand. The old man loosened his hand. The tiger-shaped tally then floated on his side while giving out yellow light. In the light, the image of a fierce tiger appeared like a battle qi totem. The fierce tiger roared towards the sky, which could be heard by everyone at present. After that, the fierce tiger entered the tiger-shaped Xuanyuan tally.

After gazing at the tiger-shaped tally for a while, Zhang Tie found that Ye Qingcheng was not controlling the tiger-shaped tally by his spiritual energy as a divine dominator, but the looming sword qi around him. The sword qi carried the tiger-shaped Xuanyuan tally in the air like water. Evidently, this tiger-shaped tally was also a special rune equipment...

The tiger-shaped Xuanyuan tally given by Emperor Xuanyuan was an authoritative evidence for Ye Qingcheng to lead so many knights. Without the consent of Emperor Xuanyuan and the qualification as a heavenly knight, who could command over 10,000 knights within one military region? At the sight of the tiger-shaped Xuanyuan tally in Ye Qingcheng's hand, all the knights at present admitted Ye Qingcheng's identity and authority.

"Now that you could come here after receiving Xuanyuan command shows that you all are loyal to Taixia Country. As you're going to fight demons in the west border of Taixia Country, please accept this old man's bow!" Ye Qingcheng deeply bowed towards all the other knights at present on the rostrum.

Many knights immediately bowed towards the old man too, including Zhang Tie.

After straightening up his body, Ye Qingcheng said with an extremely solemn look, "As the situation facing the west border of Taixia Country is constantly changing and very dangerous; the commoners of Taixia Country are suffering from slaughters. You will fight demons at the risk of your life on the battlefield. Collisions between large formations of humans and demons are inevitable. You should follow the commands on the battlefield. From now on, there's no clan head, elders, sect owner on the drill ground; but only soldiers of Taixia Country who have received Xuanyuan command. In Taixia Country, soldiers should comply with military disciplines. All the knights at present have to follow the following 17 military disciplines. Those who dare violate the following military disciplines would be chopped by this old man for sure. Please bear them in mind!"

"First, anyone who doesn't march on after hearing drumbeat; who doesn't stop after hearing the sound of gongs; who doesn't get up after seeing banner; who doesn't ambush after banner is put away will be regarded as violating military disciplines and be chopped."

"Second, anyone who doesn't respond to it after hearing his name being called; who doesn't come when being called; who doesn't come on time and alter master's laws will be regarded as being indolent and be chopped."

"Third, anyone who has heard about the enemy's latest situation in the evening; who doesn't report it to the superior; who gets up late and is confused about signals would be regarded as making the army slack and be chopped."

"Fourth, anyone who always complains about the rules; who is furious about his chief commander; who doesn't follow the order will be regarded as being disobedient to the army and be chopped."

"Fifth, anyone who laughs loudly; who despises the forbidden contracts; who breaks the gate of the camp will be regarded as despising the army and be chopped."

"Sixth, anyone whose bows have no arrows; whose arrows have no feathers or heads; whose sword blades and spears are not sharp; whose banner is broken and unclear will be regarded as a liar and be chopped."

“Seventh, anyone who cooks rumors to bewilder the public; who fabricates deities or ghosts; who believes in dreams; who publicizes heresy will be regarded as rumormonger and be chopped.”

“Eighth, anyone who likes talking; who confuses right and wrong; who alienate the relations between soldiers will be regarded as a troublemaker and be chopped.”

“Ninth, anyone who mistreats commoners; who rape women will be regarded as a rapist and be chopped.”

“Tenth, anyone who steals properties; who kill commoners and take their heads as meritorious deed will be regarded as a thief and be chopped.”

“Eleventh, anyone who gathers together to talk about issues and enter the other’s tents privately for intelligence will be regarded as a detective and be chopped.”

“Twelfth, anyone who leaks what he has heard and planned to the outside and is known by the enemy will be regarded as a betrayer and be chopped.”

“Thirteenth, anyone who doesn’t respond to the command timely by lowering their eyebrows and heads with sad looks will be regarded as hating the army and be chopped.”

“Fourteenth, anyone who runs about in the army; who talk loudly and don’t follow the disciplines will be regarded as disordering the army and be chopped.”

“Fifteenth, anyone who pretends to be sick, wounded or dead so as to avoid from attending the war will be regarded as deceiving the army and be chopped.”

“Sixteenth, anyone who’s responsible for money and grains delivers more money and grains to his relatives which arouses the animosity of the other soldiers will be regarded as provoking strifes among soldiers and be chopped.”

“Seventeenth, anyone who doesn’t observe the enemy carefully; who report the number of enemies wrongly will be regarded as delaying the army and be chopped.”

After hearing the 17 military disciplines, Zhang Tie’s heart pounded as he bore all of them in mind.

After saying the military disciplines, Ye Qingcheng waved his hand while tens of thousands of light spots shot out of his hand towards all the knights at present, one token for one person.

At the sight of those light spot, each knight stretched out their hand and grasped the token.

After holding his token, Zhang Tie found it was yellow and felt icy. It was neither made of gold nor jade. A piece of remote-sensing crystal was inlaid in the token, which had a pattern of a dragon fighting a tiger. Besides, there were three classic Hua characters “Xuanyuan Command” on the token. Below the three characters, there was a line of words “No. 136 earth knight from the northeast military region”. Additionally, there was another line of smaller words at the bottom of the token, “Fantasy No. 76 cabin of black-dragon airboat!”

“What about yours?” Zhang Tie threw a glance at the tokens of Fire-Dragon Hermit, Bai Suxian, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu.

They showed their own tokens towards Zhang Tie at the same time.

Only the numbers on their tokens were different from each other.

Mountain Lifting Hermit's room was "Fantasy No. 77 cabin of black-dragon airboat!" as it was close to that of Zhang Tie. By contrast, the cabins of Bai Suxian, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu are both yellow cabins of black-dragon airboat...

Elder Muray and Elder Muyu accepted it pleasantly; however, Bai Suxian pouted her mouth when she found that her cabin was a bit far from that of Zhang Tie's.

After looking at the token, Zhang Tie looked up at those grim airboats in the sky and caught sight of the three words Black-Dragon Airboat on one airboat.

"As you've got the military disciplines and received the Xuanyuan command's tokens. We will set off right away. Please board the airboats according to the number on your token and follow me to fight demons..."

Soon after Ye Qingcheng finished his words, he had flown off towards the sky. Except for Commander Cheng, all the other 3 knights on his side followed him off.

All the knights on the drill ground also flew towards the sky like meteors...

"Let's go!" Zhang Tie said as he flew off too...

"Come back alive..." Soon after Zhang Tie flew off, he had heard a voice. Zhang Tie looked around and found that Commander Cheng was watching him. Zhang Tie nodded towards him as he entered the Black-Dragon Airboat immediately, followed by Bai Suxian, Mountain Lifting Hermit, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu...

Only after 2 minutes, as the last knights entered the airboat, the 5 huge airboats had set off towards the west...

Chapter 1279: Arriving at the Base

In the mysterious mind space of Zhang Tie, there were so many sparkling stars and 2 full moons. The entire mind sea was like the void of the universe. The sparkling stars and the moons gave out faintly golden light, turning the entire mind sea into a paradise...

The All-spirits Pagoda which represented the inheritance of "Great Wilderness Sutra" was more resplendent while bathing the moonlight. Vivid birds and beasts were constantly flying and jumping out of the tower from below floor 15 as if they were going to incarnate into real living beings. At the same time, the endless true words of the Great Wilderness Sutra were resonating in the void...

The mysterious portal accessing to Castle of Black Iron was on the top of the All-spirits Pagoda.

Additionally, numerous immortal runes were surrounding the All-spirits Pagoda like how planets flew around the sun. They slowly rotated in Zhang Tie's mind sea as a unity.

The golden rune of the binding skill was constantly changing its shape like chains and ropes...

The golden rune of the hiding skill was looming...

The golden rune of the rapid moving skill was the fastest “planets”. Before the other golden runes flew around the tower for 1 circle, the golden rune of rapid moving skill had already flown around the tower for numerous circles, causing a light ring...

The mysterious rune was the golden rune of body separation skill. Under the golden moonlight in his mind sea, the rune of body separation skill incarnated into Zhang Tie’s look. Like a naked naive kid, sometimes it sat in the void with crossed legs while sucking its fingers; sometimes, it sprung up and jumped here and there over those golden runes cheerily; sometimes, it would climb onto the tower and drill inside before jumping out of it from one window in a pretty naughty way...

...

In this void which was filled with runes, precision gears and numerical dials in different sizes constantly manifested themselves in the golden light as if they were real.

If a master craftsman or a senior engineer of difference engine was here, he would definitely identify that these gears and numerical dials were parts of steam computers.

Those who were more familiar with steam computers could even identify the identities of these “parts” from those super huge gears in the void—they were absolutely the temporary storage of gears of the Xuanyuan Type-1 large steam computer.

As over 60,000 components in different sizes had been visualized, it looked pretty magnificent in the void of his mind sea.

All of a sudden, all the gears and components moved at the same time and started to assemble as if they were under the control of an invisible hand...

A huge steam computer gradually came into being in Zhang Tie’s mind sea...

When he assembled over 30,000 parts, which almost accounted for 70% of the complete steam computer, the assembly rhythm suddenly slowed down. In the following minutes, those gears and the part of the steam computer which had been assembled quivered for a few seconds and collapsed. They turned into sparkling light and finally dispersed in the mind sea.

...

In his private cabin of Black-Dragon Airboat, Zhang Tie opened his eyes at once as he shook his head and let out a long sigh.

After almost 10 days, Zhang Tie had tried many times. After failing so many times, Zhang Tie realized that it was definitely a tough challenge for him to visualize a complete steam computer in his mind sea. Even if he had super great spiritual energy and the ability of divine dominator, it was still very difficult for him to visualize a complete steam computer which was composed of over 60,000 parts without making any mistake.

Thankfully, it was still hopeful. Through these days’ efforts, Zhang Tie was gradually approaching success. Each time, he would assemble some more parts than that in last time. The complete Xuanyuan Type-1 steam computer was gradually coming into shape in his mind.

The most important point was that the process of visualization required strict exercise on the control of spiritual energy. This process was similar to that of mental arithmetic by abacus. Over these days, although he didn't succeed, the spiritual energy in his mind sea would always increase after each failure. It was even more effective than the visualization of mental arithmetic by abacus.

As for the first method, he had tried his utmost effort; as for the other, he still had surplus spiritual energy. Of course, the effects were different.

Zhang Tie's private cabin was less than 30 square meters. It only had a bed, a table, a locker and an isolated washroom. Such a cabin was just like the simplest small apartment. In military camp, only middle- and lower-level military officers lived in such kind of rooms; however, it was absolutely a luxurious treatment for a knight in airboat when in wartime. This treatment was for earth knights; the cabins of Bai Suxian, Elder Muray and Elder Muyu were even smaller than this one.

In airboat, water and food were provided at the regular time. Everything had been in the state of war. Zhang Tie looked at the clock on the wall and found it was over 5 pm. It was time for supper. When he was thinking about leaving his cabin for Bai Suxian, the entire airboat suddenly quivered lightly as if it stopped. Closely after that, a sound drifted from the sound amplifying port.

"We've already arrived at the advanced base of Huanzhou Province in Peacewest Military Region. All the knights who have arrived at the advanced base of Peacewest Military Region please gather in the lobby of the base; all the knights who have arrived at the advanced base of Peacewest Military Region please gather in the lobby of the base..."

After being transmitted from the copper pipe, although it lacked a bit fidelity, people inside cabins could still hear it clearly.

They had already arrived at Huanzhou Province. Huanzhou Province was neighboring the Military Province in the west. After moving 2 more provinces towards the west, they would exit the border of Taixia Country. The barren province was farther away in the west. The advanced base of Black Dragon Airboat was in Huanzhou Province, which meant that the territory from Huanzhou Province all the way to the west had been the theater of operations of Taixia Country.

It only took them less than 1 month to arrive at the theater of operations since they heard the news about demons. Unimaginably, those provinces in the westernmost part of Taixia Country had been involved in the battle flames. The advancing speed of the battle flames was completely out of Zhang Tie's imagination.

At such a high advancing speed, demons might exterminate Waii Subcontinent in less than 1 week.

Such an occasion made Zhang Tie's heart slightly pound. Compared to the current problem facing Taixia Country, what happened in Waii Subcontinent was absolutely an appetizer.

After hearing the notice, Zhang Tie instantly opened his hatch door and walked out.

Mountain Lifting Hermit and the other knights also opened their hatch doors and walked out...

...

In the sky, an aggressively huge air battlefortress was quietly floating over 10,000 m high in the sky. After those black airboats flew over here from the northeast military region, the battlefortress opened its huge holes. Those airboats then slowly approached them as they inserted their ends into the huge holes before being locked up by the huge metal locking members on the battlefortress. As a result, these airboats became components of this battlefortress.

Only after a short while, the huge air battlefortress had got some more tentacles like that of an octopus...

Under the huge battlefortress, hundreds of thousands of airships flew over here from the west between 1,000m and 5,000 m in altitude. Those airships had different marks. Some belonged to clans; some belonged to business groups; some belonged to aviation business groups. They were different in size, type, performance and speed. They flew over here like escaping fish shoals that covered the entire sky...

Between 6,000 m and 12,000 m in altitude above these airships, dense airships in tidy teams also advanced towards west voluntarily like air trains. Compared to those airships below, those airships above were all black war airships. Those who were familiar with the military legal system of Taixia Country would know that these airships belonged to Black Armor Army, one of the top 4 armies in Taixia Country the moment they caught sight of these airships.

Each team of airships was led by a knight of Black Armor Army who was standing solemnly on the air sac outside the first airship of each team in order to protect the safety of the airship troop.

After one troop of over 1,000 war airships flew away from the air battlefortress for over 200 miles, they arrived at the edge of an endless forest. At this moment, all the hatch doors of the airships were opened while numerous black parachutes appeared in the sky like black dandelions.

Those black dandelions were bizarre fighters in clothes which were made of tree leaves and Chinese alpine rushes whose faces were covered with tiger stripes or leopard stripes...

After landing on the ground, those fighters put away their parachutes silently. Only a few fighters twittered like birds. After hearing the twitters, all the surrounding fighters drew close to each other as they ran towards the forest. Only after over 10 minutes, the corps of 500,000 fighters had disappeared in that vast forest like a waterdrop that entered the ocean.

Two knights suspended in the sky with solemn looks.

One of them let out a sigh, "I wonder how many of them could finally survive!"

"This is the destiny of the tigers and leopards corps of Black Armor Army, unless demons completely destroy the woods covering about 4 million square miles or this holy war comes to an end, this forest would be the forever battlefield of these fighters..."

"What about Weasel Corps?"

"They're in, including Green Snake Corps. This forest could survive the three corps..."

"Let's go, we've got a new task..."

The two knights then flew towards the west...

Chapter 1280: Human Heros

With the effect of lotus flowers, Zhang Tie could see through everything around him. Even though the airboat and the air battlefortress were covered with thick metal, Zhang Tie could still see clearly the scene outside the airboat and the battlefortress when he walked into the lobby of the advanced base.

So many airships covered the sky...

Those corps of Taixia Country landed from the air and entered the woods...

Those battlefortresses and multi-floored defense fortifications on the ground...

On the ground, east-west railways and highways had been crowded by vehicles.

Those vehicles which were moving towards the east were civilian vehicles. Even the tops of the trains were covered with people and items. Those advancing towards the west were basically military vehicles, which were filled with ordnances and military armored vehicles.

At this moment, those which could arrive at Peacewest Military Region through ground traffic tools were all corps within the territory of Peacewest Military Region or corps from neighboring provinces. It was unrealistic for the farther local corps such as that within Northeast Military Region to arrive here timely as the expense of transporting a corps from hundreds of thousands of miles away to Peacewest Military Region by ground traffic tools would be too high to bear; additionally, it would be in a low efficiency.

In this critical situation, only the top 4 armies of Taixia Country were able to accomplish the employment in the theater of operations at the fastest speed.

What Zhang Tie saw reminded him of the Selnes Theater of Operations.

However, he was not in the Selnes Theater of Operations, but in Peacewest Military Region of Taixia Country. This theater of operations covered many provinces.

The so-called air battlefortress in the advanced base was nothing different than the air battlefortress that Zhang Tie had ever seen in the Earth-elements Realm essentially. This air battlefortress was just a bit larger.

Although over 10,000 knights from the Northeast Military Region gathered here, the lobby still felt very spacious.

Although so many knights were at present, the lobby was pretty quiet.

The lobby of the advanced base was more like a square. Near the 200 m high dome above the square, there was a huge round plate. Thousands of people in military uniforms of Taixia Country were busy working on the round plate. It seemed to be a command and information center of the advanced base.

Zhang Tie saw Ye Qingcheng once again.

Soon after Ye Qingcheng appeared in the sky, he had waved his hand. At the same time, a triangular, colorful crystal being covered with runes became outstanding from the center of the round plate as it projected the model of a huge three-dimensional sand table in the lobby.

A heavy black fog was invading it from the west of the three-dimensional sand table like a virus. The fog gradually covered the region of Yezhou Province in the west of the sand table as it was still extending towards the surroundings...

"7 days ago, Yezhou Province in the westernmost part of Taixia Country has been completely collapsed. Cheng Minggong the Yezhou provincial governor and Cheji General Liu Wusheng of Yezhou province fought to death. Yezhou City collapsed. However, there are still over 400 million Hua people in Yezhou Province. One week before Yezhou's collapsed as a whole, all the communications between the barren province outside Yezhou Province and Taixia Country had been cut off..." Ye Qingcheng said calmly. However, everyone's heart pounded after hearing his words. During the process of their flight, Taixia Country had lost one barren province and one lower province. The striking power and speed of demons shocked everybody at present.

What made everyone's heart pound was the death of Yezhou provincial governor and Cheji General of Yezhou Province. They were the first senior officials of Taixia Country who fought to death since the beginning of this holy war.

Yezhou Province was established 10 more years earlier than Youzhou Province. After these years' development, the military legal system of Yezhou Province had been completed. Yezhou Army was under the control of Cheji General. Compared to Yezhou Province, Youzhou Province had not completed its military legal system yet. Youzhou Province didn't even have a Cheji General yet.

"Before Yezhou City collapsed, Chen Minggong the Yezhou provincial governor sent his last words to Peacewest Military Region and Xuanyuan Hill—Countless wing demons covered the sky like dark clouds in an overwhelming manner. They have thousands of wing demon knights and over 100 earth knights. It's hard to keep Yezhou Province; however, although Yezhou Province could be collapsed, Taixia Country wouldn't be collapsed; although my home could be exterminated, the country wouldn't be exterminated. I Chen Mingong would like to safeguard Yezhou City with all the male adults of my clan and swear to protect Yezhou City until the death. Chen Clansmen will spray their blood even die for Xuanyuan Hill. However, demons are utterly different than before. Among the vanguards of wing demons alone, there are already thousands of knights who could easily exterminate one province. The vanguard of demons must be closely followed by the main forces of demons. After Yezhou City was broken through, demons would definitely spread over Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province. The entire Peacewest Military Territory would definitely be deteriorated in a short period. We couldn't resist the vanguards of demons for the time being. Remember to not put only a few knights and corps of Taixia Country into the battlefield in case of regrets. Chen Minggong is proposing my sincere suggestion for the consideration of commander and the lords in Xuanyuan Hill. You should make plans ahead. Kill demons; kill demon; kill demons..."

When he talked about "Kill demons", Ye Qingcheng suddenly raised his voice like a sword that went out of the sheath. In a split second, the sky collapsed, the clouds rolled away, revealing a surging, magnificent qi of a heavenly knight...

“Yezhou Province has been collapsed. The vanguard of demons has already passed by Yezhou Province and entered Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province. Yesterday, the knights of Black Armor Army has already fought wing demons in the border between Huanzhou Province and Wuzhou Province. The vanguard of wing demons might have entered Huanzhou Province partially. Peacewest Military Region will receive the news of collapsing cities every day. Today, Windpeace City in Wuzhou Province, Whitedeer City in Zhuzhou Province and Heavenlywater City in Yinzhou Province are being slaughtered by demons. Numerous loyal and dauntless people are serving the country at the risk of their lives...”

Hearing the words of Ye Qingcheng, everyone could see that the heavy black region was flooding over cities one after another while some black sparkling spots like rats had entered Huanzhou Province.

Watching the black tide on the sand table and recalling what happened in Waii Subcontinent, Zhang Tie silently clenched his fists. Many knights panted abruptly in the lobby.

“Marshal, we’re waiting for your command...” A knight suddenly roared as he strode out one step and continued, “To fight demons until death, we’re elites of Taixia Country and Hua heroes!”

“Marshal, we’re waiting for your command...” More people roared in unison...