

Black Iron 911

Chapter 911: Leaving the Knight's Tower

"If I could marry beloved ones, I prefer to be a farmer.

I will graze cattle in the morning and come back with wildflowers.

Inserting flowers on your grey hair, I will watch the sunglow together with you..."

On October 11th, a woman in a brilliant red skirt was standing on the highest floor of an 18-storey brilliant pavilion in Snowblowing City, the capital city of Threespring Prefecture and watching the colorful clouds fading away in the sunset. At the same time, she kept muttering the poem that Zhang Tie released in the forum...

When she muttered the first line of the poem——It's hard to get a lover in the world. She dropped off her tears.

If not a sentimental person, how could he write such a heart-broken line?

When the wind blew, the woman's red skirt danced on the side of the handrail of the pavilion...

The youth told what he had experienced since he was in Blackhot City to the present in a casual tone in his article. The woman was like an elder sister who watched the neighboring bashful youth gradually growing mature.

Last night, when she read that "I even met a beauty who praised me that I was ambitious and a daydreamer!", she simmered with laughter.

When she read that he let the woman who had once hurt him stay one night in his apartment safe and sound before leaving, she became relaxed——thank you, but I hate you——only a woman could understand the mood of another woman at that moment. She knew that the youth was telling the truth.

How could such a mentally mature person reduce to be a devil after being forced to break off the engagement?

The front part of the article was relaxed as if he was traveling among mountains and rivers. She also accompanied the teenager all the way from Blackhot City. However, when she read what the teenager experienced in Fuhai City, she felt a killing qi——that was a terrifying, fatal trap...

After knowing that the teenager escaped successfully, she became relaxed too. By now, all the contents of that article had faded away in her mind, except for the poem and the look that she had seen in Youzhou City lately...

Watching the sunset and the stars rising, she finally let out a faint sigh before returning to the pavilion. Sitting in front of the dressing table mirror, she touched her hair on the temples with a sad look.

Although being a knight, she still had black hair all over and a brilliant face. However, where's the one who could insert flowers on her grey hair and watch the sunglow together with her? If she couldn't

meet him anymore for the rest of her life, how lonely she would be and who would appreciate her beautiful look.

Taking up a white diamond and pearl headwear, she inserted it into her hair near the temple. After looking into the mirror for a short while, she changed to a more beautiful one. After taking another look at it, she picked it off once again...

After trying over 20 beautiful, luxurious diamond pearl headwears consecutively, the woman still felt lacking something.

Finally, the woman rubbed all the diamond and pearl headwears into powders. At the sight of this, the two female servants who were serving her hurriedly knelt down...

After feeling the sudden, vigorous qi in the pavilion, a figure instantly flashed in her room like a ghost.

The woman's voice turned icy at once while the majesty as the head of a family reappeared on her body.

"Go tell the sister apprentices...the event of Zhang Tie, Zhang Mushen is a bit weird, stop hunting him. Such a person will never be possessed by the devil..."

"Additionally, all the cities in Threespring Prefecture have to include all-purpose medicament of Jinwu Business Group into their storage!"

After saying that, the woman thought about something else while her voice suddenly turned resentful, "Tell Guo Wu to take someone to smash the Morality Association in the Snowblowing City..."

"Erm...the Morality Association has been smashed by people a few days ago, it's not been renovated yet..." The black shadow coughed twice before reminding her.

"Smash it again..."

"..."

...

Xuanyuan Hill, Taixia Country...

A person in a white robe was feeding golden fish leisurely and delicately on the side of a lotus pond. He didn't say anything for an hour as if he had not seen the three people behind him...

The old man was dropping lifeless doughs, which turned into tadpoles and swum vividly in the water the moment they touched the water. As a result, a shoal of golden fish constantly chased after them, arousing ripples...

Standing behind this old man, the three people's backs had been fully wet in the past hour...

After feeding the golden fish, the old man clapped his hands as he turned around and asked the three people, "Have you thought it through?"

"I...I will go to Yingzhou Province...to investigate it..." The man who had sweated most answered in a trembling voice.

The old man didn't lose his temper; however, he looked more terrifying than losing his temper when he was silent.

He had not been silent for so long in front of them.

"The manor of the Gobbling Party is too large. We should clean it. A black iron knight from Huaiyuan Palace makes me universally condemned; even the Xuanyuan Hill is shocked. Do you want me to be the laughingstock of the people?" The old man let out a sigh.

The three people oozed sweat all over as they kept quivering, "We dare not!"

"Lord Huaiyuan really has a good inheritor!" Shaking his head, the old man turned around and entered the small courtyard...

...

Shrine Palace of Fan family, Tianshui Prefecture, Yingzhou Province...

Director Fan, who had been more than 10 years elder only after a few months, was recalling what he saw that night in front of the clan elders.

"When I saw Zhang Tie, although...he was indeed raping my daughter in clothes..."

The Fan elders exchanged a glance with each other before letting out a long sigh in unison...

...

"Investigate it..." The head of Qin family was infuriated as he smashed the emerald table in front of him by one palm...

...

After a few days later, some brand girls in the brothels across Taixia Country had composed a piece of music and started to sing the song named "The Beloved Ones" by playing pipa, a plucked stringed instrument...

"It's hard to get a lover in the world.

I treat the power as sh*t and ignore the ridicule of the powerful ones.

You're just passers in my life, I will not return when I leave.

If I could marry beloved ones, I prefer to be a farmer.

I will graze cattle in the morning and come back with wildflowers.

Inserting flowers on your grey hair, I will watch the sunglow together with you."

This song made many girls in brothels across Taixia Country to drop off their tears. They all wanted to know who created such a wonderful poem...

After reading this poem, the sentimental ones would feel more lonely...

...

After becoming a member of Title Party in the Mountain of Brightness and calmly describing his experiences in one article, Zhang Tie had started to enter cultivation.

Zhang Tie didn't feel that he was literary. This article was just a reflection of his life experience and feelings. Even though the poem originated from his true feelings.

It was useless for him to cry out a grievance. Zhang Tie didn't do that. He just wanted to show others what a man he was and had people make judgments themselves. As he could not prove that he was innocent, he could only influence others' judgments.

All those who read the article were knights in the Mountain of Brightness, all of whom had a great influence in the reality and were more above average in intelligence.

It was enough.

A knight with more than three chakras who had mastered the Bloody Demon Imitation Method.

The background of Qin Wu.

The force who could easily know the secret that Director Fan's heart was on his right chest...

All these were clues.

The evidence was not definitely the truth; however, the truth could arouse resonance among people.

This time, Zhang Tie exposed all those who had framed him to the public.

He couldn't resist those people because his ability was trivial in front of them. However, those people could only move in the dark as their power was also trivial in front of the righteous power of the humans across Taixia Country.

That was a terrifying, malignant tumor among humans in Taixia Country.

This was not only the personal resentment between Zhang Tie and those people; it was more like a public resentment between humans in Taixia Country and demons. It was unnecessary for Zhang Tie to shoulder it himself. Additionally, he couldn't shoulder it for the time being. Therefore, he shared it with other people.

As the old Hua saying went, there must be a loyal and faithful people among 10 households.

Even if 1 out of 10 knights who had browsed the article could be vigilant about those insurgents or 1 out of 100 knights wanted to seek for the truth of the even in Fuhai City, they would be much more powerful than Zhang Tie and Huaiyuan Palace.

Whether Fan family or Qin family in Yingzhou would be vigilant and reflect themselves after browsing this article. After all, whatever Zhang Tie had exposed was all genuine.

It was a pattern of self-protection and counter-attack and a warning about the crisis facing Taixia Country from a Hua knight.

It could protect Zhang Tie from two aspects: first, it could make him less wanted by the knights and Supreme Court in Taixia Country; at least they would not beat him like a rat crossing the streets; second,

all the people in Taixia Country would focus on Huaiyuan Palace and his family members. If anyone wanted to revenge Huaiyuan Palace and his family members, everybody else would recall that that one was probably backed by demons; as a result, the possible attacker had to consider about the outcome of his deed.

Zhang Tie didn't expect that he could prove his innocence only by an article, the authenticity of which could not be verified. If not, it would be a laughingstock and the laws in Taixia Country would be ineffective. He hoped that he could turn into "grey" from an extremely "dark" guy in Taixia Country through this "public notice".

The Gobbling Party would make a response to this article. Although the Gobbling Party couldn't prove that they're innocent, the knights who had read the article would definitely doubt the Gobbling Party for sure. They would imagine about the role of the Gobbling Party in this event. The Gobbling Party had to prove their innocence. After all, no force could stand being framed as colluding with demons even if they were standing on the side of the top three chancellors in Taixia Country.

It was also the price that the Gobbling Party had to pay.

After all, none of the contents about the Gobbling Party in the article was fabricated. Zhang Tie's suspicion about the Gobbling Party was justified. Perhaps, the Gobbling Party would not care about Zhang Tie's opinion; however, they had to concern about the opinion of all the knights in the Mountain of Brightness.

By the way, Zhang Tie also made an advisement for the all-purpose medicament in the article.

It was a family strategy of Zhang family to have all-purpose medicament enter the purchasing storage contents of the nationwide six warehouses in Taixia Country. It was related to the benefits of numerous generations of Zhang family. Even though he was still wanted, this strategy would be firmly executed. If this generation couldn't make it, the next generations had to make it. They would not make any compromise to that.

...

On October 10th, after coming to the Lion Fortress for 12 days, Zhang Tie ended his cultivation and opened his eyes in his knight's tower.

The reason was that he had consumed all of his earth-elements crystals.

Zhang Tie picked himself up in the cultivation room and relaxed his limbs, causing his muscles, tendons and bones to quiver and rub like plucking strings of musical instruments.

After the last earth-elements crystal turned transparent, Zhang Tie directly threw it into Castle of Black Iron. After throwing a glance at the Cui Li's crystal plate, he found that the 30th golden scale had just been lit on the new knight's crystal plate.

After putting away the new knight's crystal plate, Zhang Tie went downstairs. He took a bath in the washroom on the 2nd floor and put on a clean set of field suit, a multi-purpose tactical armor and a pair of metal battle boots. After that, he went downstairs and walked out of the knight's tower.

The Lion Fortress was still covered with a layer of exotic, transparent energy while the mysterious clouds above the energy cover radiated a dim white light, which indicated that it was daytime above the ground.

Zhang Tie watched the sky and the awe-inspiring huge pyramid as he touched his bald head and trotted towards the other gate of the Lion Fortress facing the earth-elements realm.

That gate was called Earth-elements Gate, the real portal towards the Earth-elements Realm.

By contrast, the gate towards the earth's surface was called Force Province Gate.

The entire Lion Fortress only had two gates.

When he exited the Lion Fortress, he needed to punch the metal identity plate too.

There were also two lines of knights riding on their underground dragons outside the Earth-elements Gate.

Knights were leaving the Lion Fortress for the mysterious world of the Earth-elements Realm constantly while lights constantly arrived at the Lion Fortress from the Earth-elements Realm.

The moment Zhang Tie exited the high tunnel-like doorway, he had flown towards the distance.

The terrain outside the Earth-elements Gate had a downward inclination and was borderless. Like a fortress at the highest point of a huge valley, the Earth-elements Gate overlooked the entire shell-shaped valley...

The barren entire valley covered hundreds of thousands of miles. There was nothing but shiny things among rocks and sands in the valley under the dim daylight which was common Class 1 and Class 2 crystals

If on the earth's surface, this place could be a treasure land. Although those crystals were in low class and of high value, nobody in the earth-elements realm would care about the common crystals. The price of these crystals could not even offset the freight from this place to the world on the earth's surface by airship...

Zhang Tie's destination was the first abyss outside the Lion Fortress...

It was the underground battlefield between human knights and demon knights...

...

Chapter 912: The First Abyss

The first abyss in the earth-elements realm was the main battlefield of human knights and demon knights.

Demons were constantly pouring out of the hollow earth; if they wanted to arrive at the land of the Eastern Continent, they had to break through the Lion Fortress.

As for Taixia Country, the holy war had two battle lines which were undergoing at the same time.

One was in the first abyss in the earth-elements realm; the other was in other continents and subcontinents from where demon corps were constantly pouring out of the earth surface from the underground world.

As for demons, this holy war also had two battle lines. Demons' attack on the earth's surface could be regarded as a siege of Taixia and the Eastern Continent while their attack in the earth-element realm could be regarded that they were going to collapse Taixia Country from inside.

The two battle lines were both fierce, which could be judged by the increasing treatment that those chaotic subcontinents and the Lion Fortress could provide for the garrison knights.

Compared to the battle line on the surface of the ground, the underground one was fiercer and more brutal. Those who could fight demons in the first abyss were at least human knights, human battle spirits were too weak there.

If the earth's surface was predominated by humans, the underground world was predominated by demons.

The first abyss was very huge that nobody could figure out its border. Generally, the word "huge" referred to the area; however, the first abyss was like a deep well in the earth-elements realm.

The part outside the irregular mouth of the well was over 14,000 miles in width and above 40,000 miles in length.

Zhang Tie received the data from the Lion Fortress. He didn't verify it and didn't need to do that.

Of course, the wall of the well was not smooth. A small grain on the wall of this well might be an exotic region that covered thousands even tens of thousands of square miles; a small coarse bulge on the wall of this well might be an endless mountain range. The profound and deep mountain caves in the first abyss were like the holes on the bricks and slabs, which might lead to other abysses and mysterious lands...

From a certain perspective, the first abyss was more like an open courtyard in the middle of an irregular tube-shaped apartment. There were overlapped platforms, large or small and interconnected maze-like rooms, tunnels and bloody traps in the dark around the courtyard.

After leaving the Lion Fortress one day, Zhang Tie caught sight of a pitch-dark, borderless abyss which looked like a black, huge mouth which could devour everything.

Zhang Tie saw rolling, dense fog in the endless black abyss.

As there was no light inside the abyss, it was more like a black fog.

Some human knights were flying out of the black fog while some flew in. All the human knights had decelerated their flying speed the moment they entered it while they hid their battle qi luster.

It was nothing different than committing suicide by releasing one's battle qi luster like a bulb in the dark of the first abyss.

Besides a lot of black iron knights, many earth knights were also wandering in the first abyss. Even though shadow knights were hiding there. It was not strange if human and demon heavenly knights had passed through the first abyss accidentally.

Of course, Zhang Tie didn't want to show off his battle skills at this moment. He hid his battle qi luster and entered the dark closely along the edge of the first abyss.

...

As the black fog was ubiquitous, even in his maximal dark visibility, Zhang Tie could only see a few miles forward in the first abyss.

A strange plant covered many places on the ground and the precipices in the abyss.

It was an exotic vine-like creeper which could grow endlessly in the first abyss.

Any common vine of the abyss could extend longer than 1,000 m. The longest one could even extend over 70 miles. In Zhang Tie's eyes, the leaves of the vines were deep purple; each leaf was as large as a pot's cover. Its flower was extremely similar to a necessary musical instrument in the human symphony orchestra—tuba! The fog in the first abyss was released by the flowers of the vine of the abyss in a breath.

The fog purified the strong sulfury, the particulate matters and some toxic substances in the air and provided a necessary condition for the growth of other living beings in the abyss.

Even in the first abyss, the living beings complied with some universal rules of the mother nature—without the plants that could grow out of the earth, none of the senior species would survive.

The moment Zhang Tie entered the abyss, he had caught sight of a finger-sized bee hovering on the flower of the vine of the abyss diligently.

The honey of this bee of the abyss was inedible. It contained a special toxin, which would make people feel especially itchy all over. Those who were allergic to pollen would lose their lives the moment they touched the honey of this bee.

After deepening almost 30 miles into the first abyss, Zhang Tie caught sight of a mountain cave behind a vine of the abyss. He then entered it...

After a few minutes, a little, black beetle flapped its wings and flew out of the same mountain cave and dove downwards in the effect of super hiding skill...

30 miles were like a step downwards from the top of a skyscraper.

...

After 10 days, on the land that covered 700 square miles in the first abyss.

A huge demon knight with double horns landed in the fog.

Its eyes were as red as fire which looked very vigilant. After landing there, he looked around seriously. After finding that no human knight was in the surroundings, it darted into a wood.

The wood was filled with a giant underground plant which looked like a bamboo shoot.

After coming to one side of a plant, the demon knight checked his alert arrangements within 100 m and confirmed that nobody had come here. He then let out a sigh. After unveiling a cave on the plant, it hid in.

...

The long-term battle in the first abyss meant a great test and physical strength consumption for both demon knights and human knights. They could not fly in the sky around the clock. Even knights needed to take a rest. Otherwise, their battle strength would decline sharply after staying in the first abyss for too long.

This wood was one of the demon knight's shelters in the first abyss.

The demon knight didn't notice that a little beetle which was having a rest on another tall plant had caught sight of him the moment he entered this wood...

...

Chapter 913: Anus Boom

These days, Zhang Tie had been exploring the first abyss meticulously in the incarnation of a little beetle.

After 8 days of exploration, Zhang Tie gradually became familiar with the first abyss.

The biggest benefit for him to incarnate in a little black beetle was that nobody else could find him. The biggest weakness was that the vision of the little beetle was much poorer than Zhang Tie's original vision. If Zhang Tie could see miles clearly in the first abyss, the little black beetle's visual distance was only hundreds of meters.

This was the so-called swings and roundabouts.

Any incarnation could not be all mighty.

According to the description of the "Great Wilderness Sutra", the best, irreplaceable incarnation of people was his own body—it's hard to incarnate into a human body.

Thanks to these days' adaptation, Zhang Tie had known well about the first abyss.

The little beetle was almost invisible for the others.

However, with his original body, Zhang Tie could observe enemies in the distance.

After these days of exploration and serious comparison, Zhang Tie thought that a greater perceiving ability was more important for him than being almost invisible. After all, he was here to kill enemies and improve his battle strength.

Zhang Tie had already prepared to summon his original body out of Castle of Black Iron. However, when the little beetle landed on a huge plant and took a rest over there, he caught sight of the first demon knight since he entered the abyss of the earth-elements realm.

It was an ox-head demon who had the most balanced battle strength and sensory perceptions. It was also the prototype of the devil in the legends among humans.

Compared to iron-armored demons, ox-head demons had greater viability and battle strength in the first abyss.

Watching the ox-head demon to hide meticulously in the "big bamboo shoot" for a rest, the little black beetle blinked its eyes. Zhang Tie was driven mad.

'It's really out of my imagination that a demon knight could build its base here.'

'As this place is only thousands of miles away from the top of the abyss. This fearless demon knight must have a great battle strength.'

The little beetle just gazed at the place where the ox-head demon hid from dozens of meters away.

Knights could fall asleep in only a couple of minutes. However, after falling asleep, their knight's consciousness would still be sensitive to the surrounding situation although being sharply weaker than that in the normal situation; not to mention that the guy hid in the tree hole...

5 minutes later, the little black beetle arrived behind the tree hole.

After that, the little beetle disappeared. With the effect of a super hiding skill, Zhang Tie appeared behind the tree silently.

With a gold-eaten tri-edged dagger in hand, Zhang Tie's eyes shimmered.

With his eyes on the tree, a strange sneer appeared on his face.

Such a raid felt like a troublemaker throwing a huge rock into the manure pit when someone was in the toilet in Blakhot City.

...

'Go die', Zhang Tie's eyes turned solemn at once...

In 0.01 second, Zhang Tie released his battle qi. At the same time, he forcefully stabbed his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger into the tree by his right hand and launched a heart-breaking palm of the "Big Sun Fire Dragon Palm" by his left hand towards the tree...

When Zhang Tie's attack touched the tree, the demon knight who was resting inside had woken up. However, due to such a short distance, even though he had realized what happened, he had no chance to make a response to it anymore.

As for a knight, the bamboo shoot-like huge tree was as weak as a bunch of cotton. Zhang Tie stabbed into it with his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger like breaking a piece of paper. The dagger directly penetrated through the plant and entered the body of the ox-head demon knight.

Zhang Tie felt that his heart-breaking palm hit the back of the ox-head demon knight while his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger...

"Howl..."

With the furious and painful howl, the ox-head demon knight shattered the tree in a split second. At the same time, it released an indifferent attack while tens of tempestuous battle qis swept over dozens of surrounding trees in the shape of a semi-lunar blade. As a result, dozens of trees fell down like ears of wheat being cut off, causing booms.

Although the opponent was trying its best to survive itself in the emergency, of course, Zhang Tie would not collude with him face to face.

Before the demon knight released its battle qis, Zhang Tie had stirred up his dagger in the body of the ox-head demon knight, causing a huge wound. At the same time, Zhang Tie had retreated as fast as a lightning bolt while dodging from those tempestuous battle qis.

With a dark purple battle qi shooting into the air, the ox-head demon knight flew off right away.

In the air, it spurted out a mouth of blood. With a painful and twisted look, it couldn't stand uttering another howl. At the same time, it wanted to catch something from its butt or stop bleeding over there. However, it was in vain. Because Zhang Tie had stabbed the dagger into its weakest and fatal part; especially when Zhang Tie pulled out the gold-eaten tri-edged dagger, he stirred it up, expanding the wound from the fatal part all the way to the interior part of its thigh, causing a 40-cm long grim wound there...

A knight could at least prevent the wound from bleeding only by controlling the neighboring blood vessels of the wound if not heal it right away...

Although the blood on its thigh was immediately stopped; however, the blood on that part...

Those left were not only blood but stinky and smelly things in its belly and intestine...

It was out of Zhang Tie's imagination that he had exploded the demon knight's anus with that strike. In order to avoid from arousing the attention of the demon knight, Zhang Tie didn't lock its precise location in the tree by his spiritual energy; he just stabbed into its body based on his perception.

It was an obscene strike with a surprisingly good effect.

Only after throwing a glance at the furious and painful look of the demon knight and its remains below, Zhang Tie had realized that he had caused the demon knight to lose half of its battle strength at least.

'Plus the effect of my palm, although this demon knight won't die, for the time being, he has been heavily wounded.'

After throwing a glare at Zhang Tie with its bloody eyes and extremely grim look, the demon knight didn't rush towards Zhang Tie; instead, it turned around and escaped right away.

Although it was dauntless, it was not an idiot. It knew that it had almost lost the battle although having not fought Zhang Tie. Therefore, it chose to escape so as to survive itself.

It was nothing shameful in the first abyss.

However, how could Zhang Tie let it go.

The ox-head demon knight was just a black iron knight. Zhang Tie had not seen any black iron knight who could fly faster than him, not to mention that the demon knight had suffered a heavy wound.

The demon knight released its battle qi luster and accelerated to its maximal flying speed. So did Zhang Tie while a fiery flame rose from his body.

In such a case, now that they had noticed each other, it was meaningless to hide themselves anymore.

The moment the demon knight moved, Zhang Tie had chased after it. Only after a few seconds, with a roar, Zhang Tie punched another palm while a fiery dragon flew off Zhang Tie's hand and caught up with that demon knight in a split second. The demon knight wanted to resist Zhang Tie's attack; however, it was still forced to fall off, causing a huge pit on the ground.

The moment the demon knight flew off once again, Zhang Tie had appeared on his side while Zhang Tie drew a fierce light net using his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger and fully covered the demon knight.

Their battle qi totems rose up at the same time...

On the earth's surface, the moment black iron knight's battle qi totem rose up, it would be seen by others hundreds of miles away. By contrast, due to the ubiquitous fog, there was a low visibility in the first abyss. The knight's battle qi totem could not be seen from 20 miles away.

Therefore, unless they had enemies or friends within 20 miles, their battle could barely be influenced by external factors.

As it was Zhang Tie's first prey, Zhang Tie accelerated his attack in case of troubles.

Zhang Tie only attacked instead of defending. The attacks from the demon knight would be carried by his protective battle qi and body; of course, his attacks would be defended by the demon knight by its own body and protective battle qi.

Even though this demon knight was safe and sound, Zhang Tie didn't fear about fighting it face to face at the risk of wounds, not to mention now.

In the beginning, the demon knight could bear some rounds of face-to-face collisions with its dauntless spirit; however, after a few seconds, it had changed its face.

It was definitely out of the imagination of the ox-head demon knight that Zhang Tie could have such a powerful battle strength, including his protective battle qi and physical strength. It could be said that Zhang Tie was the most powerful human black iron knight that it had ever met. What was more terrifying was the grim dagger in Zhang Tie's hand.

The dagger could easily penetrate through a knight's protective battle qi.

Only after half a minute, the demon knight had gained 7-8 more wounds. However, Zhang Tie didn't even lose a hair.

...

After 4 minutes, Zhang Tie inserted his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger into its collarbone ferociously. With the miserable howl of the demon knight, Zhang Tie suddenly punched his right fist into the part below

its chest and caught the demon knight's spine. Closely after that, he lifted up the demon knight like raising a barbell...

The demon knight thought that Zhang Tie would shatter it into pieces by his battle qi; As for the inevitable death in battle, the demon knight was not afraid of it at all. Whereas, in the next second, the demon knight suddenly felt that his earth chakra which had not been fully formed started to revolve in an anticlockwise manner. Just like the ice in the pond. It was suddenly shattered by Zhang Tie's overwhelming strength and flew into Zhang Tie's body...

The demon knight just watched Zhang Tie with a fearsome look while it gradually lost its strength to struggle...

1 minute later, Zhang Tie suddenly increased his battle qi and shattered its body into a bloody mist. At the same time, two human figures fell in the distance as fast as a lightning bolt. At the sight of the scene, they were both shocked...

Chapter 914: Partners

Coincidentally, although black iron knight's battle qi totem could not be seen by people from afar in the first abyss, two human knights indeed flew here just now. At the sight of the battle qi totems, they flew towards here.

When they drew closer, they saw Zhang Tie lifting up an ox-head demon knight and shattering it into a bloody mist by his battle qi.

Although Zhang Tie was tall and sturdy, the ox-head demon knight was one head higher and sturdier than him. It was more like a fierce ox. Anyone would be shocked when they saw a human knight to lift up a demon knight who was much bigger than him and shatter it into pieces.

After landing in the distance, the two knights' hearts pounded at the same time. After throwing a glance at each other, they flew towards Zhang Tie at the same time.

"Friend, we saw two battle qi totems rising up from here; therefore, we hurriedly rushed towards here. Do you need any help?"

The two knights were both Hua knights at their 40s. One carried a saber, the other carried a sword. Given their qis, Zhang Tie knew that they were also black iron knights. The moment they drew close, the man with a sword asked in a polite way.

"Thanks. But I've already killed the demon knight!" Although the blood rain sprayed over, it was blocked by Zhang Tie's protective battle qi. After moving his punch back, Zhang Tie said in a hoarse voice while watching the two people, "F*ck, I was just resting here; however, this demon knight launched a sudden strike towards me. Now that we encountered, I had to kill this b*stard, peh..."

Zhang Tie spat onto the ground.

Standing several meters away from Zhang Tie, the two Hua knights glanced over the neighboring messy battlefield before moving their eyes back onto Zhang Tie. After finding that Zhang Tie didn't even suffer a wound, the two human knights' eyes gleamed at once.

'Now that this human knight could kill a demon knight without suffering any wound, it indicates that this knight is overwhelming to the demon knight.'

"Friend, great battle skill and braveness!" The middle-aged man with a saber praised Zhang Tie before cupping his hands towards Zhang Tie, "I'm Gong Ziyao, he's Zhou Shufan. We both came from Qingzhou Province. May I know your name?"

"I'm Cui Li from Youngzhou Province!" Zhang Tie replied as he cupped his hands.

Hebrews always greeted each other by shaking hands; while Hua people greeted each other by cupping their hands. Shaking hands meant that they had no weapons in hands while cupping hands meant that they covered their right hand which was most aggressive by their left hand. Both etiquettes represented peace. When two people met each other for the first time, cupping hands was more intellectual than shaking hands. Although the identity Cui Li was a bit brutal, he was not absolutely a boor.

"We have stayed in the Lion Fortress for 2 years. But we've not seen younger brother Cui!" Gong Ziyao asked.

"I've just come to Lion Fortress about 10 days ago!"

After hearing Zhang Tie's reply, Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan were more stunned.

Zhou Shufan said with a solemn look, "I've not imagined that younger brother Cui has killed a demon knight and made a meritorious deed only after entering the first abyss for a few days. If this demon knight dared to come here alone, it was definitely fiercer than common demon knights. Younger brother Cui is really admirable!"

"Heh...heh..." Zhang Tie touched his bald head with a smirk, "He's unfortunate. As I've been here ahead of him. After this guy arrived, he found a hidden tree hole and took a rest inside. When he fell asleep, I stealthily moved to the back of the tree hole..." Zhang Tie raised his gold-eaten tri-edged dagger and simulated the movement of stabbing it into the tree hole forcefully, "With such a poke, I exploded his anus. As a result, he could only exert 50-60% of his full strength and was finally killed by me!"

At the sight of the grim, sturdy tri-edged dagger and hearing the words "exploded his anus", Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan understood it right away as they couldn't stand contracting their anuses.

After exchanging a glance with Gong Ziyao, Zhou Shufan slowly nodded his head. They had formed a privity after a long-term cooperation. They could exchange many information only through eyes.

Through Zhang Tie's simple reply, the two people felt that Zhang Tie had a great battle strength and was open-minded and aboveboard. The other knights would definitely not expose the obscene means of exploding anus to them so frankly. Therefore, they liked Zhang Tie from inside.

"Demon is human's public enemy. As you have killed a demon knight, you have made a meritorious deed for humans. Whatever means you have used, younger brother Cui Li is a hero and a tough man as you caught this chance to kill this demon knight sharply!"

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter...

"We should not stay here, if any earth knights were fighting in the distance, they might have been attracted by the battle here. Earth knights could see clearly the battle qi totems from over 70 miles away in the first abyss. How about changing the place?" Zhou Shufan suggested.

"Good!" Zhang Tie ran towards the pair of ox horns which had inserted into the earth and picked them up before putting them into his battle armor. Closely after that, he rose up into the air.

Presenting amaranth, this pair of ox horns proved that Zhang Tie had killed an ox-head demon knight. With this meritorious deed, he could enjoy many benefits in the Lion Fortress. Pitifully, this ox-head demon was a poor thing as it had no more equipment but a broken leather armor.

In the air, Gong Ziyao asked Zhang Tie, "Young brother Cui Li, do you want to fight a few more days in the first abyss or return to the Lion Fortress?"

"What about you?"

"We're going back to the Lion Fortress for some supplies and then we will come back!" Zhou Shufan answered in an implicit way.

"We can come back together..." Zhang Tie answered, "We can take care of each other on the way back..."

"That's great!"

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan nodded at the same time...

Although Zhang Tie looked calm, his heart was racing crazily. It was his first time to use the Purgatory Samsara Method. He felt having made a great achievement this time. He was thinking about digesting the energy of the earth chakra of the demon knight somewhere. Additionally, with this pair of ox horns on his back, he didn't feel convenient in the first abyss; if he didn't want this pair of ox horns, it would arouse the doubts of the two human knights; if he put it away in his space teleportation equipment, he would expose his secret; therefore, he chose to go back to the Lion Fortress together with Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan. He would exchange this pair of ox horns for some benefits before digesting the achievements.

As there were many powerhouses in the first abyss, black iron knights were a basic battle strength here. Zhang Tie felt that he'd better not use his portable space teleportation equipment and Castle of Black Iron so as to match his performance with the image of Cui Li. Otherwise, he might incur troubles and crises. The identity of Cui Li fit him pretty well, which was also very useful in Taixia Country. If he changed another identity, he might have to spend more time to deal with it.

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan were well known as Saber and Sword Partners in Qingzhou Province. They had been bosom friends for dozens of years. They had been in the earth-elements realm for 4 years. When the group of three hid their battle qi luster and flew towards the entrance of the abyss, they kept chatting. After introducing themselves, the Saber and Sword Partners started to inquire about Zhang Tie's background.

Of course, Zhang Tie told them about the background of Cui Li—I lived in a rich family in Liuying Town at the foot of Coiling Dragon Mountain, Luye Prefecture, Yongzhou Province. I have been obsessed with battle skills since I was young. Therefore, after my parents passed away, I traveled among the famous

mountains and rivers in Taixia Country and learned from masters everywhere. Later on, I experienced something special in a famous mountain and finally promoted to a knight.

I have just returned home a few days ago and ended some secular affairs at home. Before my powerful memorial gateway was built in my hometown, I have come to the earth-elements realm and prepare to fight demons so as to live up to what I've learned in the past years.

"Young brother Cui, do you think about making meritorious deeds for the country?" Zhou Shufan asked.

"I've not thought about it yet. No matter what, I can't waste my battle skills; especially in the holy war. As demons are thinking about devastating Taixia, I should do something as a tough man. I don't care what meritorious deeds will I make; no matter what, I can't stand being a knight who only thinks about cultivation indoors everyday. No pay, no power, no woman, no dignity! It's boring! If it's in peaceful times, it's understandable for you to close your doors and enter cultivation everyday; however, the holy war has broken out, if you did the same, it's nothing different than being a timid rabbit!"

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan burst out into laughter at the same time. They felt that Zhang Tie had verified the feelings of most of the knights in the Lion Fortress.

After 3 days, the group of three started their trip back. On the way, they met some human knights; however, they didn't meet any demon knight. Therefore, they returned to the Lion Fortress smoothly.

At the gate of the Lion Fortress, at the sight of the pair of ox horns, the line of garrison knights threw "admiring" eyes towards Zhang Tie.

"Tough man with ox horns, will you join our Feathers Army? Our Feathers Army is powerful with good treatment and rich human resources above and underground, how about that?" An officer shouted towards Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie was stunned as it was the second time for him to listen to the words. 'Did all the top four armies of Taixia Country recruit soldiers in the same way at the Lion Fortress?'

Chapter 915: Samsara

"Thanks but I don't want to join the army for the time being..."

"Tough man, may I know your name?"

"Cui Li, from Yongzhou Province!"

After having a brief conversation with the officer just outside the gate, Zhang Tie immediately entered the Lion Fortress with Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan.

The metal plates indicated their identities; besides, by punching a card, they could accumulate their effective service time in the fortress and gain earth-elements crystals as a reward.

"Young brother Cui, we have to say goodbye to you. We will meet in the Iron-blood Tower at 8 pm two days later!" Gong Ziyao told Zhang Tie.

"Yes, two elder brothers, I have to handle with these booties too, see you at the night two days later!" Zhang Tie nodded.

After cupping hands towards each other, the three people headed for different directions.

Over the past couple of days, the group of three had learned a lot about each other. Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan had made an appointment with Zhang Tie to meet in the Iron-blood Tower, the knights' bar in the Lion Fortress 3 days later. They said that they had something to negotiate with Zhang Tie. Zhang Tie agreed with them.

Watching Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan leaving, Zhang Tie recalled the map of the Lion Fortress for a second before running towards the Knights' Tower of Brilliance.

It was where tasks were released in the Lion Fortress and where knights could exchange their booties for resources.

The pair of ox horns on Zhang Tie's back indicated that Zhang Tie had killed an ox-head demon knight, which could be used to exchange for many items.

By now, Zhang Tie was still a poor guy. Besides a residence in the Lion Fortress, he didn't even have enough clean clothes. Besides that gold-eaten tri-edged dagger, Zhang Tie didn't have any more weapon. Therefore, this pair of ox horns could greatly improve Zhang Tie's "dilemma".

Besides being good-looking, the pair of ox horns also had a great medicinal value. Through the working of pharmacists, this pair of ox horns could clear heat, cool the blood, arrest convulsion, detoxify and collect qi. It was the most precious and the main ingredient of tranquilizer for fighters below knights when they were possessed by the devil. Tranquilizer was a very precious medicine of great value. Three pills of tranquilizer might save one human fighter from being possessed by the devil on average. However, the main ingredient came from the ox-head demon knight in the Earth-elements Realm.

Cups or kettles being made of ox horns were also expensive because they could detoxify and alleviate a hangover.

Demons and humans were eating each other. The winner must have sharper teeth.

As the portal for humans to enter the Earth-elements Realm, the Lion Fortress should not only be defended by humans but also serve as a base for humans to gain resources in the Earth-elements Realm.

Zhang Tie ran all the way towards the Knights' Tower of Brilliance. On the way, at the sight of that pair of ox horns on Zhang Tie's back, all the knights, logistical personnel and subsidiary fighters threw admiring looks at Zhang Tie.

The real powerful ones would gain respect wherever they were; especially those on the battlefields.

Even by now, less than 20% of the human knights in the Lion Fortress who had fought demon knights had ever killed a demon knight.

"What a tough man!"

"What a hero!"

Zhang Tie heard all sorts of praises on the way there.

Zhang Tie ignored the eye lights of the passers-by; neither did he feel conceited. Perhaps, it was very difficult for others to kill a demon knight. Actually, Zhang Tie had killed dozens of demon knights and knights of Three-eye Association. Therefore, he didn't feel thrilled at all.

...

Being very eye-catching in the Lion Fortress, the Knights' Tower of Brilliance was higher than 2,000 m.

Human knights were accessing to the Knight's Tower of Brilliance. Besides Hua knights, Zhang Tie saw many other knights of different skins.

At the sight of the pair of ox horns on Zhang Tie's back, all the knights accessing to the high tower threw a serious look at Zhang Tie.

After going up over 100 metal steps, Zhang Tie came to the task lobby which covered tens of thousands of square meters.

The moment he entered the task lobby, Zhang Tie had seen a metal curtain higher than 20 m which hung various task boards and clear introductions. On both sides of the metal curtain were counters and backrooms which were used to serve knights. It was similar to that of the Golden Roc Bank. Perhaps, the structure of the lobby of Golden Roc Bank originated from here.

Zhang Tie muttered inside as he strode towards a counter. After putting the pair of ox horns on the counter, causing a sound "pah", he shouted in a hoarse tone, "Task delivered!"

"A pair of ox horns of an ox-head demon knight. Not bad, not bad, it's not even 5 days old. Fresh enough. It's not picked from the Far-ancient battlefield in the first abyss!" An old man in red uniform checked Zhang Tie's booty seriously as he nodded and put it into the counter, "This pair of ox horns weigh over 30 kg. A green-robed pharmacist could make over 800 pills of tranquilizer and save hundreds of human fighters' lives with it..."

Zhang Tie grinned. As a human knight, he indeed felt a great sense of achievement at this moment...

"Show me your identity plate, please!" The old man's tone turned politer.

Zhang Tie passed his identity plate to the old man. The old man took it and inserted it into a machine on his side. After a series of operations, the old man drew it out of the machine in a few seconds. After that, he took out 18 golden earth-element crystals from the counter and pushed them to Zhang Tie.

"Here's your reward, 18 earth-elements crystals, 5 meritorious points and 1,000 consumption points in the Lion Fortress!"

Touching his bald head, Zhang Tie asked, "What are the meritorious points used for?"

The old man threw a glance at Zhang Tie, "There are many resources in the Lion Fortress that could not be enjoyed by earth-elements crystals and consumption points. You could only exchange for them with your meritorious points, such as simulative training in the Heavenly Ball..."

'Heavenly Ball?' Zhang Tie was shocked. He remembered that an elder of Huaiyuan Palace mentioned that there was indeed a Heavenly Ball in the Lion Fortress. It was not exclusive to the Heavenly Fortune Sect.

...

After taking his identity plate which had been recharged, Zhang Tie left the Knights' Tower of Brilliance.

After that, Zhang Tie went to the latest supply point and received 7 days' supply, which included 7 breadfruits, 3,500 grams of nutritious mushroom, 3,500 grams of watermelons. After loading all of them into a metal supply case, Zhang Tie carried the supply case and returned to his knight's tower marked as No. 1607.

As for Zhang Tie, the supply in the fortress was not dispensable. However, after having been in the Earth-elements Realm for so many days, if he didn't go to receive some supply, he would arouse others' suspicions. Even knights required energy supply. Nobody could gain them out of nowhere without a space-teleportation equipment.

After closing the gate of his knight's tower from inside, Zhang Tie found that everything remained unchanged in the knight's tower, leaving no dust at all.

Although he couldn't wait to experience the first achievement from the purgatory samsara in the cultivation room, Zhang Tie tried to recover his composure and prepare a supper for himself.

The ingredients of the supper were the supply that he brought back.

Actually, it was a bit exaggerated for him to make supper. As the three fruits could be eaten directly, they didn't need to be processed at all. Zhang Tie just took out a plate, a knife and made an assorted fruit dish. After that, he took a seat and leisurely enjoyed them.

Since he got the Castle of Black Iron, Zhang Tie had always tried to be patient whenever he couldn't wait to do something.

The greater the plan was, the calmer he needed to be.

The more anxious he was, the more relieved he should be.

This was also a sort of cultivation.

The breadfruit was indeed like a bread; however, it was more like a half-dried coarse bread. It was a food with thick fiber which didn't taste good at all.

The nutritious mushroom tasted like a dried squid, which was fishy and salty. They didn't taste good either.

The watermelons contained too much water and tasted a bit sweet. However, after eating them, Zhang Tie felt a bit sour.

Although knights had powerful nerves, Zhang Tie wondered whether he would be driven mad if he ate such a food consecutively for a few years.

After eating up the food on the plate and putting away the rest fruits, Zhang Tie recovered his composure. After that, he went upstairs and entered his cultivation room.

...

After sitting in the cultivation room cross-legged, Zhang Tie entered meditation while his perceptions gradually became sensitive...

The pure, golden earth elements were slowly rotating around the first chakra like satellites on the tracks...

Zhang Tie ran his spiritual energy while those pure earth elements directly entered the first chakra. After being grounded by the first chakra, they poured into those mysterious, complex and huge geometrical patterns in the earth chakra, lighting those geometrical patterns one after another...

The efficiency of this method was dozens of times higher compared to that if Zhang Tie directly absorbed earth elements. Zhang Tie directly linked the main water supply pipeline to his own home.

When Zhang Tie was quietly fixing and absorbing the essence of the chakra of the demon knight, the 31st dragon scale on his dragon crystal plate was lit after one hour...

Chapter 916: The Power of An Emperor-level Secret Method

The Purgatory Samsara Method was a top-secret method, which was pushed by the chakra of the major secret skill that the knight was cultivating.

Due to the difference in the level of cultivation methods, the Purgatory Samsara Method had different effects. From a certain perspective, Purgatory Samsara Method was completely a powerful auxiliary secret skill, which also verified an early speculation of Zhang Tie—In the far-ancient times, humans had various auxiliary equipment and methods to accelerate the formation of their chakras.

As the secret methods for fighters to promote to knights were classified into 7 levels, the effects of the Purgatory Samsara Method were also classified into 7 levels.

There were 50 universal laws while 49 of which were derivatives, the rest one fit humans. 7 multiplied by 7 was 49, which was the necessary condition for forming seven-strength fruits. Nevertheless, the base of Purgatory Samsara was 7. It seemed that there was a mysterious connection between the Purgatory Samsara and the seven-strength fruits. They might follow universal laws.

Being pushed by a baron-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb $\frac{1}{7}$ of the elements of the opponent's chakra.

Being pushed by a viscount-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb $\frac{3}{7}$ of the elements of the opponent's chakra.

Being pushed by a count-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb $\frac{4}{7}$ of the elements of the opponent's chakra.

Being pushed by a marquis-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb 5/7 of the elements of the opponent's chakra.

Being pushed by a prince-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb 6/7 of the element of the opponent's chakra.

Being pushed by an emperor-level chakra, the Purgatory Samsara could help the knight absorb all the elements of the opponent's chakra.

Zhao Yuan thought that Zhang Tie was cultivating a viscount-level "Five-elements Ground-look Sutra"; actually, Zhang Tie was cultivating an emperor-level "King Roc Sutra". Therefore, as for Zhang Tie, it was the "King Roc Sutra" that pushed the Purgatory Samsara. With the terrifying power of an emperor-level secret method, all the earth elements in the earth chakra of that ox-head demon knight which had not been formed were absorbed by Zhang Tie.

When Zhang Tie was rapidly digesting this achievement, the dragon scales on the knight's crystal plate of Cui Li were lit one after another...

The 31st, the 32nd, the 33rd, the 34th, the 35th, the 36th...

When the 36th dragon scale was lit, an unexpected change occurred...

A golden feather-shaped seed rune of "King Roc Sutra" flew out of the center of the chakra in Zhang Tie's chest. Hovering above Zhang Tie's head, it started to radiate brilliant luster. Zhang Tie then slowly rose up cross-legged and hovered in the air in the cultivation room...

This seed rune was a bit different than the former seed rune of the "King Roc Sutra" before he formed the chakra. Under the golden light of the seed rune, all of Zhang Tie's surging points started to resonate and radiate luster together with his qi sea. The runes flew out of the surging points and flew around Zhang Tie like almost 1,000 golden fireflies...

After that, Zhang Tie released his battle qi from all of his surging points. Closely after that, the spiritual energy in his mind sea spilled out of his forehead. Four elements in the elements realm then appeared out of nowhere and poured into those firefly-shaped runes, making them more brilliant. The battle qi then intertwined with those mysterious runes and gradually formed a golden, huge shell being covered with mysterious grains around Zhang Tie...

The entire cultivation room became quiet at once, except the mysterious lusters which flashed by the surface of that huge egg floating in the air from time to time...

...

After over 10 hours, with a muffled thunder in the huge egg, more cracks started to appear on the surface of the huge egg as if something was going to be hatched. Finally, with a thunder, the mysterious eggshell was completely shattered while releasing numerous golden light spots, causing a brilliant, golden light rain in the entire cultivation room in a split second...

...

Zhang Tie opened his eyes while being cross-legged in the air. The moment he put down his feet, he had stood on the ground with a confused look...

Zhang Tie didn't know what happened just now at all.

About 3-5% of the total earth elements of the demon knight had not been absorbed.

Zhang Tie felt that he had lit another 5-6 dragon scales. At that moment, Zhang Tie was in ecstasy. All of a sudden, he felt that the first and the second chakra which had not been formed rocked at the same time while releasing a strong luster, sending Zhang Tie into an absolute, empty chaotic state physically and mentally...

Zhang Tie didn't know what happened to him just now. He just felt being in an empty, chaotic state while all of his surging points were exchanging energy with something else. It seemed that he had opened one deeper level of his surging points.

After that...

He didn't know how long had passed when all the surging points rocked. Closely after that, a thunder occurred in the chaos along with a light. Then, the sky and the ground were divided while everything became clearer. Zhang Tie finally woke up.

He found that he was floating in the air.

After sensing his body, Zhang Tie widely opened his mouth. He felt wholly new as this body was utterly different than that before he entered the cultivation room.

Zhang Tie attempted to make some movements and control his battle qi but he felt evidently different than before.

He could feel an overall increase of 10% in the capacity and power of battle qi, physical strength, reaction speed, defensive and anti-strike ability, even the surging spiritual energy in his mind sea.

It meant that his battle strength had increased by 10%, which was a new stage and progress for a knight; especially the incremental part of spiritual energy was even much more than the total spiritual energy of a common black iron knight.

After taking a free walk in the cultivation room, Zhang Tie felt so light that he almost floated in the air.

'Why?'

Zhang Tie was both shocked and confused.

Before he fully accepted the surprise brought by the Purgatory Samsara Method pushed by the "King Roc Sutra", Zhang Tie welcomed another surprise.

All of a sudden, something occurred to Zhang Tie's mind. Zhang Tie took out the Cui Li's crystal plate and found 36 dragon scales had been lit.

'36 scales were 1/10 of the total 360 scales required to form a chakra.'

'Does it mean that the sudden change just now was caused by the "King Roc Sutra" after forming 1/10 of the earth chakra?'

'Wait, 36 scales...'

Something occurred to Zhang Tie's mind once again.

A few years ago, when Zhang Tie had promoted to a knight in Waii Subcontinent and received the knight's crystal plate, he thought that the power of black iron knights was divided by the number of scales that they had lit. Later on, as he deepened his understanding of knights, he knew more secrets about them.

The scale was the most objective unit of measurement that represented the cultivation base and progress of a knight. However, in the knights' world, especially in Taixia Country, the center of the human world, each knights' level was further divided into ranks. It was too general to regard 360 scales as a realm. If each scale was taken as a realm, it was too sophisticated, which sometimes could not reflect the genuine battle strength of knights who cultivated different secret methods. Therefore, they needed a more objective and easier division standard to measure ranks.

Actually, each level of the knights, black iron knight, earth knight, even shadow or heavenly knight could be divided into 9 small ranks, which were called "changes", 36 scales were called 1 change; 360 scales were called 10 changes. After 9 changes, when one lit 36 more scales, one would completely form a new chakra and promote to the next level of the knight.

Take black iron knight as an instance, the progress from 0 to 35 scales was the consolidation period.

When one lit 36-71 scales, one was called 1 change black iron knight.

When one lit 72-107 scales, one was called 2 changes black iron knight.

...

When one lit 324-359 scales, one was called 9 changes black iron knight, which was also called great perfection stage of a black iron knight and was the last stage for a black iron knight to promote to a higher level.

After lighting the 360th scale, of course, the black iron knight would advance to the next level as he had formed a new chakra.

'36 scales, I've just lit 36 scales...'

'Change——wasn't I "changing" just now?'

Being shocked immediately, Zhang Tie figured out something at once, 'Is the standard of "change" based on the emperor-level classic?'

According to the viscount-level classic "Five-elements Ground-look Sutra", Zhang Tie remembered that after lighting each 1/4 of a chakra, one would gain a chance to strengthen one's five-elements battle qi; it was also mentioned in the marquis-level classic "Fire Dragon Sutra" that, after lighting each 1/6 of a chakra, one would gain a chance to strengthen one's overall strength. '1/4 of a chakra match 90 scales while 1/6 of a chakra match 60 scales; however, I could strengthen my battle strength only after lighting 36 scales. Does it mean that one could strength one's overall strength 10 times if one cultivates an emperor-level secret method? Additionally, do people strengthen their overall strength at different times due to different levels of secret methods?'

Take viscount-level secret methods as an instance, only after one promoted to 2 changes black iron knight could one strengthen one's overall strength. Similarly, those who cultivated baron-level secret methods could only gain 3 chances to strengthen their overall strength at each level...

...

After throwing a glance at the clock hanging on the wall of the cultivation room, Zhang Tie found that one day had passed. It was already 6 pm. After remembering that he had to meet Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan in the Iron-blood Tower two hours later, Zhang Tie recovered his composure for a short while before leaving his knight's tower...

Chapter 917: Meeting Pandora Once Again

After walking out of his knight's tower, Zhang Tie looked up at the dull red sky and took a deep breath. After that, he strode towards the Iron-blood Tower...

The sky in the Earth-elements Realm reminded Zhang Tie of Castle of Black Iron. In the Earth-elements Realm, it would also turn dark in the evening while the weird clouds in the sky caused a low visibility just like that in the evening on the earth's surface.

On the earth's surface, at night, sometimes the moons were bright and the stars were few when the visibility was very high; sometimes, the moons were covered with black clouds when it was pitch dark. In the underground world, the exotic clouds in the sky of the Earth-elements Realm seemed to reflect the climates on the earth's surface too.

Besides day and night, the Earth-elements Realm was exchanging atmosphere with the earth's surface, causing alternative four seasons and various climates.

After Zhang Tie left the knight's tower for less than half an hour, the sky outside the Lion Fortress had completely turned dark.

Bang...

A loud sound drifted from the sky.

Zhang Tie looked up and caught sight of a golden lightning bolt which flashed across the top of that huge pyramid in the middle of the Lion Fortress. In a split second, it started to rain heavily.

It was Zhang Tie's first time to see the rain in the Earth-elements Realm.

It was marvelous to see it raining in the Earth-elements Realm. Due to the existence of the transparent energy cover, all the raindrops would slide off the energy cover, causing a layer of exotic ripples on the dome of the Lion Fortress. It felt just like enjoying a heavy rain in the dining hall on the top floor of a skyscraper with a glass dome.

The heavy raindrops slid off the glass dome; however, the dining hall was dry. Sitting in such a dining hall, listening to the melodious performance of violin and piano, sniffing the fragrance of rose blossom, and having a candlelight dinner with a beauty in bobtail. How romantic it was...

However, Zhang Tie was in the Lion Fortress, which had nothing to do with romance.

Although there was no rose here, there were a lot of grim demons. The beauties here were a scarce resource. It depended whether you could have a dinner with a beauty. The fortress was filled with high-end eternal fluorite lamps. Zhang Tie thought that few candlesticks could be found here. Additionally, there was a river of magma with stimulative sulphuric smell being not far from the fortress. There was no feast here. All the resources on the earth's surface were relatively scarcer here. Breadfruit, nutritious mushroom and watermelons definitely posed a great test to your palate...

Zhang Tie didn't know whether the beauty would feel romantic when eating breadfruits, nutritious mushrooms and watermelons. No matter what, Zhang Tie didn't feel that it was necessary for him to eat those fruits. By having those fruits, you would not starve to death and could maintain your physical strength to move; however, your palates would suffer a lot. As there was a lot of tasty food in Castle of Black Iron, it was unnecessary for Zhang Tie to endure hardships in his knight's tower.

In the evening, Zhang Tie found fewer passers-by on the streets of the Lion Fortress. Besides knights, many logistical personnel and auxiliary fighters in the fortress had started to relax themselves. Only a few people were on duty.

Both humans and demons should comply with the universal rule of the balance of yin and yang. Sun would rise and fall; oceans would ebb and flow; plants had ups and downs. As living beings, how could humans and demons become intense around the clock like having dozens of kgs of viagra?

At this moment, perhaps, some human knights were still wandering and fighting demons outside the Lion Fortress and the first abyss while some others were still cultivating in their own knight's tower; however, it was time for most of the human knights to relax themselves after one day's busy work.

There were many bars on both roadsides of the streets in the Lion Fortress. As this place lacked resources on the earth's surface, many people in the Lion Fortress chose to relax themselves in the bars, where they could enjoy music and laughter.

In the evening, Zhang Tie felt the Lion Fortress became more like a market. Walking on the streets and sensing the reassuring qi, Zhang Tie, who had been restless since he started to escape, gradually recovered his composure. As a person who grew up in a small city, this qi made him comfortable like bathing the spring wind and raindrops. The burst of laughter from roadside bars made him feel especially safe and genial.

Not every knight liked this atmosphere. Therefore, the bars in the Lion Fortress were all far away from the knights' towers. However, Zhang Tie felt as free as fish in water in such an atmosphere. He didn't feel bored at all.

Generally, there were two kinds of bars in the Lion Fortress: first, being exclusive for people in certain classes and circles such as logistical personnel and knights. Although there was no stipulation in explicit terms, those customers basically stuck to this game rule. Outsiders would not enter a bar which was exclusive to a specific group of people in case of arousing others' attention. Additionally, it was impolite; second, they were open to people regardless of their identities. They just drank, chatted, bragged, accosted girls, exploited connections and learned from others, etc...

Iron-blood Tower belonged to the first type of bar. Only knights consumed there.

The Iron-blood Tower was over 1,000 m in height, making it outstanding among the other knights' towers whose height on average was only about 500 m.

Under the heavy rain and rumbling thunders, Zhang Tie came to the Iron-blood Tower on time.

Compared to the exaggerated gates of the other high towers, the gate of the Iron-blood Tower was much smaller. At the sight of its gate, Zhang Tie had known that it was a private place. If Zhang Tie was a bit taller, he had to stoop down.

After entering the gate, Zhang Tie came to a vestibule. After passing the vestibule, Zhang Tie entered a metal tunnel, both sides of which were carved with various rough reliefs. There were blue fluorite lamps in the tunnel, creating a pretty good atmosphere. Zhang Tie could hear the melodious piano tune in the tunnel from the bar. The ornaments below the crystal floor of the tunnel were earth-elements crystals...

This tunnel was luxurious enough even for knights.

The moment he exited the metal tunnel, Zhang Tie's sight had been expanded. He caught sight of a woman, whose black hair was covering her shoulders, playing a melodious piano tune on a music stool...

At the sight of the woman, Zhang Tie had felt getting an electric shock; he almost forgot how to walk...

The woman raised her head and threw a glance at Zhang Tie. The pair of eyes were like black gemstones. How familiar and unforgettable they were...

...

Being late at a heavily rainy night in the common bus station in Blackhot City...

The girl was watching him while her face was covered with tears...

"...when I grow as beautiful as Miss Daina, if you're still alive, will I marry you on behalf of her?"

The boy burst out into tears...

...

In a split second, Zhang Tie felt like returning to the past while that girl's words rang in his ears...

After so many years, the girl had been even more beautiful than Miss Daina...

Although Pandora had changed her look, Zhang Tie could still recognize her. The boy had changed his look too; however, he could never be recognized by Pandora.

'Why is she here?'

In a split second, numerous whims flashed by Zhang Tie's mind.

...

"Young brother Cui Li, here..." Gong Ziyao stood up from a cassette at 9 am direction and waved his hand towards Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie revealed a smile and waved his hand towards Gong Ziyao before striding towards Pandora...

Pandora wore a black longuette. Therefore, Zhang Tie didn't know whether she was working here or having a rest. However, each of the two identities was out of Zhang Tie's imagination.

Right under the gaze of Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan, Zhang Tie stopped in front of Pandora who was playing a piano tune and glanced at her right hand.

He caught sight of the very black seal ring on her fair, plump, smooth and slim fourth finger of her right hand.

"Young sister, do you have a boyfriend?" Zhang Tie watched Pandora with his glittering eyes while asking her in a hoarse voice.

With a sound of "Huala", before Pandora replied, 8-9 knights had sprung up while staring at Zhang Tie with malicious eyes...

The greater part of the 8-9 knights were Hua knights while the rest two were Hebrew knights.

...

"Audacious..."

"How dare you be so rude to Miss Pandora?"

"Does this guy treat us as farts?"

...

Along with the furious reprimands, two Hua knights were just gazing at Zhang Tie silently with sharp killing qis.

Pandora stopped playing her piano as she faintly raised her head and threw a glance at Zhang Tie. Closely after that, she asked, "Who're you?"

"Cui Li, from Yongzhou Province!"

"I've already got a boyfriend!"

"When I caught sight of you, I fell in love with you immediately. Pitifully, I'm one step later!" Zhang Tie shrugged while he threw another glance at Pandora. After that, he directly walked toward Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan.

Watching Zhang Tie leaving so fast, the other knights who had just sprung up sat down...

Chapter 918: Familiar Strangers

"Elder brothers, who's that woman?" Zhang Tie asked straightforwardly after coming to the side of Gong Ziyao and Zhou Sufan.

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan exchanged a glance with each other. After staying with Zhang Tie a couple of days, they both knew that Zhang Tie was straightforward; however, they had not imagined that he

could be so unconstrained. How could he directly ask a girl if she had a boyfriend the moment he caught sight of her? It was their first time to see such a person.

Zhou Sufan forced a bitter smile, "Younger brother, take a seat first!"

Although Zhang Tie sat down, he was still gazing at Zhou Shufan.

After Zhang Tie's interruption, Pandora didn't feel like playing the piano anymore. She stopped and directly walked out of the bar, closely followed by the two silent Hua knights. The other knights just watched Pandora leaving with reluctant looks. Two more guys were throwing furious glances at Zhang Tie as if they were complaining that Zhang Tie had disturbed their good moods.

"This woman has been in the Lion Fortress for over 1 year. She's the princess of the Demon Killing Valley, the granddaughter of the head of the Demon Killing Valley, she's called Pandora!"

Zhou Shufan told Zhang Tie about Pandora's background in a secret manner.

After hearing this message, Zhang Tie widely opened his mouth with an amazed look.

The princess of Sacred Golden Orchid Empire, the daughter of Haiger VII the weird emperor, the granddaughter of the head of Demon Killing Valley. All these identities puzzled Zhang Tie.

'With an evident, foreign look, Pandora had the bloodline of Hebrews, how could she be the granddaughter of the head of the Demon Killing Valley?'

When Zhang Tie thought about it, he asked this question in a secret manner, "Elder brother Zhou, this woman has a foreign bloodline, how could she be the granddaughter of the head of Demon Killing Valley? Does the head of the Demon Killing Valley also have a foreign bloodline?"

"How could a leader of one of the top 7 sects in Taixia Country carry a foreign bloodline? It's told that Pandora was the daughter of a young daughter of Wu Dingtian the head of Demon Killing Valley and an emperor of a subcontinent who traversed across Taixia Country many years ago. She had been living in a remote place away from Taixia Country. After the holy war broke out, she returned to Taixia Country. As one of the top 7 sects in Taixia Country, the Demon Killing Valley is very powerful and has a lot of secrets!"

"What's this woman doing in the Lion Fortress? I couldn't find a knight's qi from her. She should not be a knight. What does the head of Demon Killing Valley mean by dropping her granddaughter in the Lion Fortress?"

"Younger brother, you're wrong this time!" Gong Ziyao replied Zhang Tie in a secret way, "Pandora is very famous in the Lion Fortress. I was told that she had awakened two top heavenly-rank bloodlines, the dark body and the bad luck curse. With the dark body, she could completely hide her qi. No matter how powerful she is, she just looks like a commoner; as for the bad luck curse, all those who are against her will be in great troubles. The two bloodlines are exclusive top bloodlines of the Wu Clan in Taixia Country. With the secret battle skills of Demon Killing Valley, this woman has killed more than 5 demon knights in the past one year."

After hearing Gong Ziyao's introduction, Zhang Tie was greatly shocked. He couldn't help recalling how Pandora was pushed aside by the other girls in the Wild Wolf Valley. 'As all the other girls said that they

would have a bad luck when they stay with Pandora, Pandora was always lonely in the Wild Wolf Castle. She had no friend at all. Is this caused by the strength of her bloodline? After encountering Pandora a few times, I also suffered from some dangers. Pandora felt very sorry for that. Perhaps, Pandora had already realized that she had awakened some special bloodline at that time. Therefore, she became increasingly lonely and sensitive...'

Additionally, Zhang Tie knew that many major families, even common families in Taixia Country forbade their Hua girls to marry foreign people; otherwise, it was always regarded as a humiliation. When he recalled that Pandora, as the princess of Sacred Golden Orchid Empire, had to dwell in Blackhot City instead of returning to Taixia Country, Zhang Tie doubted that this might be because that her mother was a daughter of the head of Demon Killing Valley. Due to some unknown reason or the stress from Demon Killing Valley, the emperor Haiger VII who dreamed to build a powerful mechanical troop in the black iron age had to take Pandora away from the imperial palace and hide her in a secret place.

Zhang Tie remembered that Pandora had never mentioned about her mother.

It was completely out of Zhang Tie's imagination that Pandora could be a knight. 'However, given the terrifying resources and powerful backgrounds of the top 7 sects in Taixia Country and the fact that Pandora had awakened her powerful heavenly-rank bloodlines, it was not difficult for Wu Dingtian the head of the Demon Killing Valley to help Pandora promote to a knight in a few years. Even I could promote to a knight, not to mention a princess of one of the top 7 sects in Taixia Country, whose identity is much nobler than the princess of Sacred Golden Orchid Empire. Additionally, I was told that the top 7 sects in Taixia Country had private towers of time, which were an extremely scarce resource. Of course, they could produce knights very fast...'

Zhang Tie thought through many things at once.

However, although Zhang Tie could not get her for the time being, he had been satisfied too much after knowing that Pandora lived pretty well with such a powerful background. After the demonized puppets disaster on subcontinents and witnessing hundreds of millions of people dying miserably, Zhang Tie just hoped Pandora to survive herself for a very long time until the moment just now.

Therefore, after knowing that Pandora was still alive, Zhang Tie became reassured.

Seeing that Pandora was still wearing the finger ring that he had gifted her, Zhang Tie became reassured and pretty moved. However, neither he nor Pandora could be as capricious as before.

Being once young and frivolous and having made an unalterable oath of marriage and always being moved by each other, Zhang Tie wondered how important he still was in Pandora's heart.

Due to the growth, changing environment, time and space and status, the innocence might have gradually faded away.

Given his current situation——being wanted by the Supreme Court in Taixia Country and being hunted by the official and mysterious powers of Taixia Country at the same time, Zhang Tie felt like being an alchemist's bomb which was going to explode at any time; therefore, he dared not expose his original look to Pandora in case of unpredictable troubles and dangers to the latter.

At this moment, he could only hold back even though he had too many words to say.

The previous performance of Zhang Tie was not out of his whim or impulsion. It was a decision that Zhang Tie made in a split second after consideration. With this start, if he was close to Pandora again, or protected her or made good overtures to her, it would be regarded as a normal deed of a man who wanted to court Pandora.

Zhang Tie loved Pandora. Many times, one cared about and loved another in his own pattern.

As a princess of Demon Killing Valley, Pandora could easily gain a lot of suitors in the Lion Fortress due to her power, background, even the distinctive look. What happened just now was nothing strange to Pandora at all. As all the knights were very confident, not only Zhang Tie who was straightforward in the Lion Fortress.

Of course, Pandora didn't know that the suitor was Zhang Tie.

However, Zhang Tie knew that she was Pandora...

Although they had met each other, they could not recover their former ties.

Zhang Tie didn't withdraw his full attention from Pandora until her footsteps completely disappeared.

After departing for so many years, Zhang Tie suddenly re-encountered Pandora and departed with her in such a calm manner just like strangers.

Although Zhang Tie became spirited, his mind was still filled with the look of Pandora and the warm moments between them...

——Am I still your beloved one?

Zhang Tie asked inside, although he didn't expect that Pandora could hear it.

Pandora who had come to the outside of the Iron-blood Tower slowly stopped her footsteps while she faintly frowned her beautiful eyebrows. She suddenly felt melancholy like having missed something precious the moment she left the Iron-blood Tower. At the same time, her heart raced for a second...

Right then, a lightning bolt flashed across the skyline, closely followed by a rumbling...

Pandora looked up and watched the rain curtain above the Lion Fortress——

After a long while...

"Am I still your beloved one?" Pandora muttered while her eyes became blurred.

That night, the rain was as heavy as this, however, that person was not on her side anymore. She was concerned about him so much.

"Miss..." One of the two knights who followed her walked forward and asked her what happened...

Closing her eyes for a few seconds, Pandora opened her eyes which had turned distant and decisive, "Let's go to the first abyss..."

After 10 more minutes, three lights rushed out of the gate of the Lion Fortress and disappeared in the heavy rain...

...

After being apart for so many years, Zhang Tie suddenly re-encountered Pandora and departed with her in such a calm manner just like strangers.

Chapter 919: Alluring Secret Items

After Pandora left...

Some more knights entered the Iron-blood Tower Bar. It was still boisterous over there; especially when some female knights entered the bar, they made the surrounding men restless at once. As a result, men queued up to invite those girls for a drink...

After throwing a glance at those female knights, Zhang Tie withdrew his eye lights.

The liquor in the bar was brewed by watermelons. It tasted like beer. Although it tasted a bit bitter and strange, this liquor would still cost one consumption point a cup.

Zhang Tie's mood was like the watermelon liquor in his hand. Watching Pandora leaving, Zhang Tie also felt a bit bitter. Besides, he felt a bit enraged inside...

However, he could only bury these feelings deep inside.

The surrounding knights were drinking and chatting. As for those usual contents, they directly talked with each other; however, even the usual contents were major events for commoners.

Some foreign knights being not far away from Zhang Tie were chatting that someone was going to be a No. 1 knight of a country in a subcontinent in a usual tone while the other knights at a farther table were discussing the advantages and disadvantages to be a corps leader at this moment.

In front of commoners, the topics such as becoming a No. 1 knight or a corps leader were all major events that could influence numerous people's fates. However, in Iron-blood Tower of the Lion Fortress, these contents were casually discussed and determined by knights.

This was the knights' world!

Zhang Tie sighed with emotions. Looking around these people, Zhang Tie knew that if a knight became famous in the Earth-elements Realm or in the Lion Fortress, he or she would have a great influence and reputation in the entire human world. If these knights could survive here, when they exited the Earth-elements Realm, they would be No. 1 in a region. They were on the top of the pyramid of human rights. If someone could become outstanding among these human knights, he or she would leave a brand in the top circle of humans. In the future, he or she would have an inestimable influence for sure.

Now that Pandora became famous in the Lion Fortress within such a short period, she must have a very powerful battle strength.

What happened just now was just a small episode for Gong Ziyao and Zhou Sufan. They didn't care about that at all. Actually, they had something to negotiate with Zhang Tie.

After having some cups of watermelon liquor and chatting, Gong Ziyao exchanged a glance with Zhou Shufan. Gong Ziyao then opened his mouth once again.

"Young brother, have you heard about silver secret items?"

Gong Ziyao asked in a secret way. Therefore, nobody else could hear that except for Zhang Tie.

"Yup, it's said that silver secret items are very marvelous. When in need, they could come out of nowhere after extracting four elements from the elements realm. They're very powerful!" Zhang Tie replied in a secret way too.

As for knights, only silver secret items that came from the underground world could be the exclusive equipment of knights. After promoting to knights, being affected by the black iron effect, most of the equipment for knights produced by rune equipment masters and alchemists were actually dispensable. It was not determined by someone, but by the difference between civilizations and levels in the long river course of history. Some civilizations had been on the peak while some civilizations were still in the valley and remained unchanged.

"As young brother has just been here, I wonder whether you have gotten your exclusive silver secret item yet?"

"Elder brother Gong, you must be kidding. I'm new here, how could I have any silver secret item?" Zhang Tie replied with a smile.

Zhang Tie indeed got a silver secret item from the demon general. As he had not made it legitimate, Zhang Tie wouldn't expose it easily.

"To tell you the truth, brother Zhou and I have got a chance to gain silver secret items in the first abyss, therefore we came back to make some preparations for that. As we both like you and admire your battle strength very much, after negotiating with each other, we want to know whether young brother Cui would like to have a try with us and get a silver secret item for yourself so that you could have a self-protection in case of greater dangers in the future!"

Zhang Tie straightened up and put down his glass.

Gong Ziyao looked very solemn. It didn't look like a joke.

How could Zhang Tie refuse the chance to have a silver secret item aboveboard?

"Are you sure we can have some?"

"Not sure. Silver secret items are precious wherever they are. Anyone who got it would not like to expose it to the public; additionally, the more the better. However, as we've been staying in the Lion Fortress for a long time, we're well-informed. Additionally, we've met some friends. This time, we've got a chance to gain silver secret items. If young brother could join us, even if there's any danger, we three could form a 3-in-1 matrix and have a greater chance to survive ourselves."

"Are we going to the first abyss?"

"Yes, not only three of us. A team of knights in Lion Fortress would go there under the leadership of an earth knight. Those who will go there tonight would meet in the Iron-blood Tower! If young brother has determined to join us, we can go and meet the other knights after a while."

"Right in the Iron-blood Tower?"

"Yup, in a private room above us at 9 pm!"

Only after considering it for half a second, Zhang Tie had nodded and made his decision, "Sure, thanks to your appreciation, I will have a try with two elder brothers this time regardless of a mountain of swords and a sea of flames!"

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan burst out into laughter at the same time.

"That's our friend, hahaha..."

...

After Zhang Tie fixed the plan with Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan, the group of three waited for the rest of the team while drinking and chatting in the bar. Only after a short while, some knights came to the lobby of the bar. After throwing a glance inside, one of them caught sight of Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan. He then pointed upstairs before going there from the staircase on one side.

Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan then exchanged a glance with Zhang Tie at the same time. The group of three then left their cassettes and went upstairs after the rest of the team...

Chapter 920: Mountain Lifting Hermit

The private room upstairs was more brilliant. Covering over 300 square meters, it was as resplendent and magnificent as an imperial palace.

Soon after Zhang Tie, Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan arrived here, the other knights constantly entered this private room.

It was a secret party for some knights in the Lion Fortress. Therefore, they all arrived here on time. After entering the private room, they exchanged a glance with each other and nodded at each other before taking a seat quietly.

Before 9 pm, 11 knights had arrived in the private room. They were in 4 groups, three groups were composed of 3 knights respectively while the rest two Hua knights were a couple given their genial looks and behaviors. One group was composed of three foreigners—a black tough man, a white tough man and a blonde woman.

The 4 groups of knights were destructive to a city or a nation in any subcontinent.

All the knights here had strong qis. They were at least more capable and vigorous than common black iron knights. Many of them had a bloody sense of oppression.

Many knights here threw a glance at Zhang Tie in spite of themselves because of Zhang Tie's sturdy figure and height and dowdy look.

Compared to the other knights, Zhang Tie was completely like a migrant worker from a slum as he only wore a set of common battle uniforms without any special weapon. However, the other knights' helmets, armors or portable weapons were all senior commodities which had broken the black iron effect. Given their looks, Zhang Tie knew that they were all elaborate works which were worth millions of gold coins. Even the Hua couple in white and golden boa silk robes with white-sheath longswords at their waists looked like an immortal couple.

All the knights arrived at this private room a few minutes earlier than the regulation. After that, they just waited here and communicated with each other in a secret way.

A black tough guy constantly threw a glance at Zhang Tie. As his figure and height were outstanding among all the knights at present, he had not imagined that Zhang Tie was taller than him; additionally, Zhang Tie's muscles were as firm as steel which revealed an explosive strength faintly.

Watching the black tough man glancing at him, Zhang Tie grinned towards him.

This black tough man reminded Zhang Tie of Bagdad. Such a knight was definitely the idol of Bagdad.

At 9 pm, the door of the private room was pushed open from outside while a man entered.

Watching this man entering the room, all the knights who were sitting in the private room stood up at once so as to greet him.

Zhang Tie stood up together with Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan too; meanwhile, he glanced at the man out of curiosity.

That was an old man at his 60s. He was not tall and was even a bit thin. Besides two strands of silver hair near his temples, his hair looked pretty smooth and tidy. With bulgy nose and forehead and slim legs, his eyes glittered.

Given the sense of oppression which was overwhelming to black iron knights at present, Zhang Tie knew that this guy must be an earth knight. Given the other knights' response to him, Zhang Tie knew that this guy must be extremely dignified among these people.

"Mountain Lifting Hermit..." They all greeted him.

Mountain Lifting Hermit was the official name of this earth knight, which also represented his background in Taixia Country. Given his official name, he didn't serve the imperial palace or any major clan in Taixia Country. Otherwise, they would add Lord plus official positions such as General, Provincial Governor ahead of Mountain Lifting. However, if this guy originated from a major clan, he would be called Elder or Clan Head Mountain Lifting. The official name Mountain Lifting Hermit indicated that he was a lonely knight who used to cultivate himself or a member of a sect in Taixia Country.

Zhang Tie's current identity was also a lonely knight.

Mountain Lifting Hermit nodded as he threw a glance over the knights at present before saying, "Please take a seat!"

After the Mountain Lifting Hermit issued an order, he walked to a long table in the private room and sat on the main seat. At the sight of this, the other knights in the corners and sofas of the private room also came to the long table and sat down.

As the table was longer than 10 m, it was available for over 20 people, not to mention the 12 knights in total.

Zhang Tie walked over there with Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan and sat inferior to them, also the end of the left side of Mountain Lifting Hermit. As Zhang Tie was tall and sturdy, he sat there with ease. On his opposite were the three foreign knights.

It felt like a mini-conference among knights. If being led by a black iron knight, this team was already destructive in Waii Subcontinent, not to mention that it was led by an earth knight.

Zhang Tie sighed with emotions inside, 'Lion Fortress is really a capital city of knights.'

It seemed that all the knights at present had known about Mountain Lifting Hermit; however, they were strange to each other. Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan were just a bit familiar with that knight who greeted them in the lobby of the bar just now. They had heard about the others at most. Take the immortal couple as an instance, Gong Ziyao and Zhou Shufan heard that couple came from Huizhou Province, Taixia Country, who excelled at the combined strike. They had killed some demon knights in the Lion Fortress.

"Now that you came here, you must have known our purpose. I will put it simply. Our destination is a pre-historical relic in the first abyss. Due to the hurricane in the abyss, that pre-historical relic was accessible every 3 years. Last time, someone found the Mountain of Weapons in the pre-historical relic and gained a lot of silver secret items from there. Someone even gained nanobeads and space-teleportation equipment from there. My first target is nanobead and space-teleportation equipment!" The Mountain Lifting Hermit said in a muffled voice.

The moment the other black iron knights heard "Mountain of Weapons", they were in uproar at once.

"If so, Mountain Lifting Hermit, why do you summon us to go there? Based on your battle strength and skills, you could easily gain nanobead and space-teleportation equipment over there alone." The male of the couple on the right hand of Mountain Lifting Hermit posed his question. As knights, they all had their own concerns and benefits, especially in such an action. Even though Mountain Lifting Hermit was an earth knight, he was on equal footing with the other black iron knights on rights. He had no right to order the other black iron knights to do anything.

"That pre-historical relic is in a space like a Shangrila. It's a hieron. According to the knights who entered the pre-historical relics for the first time, some powerful battle puppets were safeguarding the pre-historical hieron inside. It would take a long time for one person to repel those battle puppets. Before the hurricane in the abyss sealed the pre-historical relic once again, I alone might not have a chance to gain any silver secret item or other space-teleportation equipment. Therefore, if we go there in a team, we could share the stress and benefits together. It's a win-win situation!"

"You mean we might encounter enemies in the pre-historic relic?" Zhou Shufan asked after thinking for a second.

"Yes!" Mountain Lifting Hermit nodded immediately, "Additionally, the pre-historical relic is in a very deep place of the first abyss, which is crisscrossed with the frequent forces of the demons. We probably need to fight demons there. Even though we could enter the pre-historical relic, we might face

competitions from other knights from the Lion Fortress. Therefore, it's a very dangerous action; plus, we cannot ensure that everyone at present could gain a silver secret item!"

"How do we allocate the booties?" The white knight on the opposite of Zhang Tie asked.

"Before entering the pre-historical relic, the booties and meritorious points that you gain from killing demon knights belong to yourselves. After entering the pre-historical relics, we will join hands to break the battle puppets in the hieron. The first space-teleportation equipment that our team gains belong to me, nanobead or others. If there's no space-teleportation equipment, the first silver secret item that our team gains belong to me. I enjoy the right of selecting one item at first. As for the rest, it depends. I don't need anything else from you!"

Mountain Lifting Hermit revealed his plan of allocation in an arrogant look yet fair way. As an earth knight with greater battle strength, the convener and the leader of this action, of course, he enjoyed a greater right of distribution.

After thinking for a second, everybody else nodded.

"As this action is very dangerous, I hope everybody at present is a powerhouse who has at least killed one demon knight." Mountain Lifting Hermit said as he focused on Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie was a newbie in the Lion Fortress. Therefore, few people knew him here; plus his dowdy look, no wonder Mountain Lifting Hermit paid more attention to him.

Hearing Mountain Lifting Hermit's suggestion, all the other knights moved their eyes onto Zhang Tie.

"Although young elder Cui Li has been in the Lion Fortress for less than 1 month, he has just killed an ox-head demon knight a few days ago!" Zhou Shufan said calmly.

All the others gleamed their eyes before moving their eyes away from Zhang Tie...

Mountain Lifting Hermit then moved his eyes away from all the other knights one after another before saying with absolute certainty, "Now that we've made a decision, we will set off at 9 pm tomorrow..."