

Black Iron 1301

Chapter 1301: Exiting Castle of Black Iron

When a 680 kg golden spear hit onto the ground which was covered with holes at a speed of over 9,000 m per second, it released over 27 billion Joules' kinetic energy. As a result, it caused an earthquake and a terrifying big hole on the ground in a split second. Its impact wave reached over 2,000 m away with great destructive power.

Before the golden spear's impact wave completely disappeared, a figure in pitch-dark battle armor had hit 3 over 100 m higher mountain peaks forcefully with his 6.8-ton battle hammer at the speed of over 6,600 m per second, releasing over 140 billion Joules energy once again.

The impact of the later strike was much greater than that of the golden spear. The entire earth was quaking. Additionally, a huge mushroom cloud rose up. After everything became quiet, the figure in pitch-dark battle armor nodded in the sky before shaking his head.

"Alas, it still feels as light as a kid's wooden stick. However, a hammer which weighs over 20 tons couldn't stand such a great impact. I wonder whether there's any heavier silver secret item. Well, I prefer Thor's Hammer..." The figure in the sky looked down before looking up as he muttered, "If I have such a great force of attack when I met Gao Tianzhao, I would never spare any chance for him to launch a counterattack. 2 months flew. I've already adapted to the 8 change earth realm; however, after eating over 600 fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs, it's really troublesome for me to adapt to my strength. After staying in Castle of Black Iron for so long, I should take a look outside. I really wonder about the current situation facing the theater of operations. I will take those fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs slowly later on. If I ate too many at once, I would have to spend a long time adapting to it. How's Paul? I've not imagined that even the fruit of redemption which could grant me a medium recovery body will become ripe because of what he did..."

After saying that, the figure stood still in the sky for a short while. Finally, he threw a glance at the distance before shooting towards the immortal mountain in the far...

The fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs were indeed alluring. After eating at least 8 fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs each day, Zhang Tie's strength was steadily growing. After taking fruits, he would adapt to his growing strength and improve his battle skill. Even though Zhang Tie had entered 8 change earth realm, he still couldn't help staying for a longer time in Castle of Black Iron while being allured by the strength of golden uangs.

In the beginning, Zhang Tie thought that these fruits wouldn't continue to grow on the small tree. However, after staying almost 2 months in the Castle of Black Iron, he still could gain fruits every day. Zhang Tie even dreamed about eating up all the fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs before leaving there. By the way, he wanted to see whether there were some other rewards on the small tree.

The fact was that the small tree could totally bear over 1800 fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs. Zhang Tie had eaten fewer than 700. If he determined to eat up all these fruits, he had to wait for another 4-5 months in Castle of Black Iron.

However, after considering the urgent battle situation outside, Zhang Tie gave up this thought as he decided to leave Castle of Black Iron.

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Half an hour later, a figure flashed out of the void in the hot underground space.

Everything remained as same as that 2 months ago. However, Zhang Tie had changed a lot. Compared to that person 2 months ago, Zhang Tie was full of a shocking qi at this moment. With a sense of surging strength and great confidence, Zhang Tie felt overwhelmed while standing there.

Zhang Tie had entered 8 change earth realm. After taking over 600 fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs, Zhang Tie's strength increased by 42,000 kg. A weapon weighing dozens of tons could be brandished freely and rapidly by him. Additionally, he finally promoted to medium recovery body from preliminary recovery body, which meant a sharp improvement in his invisible power.

Soon after exiting Castle of Black Iron, Zhang Tie had contacted Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory instead of paying too much attention to the surrounding environment.

Only after 1 minute, Zhang Tie had got his answer as he let out a sigh and muttered, "I see..."

The reason that the small tree could bear fruits of redemption from the gratitude of golden uangs constantly over the past 2 months lay in that Paul had finally found the stable supply channels of golden uangs. Paul established long-term trade ties with three major clans in Taixia Country which raised golden uangs on a large scale, namely Lu Clan of Yunzhou Province, Peng Clan of Qingzhou Province and Song Clan of Huizhou Province.

The number of golden uangs raised by the above 3 major clans occupied over 50% of the total supply of golden uangs across Taixia Country. Previously, Zhang Tie purchased golden uangs from a local clan in Taixia Country. Later on, that clan ended the cooperation with Paul facing the stress from the Gobbling Party. At that time, Lu Clan of Yunzhou Province, Peng Clan of Qingzhou Province and Song Clan of Huizhou Province told Paul that they had no quota for Youzhou Province as they were afraid of the power of the Gobbling Party too.

A few days ago, after Paul returned to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory and met Zhang Tie's wives in Iron Heart Palace, they planned to allure the three major clans by the interest of Fiery Oil. After hearing that, Lu Clan of Yunzhou Province, Peng Clan of Qingzhou Province and Song Clan of Hui Zhou Clan immediately forgot about the stress facing the Gobbling Party and shifted to the side of Fire-Dragon Territory as they started to provide golden uangs to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory with the largest quotas.

Although Zhang Tie's wives didn't know why Zhang Tie told Paul to set living beings free, they all supported him whatever he wanted unconditionally. During the past 2 months, they even established an exclusive agency called Setting Free Group under the leadership of Paul. There were already over 200 members in Setting Free Group, who were responsible for setting living beings free at the order of Zhang Tie. Iron Heart Palace would support them at full efforts from manpower, material resources, and financial resources. With the support of Zhang Tie's wives and the concerted efforts of over 200 members of Setting Free Group under the leadership of Paul, fruits of redemption from the gratitude of

golden uangs were produced every day. Not only setting free golden uangs, the Setting Free Group even paid higher attention to setting free earthworms in an amazing high efficiency.

Zhang Tie was shocked by the high efficiency of Iron Heart Palace and Setting Free Group. Previously, Zhang Tie just set living beings free stealthily out of many concerns. He didn't prioritize the production of fruits of redemption; therefore, his schedule proceeded slowly. Actually, he should have long established a Setting Free Group.

When the small tree could bear fewer and fewer kinds of fruits, the functions of the fruit of redemption grew increasingly more outstanding. Additionally, as long as he put into enough financial resources and manpower, he would gain fruits of redemption at an amazing speed and increase his strength sharply in a short period. It was a shortcut to increase his strength sharply...

'Based on my fame and overall strength, I don't care even if someone knows that I'm setting living beings free on a large scale. I have too much money and just like setting living beings free, so what?'

After thinking through it, Zhang Tie became spirited at once as he realized the significance to have a lot of virtuous wives at home.

After speaking highly of the Setting Free Group and the Iron Heart Palace and telling Setting Free Group to continue to run in this way, Zhang Tie ended his contact with Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory.

After that, Zhang Tie wanted to contact Blackwater Base. However, after looking around, Zhang Tie didn't even know where he was. After staying in the belly of the Heavens-eaten Boa for a few hours, he estimated that he had been over 1,000 miles away from the winding, narrow tunnel. 'It would be funny if I couldn't tell Blackwater Base about my precise location. How could I not know where I am recuperating?'

'I will go back to the earth surface first.'

When Zhang Tie made up his mind, he immediately jumped into the magma pond while releasing his protective battle qi.

There was indeed an underground magma lake outside the magma pond. After exiting the magma lake, Zhang Tie found a hole that led to the earth surface. Therefore, Zhang Tie flew upwards through that hole...

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10 minutes later, Zhang Tie flew out of a cave which was surrounded by mountains.

After looking around, Zhang Tie saw a miserable scroll painting of war...

Dense columns of smoke rushed into the sky from the earth outside these mountains. A large city was burning all over in the fiery flames. Besides, the villages and fields outside the city were also covered with dense smoke...

There were thousands of airships in the sky, whose formation had been disrupted. They were escaping in all directions. When Zhang Tie flew out of the cave, as the greater part of air sacs of a war airship was burning, the large airship was frothing smoke as it dove all the way towards the earth. Like a fiery

phoenix, it crashed onto the earth heavily and broke into parts in the flames. In this process, only some crew members who responded fast jumped off the airship while opening their parachutes in the sky.

The moment a crew member opened his parachute, he had been shattered into bloody foam while his blood made the pure white parachute red.

At this moment, a wing demon knight flashed by and punched another Hua crew member who jumped off the airship by parachute into blood foam. After that, it accelerated towards the closest airship. In the distance, dozens of columns of battle smoke and 4 battle qi tornadoes rushed into the sky as knights of Taixia Country were fighting a group of wing demons in the sky...

Chapter 1302: Seckill

Coincidentally, the moment Zhang Tie flew out of the mountain cave, one of the escaping airships had rushed towards him, which was also the target of the wing demon knight.

The airship was firing steam bolts towards that wing demon knight.

Honeycomb-type steam ballista could fire hundreds of bolts at the same time. The huge bolts fired by the main ballista at the stern were as powerful as whale-hunting harpoons.

However, due to the great difference in levels, the counterattack of the crew members looked pretty weak.

The honeycomb-type steam ballista and the main ballista might threaten demons below battle spirits, but they couldn't even break the protective battle qi of demon knights, not to mention a wing demon knight. Without the protection of human knights, it was impossible for human airships to defeat wing demon knights who were dominating the sky.

The crew members on the airship were roaring as they kept firing at the wing demon knight. The captain seemingly had known the fate of this airship. Therefore, he drove the airship downwards the earth at a great angle of inclination. Before the wing demon knight destroyed this airship, the closer this airship was to the earth surface, the more crew members would survive.

The wing demon knight directly rushed towards the airship without even dodging away from the bolts. In front of the wing demon knight, hundreds of bolts turned into dandelions as they were all blocked by its protective battle qi easily. When an over 1 m longer huge bolt fired by the main steam ballista came to the front of the wing demon knight, it was patted away by the wing demon knight casually.

When the crew members launched the first round of strike towards the wing demon knight, they were over 2,000 m away; however, when they started the 4th round of strike, the wing demon knight had been 700 m away from the airship. Additionally, the wing demon knight didn't even lose a hair.

"Brothers, it's time for us to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of the country by spraying our blood into the sky..." A military officer of Taixia Country roared on the deck at the stern as he released his battle qi totem "king snake". Fixing his eyes onto that wing demon knight, he spurted out a mouth of blood into the air before firing his bolt towards that wing demon knight through his own blood...

It was not an ordinary bolt. When the bolt penetrated through the blood mist in the air, it absorbed all the blood at once; at the same time, it gave out a glow; closely after that, it burned and turned into the shape of a phoenix. The phoenix then stretched its wings and accelerated towards that wing demon knight abruptly.

This military officer had already activated his ancestral bloodline; therefore, his bolt became absolutely special.

When the burning phoenix reached over 100 m before the wing demon knight, the wing demon knight finally changed his look a bit; however, it still kept its route unchanged. The wing demon knight immediately punched out its bat-shaped battle qi towards that phoenix. After colliding with each other over 50 m ahead of the wing demon knight, they broke out a fierce flame and battle qi wave in the air. Before the flame disappeared, the wing demon knight had accelerated once again as it immediately narrowed the distance to 300 m. Additionally, it had fixed its eyes on that military officer who was standing on the deck at the stern of the airship with a grim smile.

Wing demons hated human powerhouses who excelled at archery most. In the former 2 holy wars, human powerhouses in archery; especially Hua people who had awakened their ancestral bloodlines would be targeted by wing demons for sure.

As he had just spurted out a mouth of blood, the Hua military officer looked pale. However, seeing the wing demon knight approaching him with full killing intent, the Hua military officer prepared to fire another bolt. Right then, he suddenly heard a voice, "Leave this wing demon knight to me. You have a nice ancestral bloodline..."

After hearing the orthodox Hua language, the military officer immediately realized that it was the secret sound transmission skill of a knight-level powerhouse. Therefore, he gave up fighting the wing demon knight at the cost of his life...

Zhang Tie moved too fast to be recognized by the military officer. When Zhang Tie's sound reached the ears of the military officer, he had arrived in front of the wing demon knight while holding high his Thor's Hammer...

The wing demon knight didn't notice Zhang Tie just now at all. After sensing that a human knight was approaching him rapidly and was only dozens of meters away from him, the wing demon knight was shocked too much as it used its instinct to punch a surging battle qi towards Zhang Tie.

In Zhang Tie's eyes, this wing demon knight's movement was too slow. When the wing demon knight's battle qi was going to touch Zhang Tie's body, Zhang Tie immediately flashed away and came to the side of that wing demon knight. Closely after, he swung Thor's Hammer at it...

Zhang Tie used his ability as a divine dominator; therefore, he reached a high speed in a split second. At such a high speed, the Thor's Hammer actually had carried great energy before it was swung at the wing demon knight. It was already a kinetic strike.

A black iron wing demon knight was actually a piece of cake for Zhang Tie. In this case, how could it resist the destructive power of Zhang Tie's kinetic strike? When the Thor's Hammer touched the wing demon knight's protective battle qi, its protective battle qi was immediately shattered as if it was as

fragile as an eggshell. Closely after that, Zhang Tie's Thor's Hammer blew up the wing demon knight's body, spraying over a blood rain.

Under the gaze of so many people, it was not proper for Zhang Tie to knock it out and teleport it into Castle of Black Iron. He should save people as more as possible. Therefore, he killed the wing demon knight as soon as possible.

After this wing demon knight was killed, no other wing demon knight was hunting airships in this air territory anymore; therefore, Zhang Tie directly flew towards the air territory above the city in the distance where human knights and demon knights were fighting ferociously.

Chapter 1303: An Unrivaled Strike (I)

In the air territory covering hundreds of square miles, over 30 knights were fighting ferociously. As battle qi tornadoes and battle qi smoke rushed into the sky one after another, the fiery flames and rumbling thunders caused by knights' off-hand booms reverberated in the sky. As knights were chasing after each other above the city, their battle qi would always involve the buildings below, collapsing a lot of buildings and causing a blazing fire.

Across the battlefield, demon knights were taking the initiative.

Even commoners could identify the number of knights given the number of huge battle qi tornadoes and battle qi smoke in the sky from afar.

The battle qi tornadoes and smokes of demon knights could be easily identified. The battle qi tornadoes and smokes of all the demons would look purple-black in the periphery even though they cultivated the same secret method as human knights.

All the demons at present were wing demons, including 5 earth wing demon knights and 13 black iron wing demon knights. As for human knights, there were 3 earth human knights and 16 black iron human knights. Given the number of knights, human knights had an advantage; however, given the overall battle situation, human knights were disadvantageous and were on the edge of collapse. Because demons had two more earth knights than humans. Given the current situation, the two earth knights were enough to influence and break the balance of this battlefield.

2 earth human knights fought 2 earth demon knights; 9 black iron human knights fought 13 black iron demon knights. There were 2 black iron human knights who fought 2 black iron wing demon knights respectively. A more powerful black iron human knight's battle qi restricted 3 black iron wing demon knights in the shape of a huge net. 2 earth demon knights were restricted by 7 black iron demon knights temporarily, 1 versus 3, 1 versus 4...

The black iron wing demon knight whom Zhang Tie had just killed didn't find any human knight; therefore, it started a massacre among the airship troops of Taixia Country.

Only after throwing a glance at the battlefield, Zhang Tie had understood the current situation facing those human knights. They were on the verge of a life or death situation...

Given such an urgent situation, Zhang Tie realized that he had to spirit up these human knights; otherwise, the team of human knights might collapse at any time. Actually, the 3 black iron human knights who were besieging an earth demon knight were already on the verge of collapse. Even though the 3 black iron human knights were sharing the stress from the earth demon knight, any casual strike of the earth demon knight would cause the wounds on the bodies of 3 black iron human knights to bleed heavily.

As long as an earth demon knight broke a 3-in-1 formation of black iron human knights, the scale would incline towards demons completely. As a result, a domino effect would be aroused and the balance would be completely collapsed.

It was a very urgent battle situation. After killing a wing demon knight by Thor's Hammer in a split second, Zhang Tie immediately gave out an extremely brilliant golden light beam which was like a huge golden pillar between the heavens and the earth. Closely after that, the golden light beam turned into the brilliant, rotating holy geometric halos being covered with complex geometric patterns over Zhang Tie which represented his aiding strength. Then, the halos swept over the battlefield like a mysterious huge wheel. At the same time, golden halos covered all the 19 human knights at present. With the aiding gentle strength of Zhang Tie, the entire battle situation stabilized at once as all the human knights at present gained a much stronger defensive ability and recovery ability in a split second...

After releasing his aiding strength, Zhang Tie accelerated towards the earth demon knight who was besieged by three black iron human knights. In a split second, he had cut into the battle. Only with a sharp off-hand battle qi strike, he had set free the 3 severely injured black iron human knights.

"Leave this earth demon knight to me, you go support the others..."

The 3 black iron human knights were respectively a grey-haired old man, a young man at his 20s and a tough man in half-body armor. After Zhang Tie entered the battle, the 3 black iron human knights immediately felt relaxed as they hurriedly left the earth wing demon knight.

It was not the right moment to chat. After confirming that Zhang Tie was a powerful Hua knight and the very person who released the aiding strength, they knew that Zhang Tie would never suffer a loss facing this earth wing demon knight alone. Therefore, the 3 black iron Hua knights immediately flew towards another earth wing demon knight who was besieged by 4 black iron human knights...

Although there was one more black iron human knight over there, they were also on the verge of collapse.

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"A Hua knight who grasped aiding strength..." The earth wing demon knight watched Zhang Tie with a grim look. Closely after that, it flew towards Zhang Tie and stabbed its pitch-dark steel fork which was made of abyss iron towards Zhang Tie's head as it said, "Your brains must taste very good..."

"Idiot..." Zhang Tie swore inside. 'If this earth wing demon knight chose to escape the moment it saw me, it might be a bit difficult for me to deal with this guy; however, this guy rushed towards me and would like to try close combat with me. It's nothing different than seeking for death.'

With a loud sound “boom...”, Zhang Tie had knocked his Thor’s Hammer onto the steel fork; besides hitting the steel fork away from the earth wing demon knight’s hand, he even injured its hand.

As Zhang Tie’s strength was too terrifying, the moment they collided with each other, the earth demon knight had suffered a small loss.

After feeling the great strength from Zhang Tie’s Thor’s Hammer; especially Zhang Tie’s relaxed and easy look, the earth wing demon knight slightly changed its face. Ignoring the wound on its hand, it hurriedly flashed backward so as to enlarge the distance between Zhang Tie and it. However, it was already too late. The earth wing demon knight felt dizzy as Zhang Tie who was over 10 m away from it just now had already appeared in front of it. Facing the irresistible strength, its protective battle qi was collapsed in a split second. When the great strength passed to its body, half of its bones and muscles were shattered immediately. What was more, it was directly hit onto the earth, causing a huge pit on the earth. As a result, it was severely injured...

Before the earth wing demon knight released its protective battle qi once again, Zhang Tie had flashed downwards. With another strike, the earth wing demon knight’s head smashed up like a watermelon while its battle qi tornado disappeared at once...

Not until death did this earth demon knight understand why it felt dizzy when the human knight launched the second strike towards it. It seemed that this human knight could realize instant transfer. Additionally, that human knight’s hammer was even more powerful than a blow of a shadow knight at his full efforts.

When the earth demon knight’s battle qi tornado disappeared in a split second, all the Hua knights and demon knights at present were startled.

Especially the 3 black iron human knights who had just been liberated by Zhang Tie, who almost looked backward at the same time. However, they only saw a huge pit and the headless corpse of the earth wing demon knight and Zhang Tie who had already flown away from the huge pit.

The moment Zhang Tie left the huge pit, he immediately reached the speed which was close to the speed of sound in air as he flashed towards the city. From hundreds of meters away, he had punched a battle qi fist towards a black iron wing demon who was chasing and fighting a black iron Hua knight and hit it onto the ground. The moment the black iron wing demon knight flew off, Zhang Tie had arrived there. In the close combat, only after two movements, Zhang Tie had shattered that black iron wing demon by Thor’s Hammer. Another battle qi smoke of demon knight exterminated at once...

When Zhang Tie killed that earth wing demon knight, all the knights at present didn’t see the concrete process; however, all of them almost saw how Zhang Tie killed the black iron wing demon knight.

When Zhang Tie rushed towards a nearest earth wing demon knight, the earth wing demon knight only did one thing—escape, escape away from the battlefield as fast as it could.

Not until then did Zhang Tie release his battle qi tornado. Additionally, he killed wing demon knights so fast; therefore, all the knights at present, including those human knights mistook Zhang Tie as a shadow knight.

Now that a shadow human knight had arrived, this fight didn't need to continue anymore. What counted most for demons was to escape from here. Although demon knights were dauntless, they didn't feel shameful to escape when they faced a human knight who was on a higher level; neither would they be blamed by their partners...

The overall situation was reversed at once.

When the earth wing demon knight turned around and escaped, it was actually sending a clear signal to all the other demon knights at present. Therefore, all the other demon knights turned around and escaped at once too.

The earth wing demon who was besieged by 4 black iron human knights became berserk at once. When it broke through the encirclement, it tore apart a Hua knight's body in front of it while bearing the common strike of the other 3 black iron Hua knights. Closely after that, the earth wing demon knight flew far away...

Chapter 1304: An Unrivaled Strike (II)

The overall situation reversed too fast. The entire process only cost a few seconds. That was the battlefield of knights and the manifestation of the dignity of a real powerhouse.

Besides being able to fly with their chakras, wing demon knights were born to be good at flying with their wings. Therefore, the flight ability of wing demon knights would be much greater than that of human knights on the same level. Additionally, as demon knights were taking the initiative just now, if they wanted to evacuate, most of the human knights couldn't block them at all.

The evacuation of wing demon knights was not towards a particular direction; instead, they escaped towards the 3 directions except for the east in a split second like birds whose nest had been broken. It was a standard tactical evacuation action that all the knights would choose when they encountered a knight on a higher level. In the pursuit of a high-level knight, if they all escaped towards the same direction, they were seeking for death as a whole. If they escaped in different directions, besides one or two unlucky guys, most of the people might survive.

However, humans were not idiots. Although they didn't know who was Zhang Tie, none of them would miss such a good opportunity. Human knights responded as fast as demon knights.

The 3 earth human knights didn't chase after those escaping earth demon knights; instead, they chased after a black iron wing demon knight respectively. Although black iron wing demon knights could fly faster than ordinary black iron human knights, they couldn't match the speed of earth human knights.

As to the other black iron human knights. Except for some severely wounded ones who couldn't fly fast anymore, they were all at least in a group of 3 and chased after the black iron wing demon who was nearest to them. The black iron human knight who fought 3 wing demon knights alone directly entangled a black iron wing demon knight who was escaping...

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The moment the overall battle situation was reversed, an anguished sound drifted into Zhang Tie's ears, "Elder brother..."

In the distance, a black iron Hua knight was shaking in the sky as his hands quivered. He was cupping the head of a Hua knight.

When the earth wing demon knight broke through the encirclement of the 4 black iron human knights, it blew up one of the 4 black iron human knights.

After breaking through the encirclement of the 4 black iron human knights, the earth wing demon knight flew towards the west at the greatest speed among all the demon knights in this battle. In the blink of an eye, it had reached miles away.

After hearing the anguished voice, Zhang Tie turned around. Closely after that, a killing intent flashed across his eyes. He directly let go another earth demon knight whom he had fixed his eyes on and chased after another earth wing demon knight who had killed a black iron human knight.

Zhang Tie almost reached his limit in speed without using the ability of divine dominator. It was near the speed of sound in the air. It was also the maximal speed of an earth knight. Before promoting to a shadow knight, over 99% of earth knights who had entered 9 change earth realm couldn't break the sonic barrier in flight, humans or demons.

Including that earth wing demon knight, whose speed was almost 300 m per second.

Zhang Tie moved faster than this earth wing demon knight. When in flight, Zhang Tie could clearly sense that sonic barrier which was like a bubble in front of him. It was easy for Zhang Tie to break this bubble; however, as long as he broke the sonic barrier, he would expose his flight ability of divine dominator too.

In the previous close combat, Zhang Tie used the kinetic strike with the ability of divine dominator. However, it couldn't be identified by the others just like an inch punch. He could increase his speed to the level of divine dominator in over 10 m, a couple of meters even 1 m. With such a great speed, although it seemed like an ordinary strike by hammer, Zhang Tie actually had released the enormous strength of kinetic strike. Therefore, he could kill a black iron demon knight or an earth demon knight in a split second.

What counted most was the short distance and millisecond level explosive time. Besides Zhang Tie, almost nobody else in this world could adopt such a kinetic strike in close combat. At least, Zhang Tie had not heard that someone else could adopt such a combat mode in close combat. His opponents couldn't figure it out. Even a heavenly knight couldn't figure out his secret, not to mention those onlookers. They could only believe that Zhang Tie had grasped a terrifying close combat skill with which he could release a great power in a split second or Zhang Tie's silver secret heavy hammer was too destructive...

It was also why Zhang Tie dared kill demon knights in close combat in this way under the gaze of so many onlookers. Besides feeling that Zhang Tie was as fierce as a shadow knight, none of the onlookers could figure out the reason.

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Zhang Tie's flight speed was about 10% greater than that of the earth wing demon knight. Therefore, only after flying over 150 miles away, Zhang Tie had blocked that earth wing demon knight in a mountainous region by launching a battle qi towards it.

Closely after that, Zhang Tie approached it and started a close combat.

Even though he didn't use the ability of divine dominator, his Thor's Hammer still carried a terrifying strength. Although that earth wing demon knight could resist Zhang Tie's strikes, its protective battle qi would also quiver heavily. Each time Zhang Tie swung his Thor's Hammer towards it, the earth wing demon knight would be hit onto the earth or the mountain, causing a huge hole or breaking a mountain peak...

Only after a few knocks, the earth wing demon knight had spurted out a mouth of blood as it couldn't have a strength to resist Zhang Tie's strike anymore.

"Who're you..." The earth wing demon knight roared.

Zhang Tie remained silent with a cold look as he didn't need to explain anything to a demon b*stard who was going to die.

After suffering another kinetic strike, the protective battle qi of the earth wing demon knight collapsed in a split second as its body was severely injured. The moment its protective battle qi collapsed, Zhang Tie had cut across its neck by his palm horizontally like a using a dagger, causing the earth wing demon knight's neck to spray out blood column which was several meters high. Closely after that, its head flew off. Zhang Tie immediately caught its head while its headless body dropped into the stream between mountains...

In this situation, Zhang Tie could have a chance to knock it out and teleport it into Castle of Black Iron. However, when he heard the anguished voice, "Brother...", Zhang Tie was moved as he determined to kill this earth wing demon knight and behead it as soon as possible.

As the western border of Taixia Country had been the fiercest battlefield between humans and demons, Zhang Tie didn't need to worry about having any earth demon knights to kill.

Lifting the bloody head of the earth wing demon knight, Zhang Tie returned to the battlefield where he heard the anguished voice of the human knight...

Chapter 1305: The Crisis Facing Xiangshan City

The city was still covered with flames while the airships that scattered just now had already gathered in the distance and started to fly eastwards once again. An airboat was suspending above the burning city. All the demons had disappeared. The 3 earth human knights who chased after demon knights just now had already returned. When Zhang Tie flew back from afar, he saw many human knights flying towards him.

The bloody head of the earth wing demon knight in Zhang Tie's hand indicated Zhang Tie's military exploit. At the sight of that bloody head, all the human knights watched Zhang Tie with evidently respectful and admirable looks.

If not Zhang Tie's timely arrival, it was hard to say how many people among these human knights could survive.

Zhang Tie's young look shocked those human knights so much and made himself more formidable. They could barely imagine such a young shadow knight in Taixia Country. That was unbelievable! Of course, some shadow knights could recover youth after taking precious medicines. Most of the human knights at present felt that this young man might have taken many precious medicines. They had indeed heard about such precious medicines. However, none of these human knights had ever seen them. Because such precious medicines would always be collected by minor top clans or powerhouses. They were treasures for all the female knights. Nobody would like to auction these precious medicines. Only a couple of human knights felt a bit familiar with Zhang Tie's look. However, they didn't believe that the young man was Zhang Tie.

"Immortal, may I know your name?" One old man of the three earth human knights who fought demons just now asked as he bowed towards Zhang Tie.

Immortal was an honorific appellation for shadow knights in Taixia Country. Not until now did these human knights think that Zhang Tie was a shadow knight.

"I'm Zhang Tie from Huaiyuan Palace in Youzhou Province!"

"Qianji Hermit..." Someone couldn't help but exclaim when he heard Zhang Tie's name.

Qianji Hermit was so famous that everyone at present had heard his name. However, these human knights could not imagine that Zhang Tie would be so powerful and kill demon knights as easily as killing a chick, whether it was a black iron demon knight or an earth demon knight.

Under the "amazed" gazes of these people, Zhang Tie flew over there and gave that bloody head to the middle-aged man who looked anguished with bloody eyes while saying, "Here's the head of the earth demon knight who killed your elder brother. Pitifully, I could not save your elder brother. It's an admirable and heroic deed for your elder brother to fight an earth demon knight to death. Dead people couldn't be resurrected; please restrain your grief..."

Zhang Tie's eldest brother also fought to death on the battlefield, which always made his parents, his second elder brother and him grievous. Therefore, Zhang Tie could understand the anguished feeling of this human knight who lost his elder brother and determined to revenge for this human knight by beheading that earth demon knight.

Watching Zhang Tie giving the head of the earth demon knight to him, the middle-aged human knight dropped off his tears at once as he took the head with quivering hands. Although being in the sky, he still knelt down in front of Zhang Tie as he said, "Zhang Yushan from Qingxi Palace, Wuzhou Province appreciates Qianji Hermit for your righteous deed. Qianji Hermit saved our Qingxi Palace out of danger and venged for my elder brother. As long as one member of Qingxi Palace is left in the world, we would never forget about your great kindness..."

"Hurry, stand up!" Zhang Tie immediately pulled up the middle-aged man.

After feeling the great strength from Qianji Hermit's hand, the middle-aged knight could only stand up. Closely after that, he undid an emerald plate from his waist which was carved with some words and

gave it to Zhang Tie, "This is my portable token. Please take it. Later on, if Qianji Hermit needs my help, you could have someone bring this token to Qingxi Palace. Zhang Yushan would definitely shrink from no sacrifice..."

After feeling Zhang Yushan's solemn attitude, Zhang Tie took it solemnly too; otherwise, Zhang Yushan might feel that Zhang Tie despised Qingxi Palace.

Not until Zhang Tie took the token did Zhang Yushan seemingly feel reassured as he said in a bit sorrowful and resolute manner, "As my elder brother has just fought to death, I need to deal with the funeral affairs for him. Additionally, my clan suffered a loss more or less. We've got some airships. The airship troop of Qingxi Palace is waiting for me to command. I have to go now..."

After saying that, Zhang Yushan extended his thanks to Zhang Tie and the other knights who fought together with him just now before flying far away.

Not until then did Zhang Tie understand that those airships that were attacked by wing demons just now were withdrawal forces of Qingxi Palace in Wuzhou Province.

After Zhang Yushan left, Zhang Tie learned what happened from the others through a brief talk.

The burning city beside them was Xiangshan City in the Xiangshan Prefecture of Wuzhou Province, which was a standard Class A major city. Xiangshan City was also one of the transit bases in Wuzhou Province from Xiangshan Prefecture to Helan Prefecture. Yesterday, the withdrawal airship troop of Qingxi Palace was resting and reorganizing in Xiangshan City. Unexpectedly, when they were going to evacuate today, a team of wing demon vanguard raided them. As a result, 1 earth human knight and 3 black iron human knights were severely injured; Xiangshan City and Qingxi Palace which was going to evacuate suffered a great loss. Thankfully, Xu Baoan the Cheji General of Wuzhou Province was patrolling in the nearby by airboat. When he saw the battle qi smokes and tornados in Xiangshan City, he hurriedly came over here and weakened the force of demon knights. However, humans were generally in a disadvantageous position.

When they were having fierce combat with wing demon knights and were on the brink of collapse, Zhang Tie's arrival reversed the battle situation at once.

Besides a human knight of Qingxi Place and a human knight who was responsible for defending Xiangshan City fought to death before Zhang Tie's arrival, Zhang Tie himself killed 2 earth wing demon knights and 2 black iron wing demon knights. Besides, the other human knights killed another 4 black iron wing demon knight in later pursuit. Given the casualties, humans gained a triumph...

After hearing that he was in Xiangshan City, Zhang Tie knew that Gao Tianzhao had flown over 1,200 miles towards the west from the mountainous area of Helan Mountain Range and entered Xiangshan Prefecture after penetrating through Helan Prefecture in Wuzhou Province which neighbored Helan Mountain Range...

He was in the frontline of the holy war...

Chapter 1306: The Overall Situation Facing the Theater of Operations

During the 2 months when Zhang Tie entered closed cultivation in Castle of Black Iron, the battle situation facing the western theater of operations became fiercer. The battle smokes and flames lasted thousands of miles. Many provinces had deteriorated to battlefields. Taixia Country and demons had started to exert their greater force of the attack and destructive power like two heavyweight champions through preliminary tentative attack and defense. Even though Taixia Country was not only defending...

Over the past 2 months, the 11 advanced bases and air battle fortresses of Taixia Country had entered Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province in the west of Helan Mountain and the north of Weishui River. They had completely stabilized the tunnel of evacuation in the above three provinces. Additionally, 1 month ago, the 11 advanced bases surged forward over 3,000 miles in one day through coordination and suddenly joined the frontline where demons were attacking humans ferociously. With the coordination of over 100,000 human knights, the 11 advanced bases inflicted heavy losses to the wing demon vanguards. It was said that they had killed at least 3 shadow wing demon knights and thousands of other wing demon knights. The 11 advanced bases even resumed some cities which were occupied by demons' vanguards. As a result, demons' raging offensive was immediately weakened in Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province.

It was the first good news that Taixia Country received since the start of the holy war when Peacewest Military Region was gradually losing its land.

Although the 11 advanced bases' strike didn't completely curb the offense of demons, it was of a special strategical significance. This small victory not only boosted the morale of soldiers and commoners across Taixia Country that had been low since the beginning of this holy war, but also won more than 1 month for the soldiers and commoners to evacuate from the 3 provinces.

After this raid, the 11 advanced bases retreated orderly step by step; at the same time, they set traps to eliminate some small teams of wing demon knights who tried to make tentative attacks on the way back. Behind the 11 advanced bases, Taixia Country as a whole had organized over 10,000 airboats and hundreds of thousands of airships to accelerate the evacuation of soldiers and commoners from Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province. Meanwhile, they strengthened the defenses and cleared the fields, making demons flurried.

After suffering a big loss and some small losses, the demon's vanguard didn't surge forward anymore; instead, they became very meticulous. After evacuating all the commoners from the three provinces, Taixia Country also evacuated the armies from the three provinces orderly, causing a vacuum region as wide as 600 miles between demons and humans. The vacuum region was actually composed of many deserted cities, towns and villages. The demon's army was on the west of this vacuum region while Taixia Country's army was on the east of this vacuum region.

Over the past 1 month, the frontline remained relatively calm. When demons moved forward, Taixia Country's force retreated. Although there were battles and conflicts every day, none of the battles and conflicts involved over 100 knights. Wing demon knights were passing by that vacuum region and penetrating into Taixia Country in small scale; at the same time, many human knight powerhouses were ambushing in the cities, woods or wild of the vacuum region and sniping those wing demon knights who attempted to pass by that vacuum region.

The battle that Zhang Tie experienced in Xiangshan City today was one of the fiercest battles between human knights and demon knights in Wuzhou Province over the past 1 month.

All the commoners had almost evacuated from Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province. Only a minority of people would like to stay apart from those commoners in the regions occupied by demons.

The highest commander in the entire western theater of operations of Taixia Country was Zuoqiu Mingyue, the military minister of Taixia Country who was known as Military God.

Zuoqiu Mingyue had been in the office of military minister of Taixia Country for over 100 years. In the second holy war, Zuoqiu Mingyue who had promoted to heavenly knight had been one of the pillar generals of Taixia Country. At that time, he commanded Taixia troops to fight demons and killed a heavenly demon knight. This time, at the request of the crown prince, Zuoqiu Mingyue came to the western theater of operations from Xuanyuan Hill as one of the top three chancellors of Taixia Country. As was expected, he stabilized the overall battle situation only in a couple of months. Zuoqiu Mingyue's popularity and power were definitely the greatest in the western theater of operations.

It was even said that Zuoqiu Mingyue might have long promoted to sage-level knight over the past 100 years. If Zuoqiu Mingyue was there when Xuanyuan Hill was in chaos last year, Han Zhengfang could never escape away from Xuanyuan Hill.

Due to the arrival of the Military God of Taixia Country, the entire western theater of operations had evidently greater morale than that 2 months ago.

Besides, even the top 7 sects' troops had arrived at the theater of operations and joined the raid together with the 11 advanced bases over 1 month ago.

The above was the changes facing the western theater of operations that Zhang Tie learned in Xiangshan City in the last 2 months.

After that, Zhang Tie contacted Blackwater Base and reported that he had recovered his wounds and had just joined a battle in Xiangshan City. Additionally, he asked for his next mission.

Zhang Tie was not overconfident due to his surging battle strength. Since he came out of the underground space, he had been bearing his duty on the battlefield in mind—a scout dispatched by Blackwater Base!

Blackwater Base soon replied Zhang Tie, which surprised Zhang Tie a bit. Previously, Zhang Tie thought that Blackwater Base would have him continue to hunt demons in the vacuum region between demons and humans as a scout. However, he had not imagined that Blackwater Base told him to stay a few more days in Xiangshan City and escorted the airship troops in Xiangshan City to return to Helan Mountain Range 3 days later before returning to Blackwater Base for a rest.

Now that he had received this order, Zhang Tie could only follow it.

After knowing that Zhang Tie was going to stay in Xiangshan City for a few days and escort Taixia troops back from Xiangshan City, some knights in Xiangshan City and Xu Baoan the Cheji General of Wuzhou Province went ecstatic. As they had witnessed Zhang Tie's powerful battle skills. With Zhang Tie's protection, Xiangshan City would never have any trouble in the following days. Additionally, the

garrisons of about 1 million members in Xiangshan City wouldn't worry about any raid from wing demon knights any more in the process of evacuation.

Chapter 1307: Damages and Clearance

With a cracking sound, being drawn by over 1,000 soldiers and dozens of armored vehicles using steel cables, a 100-m long half-collapsed section of the city wall in the north of Xiangshan City fully collapsed. Before dust fell down, over 10,000 soldiers and hundreds of trucks had swarmed up as they started to fill those bricks and cement into the trucks. Closely after that, those trucks poured them into the moat, filling a part of the moat.

Before these "construction wastes" were poured into the moat, some big steel gates in the north of Xiangshan City had long been demolished and thrown into the moat and were buried by tens of thousands of tons of construction wastes. Many reaches of the moat of Xiangshan City had been cut out and become narrow ditches. The entire Xiangshan City was like a large demolition site—the city gates were demolished, the city walls were destroyed, the steam defense facilities in the city walls were severely damaged.

It was the one million members inside Xiangshan City who did all this...

...

"Come here, after demolishing the walls of that house, tell engineer battalion to carry 2 more trucks of cement over here and completely fill this well. Son of b*tches. Even though this dad is going to leave, I will never leave anything to those lackeys of demons..."

Soon after Zhang Tie turned to a street, he had seen a captain of Taixia Country stepping on the stony rails of an open well whose diameter was about 4-5 m by his leather shoes while opening the button near his collar by a tug as hundreds of soldiers behind him were demolishing a delicate house.

Watching this scene, Zhang Tie shook his head towards those people on his side as he let out a sigh with feeling, "What a pity! We have to abandon this place..."

"This ancient well of Xiangshan City has a history of over 500 years. The ancient-well bean curds made of the water in this ancient well is a delicacy in Xiangshan City. Before I promoted to a black iron knight, I would taste the ancient-well bean curds whenever I came to Xiangshan City. In this block, each family has a workshop for making ancient-well bean curds for many generations. Because ancient-well bean curds in Xiangshan City was well known across Wuzhou Province, the supply was not adequate to the demand. Even though these households could live well by making and selling ancient-well bean curds..."

The old man who fought an earth demon knight a few days ago explained as he shook his head with a sigh.

This old man was called Long Miao. Previously, he was the grand elder of Long Clan of Sande Palace in Xiangshan Prefecture of Wuzhou Province. After demons invaded Taixia Country, he was assigned by the commander of Peacwest Military Region to defend Xiangshan City. There were two black iron knights on the sides of this old man, one was called Fang Hui, the other was called Peng Yulin. The two black iron knights both wore armors. Fang Hui looked fierce; Peng Yulin looked gentle. Fang Hui and Peng

Yulin were now the leaders of two corps of Wuzhou Province which were defending Xiangshan City. Another black iron knight who was assigned to defend Xiangshan City had sacrificed a few days ago. Therefore, there were only four knights in Xiangshan City now, namely, Zhang Tie, Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin.

Zhang Tie had stayed in Xiangshan City for 2 days. The two corps would evacuate tomorrow. Zhang Tie was suddenly touched by such a scene as he wanted to look around this city which was going to be deserted. Of course, the other 3 knights just accompanied him. In Xiangshan City, Zhang Tie didn't interfere with any military or administrative affairs. He was only responsible for the demon knights who raided them. Fang Hui and Peng Yulin were responsible for military and administrative affairs. However, all the other 3 knights regarded Zhang Tie as their head faintly according to the rule of the knight's world. Knights' positions would be determined by their battle strength. As Zhang Tie had the greatest battle strength among the 4 knights; of course, he was taken as their boss.

Although they had just acquainted with Zhang Tie for a few days, they had been completely conquered by Zhang Tie's overwhelming battle skills that day. As Qianji Hermit was a famous person, the grand elder of Long Clan of Sande Palace and the two leaders of corps of Wuzhou Province would like to stay with him. Although Zhang Tie was well-known across the world, he didn't put on airs in front of average soldiers in Wuzhou Province and elders of major clans. His words and deeds felt pretty comfortable and satisfied people very much.

"As long as we could kill all the demons and regain Xiangshan City, we would open this ancient well again..." Fang Hui said with full killing intent, "As we've passed 2 holy wars, nothing to be afraid about one more!"

Peng Yulin remained silent. When in the army of Wuzhou Province, Peng Yulin was always arrogant as a corps leader of Wuzhou Army. Additionally, he was also very powerful. Take that battle a few days ago as an instance, he could fight 3 black iron demon knights alone and could kill one black iron demon knight in the end. Everyone in the Wuzhou Army knew that General Peng never admitted that he was weaker than others; even in front of the commander of Peacewest Military Region, he was still very stubborn. He was even called Strongneck General. However, after witnessing Zhang Tie's overwhelming battle skills, Peng Yulin was completely convinced by Zhang Tie.

After seeing the 4 knights approaching him; especially that his corps leader was standing on one side of a person, the military officer who was going to fill the well immediately knew the identity of the new arriver. Closely after that, he ran over here and stood at attention, causing a loud sound "Pah" as he reported, "Corps Leader, I am Captain Gao Fei of No. 6 Division of the 3rd Formation of Copper Furnace Corps of Wuzhou Province..."

"Hmm, go finish your job!" Fang Hui waved his hand, letting this little official officer leave.

"Yes, sir..." As Gao Fei left, he kept throwing a stealthy admirable glance at Zhang Tie. The news that Zhang Tie the Qianji Hermit was responsible for defending Xiangshan City had long been spread over the city these days together with the news that he had killed 2 earth demon knights and 2 black iron demon knights that day. In the eyes of ordinary soldiers, Zhang Tie was a legendary figure who was their super idol.

Zhang Tie walked towards the ancient well which was going to be buried. After that, he touched its stony rails.

The rails were covered with 1 cm deep marks left by slopes, which carried the hopes of so many households in this city for many generations. Those bluestones on the earth beside the ancient well became as smooth as a mirror in the baptism of years.

There were a barrel and some ropes on the rails. Although the nearby households had left here, these items were still placed well.

As this well had a history of over 500 years, the water could be seen 5 m beneath the mouth. Additionally, there was a light mist on the water. The water in the well was as limpid as the mirror.

The most part of the courtyard walls of a mansion had been demolished. When Zhang Tie sighed with feeling and was going to leave, a grey-haired old man in plain clothes walked out of a lane from aside with two barrels on his shoulder by a shoulder pole. The old man came to the well and lifted a barrel of water from the well...

As all the commoners in Xiangshan City had been evacuated, Zhang Tie was a bit dumbfounded when he saw such an old man coming here for water.

Given his age, it was a bit difficult for him to lift the second barrel of water.

"Grandpa, let me help you..." Zhang Tie hurriedly came to the side of the old man and helped the old man lift a barrel of water. Zhang Tie then asked, "Grandpa, all the commoners in Xiangshan City have been evacuated, why are you still here?"

The old man revealed a smile, "Just carry those young men away. I grew up here by drinking the water in this ancient well since I was born; my father grew up here; my grandpa grew up here; my grandpa's grandpa also grew up here; even my wife had stayed here. Demons would arrive, so what? Why do I have to leave when the demons arrive? Am I afraid of them? At such an age, what am I afraid of? If I leave here, who will accompany my wife?"

The old man's reply made the 4 knights ashamed.

"But this ancient well is going to be filled!" Zhang Tie said kindly.

"I know, I know. I heard the military officer shouting outside just now. I just want to lift some water from here and make ancient-well bean curds for one more time before this well is filled. My wife favored ancient-well bean curd most when she was alive. As I could make ancient-well bean curd, she got married to me..." The old man said as he revealed a nostalgic look. He then looked at Zhang Tie from his foot to his head before asking, "All the young men who stay in Xiangshan City are Hua heroes; you look so young. Do you also come here to fight demons?"

Zhang Tie nodded as he lifted another barrel of water. As the barrels carried here by the old man were a bit large, 2 barrels of water lifted by the common barrel on the rail could only fill 80% of one of old man's barrels.

"Where's your hometown?" The old man had a free chat with Zhang Tie.

"Youzhou Province!"

"Youzhou Province, within Northeast Military Region. It's indeed far away from here. I've only been to Huanzhou Province and Yinzhou Province since I was born!" The old man suddenly became interested in talking with Zhang Tie as he asked, "Have you killed any demon?"

"Just a few!" Zhang Tie replied modestly as he pulled up the 4th common barrel and poured the water into one barrel of the old man.

"My youngest grandson is as old as you. However, he's not as great as you!" The old man sighed with feeling, "Our northwesterners; especially our Wuzhou people are all hospitable. As you come here from afar to fight demons, if you don't mind, how about tasting my ancient-well bean curds? You might not enjoy it after today..."

"Fine, thanks, grandpa. Where do you live? Let me help you carry water back!" Zhang Tie said as he took the shoulder pole from the old man's hand and lifted the two barrels of water.

"Not far away in front, I will show you the way..." The old man directly walked in front of them towards the lane.

After lifting the barrels, Zhang Tie looked back at Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin, "Let's go there together. It seems that we have the luck to enjoy the ancient-well bean curd today. Otherwise, we could only eat it after this holy war!"

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Fang Hui hurriedly rushed over here and would like to take Zhang Tie's shoulder pole. At the same time, he said, "Let me do it, let me do it..."

Few black iron knights across Taixia Country could feel at ease and justified having an earth knight carry water for them, not to mention that the earth knight was Zhang Tie the Qianji Hermit.

Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he waved his hand, which indicated that he didn't mind it. At the same time, Zhang Tie replied, "Haha, don't care about that, I'm just helping this grandpa. Brother Fang, after today, you could brag that water of the last ancient-well bean curd that you ate in Xiangshan City was carried by me..."

The grand elder of Sande Palace burst out into laughter as he replied, "That's true. The water of the ancient-well bean curd that we will eat today is carried by Qianji Hermit. Who else would believe that we could enjoy such special treatment? Who else in Taixia Country is qualified to enjoy it? In the future, even if I fought demons to death on the battlefield, I would not have any regret..."

"I suggest keeping this ancient well. Even if demons really occupied this place, given the strong suspicion of demons, they would not dare drink the water from this well. Because we have filled all the other wells and destroyed the freshwater system."

Being more considerate than Fang Hui, Peng Yulin had sensed Zhang Tie's commiseration. If they filled the last well, there would be no fresh water across the city. In this situation, after the army evacuated tomorrow, this old man would die before the arrival of the demons' army.

"Keep it then. Younger brother Peng is right. Even though such an ancient well is kept in Xiangshan City, demons dare not drink the water inside it..." Fang Hui thought it through at once. The decision of the two corps leaders was the supreme order in Xiangshan City. Therefore, Fang Hui especially called the

military officer Gao Fei to leave 2 people here to prevent this well from being filled before they evacuated.

They soon came to the old man's home in the depth of the lane. The old man was alone. His wife's sacrificial tablet was put in the middle of the main room...

The old man's surname was Zhou. He was an aborigine in Xiangshan City. The residents in Xiangshan City had started to evacuate 4 months ago. The old man swore to not leave Xiangshan City. Therefore, he stayed with a cat. There were enough grains and woods which were enough for him to live a few years. Additionally, the old man even reclaimed a patch of arable land in his courtyard. Therefore, he could meet self-sufficiency.

The old man had a private workshop and a small mill. He had prepared soybeans...

The old man was happy about inviting the 4 knights to his home. After taking out some jujubes and letting them enjoy themselves, the old man started to make bean curds.

...

On the next early morning, over 3,000 large airships arrived at Xiangshan City and landed at the airports in the city and outside the city. Soon after that, they started to evacuate the garrisons in Xiangshan City.

All the city gates of Xiangshan City had been demolished. Some 100-200 m long sections of city walls were destroyed. All the water resources in the city had been destroyed. They had burned everything they could into ruins. As for those which couldn't be burned, they had smashed them, destroyed them or buried them. Additionally, the engineer teams of the two corps had set some traps especially targeting at LV 9 demon fighters inside and outside the city...

Only after a couple of hours, all the garrisons in Xiangshan City had boarded airships and all the airship had flown off.

When he left Xiangshan City, Zhang Tie threw the last glance at the city which had been completely damaged and cleaned. He also saw that old man who was lying and napping on a sling chair on a jujube tree leisurely with a colorful cat in his arms in his own courtyard under the warm spring sunshine.

Zhang Tie didn't know what to say. He only had a strange feeling. In a split second, he felt that his spirit had been sublimed...

'If you're not afraid of it and have something to rely on mentally, what could this world do to you?'

The ancient-well bean curd, the ordinary old man who was lying on the sling chair bathing the sunshine with his wife's sacrificial tablet and didn't even care about the hundreds of millions of demon fighters and hundreds of thousands of demon knights became the last impressions in Zhang Tie's mind about this city...

"Let's go..." Zhang Tie turned around and told the other 3 knights in the sky. Closely after Zhang Tie's words, a golden light had shot here which startled Long Miao and the other two knights very much. Fang Hui even thought that they were raided by a demon powerhouse as he almost launched a counterattack.

Zhang Tie stopped Fang Hui at once as he said, "Brother Fang, don't worry, this is my pet mount..."

Soon after Zhang Tie's words, the thunder hawk had arrived in front of Zhang Tie and started to circle around Zhang Tie jubilantly.

All the other 3 knights were shocked by such a mighty bird.

"Ahh, what kind of bird is it? How could it move even faster than the speed of sound?" Fang Hui and Peng Yulin both widely opened their eyes as they watched the thunder hawk like watching a monster. The two knights had not heard and seen such a nice bird at all.

Only the grand elder of Long Clan of Sande Palace's eyes shone when he caught sight of the thunder hawk as if he had seen a rarity.

"Older brother Long might know it." Zhang Tie said with a smile.

After hearing Zhang Tie's hint, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin moved their eyes onto Long Miao at the same time.

Rubbing his mustache, Long Miao said with uncertainty, "It seems...like the legendary thunder hawk which could gain a rebirth after being struck by thunderbolts. Thunder hawks could fly fast. According to the legend, thunder hawk should at least experience the baptism of thunderbolt once in its whole life. If it succeeded, it would accomplish a round of evolution and mutation. Like how snake sloughs and how knight forms a new chakra. After being struck by a thunderbolt, it would make a spurt of progress in ability. Previously, I saw a thunder hawk which had survived thunderbolts three times in an auction. Finally, it was purchased at the price of over 1 million gold coins. This thunder hawk is many times larger than that one I saw and could move at such an amazing speed. If it becomes so nice after experiencing the baptism of thunderbolts, it must have evolved many times. It could be called an immortal bird. If it was tamed, it would be even more precious than a silver secret item..."

"Haha, Elder brother Long is really experienced and knowledgeable!" Zhang Tie burst out into laughter. Closely after that, he rode on the thunder hawk and rushed into the sky under the admirable looks of the other 3 knights. At the same time, he said, "Besides flying at a high speed, this thunder hawk also has a sharp sight in the sky. It could even discover target from hundreds of miles away. With its help, I promise to clean up all the demon knights who dared harass and raid the airship troop..."

Chapter 1308: Achievements On the Way

Over 3,000 large airships were 40 miles in length and 12 miles in width. The three large formations from 5,000 m high to 10,000 m high were like an eye-catching large cloud if someone watched it on the earth.

If it was not blocked by clouds, anyone could see such a giant slowly moving in the sky from hundreds of miles away. It was not difficult for demon knights to discover them because demon knights had much greater vision and senses than commoners. Those which could fly always had a good vision, not to mention wing demon knights.

As so many airships were flying in large formations, they couldn't move fast. Additionally, being affected by wind, all the airships could only move over 30 miles per hour. It was as slow as tortoise for knights.

Like how dogs liked chasing after frisbees, when wing demon knights caught sight of so many airships, they couldn't wait to bring down all the airships.

Being easily discovered; a large quantity; a great flight speed. They were the favorite targets of wing demon knights in the sky.

Previously, Zhang Tie thought this mission would be boring and peaceful; however, he soon realized that it was a profitable trip to wait for wing demon knights. He didn't even need to look for wing demon knights; instead, he only needed to escort these airships when the wing demon knights would come for him.

He was more like angling than executing the mission of convoy.

After the airship troops left Xiangshan City for 6 hours, the dark fell; Zhang Tie who was sitting on the back of the thunder hawk and reciting the endless true words of the Great Wilderness Sutra as well as having the thunder hawk fly dozens of miles around the airship troops noticed a wing demon knight.

It was not the thunder hawk who discovered the wing demon knight first but Zhang Tie; because the thunder hawk's sight could never match that of Zhang Tie's lotus-flower eyes. Additionally, that wing demon knight excelled at hiding himself. It was not flying towards the airship troops at a high altitude, but close to the woods.

It was a black iron wing demon knight who might have guessed that the airship troop was escorted by some knight-level powerhouses. However, it didn't know how many human knights were there. Therefore, it just hid somewhere far away from the airship troop and observed them carefully.

'Now that you've come, don't leave then.'

Zhang Tie knew that a black iron wing demon was nothing but sh*t for him; however, it could pose a great threat to ordinary human fighters even ordinary black iron human knights. Now that Zhang Tie had discovered the threat, he would eliminate it for sure.

Watching this wing demon knight approaching them, Zhang Tie directly had the thunder hawk fly over there.

As the thunder hawk moved at the speed which was 2 times the speed of sound, when the black iron wing demon discovered Zhang Tie, it didn't even have time to escape. Therefore, it could only fight Zhang Tie to death. However, no matter what, a black iron wing demon's struggle in front of Zhang Tie was neither meaningful nor challenging at all.

In the wild, the black iron wing demon had been knocked out and teleported into Castle of Black Iron in less than 2 minutes.

Smacking his lips, Zhang Tie flew back as he felt unsatisfied.

...

"What happened?" Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin were sitting on the air sacs of airships. Long Miao was in the middle of the airship troop; the two corps leaders were respectively in the front and at the end of the airship troop. Zhang Tie flew around the airship troop in the periphery. The four knights formed a defense matrix to respond to the possible emergencies. As the thunder hawk moved too fast,

not until the 3 people saw the battle qi smoke of the black iron wing demon knight which soon disappeared did they realize that a battle had finished. Therefore, they hurriedly flew over there.

“Nothing, just a black iron wing demon knight. I’ve already dealt with it!” Zhang Tie told Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin casually.

The 3 people exchanged a glance with each other. After revealing a bitter smile, they returned to their own posts.

...

Starting from this black iron wing demon knight, this airship troop was like a piece of fishy and bloody beef which was thrown into the ocean which constantly attracted sharks. However, Zhang Tie defused all the dangers.

During this process, even Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin didn’t know how many wing demon knights had Zhang Tie killed; because starting from the first black iron wing demon knight, Zhang Tie had enlarged his flight radius from 30 miles to 60 miles. Sometimes, Zhang Tie even flew farther away to launch an attack on his own initiative in the excuse that the thunder hawk would like to chase after demons the moment it discovered them in the far in case of troubles. Therefore, wing demon knights would always be discovered by Zhang Tie and his thunder hawk from over 120 miles away.

Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin only remembered that they saw one battle qi tornado and two battle qi smokes from over 120 miles away and over 250 miles away respectively in the last 3 days. Besides, they had not seen any demon knight being less than 60 miles away from their airship troop.

In order to not attract the attention of more human knights, demon knights who had penetrated into the territory of humans would not always release their battle qi tornadoes or battle qi smokes on their own initiative in each battle. When some demon knights found human powerhouses approaching them, they would choose to escape; therefore, Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin estimated that Zhang Tie might have already driven away or killed at least 4 demon knights in the last 3 days, one of them should be an earth wing demon knight.

As for Zhang Tie, the achievements that he made in the last 3 days was enough for him to promote to 9 change earth realm easily; because he actually killed 3 earth wing demon knights in the last 3 days. He swept all the way from Xiangshan Prefecture to Helan Prefecture in the name of escorting the airship troop...

It was also out of Zhang Tie’s imagination that he could make such a great achievement only after leaving the underground space for a few days. With one more earth wing demon knight or some more black iron wing demon knight, Zhang Tie was sure that he could promote to a shadow knight at the end of this year.

Even Zhang Tie was shocked by such a great advancing speed. ‘*Purgatory Samsara Method* is too terrifying in such a holy war. With such a secret method, how could I not promote to a shadow knight rapidly?’

On December 28, the 904th year of the black iron calendar, Zhang Tie returned to Blackwater Base after leaving there for over 4 months as an earth knight scout like flying a kite...

Chapter 1309: The City of Knights

“Let’s bid farewell to each other. Bon voyage! You might not meet any demon knights in Helan Mountain Range in the following days...” Zhang Tie waved his hand towards Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin.

The large formation of over 3,000 airships had already entered the air territory above Helan Mountain Range. Besides, tens of thousands of airships as long as 60 miles were flying towards the east. What a splendid scene!

After completing replenishment in some large airports within Helan Prefecture, Wuzhou Province, these airships would fly over Helan Mountain Range towards Huanzhou Province without any halt.

Besides so many airships, there were also hundreds of airboats in the sky. The last batch of commoners and soldiers who were evacuated to Helan Prefecture would be further transferred to Huanzhou Province rapidly by airships and airboats.

Airboats had a higher efficiency than airships. It would only take an airboat 2 hours to fly over Helan Mountain Range and make a round trip between Wuzhou Province and Huanzhou Province. Each airboat could transport thousands of people to tens of thousands of people each time. There were over 10,000 airboats in Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province which were responsible for evacuating the last batch of commoners and soldiers over there. With such a terrifying national strength and ability of mobilization, most of the commoners had been evacuated from Wuzhou Province, Zhuzhou Province and Yinzhou Province in only a few months.

Besides so many airships and airboats, many human knights were also flying here and there in the sky within hundreds of miles. There was more than one patrolling team of knights in the sky; therefore, they didn’t need to worry about being raided by demon knights here.

Although there was not a platform in the sky, the four people had to part with each other——Zhang Tie would return to Blackwater Base; Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin would continue to convoy the troop of 1 million soldiers to enter Huanzhou Province. After that, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin would be responsible for reorganizing the troop. Some fighters would stay in Huanzhou Province; some would leave there. The grand elder of Long Clan of Sande Palace would converge with his clan members and reinvigorate Sande Palace. Of course, a major clan would suffer a great loss after evacuating from their foundation. However, if they didn’t leave there, the entire clan would be exterminated by demons.

“Fine, let’s part with each other then. Hopefully, I could have another chance to fight demons together with Qianji Hermit!” Fang Hui said heroically, “After I reorganize the troop, I will apply for coming to the frontline; otherwise, I will resign...”

“Hopefully, I could have a chance to learn about battle skills from Qianji Hermit after I promote to an earth knight. I really admire Hermit’s battle skills!” Peng Yulin told Zhang Tie while cupping his hands. Before departure, the arrogant corps leader finally couldn’t help but reveal a faint pride.

Zhang Tie had just held his rotating chakra ceremony of earth knight for a few years; Peng Yulin had been in the 9 change black iron realm and might promote to an earth knight in a few years. Therefore,

Peng Yulin thought that he could narrow the gap between him and Zhang Tie after promoting to an earth knight.

Of course, when an arrogant person saw another person who was younger and more excellent than him, he would think about catching up with the latter.

After hearing Peng Yulin's words, Zhang Tie just replied with a smile as he nodded. If Peng Yulin knew that Zhang Tie would soon promote to a shadow knight, this young corps leader of Wuzhou Army might have a shadow side to his personality in the future.

It was nothing bad for him to be a bit arrogant corps leader as he was as young as Zhang Tie. Therefore, Zhang Tie felt it was unnecessary to make him disappointed at this moment.

Even Zhang Tie wondered when did a black iron knight become a "young man" whose feelings and self-respect should be considered.

"Grand elder Long, what's your plan?"

"Long Clan of Sande Palace has a city and some properties in Hongzhou Province of Middlepeace Military Region. Our clan will move to Hongzhou Province. As some elders and the clan head of Long Clan are fighting demons in the western theater of operations, I should go to Hongzhou Province for the sake of our properties!" Grand elder Long Miao said.

"If Long Clan is interested in Fiery Oil, Elder Long could come to Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory..."

Grand elder Long threw a deep glance at Zhang Tie as he cupped his hands towards Zhang Tie forcefully and silently—the greatest gratitude couldn't be expressed. As for Long Clan of Sande Palace, the gift of Fiery Oil was a timely assistance for Long Clan. If Long Clan could manage the business of Fiery Oil, they would recover their prosperity in a few years, even more than that. How could such a great kindness be expressed by the word "thanks"? If he said "thanks", it meant that he despised Zhang Tie.

"Take care of yourself!"

"Take care!"

After saying that, Zhang Tie cupped his hands towards Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin; so did the 3 knights to Zhang Tie. Closely after that, Long Miao, Fang Hui and Peng Yulin flew towards the formation of airships in the far. Zhang Tie turned around and flew towards the southeastern part of Helan Prefecture in Wuzhou Province which was the border between Helan Mountain Range and Weishui River as Blackwater Base and all the other 10 advanced bases of Taixia Country were gathering there.

...

Zhang Tie flew along the horizon at average speed as fast as the other earth knights. Only after less than half an hour, Zhang Tie had seen Blackwater Base.

4 months later, Blackwater Base remained unchanged, except that 10 more advanced bases were less than 600 square miles away from Blackwater Base.

All the 11 advanced bases of Taixia Country were gathering here, which looked like huge air castles. Those advanced bases were about 20 miles away from each other, forming a large steel ring in the sky.

Additionally, there was a huge metal fortress which was on the same level with Lion Fortress in the middle of the large steel ring.

Numerous knights were flying between advanced bases and the air fortress. A lot of airboats in different sizes were suspending below this large base group and fortress meticulously.

As it was at noon, the sun had just reached its culmination. The 12 giants' shadow covered the ground like that of a city in the sky.

There was no land forces here. Everybody flew here and there. It was like a legendary city of knights.

Zhang Tie was shocked by such a magnificent and epic scene...

After taking deep breath for a few times, Zhang Tie threw a glance at the location of Blackwater Base before flying over there. However, before arriving there, he had heard a slightly surprised sound from his back...

"Zhang Tie...is that you..."

Zhang Tie looked back as he saw Feng Cangwu and some young knights flying towards him...

Chapter 1310: The Real Defiance

"Brother Cangwu..." Zhang Tie stopped as he revealed a surprised smile. Zhang Tie had not imagined that he could meet Feng Cangwu here. It was really thrilling for friends and brothers to meet on the battlefield. It felt even better than meeting a fellow-townsmen in a foreign country. Before Feng Cangwu responded, Zhang Tie had given a bearhug to him as he fervently and forcefully patted Feng Cangwu's back and said, "I've not imagined that I could meet you here. Does Tianji Sect assign people here too..."

As Zhang Tie grew up in Waii Subcontinent, his deeds and temperaments were always similar to the customs of people in Waii Subcontinent. In Waii Subcontinent, if good brothers met each other somewhere, they couldn't help but give a bearhug to each other to express that they were kind. However, in Taixia Country, people's etiquettes would be more implicit.

"Ahem..ahem...I've not imagined that I could meet...meet you here..." Feng Cangwu who was always distant might have not been hugged by a male on this occasion. Therefore, being hugged by Zhang Tie, he didn't know where to put his arms as he said, "Erm...can you release me first?"

"Hahaha..." Zhang Tie burst out into laughter as he felt much better at once. After patting Feng Cangwu's back for 2 more times, he moved a few steps backward. He then looked at Feng Cangwu from his foot to his head while his smile grew bigger, "8 change black iron realm. Congratulations. You will promote to an earth knight in a few years. When you promote to an earth knight, I will gift you a big red packet..."

"You, feel..." Feng Cangwu looked at Zhang Tie as his heart pounded.

Less than 1 year ago, Feng Cangwu could still sense Zhang Tie's cultivation base to a certain degree when in Fire-Dragon Bounty Territory; however, this time, Feng Cangwu felt that Zhang Tie's qi was as

profound as the sea. If not being familiar with Zhang Tie, Feng Cangwu couldn't sense the trivial change of Zhang Tie. Zhang Tie reminded Feng Cangwu of those senior fellow apprentices and uncle masters of Feng Cangwu who would soon promote to shadow knights after long-term seclusion that Feng Cangwu saw a few years ago. Zhang Tie slightly felt as flexible as shadow knights...

'No, Zhang Tie is even more powerful than those senior fellow apprentices and uncle masters in Heavens Fortune Sect.' Feng Cangwu's heart palpitated; because he faintly felt the indifferent look of ignoring everything that would be owned by real powerhouses. It was not because of arrogance or disguise; but a unique temperament that a person would have on a certain level. It was a kind of high realm that a person would enter after standing on the top of the mountain peak. Even though Zhang Tie behaved fervently and modestly, his unique temperament would never disappear.

As Feng Cangwu was familiar with Zhang Tie and had seen the world, he could sense the indifferent temperament of Zhang Tie. Commoners could never sense it.

"Well, I was almost ambushed by some b*stards when I went out for a mission 2 months ago. After 2 months' recuperation, the moment I came out, I've received a task to convoy two corps of Wuzhou Provincial Army to evacuate to Huanzhou Province from Xiangshan City. I'm heading for Blackwater Base to report on my mission!"

Even though it was an earth-shaking dangerous experience, Zhang Tie would describe it casually like buying vegetables in a marketplace. As Zhang Tie said it, he blinked his eyes towards Feng Cangwu. Feng Cangwu understood that it was not the proper place for a chat.

However, someone caught the loophole from Zhang Tie's words at once.

"Hehheh, I've not imagined that the famous Qianji Hermit is just so-so in the holy war..." One of the young knights who flew towards here together with Feng Cangwu immediately satirized Zhang Tie with a sneer, "After being ambushed by demons, you recuperated for 2 months; you missed the toughest counterattack under the leadership of Commander Zuoqiu. Finally, you came back after completing an easy mission, haha..."

Feng Cangwu had 5 partners, 4 males and 1 female. All of them were black iron human knights. The 6 people were all very young and had a special qi field. At the sight of the 5 knights, Zhang Tie had guessed that they came from the top 7 clans of Taixia Country.

Zhang Tie threw a glance at that knight who made impertinent remarks. At the 20s, he had thin lips and an oval face, which didn't look bad. Some women might like him. However, this man's eye light contained some jealousy and defiance.

In front of Zhang Tie, who dared say that they were geniuses, even the most excellent and youngest elites among the top 7 sects? Zhang Tie's reputation in the Western Continent and Eastern Continent were much better than these people. It could be said that Zhang Tie made these so-called geniuses too ashamed to show their faces.

"Who's this idiot?" Zhang Tie asked Feng Cangwu straightforwardly.

“Ahem...ahem...” Feng Cangwu became speechless. He knew Zhang Tie’s temperament. If the others didn’t offend him, Zhang Tie would not offend them; if the others offended him, they had to be ready for being trampled. Zhang Tie didn’t treat everyone modestly, enthusiastically and kindly...

“Zhang Tie, you...” The knight’s sarcastic sneer disappeared at once as his face turned red. If it was someone else, the young knight might have long launched a strike; he was not even afraid of ordinary earth knights. However, as Zhang Tie was too prestigious, the young knight really dared not fight Zhang Tie. Additionally, the young knight looked around and found that none of the rest 5 knights would like to stand on his side as all of them just watched aside with a distant look...

Feng Cangwu pretended to cough twice once again as he answered Zhang Tie, “This one is Wen Qingkong, one of the 9 young elites in Taiyi Fantasy Sect...”

“Oh, I see!” Zhang Tie looked as if he had long known that. Even if Zhang Tie didn’t say it, his words between lines had made all the other 4 young knights look serious as they suppressed a smile. Feng Cangwu also resisted the impulse to laugh. Not until now did Feng Cangwu sense that Zhang Tie’s words were even more destructive than his. Only by opening his mouth, Zhang Tie would be able to kill someone. “I see” sounded even more destructive than stabbing blades into people’s body.

Wen Qingkong’s face turned purple as he quivered all over. Since he joined Taiyi Fantasy Sect, Wen Qingkong had not imagined that he could meet someone who dared not give him a face in the public.

“Zhang Tie, don’t be too excessive. As an earth demon knight, my senior fellow apprentice Liu of Taiyi Fantasy Sect killed 1 earth demon knight and 4 black iron demon knight alone a few days ago. With his military exploits, he could rank top 3 on the List of Earth Knights in the Western Theater of Operations. I also killed a black iron wing demon knight. At that time, everybody was fighting demon knights. Where were you?” Wen Qingkong asked with a twisted, arrogant and vicious look.

“I will report in Blackwater Base. Let’s have a drink somewhere after a while...” Zhang Tie told Feng Cangwu before flying towards the Blackwater Base.

Since the beginning, Zhang Tie just treated Wen Qingkong as nothing. He didn’t even talk with Wen Qingkong; neither did he turn his face towards Wen Qingkong. That was the real defiance! Zhang Tie told Wen Qingkong with practical actions that Wen Qingkong was not even qualified to talk to him.

Watching Zhang Tie flying away, Wen Qingkong’s face turned blue at once. Closely after that, he shook his body in the sky and spurted out a mouth of blood...