

Oh My God 631

Chapter 631: Arena in the Other World

When A'Ji said that, he suddenly flashed the ghost of a smile at Meng Chao and Lu Siya. "Now you know the secret of the X-shaped eye, you'll also be dragged into the fight between the cursed ones of the ancient ruins. I believe that if the other X-shaped eye owners want to kill me, they will definitely not spare you two either.

"In the beginning, I didn't want to say anything, but you're the ones who forced me. Now, do you regret hearing this secret?"

"Regret?" Meng Chao smiled.

It was impossible for him to feel regret.

From the moment he returned to the past and remembered his sister's status as the Dark Witch as well as saw the X-shaped eye on the back of his sister's hand, he had been dragged into this terrifying competition.

For the time being, Meng Chao could not be certain just how Bai Jiacao got the X-shaped eye on the back of her hand.

If she joined some mysterious organization just like Meng Chao did a long time after their mother died in his previous life because of her personality change and went into the ancient ruins to become a cursed one, he could still stop her.

But this possibility was not high.

If Bai Jiacao was just a helpless, normal girl, there was no way the mysterious organization would choose her and let her awaken to Night Demon Blood.

The mysterious notebook that his mother did not remember, the great strength Bai Jiacao had from the moment she joined high school, the fact that she was learning all sorts of martial arts faster than Meng Chao in the past, the fact that she was able to kill a few Demonic Halberd Pigs and Iron Armored Rhinoceroses with just a dagger alone, and the other signs showed that the ancient power represented by the X-shaped eye has been lurking in Bai Jiacao for a long time.

This meant that no matter what, Bai Jiacao could not run away from the battle between the cursed ones.

As her brother, Meng Chao definitely had to understand all the information related to the X-shaped eye to protect his sister.

There was one more thing. Meng Chao could vaguely remember that the X-shaped eye did not belong to Earthlings alone. There were plenty of other intelligent life forms in the Other World who had similar tattoos.

However, the lingua franca of the Other World did not refer to the X-shaped eye as a curse, but a bloodline.

Bai Jiacao awakened to the Night Demon Blood and became the Dark Witch. This was the title the Other World races used to refer to her.

'That's interesting. The transmigrators from Earth who came into contact with the ancient ruins under Dragon City are not the only ones who will be branded by the X-shaped eye and become the heirs, examinees, and cursed ones of the ancient power.

'The strange intelligent life forms who are not of the same ecosystem might awaken to all sorts of bloodlines as well and gain the X-shaped eye. This includes the elves, who can live up to one thousand years old; the demons who are born from magma, are beings who are partially made of energy, have powerful magic, but can only live for a few days; the dragonfolk who can create powerful resonances with the planet's magnetic field and summon all sorts of divine powers; and the bloodfolk, who rely on eating other races to prolong their own lives.

'Also, based on my fragmented memories, the X-shaped eye owners who live in the Other World are all wary and hostile toward each other regardless of their race and regardless of how much their civilization has developed. When they have the chance, they always attack each other.

'The final war that swept through all of the Other World, dragged all the races into it, and ultimately destroyed Dragon City seems to have been started because of the conflict between the X-shaped eye owners.

'Just what is the truth behind the ancient ruins and the X-shaped eye? What exactly is the Other World?

'Could it be as A'Ji said? This is an ultimate Gu rearing project? Some powerful and mysterious ancient power summoned carbon-based intelligent life forms that originally lived in different planets and ecosystems into this arena known as the Other World to enter a competition, so the final victor could inherit the ancient civilization?'

As A'Ji continued explaining things and Meng Chao's own body continued becoming stronger because of the nourishment provided by Hell's Blood, his brain burned. He felt as if countless cells were cracking, and an information torrent that was as hot and dense as magma gushed out.

Right then, Meng Chao's brain was already so strong that he could accept more truths.

These truths were like a magnificent panoramic scene that was slowly displayed in front of his eyes, causing him to gain a deeper understanding of the Other World War that destroyed Dragon City in his previous life.

Of course, in his previous life, up to the point of his death, he was just a foot soldier who could only serve as a vanguard and charge forward. The "truth" that he could discover was just the tip of the iceberg, and in fact, he was practically groping around an elephant blindly.

There were plenty of other secrets that were scattered over the vast Other World like pearls, waiting for him to discover them and string them together after he returned to the past and became much stronger.

Meng Chao was satisfied with A'Ji's explanation.

But he felt regretful that he dragged Lu Siya into this. No one besides him knew just how terrifying the X-shaped eye owners were. After all, his sister was the Dark Witch Bai Jiacao. He should not have rashly dragged Lu Siya into this war.

But to his surprise, when he turned his head around to look at Lu Siya, he saw that her face was filled with great interest, and it looked like she wanted the world to burn.

“X-shaped eye? Cursed ones? Inherit the entire ancient civilization’s legacy? Interesting. How interesting!” Lu Siya narrowed her eyes, and her gaze turned as sharp as a razor while she observed the tattoo on A’Ji’s chest. “Do you really not know how to obtain or transfer this curse?”

“Big Sis Ya, what’s the meaning of this?”

Meng Chao found himself speechless. Judging by what Lu Siya said, there was a high possibility that she wanted A’Ji to transfer his curse to her.

“Meng Chao, don’t you think that it’d be very exciting if you could join this Gu rearing fight as an X-shaped eye owner?” Lu Siya mumbled. “By the looks of it, once the Monster War comes to an end, we should really think of a way to go to the ruins research center and explore the secrets under the Supernatural Tower...”

“Ah, I heard that you have a pretty good relationship with the ruins research center’s controllable transmigration technology research team, right?”

“Um...” Meng Chao was now absolutely flabbergasted, and he decided to stop worrying about Lu Siya.

He should have known. Even if everyone had been meticulously creating an image of an amiable model superhuman for Lu Siya and even though she appeared to be friendly and close to people, the Queen Bee’s heart never changed.

She was still as dangerous as the first time Meng Chao met her.

“Speaking of which, did Saber Jin Wanhao and Battle God Lei Zongchao split up because they’re both X-shaped eye owners and were wary of each other?”

Lu Siya squatted down in front of A’Ji. “Over the past few decades, the Battle God and Underground Emperor have stayed out of each other’s way and never contacted each other. If you didn’t tell me this covered-up part of our history, I really wouldn’t have known that the two powerful fighters who shocked Dragon City were once good friends who worked together to explore the ancient ruins!”

A’Ji avoided Lu Siya’s gaze and snorted. “In the beginning, Jin Wanhao and Lei Zongchao were indeed friends, but they didn’t split up because of the X-shaped eye. After all, they had risked their lives together in the ancient ruins and loved the same person. They wouldn’t be so stupid as to kill each other. They gradually drifted apart because their ideals were not the same.”

Lu Siya’s eyes sparkled. “What ideals?”

“After Blood Alliance collapsed, the anti-Blood Alliance group naturally took their place. They took over the headquarters and research base Blood Alliance built above the ancient ruins, along with the astronomical amount of resources Blood Alliance left behind,” A’Ji explained.

“Since the common enemy was no longer around, the anti-Blood Alliance also split up into dozens of medium-sized and small gangs. They occupied their own territories and did their own thing. However, all of them coveted the ancient ruins. They looked to research and inherit the ancient power, just like Blood Alliance.

“Of course, with Blood Alliance as a precedent, these gangs wouldn’t dare to wantonly use force and fear to rule over the people. That method was too simple and crude.

“Besides, during the war against Blood Alliance, a lot of weapons and martial arts were given to the people. Many of the citizens also awakened to supernatural abilities. Even if they didn’t, due to the stimulation of the zombie virus, plenty of citizens possessed physical constitutions akin to those Olympic athletes and special force soldiers on Earth.

“If ten armed Olympic champions carried with them light or heavy weapons like heavy machine guns and rocket launchers, they could threaten the life of a low-grade superhuman.

“This terrifying balancing power made the gangs give up on Blood Alliance’s ruling style. They switched to industrialization and legal methods. During the process, they set up societal order and the prestige of law once more. On the surface, they did what they promised and allowed all the power from the ancient ruins to return to the citizens, t rebuilt ahen new Dragon City where everyone was equal.

“Battle God Lei Zongchao was delighted with this change.

“When we were under Blood Alliance’s control and went through endless torture, he and my sister believed in this deeply.

“After every dangerous exploration or when we were tortured until our bodies were covered in wounds and wanted to die from the pain, they imagined a future filled with justice and hope, where everyone would be equal. That was their greatest motivation to continue living.

“Even when my... when Jin Wanhao’s sister was swallowed by the raging Red Dragon River, Lei Zongchao’s ideals never changed. Instead, they became firmer because his beloved died.

“Lei Zongchao once mentioned to Jin Wanhao that even though the person they loved was no longer around, he would still do everything he could to build Dragon City into the most beautiful state both of them had dreamed of before.

“That’s what he thought of, and it’s what he did.

“For decades after that, Lei Zongchao fought at the frontlines to protect Dragon City. Not only did he risk his life to fight against all sorts of zombies and monsters and went through the pain of all his bones being crushed countless times, he still stood tall.

“He even donated all his wealth and never married anyone or had children. He didn’t build his own force of power either. Instead, he selflessly taught the secrets of the martial arts he awakened to after going through endless torture and risks to all Dragon Citizens.

“And if Lei Zongchao had not worked himself to the bone mediating between multiple parties and risking everything, it would have been impossible for him to build the Survival Committee. You know

what it is, it was formed after the nine strongest forces of power in Dragon City decided to bury their hatchets after their inherited Blood Alliance's power!"

Chapter 632: We Must Save the Battle God

Dragon City managed to stomp out all the bloody chaos and rise to power during the apocalypse to become the Extraordinary Disaster famous throughout the entire planet for a period of time. Naturally, their mighty superhumans had contributed to it by fighting fiercely for this.

However, the people had mixed views about the peerless superhumans, including the creators of the nine great mega corporations.

Quite a number of citizens acknowledged their major contributions to Dragon City, but at the same time, they also... had quite some words to say about their acts of accumulating wealth through unfair means, forming their own forces of power, monopolizing businesses, living wasteful lives, and other such things.

And when these superhumans were in their primitive accumulation of wealth, they had done such horrible things that the people denounced them.

But no matter what, those who managed to become the rulers of a lawless apocalypse could not possibly be innocent rabbits.

Battle God Lei Zongchao was the sole exception.

He was the only peculiar existence that remained untainted among all the peerless superhumans. For the sake of Dragon City, he had truly become the epitome of serving the city until his death. He had not done anything bad and had no flaws in his private life. Even the most fearless tabloid reporter had a hard time trying to find dirt on Battle God Lei Zongchao.

Just like the other Dragon Citizens, Meng Chao treated Lei Zongchao as his greatest idol, and he sincerely loved and respected this legend of martial arts.

He did not expect that there would be... such a romantic and tragic story behind Lei Zongchao's act of risking his life and fighting for Dragon City so wholeheartedly.

For the sake of his dead lover, he swore that he would build Dragon City into what she once imagined. What a man of tender feelings! It was truly a soul-stirring tale!

Meng Chao could not help but say, "The Battle God's ideals are very touching. No matter what, he can be considered to not have let your... to not have let Jin Wanhao's sister down. Why did you say that his ideals differed from Jin Wanhao's, which led to them drifting apart?"

"Because he's a complete idiot. He doesn't even know that he's treated as a chess piece by the nine great mega corporations. No, with his intellect, he definitely knows. But for his stupid ideals, even when he's used as cannon fodder by others, he's still willing to do it!"

A'Ji snorted. "Lei Zongchao spent his entire life fighting for Dragon City. The monsters he killed, the achievements he made, and the injuries he suffered are something that not something even ten other peerless superhumans combined could hope to compare to, but what did he get?"

“While the creators of the nine great mega corporations focused on collecting resources, reserving their strength, gathering forces, and spreading their influence, Lei Zongchao stupidly charged to the frontlines by himself. In the end, after fighting for his entire life, he only has the empty title of a Battle God. He hasn’t reaped a single benefit from this.

“He might be the mighty Battle God, but he never built his own family and passed down his blood.

“He might be the strongest superhuman in Dragon City who selflessly taught the citizens his martial arts, but over the years, he didn’t create his own school, guild, business, force of power, or even got a disciple that could publicly acknowledge to have inherited his skills.

“He might be known as the greatest contributor behind the forming of the Survival Committee, but he isn’t the head of the committee. All he has is the title of the Eternal No. 1 Committee Member. What’s the point of having such an empty title?

“That guy is so stupid that he even donated all his wealth. In the end, he can’t even heal the injuries he sustained after fighting for his entire life. They were even worse than mine before I regained my youth. Right now, all he can do is stay curled up in a unique medical cabin in the Supernatural Tower. He can’t even leave it, because once he does, his cells will crumble, and he will end up as a lump of flesh!”

“What?!” Meng Chao was shocked.

He did not expect that the mighty Battle God, the idol and pillar of strength of countless Dragon Citizens, was in such a tragic state.

It was no wonder why he had not heard of Battle God Lei Zongchao personally making any achievements over the past few years.

And when they fought in the northern offense, he did not see Lei Zongchao anywhere from Shattered Starlake to Raging Waves. He did not see him fighting at the borders of Dragon City now either.

He turned his head to look at Lu Siya, only to find that her expression was the same as ever. Clearly, the Battle God’s illness was not a secret among the nine great cultivation families.

But when he thought about it carefully, it made sense. People like Lei Zongchao and Jin Wanhao were powerful fighters from the previous generation, the pioneers of spirit energy martial arts.

They were like the blind groping around in the darkness. They staggered around to open up a brand new path, which naturally led to them crashing into many things and becoming covered in injuries.

Plenty of their wounds were not left by zombies or monsters.

Instead, they were untreatable, hidden injuries caused by failures in creating spirit energy magnetic fields, which led to spirit energy going out of control and starting a rampage in their bodies. This then led to their spirit meridians being torn repeatedly.

After all, humans were not omnipotent. Even someone as powerful as the Battle God could not stop himself from growing old and dying.

But, wait...

A sharp pain struck Meng Chao's mind, and the memories from his previous life poured into his mind.

He clearly remembered that during the end of the Monster War in his previous life, Battle God Lei Zongchao had personally fought against the leader of the monster civilization in a battle worthy of epics. They fought until the world raged, and three days and three nights later, he died together with the leader of the monster civilization. This allowed humanity to finally take victory!

If Battle God Lei Zongchao was already so weak that his cells were going to crumble the moment he stepped out of the unique medical cabin, how did he fight in the final battle against the leader of the monster civilization?

Of course, in his previous life, Meng Chao was just a normal citizen in the Monster War. It was impossible for him to personally witness the Battle God and the monster civilization leader's final battle.

He knew that the truth might not be as it seemed.

But defeating the monster civilization's leader represented peerless glory. If Battle God Lei Zongchao had not done it, the peerless fighters from the nine great cultivation families would have had no reason to give Lei Zongchao this achievement.

Meng Chao could sense a scheme in place.

There had to be a lot of secrets behind this matter.

If Battle God Lei Zongchao had the ability to step out of the Supernatural Tower to fight against the monster civilization's leader, no matter what, Meng Chao wanted to save the old man.

It was not just because of the contributions the Battle God made for Dragon City over the past half a century, but also because when they were going to be swept into the destructive war that raged throughout the Other World, Battle God Lei Zongchao might become the person who would save Dragon City once more!

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and focused. He cast aside his questions about the Battle God for the time being and continued the previous topic. "Jin Wanhao didn't agree with Lei Zongchao's ideals?"

"Of course not. All the people in the world are corrupted. Blood Alliance definitely had inhumane bastards who committed all kinds of crimes, but the forces who toppled Blood Alliance weren't good people either."

A'Ji sneered. "When they rushed into Blood Alliance's headquarters in the name of the anti-Blood Alliance group, their eyes were sparkling, and they were drooling when they saw the martial arts and advanced technology dug out of the ancient ruins. Jin Wanhao could see unhidden desire and ambition in their eyes.

"Even if you're a hero, if you live long enough, you will see yourself become the villain. Whoever took the ancient ruins would be in control of an astronomical amount of resources and unparalleled power. They would gradually turn into the second Blood Alliance. Jin Wanhao had already gained his freedom, so there was no way he would let himself be controlled by a second Blood Alliance."

"Isn't that... a little extreme?" Meng Chao asked. "Right now, the nine great mega corporations are different from the Blood Alliance of the past, right?"

“They are indeed different. After they learned their lesson from Blood Alliance, the current mega corporations are even better at ruling and exploiting the citizens. Their actions are more secretive, and they do everything even more completely than Blood Alliance ever did.”

A’Ji snorted and stared at Lu Siya, who was next to Meng Chao. “In the past, the slogan of the anti-Blood Alliance group was ‘The ancient ruins and supernatural abilities belong to all citizens. Overturn Blood Alliance and create a new Dragon City where everyone is equal’.

“But look at the woman beside you. Right from the moment she was born, she had a luxurious, wasteful life. She could never run out of cultivation resources, and had the best teachers guiding her, along with the best cultivation machines supporting her. She never had to bother with the question of how she’s going to earn her living.

“She could lead an idle life and focus on cultivation every second of her life. This would allow her to master supernatural abilities that would grant her the ability to kill thousands of normal people with just the flick of a finger. Then, she would become a new ruler who stands above all people!

“As for you, Meng Chao, you were born in Blessed Heavenly Garden. You know how poor children live, what sort of cultivation resources they have, how low the chances of them becoming superhumans are, and how impossible it is for them to be in control of power that can fight against the mega corporations. You already have an answer to these things in your heart.

“But compared to the slums like the lair, the lifestyle of those in old residential areas like Blessed Heavenly Garden is still heaven.

“You went to Leprosy Village just now, and you personally witnessed how life is for the poor living at the very bottom of society in Dragon City. Now, what does your conscience tell you? Isn’t Leprosy Village a true, living hell? Isn’t the difference between A’Ji, the boy from Leprosy Village, and Lu Siya, the girl from a cultivation family, even greater than the difference between humans and monsters?

“Are the villagers living a life that is different under the rule of the mega corporations compared to the one under Blood Alliance’s rule? Where the hell is the new Dragon City where everyone is living equal lives?!”

“T-These problems definitely exist, but they’re temporary, there will come a day...”

Meng Chao stuttered while defending himself in the face of A’Ji’s questions, but halfway through his statement, he could not continue.

Because in his previous life, Dragon City was under the rule of the nine great mega corporations. They monopolized everything, and the Matthew effect became too great. The difference between the rich and the poor grew out of control, and the problems caused by the increasing divide of the social strata were never solved.

Even when destruction rained down on their time, that “one day” never arrived.

This was not the first time Meng Chao thought about this: perhaps this was one of the main reasons behind Dragon City’s destruction.

If he wanted to lead Dragon City to stand at the top of the Other World War, he first had to create a new Dragon City where everyone was equal!

However, understanding this was easy, but solving the problem was hard. The problem was massive, and it was not something that could be solved overnight.

Meng Chao could not help but look at Lu Siya. After all, she was one of the representatives of the outstanding people from the nine great cultivation families.

There was no anger on Lu Siya's face. Instead, she grinned and said, "Even if you're a hero, if you live long enough, you'll see yourself become the villain'? That phrase makes a lot of sense. The mega corporations are definitely not some charitable organization that doesn't look for profit and only aims to make donations. But everyone in the world is equally corrupt. Are you trying to tell me that Jin Wanhao's Golden Tooth is some sacred flower that is not corrupt?"

Chapter 633: Splitting Up

When A'ji heard Lu Siya criticizing Jin Wanhao, he was not angry. He just said, "You're right. All of the strong people who managed to stand out during the apocalyptic Dragon City are bad people, aside from a handful of crazy people like Lei Zongchao. Jin Wanhao is not a good person either. In fact, he was even more ambitious than the creators of the nine great mega corporations.

"Due to being under the control of Blood Alliance and having a hellish life, after Jin Wanhao regained his freedom, he would not allow any force of power to control his fate again.

"To him, his sister was already dead. Aside from himself and Lei Zongchao, he could depend on no one else. There was only one way for him if he did not want to be controlled by the second Blood Alliance—build a force of power that is even stronger than Blood Alliance and become the lord of Dragon City.

"If heroes who live long enough will see themselves becoming villains, why can't the villain be me?

"Just like that, Jin Wanhao built Golden Tooth.

"When Golden Tooth was just built, it still had potential to become the strongest force of power in Dragon City.

"After all, after Blood Alliance collapsed, Jin Wanhao was someone who had explored the ancient ruins dozens of times and escaped from it with his body intact. He was also modified by the advanced tech in Blood Alliance. In terms of fighting power, he was one of the few who were second only to Lei Zongchao. He was a special-grade fighter in apocalyptic Dragon City.

"During the battle against Blood Alliance, he also contributed a lot. He had sufficient achievements and connections to attract a large number of people to join his group with their own resources.

"Golden Tooth rose to power quickly on Blood Alliance's gradually rotting corpse. In just a short half a year, its fame rose to match that of forces of power who had been built years ago.

"But when a poppy gets too tall, it is cut down. Jin Wanhao's quick rise to power caused the nine forces of power, later known as the nine mega corporations, to be highly wary of him.

“Even though all of them belonged to the anti-Blood Alliance group, the nine forces of power and the research subjects were not united. The relationship between them was very delicate.

“The nine forces of power needed the research subjects to help them fight against the core Blood Alliance members, but they were constantly on guard against us, because we were people who had entered the ancient ruins countless times and withstood inhuman pain day and night. Due to this, our minds were just as twisted as those of Blood Alliance’s core members. We were all monsters in human skin.

“The nine forces of power put those people who were not interested in fame and easily deceived up on a pedestal, like what they did to Battle God Lei Zongchao. They used empty glory and ideals to force them to work like cattle and drain their energy while not getting any authority.

“While when it came to ambitious people who showed their fangs, like Jin Wanhao, the nine forces of power worked together to restrain them. They used every method at their disposal to nip Golden Tooth in the bud.

“Jin Wanhao only had peerless strength since he had spent the first half of his life risking his neck in the ruins as well as being a guinea pig on a research table. To put it bluntly, at that time, he was a brute who had vision, but no methods, courage, but no intellect. How could he then fight against those cunning creators of the mega corporations?

“At that time, zombies and monsters were a common threat for Dragon Citizens. Jin Wanhao could not turn complete enemies against the nine forces and use brute strength to decide the victor.

“When it came to winning people over, controlling public opinion, trading resources, setting each other up, and other soft warfare, Jin Wanhao had no hope in winning.

“Golden Tooth was restrained to a corner of Dragon City by the nine forces and faced a bottleneck in its development. In his agitation, Jin Wanhao remembered Lei Zongchao.

“At that time, Jin Wanhao treated Lei Zongchao as a brother he could entrust his back to. He hoped that both of them could take down the world together. He was even willing to hand over the position of Golden Tooth’s leader to Lei Zongchao.

“As long as Golden Tooth became the strongest sect in Dragon City and suppressed the nine forces to rule over Dragon City, he was fine with it. Unfortunately, Lei Zongchao firmly rejected his kind will.”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya were engrossed by the tale. At that moment, they looked at each other and blurted out at the same time, “Rejected? Why?”

“Because that idiot thought that power should be distributed evenly so they would balance each other for Dragon City to have a long period of peace,” A’Ji said. “Lei Zongchao told Jin Wanhao that there were two forces of power in Dragon City right then. One of them was simple and crude brute force, and the other was the ability to control the flow of resources and the capital to distribute them.

“If both forces were gathered into one body, it would create a monster that no one could keep in check. This monster would definitely be swallowed by endless desire and ambition. In the end, it would bring about a disaster and even destruction to Dragon City.

“Blood Alliance was destroyed because ambitious and idiotic people tried to have absolute power and all the resources.

“If Lei Zongchao and Jin Wanhao worked together and used brute force to control the flow of resources and their distribution, that would mean gaining absolute authority that no one could keep in check. Even if Golden Tooth could rule over Dragon City for a period of time, it would be no different from Blood Alliance.

“Qianxi is resting in heaven. If she finds out that the Blood Alliance she sacrificed her life to defeat was reborn as Golden Tooth in our hands, she will not be able to rest in peace.’ This is what Lei Zongchao told Jin Wanhao. By the way, Jin Qianxi is Jin Wanhao’s sister.

“That’s why Lei Zongchao refused to help Jin Wanhao fight against the nine forces.

“Not only did he refuse, he even turned against Jin Wanhao and tried to convince him to change his beliefs. He felt that even though the masters of the nine forces were not selfless and uncorrupted good people, at the very least, they were logical. They were also skilled in management, so they could bring out the greatest value from all the resources.

“Since the nine forces already controlled most of Dragon City, there was no need for Jin Wanhao to hold onto Golden Tooth to fight against them. He felt that he and Jin Wanhao were just brutes. They only needed to focus on fighting at the frontlines. There was no need for them to get involved in areas they were not familiar with and were not skilled in.

“Based on those words, it was clear that he was already brainwashed by the nine forces and hoped that Jin Wanhao would take the initiative to disband Golden Tooth.

“There was no way Jin Wanhao would agree to such an absurd request, so they naturally parted ways on bad terms.

“Even without Lei Zongchao’s help, Jin Wanhao continued doing things his own way. He fought against the nine forces, and soon, the gang was heavily injured.

“After being set up a few times, his hidden injuries from when he explored the ancient ruins also acted up, which made Jin Wanhao realize that he would never be able to reach Lei Zongchao’s state. He also came to the realization that he could not use unparalleled, absolute strength to suppress Dragon City.

“Jin Wanhao finally accepted the brutal reality. He ended up signing a contract known as the Underground Alliance with the nine forces and ordered to keep Golden Tooth’s influence strictly within the lair. He could also never step a foot outside the lair.

“Jin Wanhao had only hatred for the cunning leaders of the nine forces.

“But what angered him even more was that his best friend, Lei Zongchao, just watched from the side through the series of overt and covert fights. He ignored everything and even acted as the nine forces’ go-between to force Jin Wanhao to sign that humiliating agreement.

“Jin Wanhao felt that he was betrayed. They argued for a time, then stopped being friends. They never contacted each other again.

“Speaking of which, it’s not entirely because of the nine forces’ coercion that Jin Wanhao agreed to stay in the lair and never step out of it.

“He still had a secret weapon in his hands.

“It was a pearl that he unintentionally discovered when he explored the ancient ruins in the past.

“At first glance, the pearl looked like a pebble with an uneven surface and no shine. You’d only sense a strange, cooling sensation when you held it in your hands. You’d also hear fragmented whispers that sound just like the Ancient Ruins’ Summon.

“Jin Wanhao never bothered about it. He just wore that pearl on his body as a talisman.

“Then, during the battle against Blood Alliance, he received a hit on his chest from a Blood Alliance elite. The unstoppable force rammed into the pearl, which shattered the outer layer of the pearl. His blood seeped into the cracks, and through a series of dreams that lasted for dozens of nights, he saw information stored in the pearl.

“It was the secret about regrowing cells and regaining youth.

“This secret made Jin Wanhao ecstatic.

“He wanted to share it with Lei Zongchao, but he didn’t expect that his best friend would cast him aside like a broken tool. In his anger, he decided to go with the flow and agree to the nine forces’ Underground Alliance. He acted as if he had withdrawn from fighting, but in truth, he created the lair into his own kingdom so that he could carry out research to regain his youth without anyone’s knowledge.

“Jin Wanhao felt that there were two major reasons behind his failure.

“First, the explorations in the ancient ruins and the torture as well as research he went through in the lab during his early years left behind too many untreatable wounds. His body might seem strong, but it was a machine full of holes, weak on the inside, and about to fall apart. There was no way he could fight against others like this.

“Second, Lei Zongchao was right. He was a brute with brawns but no brains. He was not as cunning as the leaders of the nine forces. Even if they were in the Other World where everything was ruled by the law of the jungle, there were plenty of things that could only be solved with brains and not the fists.

“After a deep period of reflection, Jin Wanhao decided to retract his claws and research the secret of regaining youth while also learning how to backstab others with a smile, harbor a traitorous heart, control public opinion, and toy with people’s hearts, just like what the leaders of the nine forces had done. He changed himself from a brute to a real gang leader, politician, and even a true ruler.

“Jin Wanhao believed that as long as he was patient and spent decades to learn these tricks as well as accumulate his capital in the dark, there would come a day when he would become even more outstanding than Jin Wanhao of the past after he regained his youth. He would also become more outstanding than the old coots who created the nine mega corporations. At that time, he would naturally use a brand new appearance and method to take Dragon City and his fate into his own hands!

“To a certain extent, Jin Wanhao succeeded. He really regained his youth and gained a new life.

“Unfortunately, he didn’t expect that he would be completely mistaken about the effects of regaining youth to his brain and consciousness. As his brain cells were completely renewed, the consciousness in his old cells also went away in the blink of an eye.

“The new brain cells brought with them a brand new consciousness. And that’s a consciousness that has absolutely nothing to do with Jin Wanhao and no desire to walk down his path and take control of Dragon City. That consciousness is me, A’Ji!”

Chapter 634: Jin Qianxi

Meng Chao had been observing A’Ji quietly.

He noticed that as A’Ji told his story, his expression and demeanor changed rapidly.

At some points, he was like an experienced member of society who had ruled over his territory for decades.

At other times, he was like an ambitious person who had retracted his claws and was plotting something.

Yet at other times, he was like a warrior filled with passion and indignation.

While in the end, he turned into a mischievous boy from Leprosy Village.

His demeanor changed seamlessly, which made it look like he was switching personalities like someone suffering from multiple personality disorder.

Yes, multiple personality disorder, this was the first impression Meng Chao had as he listened to A’Ji’s story.

He would not foolishly believe everything A’Ji said about Underground Emperor Jin Wanhao’s personality having disappeared without a trace when he regained his youth.

Jin Wanhao did not die completely.

Instead, he turned into memories that were implanted in the boy’s brain like a seed. When the time was ripe, they would definitely take root and grow.

This was Meng Chao’s personal experience.

After he returned from the apocalypse, he felt that there were two personalities in his brain.

One of them was a young adult in his early twenties. He was at the prime of his life, full of passion, and occasionally a little foolish and naive.

The other was an undead, fragmented spirit who had lived through its life as a Ghost Assassin and was badly wounded by the flames of the apocalypse.

Both personalities clashed against each other. Sometimes, this caused him to display different demeanors, thoughts, and ways of doing things.

A’Ji should be going through the same thing, right?

However, this was not the time for him to wonder whether the boy in front of him was A'Ji or Jin Wanhao.

Even if he were the ambitious and devious Underground Emperor Jin Wanhao, he had never stepped over the limits of humanity. Instead, he had secretly executed almost one hundred human scum who were infamous on the bounty list.

Meng Chao believed that the families of the victims would definitely beat drums and put on banners to thank Jin Wanhao once they learned that those human scums were tortured to death by Jin Wanhao, or rather, A'Ji.

Besides, A'Ji was a nine-year-old genius martial artist who could execute Celestial Tyrant's Star Shattering Slash. He could definitely increase Dragon City's chances of victory during the Other World War.

Since all of them had a pleasant time working together in the battle within the lair, Meng Chao still hoped that he could protect and guide A'Ji so that he would sincerely serve the people and walk down the brilliant path of contributing to the civilization.

But there was a crucial thing that he had to understand.

"After you told me these things, I understand all that has happened. Let me just make a statement here. I don't think that you've committed any crime that deserves the death penalty," Meng Chao said. "But I have one final question. I want to know whether Jin Wanhao's sister is also an X-shaped eye owner."

A'Ji was silent for a while before he whispered, "Yeah."

"You mentioned just now that the X-shaped eye owners usually have stronger regenerative abilities compared to normal superhumans. The ones who are luckier even gain all sorts of strange abilities. In any case, it's easier for them to survive dangerous situations, right?"

Meng Chao pondered over what he had learned. "You also mentioned that this Ms. Jin Qianxi had even better talent than Battle God Lei Zongchao, right?"

"What exactly do you want to ask?" A'Ji became worked up.

"You know where this is going." Meng Chao sighed. "The abnormal beast research department has been researching the monster civilization for a long time, but even now, the researchers haven't figured out how the monsters built a civilization that has a strict system, clear distribution of tasks, understands human language and even our societal habits within just a few decades and without external factors helping them. After all, just recently, they were a bunch of ignorant savages of different species, which hunted each other and regarded each other as enemies.

"You must know that humans spent millions of years moving from learning how to strike stones together to make fire to building brilliant civilizations!

"Even the evidence from forensic science showed that monsters aren't products of natural evolution. Instead, they're biochemical products modified by some mysterious force. But when Dragon City just transmigrated, these monsters only had brains but no intellect. Yet they managed to traverse the entire

path of human evolution within just a few decades? That's ridiculous. We spent millions of years to reach where we are today.

"Look at the series of schemes the Vortex set up. It had a terrifying degree of knowledge of human habits. Could this be possible without a real human providing guidance to it?"

"I understand. You suspect that my... that Jin Wanhao's sister isn't dead but was sent into the wild by Red Dragon River. You also think that she became the leader of the monster civilization... That's impossible!" A'ji hissed.

"Why not?" Meng Chao asked. "You mentioned just now that she fell into Red Dragon River. You never saw her being eaten by aquatic monsters, and you never found her body.

"Lei Zongchao is the legend of martial arts in Dragon City. If an X-shaped eye owner who is even more talented than Lei Zongchao conquered a land in the wild and became the leader of the monster civilization, it wouldn't be something far-fetched, would it?"

"B-But..." A'ji's expression was one of agitation and frustration. He absolutely did not want to accept this possibility. "If Jin Qianxi became the leader of the monster civilization and turned all the ignorant and brutal monsters into smart abnormal beasts who can communicate with humans, why are they standing against us?"

"Well, I could never figure out why a human would run into the wild to partner with the monsters instead of staying in Dragon City," Meng Chao said. "But today, after I listened to your story, I suddenly realized that if I were captured by Blood Alliance, bound in shackles, had bombs implanted in me, was forced to explore mysterious ancient ruins, and even if I managed to survive through a stroke of luck, was sent into a lab to be a research subject, and then sent into the ancient ruins again to explore it where I would need to rely on luck AGAIN to survive, and then have this cycle repeat endlessly, there'd be a high chance that I would gain deep hatred for humans and believe that some humans are even more terrifying than monsters."

"Impossible!" A'ji flew into a rage. "My sister was a good person! She was someone filled with hope for humanity, just like Lei Zongchao! Even if she went through torture and was left stranded in the wild, she'd never betray humans!"

"Then, how are you going to explain the bubble messenger that appeared from the Vortex's carcass?" Meng Chao retorted calmly. "The secret of Blood Alliance, the relationship between Jin Wanhao and Jin Qianxi, and even Jin Qianxi's appearance when she was young are all stuff that outsiders would never know, much less abnormal beasts living in the wild."

This question hit A'ji where it hurt.

He blabbered incoherently before he slumped down.

"That's impossible, Qianxi, there's no way. How could you?"

His eyes were unfocused as he mumbled under his breath.

In truth, Meng Chao had more proof, which came from the memories from when the Demonic Abyss Eye's memory cells shattered as it was about to die.

Within them, Meng Chao had seen a human tied to an operating table while going through brutal experiments.

He saw the X-shaped eye emblem on the hilt of the scalpel that belonged to the researcher.

Meng Chao did not understand why the Supernatural Entities and the X-shaped eye would appear together when they were two completely unrelated things.

Now that he thought about it, those should have been Jin Qianxi's memories.

When she modified the Supernatural Entities and implanted intellect in them, she unintentionally also transferred fragments of some unbearable, but unforgettable memories.

"Alright, we have to immediately report this important information to the Survival Committee so that everyone can be on guard. Our enemy might not be an Apocalyptic Beast, but a human who is just as terrifying as Battle God Lei Zongchao!" Meng Chao said.

A'Ji's pupils swiftly shrank into two dots.

His muscles became tense, and he instinctively wanted to stop Meng Chao.

Meng Chao stared at him. Killing intent rolled off his body in waves as he said firmly, "I know that you don't want to see your sister turn into a monster that wreaks havoc in Dragon City nor anyone to hurt her after she turned into a monster.

"But this is important information that concerns Dragon City's survival. It cannot be hidden. I don't care whether she is a human, whether she is Jin Qianxi, or whether she has something troubling her that makes her worthy of pity. All I know is that in the past twenty-four hours, thousands of innocent people died horribly in the lair because of the abnormal beast's scheme. All of them are worthy of pity and being saved, just like Jin Qianxi was in the past!

"Whoever the leader of the monster civilization is, I will do my best to stop them from harming more people!"

A'Ji was intimidated by the abrupt killing intent from Apocalyptic Version Meng Chao. He calmed down and sucked in a deep breath before he said, "I-I get it. I told you before that I'm A'Ji, not Jin Wanhao. Jin Wanhao's sister has nothing to do with me.

"Besides, that might not be the real Jin Qianxi. Half a century has passed since then. Even if Jin Qianxi is still alive, how could she still be as pretty as when she was young?"

"I won't stop you from sharing this information.

"But Big Brother Chao, could you help me? Think of a lie to remove me from this situation. Don't let anyone know about me, please?"

"Why?" Meng Chao asked. "If you give your testimony to the Survival Committee and tell them everything that happened in the past, it'll be a great help for us in our fight against the monster civilization.

“Are you worried about the things in the secret lab being exposed? If what you said is true and all the people who died here are heinous, wanted criminals, I believe that the Survival Committee will treat it as a special case and handle it with special methods.”

“The wanted criminals aren’t a problem. The biggest problem is me. Are you telling me that after I wasted so much breath telling you my story, I haven’t become the greatest and most valuable research subject in Dragon City once more?” A’Ji asked with a glum face.

“I’m a life science miracle that regained his youth! Once word of this spills out, and there’re going to be countless people trying to cut me into pieces to figure out the secret of how I regained my youth!”

Chapter 635: Effects of Regaining Youth

Meng Chao wanted to tell that Dragon City was a society ruled by law and no one would dare to cut him up in broad daylight.

But when he remembered what his sister went through in his previous life and the brutal training he went through in Ghost Tribe’s training camp, he realized that Dragon City was just too big. There were plenty of dark places where hope did not visit, and many people were willing to trample on all laws, morals, and rules to survive in the mysterious Other World and declare themselves king or queen.

“It’s true!” A’Ji thought that he did not believe in him, so he defended himself hurriedly. “You don’t find regaining youth attractive because you’re currently at the best period of your life. You’re at the golden age when you want to carry out your ambitions. Of course you wouldn’t want to become a brat who runs around with snot all over his face!

“But what about the powerful people who are currently old and dying? Take the nine bastards who are in control of the nine mega corporations. To them, the temptation of living their lives again is stronger than anything else. They would do anything it takes to gain the secret of regaining their youth. They would even cast aside their families, businesses, and Dragon City!”

“Then tell me that secret!” Meng Chao said. “I find what they said about the ancient ruins and supernatural powers belonging to all humans very reasonable. Since this is a secret from the ancient ruins, there’s no problem in you telling the secret and everyone trying to figure it out, right?”

“I don’t want those bastards to learn my secret! If I had to tell someone, I’d only tell Battle God Lei Zongchao, and the prerequisite is that he admits that he’s wrong and sincerely repents on his stupid ways!”

A’Ji mumbled before he changed his tone and said with a glum face, “No, the problem isn’t whether I’m willing to tell my secret or not. The problem is, I don’t even know the secret behind regaining my youth!

“It’s by pure coincidence that I regained my youth. I was just lucky.

“Jin Wanhao might have obtained part of the theory on how to regain his youth from the ancient ruins, but with Earthlings’ current technological standards, he couldn’t replicate what he saw and create the drug to regain his youth.

“Even after he spent a lot of effort in creating this secret lab and gathering all the treasures in the world over decades and even hired Red Brows Su Lun’s mother to help him, he still didn’t manage to figure it out, and she was a top-class, genius pharmacist.

“In the end, Jin Wanhao went through spirit energy deviation. He flailed around and knocked over more than one hundred raw materials, causing them to mix together. They turned into a catalyst, but no one knows what exactly happened, so no one would be able to replicate it. That’s how he was able to regain his youth.

“You should know just how chaotic a person’s vitality magnetic field is when they enter spirit energy deviation. They just keep on creating all sorts of strange and chaotic spirit energy magnetic fields in their bodies.

“The worst is that he was going through his regular cultivation and was not conducting an experiment to regain his youth. So, Jin Wanhao did not make proper preparations and didn’t record the entire process of regaining his youth. He had no idea what materials entered his body, nor their form, density, and quality.

“After he turned into me, his brain cells were all renewed, and I forgot some details about the process and the principles regarding regaining youth!

“If you want to master the secrets of a technology, the most important thing is to verify and recreate a process. But how are you supposed to recreate this sort of process?”

That made sense.

If A’Ji was telling the truth, then his situation was similar to that of Meng Chao.

Both of them were smiled upon by Lady Luck, and what they gained was difficult to recreate.

“You must understand it now, right? There is only one key to uncovering the secret of regaining youth, and that’s me,” A’Ji said. “Even though I don’t think that catching me and cutting me up for research purposes will definitely help someone find out how to regain their youth, even if there’s just a slim chance, those bastards with all their authority will definitely do it without hesitation!

“Big Brother Chao, since I helped you capture Red Brows Su Lun and the Vortex as well as saved the lair, help me out, please. Don’t let those bastards catch me!

“D-Didn’t you say that you want to protect the order of Dragon City and don’t want the city to fall into chaos? The case of one’s cells regrowing and regaining youth is an unprecedented, technological shock that humans have never encountered since they started recording their history. Our morals, laws, societal customs, societal contracts, and the entire civilization is built on the foundation that a human’s lifespan is one hundred years.

“If the powerful people became in control of technology to regain youth, this would definitely have a severe impact on the existing knowledge that has lasted for millions of years in our civilization! It’ll cause major chaos! Think about it, Big Brother Chao, please!”

“Oh? You seem to understand the negative consequences of regaining youth.” Meng Chao looked at A’Ji coldly. “Then, why did you ignore the impacts of this technology to human civilization and research it in secret for decades underground?!”

“Well...” A’Ji said with a red face. “That’s karma left by Jin Wanhao. It has nothing to do with me. I’m just the innocent A’Ji from Leprosy Village.”

“What a good way to shirk responsibility.” Meng Chao snorted. “In any case, no matter what sort of crazy, enraging thing you did, you’ll be fine as long as you turn Jin Wanhao into your scapegoat.”

“Big Brother Chao, I really understand my mistakes now, but things are already done, and I can only grow slowly. It’s impossible for me to become Saber Jin Wanhao again in a whoosh, right?” A’Ji said.

“Thank goodness this technology hasn’t spread out yet. Aside from us, no one knows about the secret of regaining youth. As long as you pretend that this matter never happened and just think that I was rambling nonsense, it won’t have any impact on our civilization.

“F-From now on, I’ll definitely learn my lesson and swear to follow as well as respect you. I’ll imitate your fearless spirit of contributing to Dragon City. I won’t try to get any profit for myself and will just benefit the people, even if it means getting all my bones crushed.

“I-I’ll use the remaining power and wealth of Jin Wanhao to fight for our people, our home, and our civilization so that I can make up for the wrongs the Underground Emperor did in the past, alright?”

A’Ji placed his hands together and put on an innocent and sincere face.

Meng Chao would better eat his own foot than believe him.

But when he thought about it carefully, the technology of regaining youth was indeed like controllable transmigration technology. It could completely change the direction of their civilization.

Its impact on human civilization would be just as great as that of the latter.

In his previous life, Dragon City had not encountered this problem before.

It won against the monster civilization and started marching into the Other World. They encountered dwarves, elves, the bloodfolk, the dragonfolk, and other races.

Even if they did not mention their fighting abilities and the state of their civilization for the time being, the innate abilities of many of those races had indeed stirred up great interest among Earthlings, and chaos raged in the city.

Take the secret of longevity possessed by elves as an example. This secret allowed them to live for thousands of years.

Because of it, the ambitious people in their city secretly captured countless elves to research them, and it stirred up a bloody war between Earthlings and elves. It was so bad that they wouldn’t stop until one side was annihilated.

Many people who valued their own lives more than their people and home then betrayed Dragon City without hesitation and joined the enemy camp.

Plenty of those people were bastards who had a lot of power in their hands, just as A'Ji said.

Their betrayal dealt a severe blow to Dragon City and set it down the inevitable path of destruction.

Humans were once the Extraordinary Disaster infamous in the Other World, but in the end, they lost and were reduced to ashes in the flames of the apocalypse. But a huge reason behind it was not just the war.

Even at the eve of Dragon City's destruction, Earthling's steel army could sweep through everything in its path in a head-on battle. There were few races willing to fight against Earthlings' heavy armored squads.

But all sorts of unbelievable technology of the Other World challenged Earthlings' morals, laws, and limits, which sent their thoughts into chaos, and the order in the city collapsed. This was the most vital reason behind why Dragon City was destroyed.

A'Ji was right.

The sturdiest fortresses always crumbled from within.

Before the entire society went through a sufficient amount of mental preparation and prepared an adequate amount of materials for this sort of thing, he could not reveal that someone had regained his youth.

Right then, Meng Chao had not yet gained the power to control Dragon City.

Once the secret youth was revealed, there was a high chance that A'Ji would end up in the hands of the powerful old coots, and Meng Chao would not be able to control whatever would happen next.

The problem was, the strategies those old coots cooked up in his previous life led to Dragon City's destruction.

If they continued ruling over Dragon City in this life, would they be able to develop a new path that would lead to victory?

Meng Chao highly doubted it.

Perhaps it would be better for Dragon City's future if they replaced those old coots with a batch of new blood that was eager to make progress.

But...

Meng Chao cast a guilty look at Lu Siya.

She immediately understood what he meant.

"I'm fine with it. I'll listen to you, as long as you're happy with it," she said with a shrug.

Meng Chao was a little stunned. He exchanged a look with A'Ji and asked tentatively, "Um, Big Sis Ya, don't you want to present the secret of regaining youth to your grandpa? He's the creator of Sky Pillar Corporation, after all."

“Am I supposed to hand it over to him and let him regain his youth so that he can control Sky Pillar Corporation for another fifty years or even one hundred years? What good is that supposed to do to me?”

The Queen Bee literally had the word “ambition” stamped on her face. “After my grandpa finally died, my dad would still be around. If my dad also mastered the technology to regain youth, he would also control Sky Pillar Corporation from fifty to one hundred years. When it’d finally be my turn, it’d be so far into the future that it’ll be basically impossible for me anymore.

“Oh, and I’m being optimistic here and thinking that each person can only regain their youth once. What if they can regain their youth multiple times? Isn’t that the same as being immortal? That’s the same as being ruled by a group of old coots with loads of power, who are really strong and will never die. I’ll never be able to stand out and will have to forever pretend to be obedient to those bastards. Would you like living in this sort of world?”

“Um...” Meng Chao really wanted to say that there was a limit to cell splitting and regeneration. No one could do it repeatedly. Even those as strong as the elves reached the end of their lives once they were thousands of years old.

Besides, based on what he saw from the elves, it was not good for the growth of a civilization when its people could live long lives.

Despite the fact that elves could live thousands of years, they were not the masters of the Other World. Instead, they were often defeated by the races who could only live for decades or one-two hundred years. These races were filled with a sense of danger and believed that they had to seize whatever time they had to achieve their goals.

It led to the elves being defeated so badly that they could only run and hide in forests and caves.

Chapter 636: Reaping Profit

“Listen, we’re willing to keep your secret, but how are you going to thank us for it?”

Lu Siya squatted down in front of A’Ji and grinned. “It’s just as you said. Regaining youth is a miracle of life! If we don’t take a big portion of what you have, you won’t believe that we’d help you keep such a big secret, right?”

A’Ji widened his eyes and stuttered, “Y-You’ve already taken all the cultivation resources, treasures, and secret data in this lab. These things are enough to turn an amateur into an elite!

“Forget everything else, the seven Hell’s Blood that Big Brother Chao took were the most powerful super gene medicine in Dragon City. Jin Wanhao spent decades searching for the materials and creating them. And he only made seven vials. There were only seven!

“I wanted to use them to refine my new body now that I regained my youth and reach a state higher than Battle God Lei Zongchao when he was at his peak. But Big Brother Chao just drank them in such a simple and crude manner!

“O-Of course, I have no opinions about Big Brother Chao drinking Hell’s Blood. But I really have nothing else. What more do you want?”

A'Ji looked like his heart was broken and he was really sad.

"Enough with that pitiful look. It's useless." Lu Siya pursed her lips. "Didn't you say that cunning rabbits have three dens? Aside from this secret lab, what other treasures did the Underground Emperor have?"

"That's..." A'Ji's eyes roved about, and he spoke falteringly. "There is more, but the scale of the other secret garages is smaller. The facilities are simple there. They can't store valuable materials, either. 90% of Jin Wanhao's wealth is here.

"Since these treasures are yours now, why don't you just let me have those secret labs that aren't worth anything? I'm just a pitiful boy who is growing and in need of nutrition, after all."

"Don't try that." Lu Siya scoffed and exposed A'Ji's lie. "When I was searching through the secret lab, I found many signs of the shelves and cupboards being moved. The materials that should have been stored inside were gone.

"Now that I think about it carefully, this secret lab might be shut off by iron walls now, but sooner or later, it would have been opened by Golden Tooth.

"You've already decided to cut ties with the former Saber Jin Wanhao, so it's impossible for you to leave the most valuable treasures here and let the Golden Tooth members have them without paying.

"That's why, I highly suspect, no, I'm certain that over the past few months since you regained your youth, you moved a lot of the treasures that were originally stored here to other bases and storages. Only treasures like Hell's Blood and a handful of others that weren't stable and needed to be stored under strict conditions weren't moved in time. Am I right, my dear A'Ji?"

"You..." A'Ji's face turned pale, but he had nothing to say to that.

"Be good and hand over all your treasures." Lu Siya put on a gentle look that made even Meng Chao shudder. She pinched A'Ji's face gently and used the tone of a weasel meeting a chick to say gently, "Just now, we could be considered to have trusted each other with our backs when we fought against the Vortex. We were even ready to sacrifice our lives for each other.

"Besides, I admire the Underground Emperor a lot. I really treat this ruler who controlled the lair and could do whatever he wanted here as my greatest idol. In fact, I admire him more than I do Battle God Lei Zongchao!

"I won't ask for everything. Just hand over all the treasures, resources, materials, medicines, and data. We'll split them into three portions, and everyone will have 33.333%. No one will have 0.000001% more than the other. Isn't that just fair?"

"That's not fair at all!" A'Ji looked like he was about to burst into tears. "Those things belong to me! They're things that Saber Jin Wanhao got through hard work over his entire life and putting his neck on the line!"

"But you're A'Ji, not Jin Wanhao. The real Jin Wanhao is already dead. Isn't that the news that you want us to reveal to the world?" Lu Siya asked faintly. "Since Jin Wanhao is already dead, was a bachelor with no children, and accumulated these items through illegal means from gray areas, naturally, all who see them have a share in them. What's wrong with that?"

A'Ji could not retort. He held back his tongue until his face turned red, then he finally said, "You can say whatever you want, but I still won't reveal the coordinates of those secret garages and the way to open them. If you want them so much, then you might as well kill me, and we'll be done!"

"I won't kill you. Killing you won't do me any good, and I never do something that won't give me profit." Lu Siya remained calm even when she faced A'Ji and continued being shameless. "Don't worry, I won't reveal your secret. You want to enjoy pure freedom as 'they boy from Leprosy Village', right? Fine, I'm in a good mood today, so I'll fulfill your request.

"But from this moment on, I will keep an eye on you 24/7, and I won't let you have the chance to go to those secret garages and retrieve the treasures of the Underground Emperor to cultivate. Do believe in my strength and determination. You won't be able to escape from my hands."

A'Ji was stunned for a moment. "Wh-What's the meaning behind it? That's the same as you causing everyone to suffer. You won't be able to get anything."

"Looks like you still don't understand the situation, my dear A'Ji. This isn't a situation where we're all going to end up suffering."

Lu Siya continued smiling gently. She pinched A'Ji's face and said, "Meng Chao and I are fine. Even if we don't have the Underground Emperor's treasures, we'll still get a lot of cultivation resources from Sky Pillar Corporation, Superstar, Agricultural University, the abnormal beast research center, Broken Star Club, and Blue Home. We'll continue marching forward down the path of glory.

"The Underground Emperor's treasures are just a delightful surprise to us. It'll just give us more strength.

"But you're different. These treasures are ten times, no, one hundred times more important to you than to us. Without the Underground Emperor's treasure, you're just a normal boy from Leprosy Village. Right now, your arms are also heavily injured. You're about to enter puberty too, and that's the most crucial stage.

"If you miss out on properly developing your body during puberty, your nerves, flesh, bones, and spirit meridian system will take the wrong shape, and no matter how much you cultivate, it'll all be for naught. That'll be the same as your entire life being ruined. You probably will not even be able to become as mighty as Golden Tooth's gang leader. Think about it properly, aren't I just making sense?

"Of course, if you really want to just be free, then even if you accomplish nothing and just be a poor, normal person, it's fine, because you'll still be free. All that I said just now will indeed not be a threat to you."

A'Ji's expression changed drastically.

Fear and hesitation flashed in his eyes.

"Y-You're so ruthless..."

The boy wanted to cry, but could shed no tears. He cast a resentful and pleading gaze at Meng Chao.

Meng Chao placed his hands behind his back and looked skyward. He examined the cracks that were left behind on the ceiling during the battle.

He looked so focused that it was as if the secrets of the ancient ruins were contained in those cracks.

A'Ji's expression changed rapidly. He struggled in his heart for a long time before he finally cradled his arms and nodded in great pain. In a quivering voice, he said, "Alright, I-I promise. Those who see it have a share in it, and everyone gets a fair share. But you can't just take the Underground Emperor's treasure for free, right? After you take those valuable resources, you have to think of a way for me to get a brand new identity and a new cultivation room and lab so that I can recover my strength as soon as possible."

"That's easy. Since you're just a nine-year-old boy, you will indeed have a hard time trying to do plenty of things in our society. With our help, I believe that you will definitely have an easy time in your new life. This is a win-win situation!"

Lu Siya's eyes sparkled. She smiled and said, "Also, I believe that Jin Wanhao wouldn't have gathered just materials and gene medicine to live a new life when he was trying to break free of Golden Tooth. He must have kept a lot of bearer bonds and universal currency for the deep web, right? Don't you think that you should be sharing these things with us as well?"

A'Ji gritted his teeth. "S-Stop asking for a mile. You're going overboard!"

"If a child has too much cash on him and wanders around on the streets in a flashy manner, he'll end up getting killed." Lu Siya said coldly and shrugged. "It's just as I mentioned just now. You're a nine-year-old boy. Isn't it dangerous for you to spend large amounts of bearer bonds and illegal money? If you hand it over to us, we'll help you launder your money. Isn't that much safer? So, I'm actually helping you avoid getting killed. Don't go rejecting my kindness now."

She was still smiling like a considerate older sister.

But when she pinched A'Ji's cheeks, she gradually increased her strength as if she was turning her fingers into clamps.

Once again, she released the bone-chilling presence of the Queen Bee.

Meng Chao gulped.

Without saying a single word, he took half a step to the side.

"I-I understand." A'Ji was also a little terrified of Lu Siya's smile. He felt that the Queen Bee was even more terrifying than the Vortex, because she was someone who would exploit another until he had nothing left.

He was currently a lamb waiting for slaughter, and he was in so much pain that tears fell from his eyes. He could only nod. "Those who saw it have a share in the profit. I'll give you whatever you want."

"Y-You've already taken every single one of the Underground Emperor's treasure. You've plucked everything from me, so you should let me go now, right?!"

"Hmm..."

Lu Siya did not comment. She was still staring at A'Ji, and her smile turned even more mysterious.

If someone blocked off her voice and demeanor, she would really be like a gentle and kind older sister who was being considerate for a beloved younger brother.

But with the aggressive and oppressive demeanor, she was something else.

“W-What else do you want?! This time, I really have nothing left!” A’Ji cried bitterly.

“I know, I can’t bear taking anything else from you either.” Lu Siya narrowed her eyes. “But I just watched you execute Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash when fighting against the Vortex. It seems to be pretty powerful.”

Chapter 637: Divine Art and Divine Weapon

The words struck A’Ji’s chest like lightning.

He immediately jumped up.

“That’s too much! That’s Saber Jin Wanhao’s special skill! He wouldn’t pass it down!” A’Ji bared his teeth and shouted like an enraged kitten. “Don’t go thinking that I’m weak just because I’m relenting! I have a limit to my patience— ACK! OWOWOWOWOWOW, IT HURTS!”

Lu Siya shoved his head down again and pinched his cheek to suppress his shouts.

Meng Chao finally looked away and cleared his throat. He whispered, “Big Sis Ya, don’t you think you’re going overboard? Why do you need to learn Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash? You don’t use sabers.”

“I don’t, but you do. I’m helping you here.” Lu Siya glared at Meng Chao resentfully. “Everyone knows that Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash is one of the strongest saber techniques in Dragon City, if not the strongest. Jin Wanhao used this domineering saber to gain the infamous title of the Saber in the past.

“Ever since you made your debut, you’ve loved using sabers, but you never had a top-class saber technique that would allow you to finish a fight in one go. You can use Demon Subduing Pole as a saber technique and the skills you learned from Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu to fight against mooks, but if you run into powerful enemies at the same level as the Vortex again, you’ll definitely face problems.

“That’s why I want A’Ji to teach Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash to you on behalf of Jin Wanhao.

“In any case, Jin Wanhao is already dead. If you learned it, you would be considered to have inherited the Saber’s ultimate technique so that this domineering saber technique would not be lost. It could then continue showing its brilliance for the sake of human benefits, which will let you consider yourself a good person.”

“That’s...” Meng Chao scratched his head and looked at A’Ji. “Big Sis Ya is right.”

Lu Siya then continued. “I know that the Ultimate Style doesn’t encourage creating spirit energy magnetic fields that are complex, and Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash is the type that requires a lot of accumulation of power and has a long cooldown time. It can be considered a technique within the Overkill Style, and it’s also highly difficult to execute. It’s originally something that is very difficult to blend with the Ultimate Style.

“But I just watched you execute a masterful Divine Nine Dragon Seals. This is an amazing technique from Battle God Lei Zongchao, and it has the marvelous ability of creating spirit energy magnetic fields beforehand so that you can store them inside you. If you could use Divine Nine Dragon Seals to store and activate Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash, it would not go against the principles of the Ultimate Style, right?”

Once Lu Siya said this, Meng Chao’s eyes sparkled as well, and he looked like the second weasel who saw a chick.

Even though he was the eldest disciple of the Ultimate Style, he knew just how martial arts in the future would develop and that only by blending the Ultimate Style and Overkill Style together would they be able to create the strongest martial arts.

Hence, Meng Chao was never averse to stealing theories and skills from the Overkill Style.

But he had been searching for a long time without luck for a way to perfectly blend the Ultimate Style and Overkill Style.

Divine Nine Dragon Seals seemed to be able to solve this problem.

The Ultimate Style and the Overkill Style?

Divine Nine Dragon Seals and Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash?

The mere thought caused him to drool!

Meng Chao gulped, rubbed his hands together, and looked at A’Ji with a grin.

“N-No way, Big Brother Chao, are you really on the side of this greedy Queen Bee?” A’Ji was dumbfounded.

“What are you saying? What do you mean greedy, and what do you mean by I’m on her side?” Meng Chao rebuked A’Ji with a righteous tone. “Everyone knows that I’m a just person who hates evil. I don’t care for fame or profit and just want to contribute to Dragon City.

“But if I want to contribute more to our civilization, I need more power and have to take more valuable medicine as well as practice more powerful martial arts. That’s why I’m not asking you to teach me for my own sake, but for all of humanity.

“If you teach me Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash, it wouldn’t be me stealing it from you since it’s not like you won’t be able to use it in the future anymore.

“On the contrary, you need to exchange knowledge when it comes to martial arts and supernatural abilities. You need brainstorming and sparks which are created when thoughts clash.

“Why was Saber Jin Wanhao not able to become as strong as Battle God Lei Zongchao? It might be because Lei Zongchao is generous and willing to share his martial arts with the public so that everyone can help him refine them. But Jin Wanhao was extremely petty and studied behind closed doors. He relied on himself to understand the martial arts, so there’s no way he could make Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash continue growing.

“You should know that I helped Yan Organization create Ripple Force V2, right? I might be able to help you make Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash stronger, you know?”

“That’s...” A’Ji fell into deep thought.

“Meng Chao is right. If you can’t change Saber Jin Wanhao’s way of doing things, you’ll turn into Saber Jin Wanhao again by hoarding all these things.” Lu Siya struck while the iron was hot. “Besides, you know that you will be facing endless troubles after regaining your youth. Once news about you goes out, you might end up facing endless assassins. You might also be cut into pieces by your enemies and the people who want to research you at any moment.

“If your identity is really exposed, who else would help you aside from me and Meng Chao?”

“A man’s strength is limited, and he needs help to accomplish his tasks. If you help us become stronger, you will be protecting yourself. This is simple logic, can’t you understand it?”

A’Ji was forced to accept his situation. As of right then and for a long period of time in the future, his life would be in the hands of Meng Chao and Lu Siya.

“You’re... right, a little,” he grumbled reluctantly.

“Since I’m right, then it’s settled. Don’t worry, I learn things really quickly. I won’t use up too much of your time!” As Meng Chao spoke, he suddenly remembered something. “By the way, I heard that Saber Jin Wanhao had a Golden Tooth Saber created from the horn of an Apocalyptic Beast. It’s a divine weapon that intimidated Dragon City, and was the treasure that he used to protect the gang and intimidate others.

“There’s no reason for this weapon to sit in the storage and gather dust. Since you cried and begged to teach me Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash, why don’t you let me borrow Golden Tooth Saber for a few days to play around with it?”

“When have I ever cried and begged you to learn it?” A’Ji was dumbfounded, then hissed at him. “You aren’t satisfied after stealing everything from me, and now you want to steal my weapon as well?!”

“It’s Jin Wanhao’s weapon,” Meng Chao pointed out. “The characteristics of Golden Tooth Saber are really distinct, too. Are you thinking about walking around with this weapon? That’s the same as hanging a sign on yourself that says ‘I’m Jin Wanhao, and I’ve mastered the secret of regaining my youth.’

“I believe that you won’t be able to carry Golden Tooth Saber on the streets for around twenty years.

“But these twenty years will be a crucial period in which Dragon City will have to use all of its resources in a highly effective manner to fight for its survival. It wouldn’t be just a waste for this weapon made of crucial materials from an Apocalyptic Beast eat dust in a dark garage, but a crime!

“So, on behalf of millions of Dragon Citizens, I’m begging you to take Golden Tooth Saber out so that it can shine once more. I believe that if it had a soul, it would be happy to shine in a brand new manner on our path to kill monsters, and since you’ve already come to a realization about your errors and decided to become a new person so that you can follow me and contribute to Dragon City, you will definitely be happy about it and want this to happen, right?”

A'Ji was dejected for a long while before he mumbled, "I understand now, Big Brother Chao. You're even more ruthless than the Queen Bee!"

It might have been a sarcastic quip, but A'Ji knew that what Meng Chao said made sense.

Golden Tooth Saber was a weapon that attracted a lot of attention. Forget about carrying it around in the streets, even if he brought it out to play or train with it in some remote place, it would be a highly risky act, which would be no different from him asking for an early death.

Since he could not use it, it would be better for him to treat it as a bargaining chip and get more benefits for himself from Meng Chao and Lu Siya so that they would be bound even more tightly with each other.

The three of them finally settled on an agreement on how they should split the Underground Emperor's treasures.

Next was the lie they needed to come up with to explain all that happened in the secret lab.

"We can't hide the entire truth. We must report 90% of the truth regarding our fight against the Vortex and the bubble messenger that is like Jin Qianxi so that it won't affect the Survival Committee's tactical judgment," Meng Chao said. "As for Jin Wanhao, we can say that he regained a last burst of strength and woke up from his coma, then died in battle in a mighty manner."

"I believe that for an Underground Emperor and the master of the lair, dying this way is something that all parties would accept. A'Ji, what do you think?"

"I'm fine with whatever." A'Ji had just been so thoroughly exploited that he had nothing left. He said powerlessly, "In any case, I don't want to hear Jin Wanhao, Golden Tooth, Golden Tooth Saber, or any other names associated with them. Do whatever you want!"

"Big Sis Ya, what about you?"

Meng Chao saw Lu Siya narrow her eyes and use her sharp teeth to gently nibble at her lip. He immediately knew something was up. "You have a different opinion?"

"It's not an opinion, but a thought." Lu Siya thought over her words before speaking. "Meng Chao, have you ever thought about whether Golden Tooth will be able to maintain its position as the greatest gang in the lair in the post Jin Wanhao era? If it can't, who will call the shots in the lair?"

"That's..." Meng Chao thought about this. "The gang leader died, and the vice gang leader betrayed the lair. Golden Tooth just suffered a major blow, so it's impossible for it to maintain its glory. Song Jinbo and the other senior gang members are not strong enough in terms of fighting power, and they're not very good at managing the gang either. It'll already be pretty good if they ensure that Golden Tooth doesn't end up collapsing."

"In terms of strength, the gang second to Golden Tooth is Black Bone. Phantom Bear Xiong Wei is also the second strongest fighter in the lair, who was only weaker than Saber Jin Wanhao."

"I believe that the future master of the lair will be Phantom Bear Xiong Wei."

“That’s right, you share the same thoughts as I do.” Lu Siya’s eyes sparkled, and she did not bother hiding the ambitious fire burning in them. “Then, do you think that the lair will be better or worse in the hands of Phantom Bear Xiong Wei?”

Chapter 638: Who Will Control the Lair?

Meng Chao did not quite understand Phantom Bear Xiong Wei as a person.

He only knew that the gang leader of Black Bone was a rather traditional gang member and was used to fighting and plundering.

When most of the gangs were moving toward legal businesses and industrialization while thinking about how they should earn money, Black Bone retained the style it used during the lawless era when order had collapsed. Its improvement speed was the slowest.

Jin Wanhao had lurked in the underground lab for more than half a year, but Xiong Wei still could not replace him. It showed just how strong Jin Wanhao was, and it also showed that Xiong Wei was unable to win people’s hearts and make them accept him as a leader.

This sort of person might have a hard time turning the lair into a better place and changing the living environment of the countless people living at the bottom of society, including the Leprosy Village.

Lu Siya could tell what Meng Chao was thinking.

“Looks like we’re thinking about the same thing,” the Queen Bee said. “Phantom Bear Xiong Wei is an inferior version of Saber Jin Wanhao. He’s a fighter who lives in a law-based society, but his mind is still stuck in a time decades ago. If we let him become the master, it will only bring trouble and disaster to the lair.

“I’m not a rich young lady who doesn’t know about the pains of the people. I can tell just how bad the lives of the people in the lair are.

“But there are plenty of problems that Jin Wanhao couldn’t fix even after spending decades trying to solve them. Are we supposed to expect that the lair will become anew at lightning speed once Xiong Wei takes over?”

Meng Chao’s expression was grave as he slowly shook his head.

“Exposing Red Brows Su Lun’s true colors and killing the Vortex are just swift actions to solve an imminent problem, but if we want to promote harmony between Leprosy Village and the lair, change the lair’s living environment, lead the gangs toward industrialization and regularization, and make all the lair citizens have safe, legal, and dignified jobs as well as live dignified, humane lives... it’ll be hard. It’s just too hard. It’s not something that you can do overnight, much less something that Phantom Bear Xiong Wei can do. He’s too much of a traditional gang member,” Meng Chao said gravely.

“That’s right. Killing the Vortex is just getting rid of the symptoms, not the cause. If the lair remains as chaotic as it is now, and there are plenty of gangs in it while the people at the bottom of society live harsh lives and can’t see hope, then the monster civilization might send the second and the third abnormal beast. They will bring more Deification Capsules, and a new wave of chaos will stir up soon enough.”

With sparkling eyes, Lu Siya said, "Xiong Wei can't solve the cause of the problems in the lair. He doesn't have the right to become the master of the lair."

Meng Chao thought about this for a long time, but he still could not figure it out. "Big Sis Ya, you're right. But there's no other suitable candidate for the position, so we have to choose the second best. Xiong Wei is the most outstanding and fearsome of the gang leaders. If he doesn't have the right, then the other gang leaders don't have the right either. We can't let the lair stay without a leader and watch as everyone becomes a disunited mess, right?"

"Having no other suitable candidate for the position and having to choose the second best is indeed the problem." Lu Siya smirked in an enigmatic fashion. "But isn't there a suitable candidate not from the gang members?"

"Choosing a suitable candidate that is not part of the gangs? You mean, outside the lair? You want to have a powerful person from the outside world control the lair?" Meng Chao was slightly stunned. He exchanged a glance with A'Ji and shook his head. "Big Sis Ya, you know that the lair is very averse to outsiders. The higher ranking gang members are all born in the lair, and over the years, Red Brows Su Lun was the only exception.

"But one, the moment Su Lun came here, he had full trust and support from Jin Wanhao. Yet he was also just a vice gang leader. On top of that, he swiftly became the famous God of Wealth. He helped everyone earn money. He also appeared to be powerless and didn't threaten the interests of the gangs. That's why the gang members agreed to let him stay.

"We're talking about the master of the lair right now. Even if you cast your sights outside, you wouldn't be able to find a candidate who can gain the lair citizens' trust and support as well as compete against Phantom Bear Xiong Wei."

Lu Siya was still smiling as she said calmly, "The others will naturally be unable to, but there is a person who first put a stop to the conflict that might lead to Leprosy Village and the gangs being severely injured, then exposed the true colors of the monster puppets who lurked among the core members of the gangs, saved all the gang leaders' lives, killed the cunning abnormal beast that was the cause of the chaos in the lair, successfully got rid of the flames raging in the lair, contributed greatly to the lair's survival, and most importantly, gained such favor from the former Underground Emperor and master of the lair that he treated him as his heir and taught him Celestial Tyrant's Star Shattering Slash and gave him Golden Tooth Saber, which are the symbol of status and strength in the lair.

"He also personally signed his will and put a bloody fingerprint on it to show that the position of Golden Tooth's gang leader had been given to this talented, successful, and selfless young adult.

"By the way, this young adult has a good relationship with the mega corporations and other related departments. He also has a high-tech enterprise that is developing rapidly right now. He is also the club leader and director of several large civil society organizations. He could help the lair find more business chances and get loads of investments, thus creating more business opportunities. He's a God of Wealth who is even better than Red Brows Su Lun.

"Do you think that such a person would be qualified to compete for that position with Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, who's just a brute with only brawns and no brains?"

Meng Chao and A'Ji had the same expression.

Their eyes widened slowly, and their jaws fell slack. Their chins nearly touched the backs of their feet.

Meng Chao's brain cells burned as he swiftly thought about Lu Siya's suggestion. He mumbled, "Are you saying that the Underground Emperor decided that I'd be the next Golden Tooth gang leader and will rule over the lair?"

"That's right. Why are you acting so shocked? Are you unwilling to?" Lu Siya asked faintly.

Meng Chao's mind raced as he narrowed his eyes.

A soldier tasked to be a vanguard could not change the major situations in the world. If it were possible, he definitely wanted to have more resources, connections, and authority for himself. In fact, it would be better if he were stronger too.

This was why he was willing to be the club leader of the Broken Star Club and one of the directors of Blue Home. It was also why he used all of his strength to try and make Superstar as big and strong as possible.

The lair was a chaotic place filled with good and bad people.

But the more chaotic it was, the more opportunities it provided. There were nearly one million citizens living in the lair. If Meng Chao could control this power, he would have powerful leverage that could change the future of Dragon City.

However, forget about becoming the master of the lair for a moment, was it even possible for him to seize the position of the next gang leader of Golden Tooth when he was an outsider that had nothing to do with Golden Tooth?

"Before Jin Wanhao died, he treated me as his heir and appointed me as the new gang leader of Golden Tooth? Isn't it a little too far-fetched?" Meng Chao asked tentatively. "Would anyone believe it?"

"Looks like we've already solved the first problem. You're willing to take over Jin Wanhao's legacy," Lu Siya said calmly. "Now, here's the second problem. You know that when a person believes in something, it doesn't matter whether that thing sounds believable and whether it's the truth. It's just related to whether the people are willing to believe it or not.

"Let's talk about Golden Tooth first. They have two choices. The first is to make Song Jinbo the new gang leader.

"The problem is, Song Jinbo's methods and fighting strength are only mediocre at best. He couldn't even win against Red Brows Su Lun, let alone Phantom Bear Xiong Wei. If Golden Tooth ended up in his hands, it would become a second-rate gang, and that's the best case scenario. The worst case scenario would be that the gang will collapse. This is something that even Song Jinbo himself knows.

"But if you become the gang leader, you will bring in loads of resources, connections, and fighting power from beyond the lair. This will help Golden Tooth retain its position as the strongest gang in the lair.

"What do you think Golden Tooth will choose?"

“But I don’t know anything about managing gangs,” Meng Chao said.

“This is a good thing, not a bad one.” Lu Siya analyzed the situation for him. “Since you don’t know how to manage Golden Tooth, you will have to rely on Song Jinbo and the other senior gang members, just like what you’re doing as the club leader of the Broken Star Club. Your position as a gang leader is like a brand and a spiritual symbol. Song Jinbo and the other senior members will be able to protect their interests, so they won’t question you or resist you, but will immediately welcome you with open arms.”

Meng Chao nodded slowly. “Makes sense. What else?”

“Black Bone will definitely not want an outsider like you to make a mess of the situation. But that’s okay, since there are three big gangs in the lair, Golden Tooth, Black Bone, and Poison Scorpion. Poison Scorpion’s supporter is Sky Pillar Corporation. They are against Universe Corporation, who supports Black Bone, and both of them are like oil and water. Sky Pillar Corporation will definitely not want to see Black Bone’s gang leader take the position as the master of the lair.

“Everyone knows about our relationship as well. So, Poison Scorpion will support you fully, too,” Lu Siya continued. “Then, let’s look at the Survival Committee. In truth, the related departments have always wanted to get rid of this tumor that has taken root deep in the city. The problem is, they have no place to relocate nearly one million citizens. They can’t even provide them with jobs, which is why they’re taking such a long time solving the problem of the lair.

“But as Dragon City continues developing, the government will clearly not tolerate the lair doing things according to its own rules any longer.

“Since the Underground Emperor is dead, there’s no need for them for a new Underground Emperor to appear, much less an inferior version of the original.

“If that’s the case, compared to the wild and untameable Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, as a warrior and a hero who lives in the staff apartment of the abnormal beast research department and has a good working relationship with the related departments, aren’t you a much better choice?”

“The same logic applies to the nine mega corporations.

“In the past, Jin Wanhao might have been restrained by the mega corporations, but since they signed the Underground Alliance, he was able to maintain a relative independence that allowed him to stay clear. He didn’t have to side with any of the nine mega corporations, but they tolerated him.

“As for Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, he’s bound too tightly with Universe Corporation. Black Bone is practically its branch company in the lair and has no independence whatsoever. Since it has a rather aggressive style, it has also offended the gangs supported by the other mega corporations multiple times. If there’s a choice, the other eight mega corporations will not want Xiong Wei to take the position.

“We share a pretty good relationship, and Superstar is still quite independent. You have worked plenty of times with the other mega corporations aside from Sky Pillar Corporation, too. You also share a good relationship with Universe Corporation’s Shen Yupeng, which is why Universe Corporation might not be against you.

“By the looks of it, aside from Black Bone, all the other people will think that you’re more suitable than Xiong Wei to be the master of the lair. You would have obtained Jin Wanhao’s acknowledgement and legacy, too. You would have Golden Tooth Saber in your hand and would even be able to execute Celestial Tyrant’s Star Shattering Slash. If true gold does not fear the test of fire, why should you have any worries?”

Chapter 639: Take It up as Your Responsibility!

Meng Chao sank into deep thought after Lu Siya’s words.

Even though he was already the owner of Superstar, the club leader of Broken Star Club, a director of Blue Home, and was a lucky child who rose to power in the eyes of the normal people, if he wanted to prevent Dragon City’s destruction, this bit of power was far from enough!

Superstar had already reached a bottleneck in its development. If he wanted to develop it further, he had to steal from the bowls of the nine mega corporations.

Broken Star Club and Blue Home were both civil social organizations. Their members might often work together, open up a lot of channels and business links, and voice their opinions in the Survival Committee, but they still lacked something that would allow them to reach a breakthrough and tie everyone’s interests together.

If he could use his status as the gang leader of Golden Tooth and influence the lair so that the resources inside it could blend together with all the resources by his side, wouldn’t he create a powerful, matchless force?

Broken Star Club, Superstar, Blue Home, and the lair...

All of them in his hands might really provide him with a promising future.

But Meng Chao could not understand it. “Big Sis Ya, how are you going to benefit from this situation?”

“Of course I will.” Lu Siya smiled. “There are plenty of slums in Dragon City’s main area, and they’re all represented by the lair. These chaotic places are filled with good and bad people. It’s not because of us having low morals, not because of the mega corporations letting them go unchecked, and certainly not because of Jin Wanhao, Xiong Wei, and the others’ ambition that they have existed for decades.

“There’s only one reason why they continue to exist, and it’s that Dragon City lacks space and resources. It can’t provide enough living space and work opportunities for its people. That’s all there is to it.

“If we don’t get rid of the root problem, then even if we have a saint who has flawless morals and is filthy rich become the master of the lair, the lair will still be as it is now.

“If that were the case, I wouldn’t suggest for you to become the gang leader of Golden Tooth and even the master of the lair so that you’d have to manage this mess.

“But times have changed.

“Ever since we won the northern offensive and gained other victories, we switched to tactical counter offensive tactics, and more than ten new developing areas are now under construction simultaneously. We’ve created a lot of new job opportunities, and as long as we win the pitch battle at the borders of

Dragon City, the monster civilization will crumble. The originally dangerous and mysterious lands will become a paradise for humans to roam as we please!

“Think about it, Meng Chao. How many brand new job opportunities will this create and how much wealth will it generate?”

“I won’t talk about anything else, but at the very least, the commuter towns that are currently being developed in the wild will produce a large batch of cheap apartments. If we move some of the people from our overpopulated city over there and connect these cities to the main city with high-speed railways, we’ll have hope, right?”

“In the past, the lair was a negative asset, but in the future, there might be a lot of job opportunities. If the lair citizens go out to work, they will earn money with their blood, sweat, and tears, and this wealth will be generated endlessly. We will then completely solve this long-lasting problem that can only survive through gray industries.

“Besides, through Blue Home, you can have some politicians loudly advocate the importance of modifying the old city areas. There’s a high chance that this will lead to a full modification of the lairs. They might even be completely demolished and rebuilt.

“The geographical location of the lairs is really good. They’re located in the golden area at the center of Dragon City. The profit of demolishing and rebuilding the lairs will be astronomical. If this profit is exchanged for cultivation resources, it’ll help us reach the peak of Heaven Realm and even Deity Realm!”

Meng Chao was a little dazed.

His soul was sucked in by the sparkles in Lu Siya’s eyes.

Meng Chao licked his dry lips and said, “But you just mentioned that the reason why the nine mega corporations will support me is because of my relative independence. This means that I can’t be bound too tightly to Sky Pillar Corporation.”

“It’s not Sky Pillar Corporation, but me and the businesses under my name.” Lu Siya narrowed her eyes. “Right from the start, I’ve repeatedly made myself clear that Sky Pillar Corporation is Sky Pillar Corporation, and I am me. I won’t wait for decades or even one hundred years for my grandfather and father to enjoy the feeling of having power in their hands before going up there to nibble at the scraps they left behind.

“Besides, a single Sky Pillar Corporation isn’t worthy of me fighting for it for the rest of my life!”

Meng Chao finally understood. “You want to split up from them?”

“Well, things haven’t progressed to the point where it’s so bad that I want to split from them,” Lu Siya said with a smile. “But if we work together and really manage to take down the entire lair as well as seize the tides of revolution, the lair that we control will become the tenth force next to the nine mega corporations. And it might even become the strongest force. Who knows? We might be the ones calling the shots in the future in Dragon City.”

Meng Chao stared deeply at Lu Siya.

He was tempted.

A'Ji cleared his throat by the side.

"Hey, the atmosphere doesn't feel quite right. Should I go and give some space to you two?" the experienced Leprosy Village boy asked considerately.

"Don't be in such a hurry to go, A'Ji. You're going to benefit from this situation too," Lu Siya turned her head to him.

"You two were really excited just now and even made arrangements for all of Dragon City. What benefits could I get from it?" A'Ji stuck up his thumb and pointed at his nose.

"Your original plan is to cut all ties with Golden Tooth. That is indeed the safest method, but don't you think it's too much of a waste?" Lu Siya said. "No matter what, Golden Tooth has been the strongest gang in the lair for decades. Even if it has become weaker now, it's still stronger than plenty of other gangs.

"If you help Meng Chao get firm control of Golden Tooth and the entire lair, you will enjoy the benefits of being the master of the lair but also avoid all the dangers and troubles of being Jin Wanhao."

A'Ji was slightly stunned. Then, his eyes shone.

"That's right. A'Ji, without you, I definitely won't be able to become the gang leader of Golden Tooth," Meng Chao said sincerely. "I'll stand in the light, while you'll remain in the shadows. With both of us working together, we'll soon become the true masters of the lair. We'll be even stronger than Jin Wanhao!"

A'Ji thought about it, and he gulped with greed.

He asked hesitantly, "Big Brother Chao, are you serious? I thought that you're someone who doesn't care about fame, riches, and power. I didn't expect that you're just as ambitious as the Queen Bee!"

"I'm indeed someone who doesn't care about fame, riches, and power. If possible, I'd like to be like you and have no responsibilities whatsoever so that I could enjoy absolute freedom and live a happy life in the boundless Other World."

Meng Chao extended his right hand and clenched it.

Due to his blood and spirit energy surging through his veins, his skin was slightly red. It looked like he was holding an invisible piece of magma in his grasp, because wisps of white smoke gushed out of it.

"But for the sake of Dragon City's future, when fame, riches, and power are presented in front of me, I will definitely seize them and not let them slip from my fingers!"

...

Above the secret lab was Golden Tooth's headquarters.

It was one of the tallest buildings in the lair.

If anyone stood at the edge of its anti-aircraft machine gun base on the roof, they could see the entire lair.

After more than ten hours of fighting and killing, the wanted criminals and former Reaper Squad members lurking in the lair were all captured. The explosions that constantly rang out half a day ago were no longer present, and not a single one had been heard for a long time. The fires on the surface had also been extinguished, including in the important regions such as Leprosy Village.

But flames still raged within the depths of the debris. Smoke caused by incomplete combustion bared their fangs like thousands of deformed aquatic dragons in the lair.

These “aquatic dragons” spat out hot and poisonous gases, constantly reminding everyone that the chaos had not ended and might never end.

One battle was nearly at its end, but now, a new battle had quietly started.

This brand new battle caused Song Jinbo’s expression to be extremely grave. He was caught off guard and was extremely anxious because of it.

Once he personally stood at the top of Golden Tooth’s headquarters, he understood what it meant when people said that it was lonely at the top.

And when he faced the aggressive offense from Black Bone, the seemingly sturdy and brilliant building under his feet started swaying and was about to topple over.

“Manager Song, Black Bone is going overboard. In the name of protecting the order of the lair, they just took over three of our tactical resource warehouses. These warehouses have practically not been touched by the fire, and at most, only one-third of them were burned. Now, they’re in the hands of Black Bone, and who knows how many benefits they are going to rake in from it!”

“Big Brother Bo, we just received news. Red Snake lost manpower during the enemy attack and is practically crippled now. It’s impossible for them to rely on their own power to rebuild the gang, so Phantom Bear Xiong Wei took in the remnants of Red Snake without consulting anyone and swallowed its people in one go! This isn’t by the rules! He’ll break the balance between the gangs!”

“Also, just now, we worked together with Black Bone to take down one of the bases that the former Reaper Squad members defended desperately. Xiong Wei used his authority as the highest temporary commander and ordered our men to be the vanguard while Black Bone took advantage of the situation and stayed at the back. We suffered severe losses, and our members are filled with resentment!”

“This is bad! Someone spread rumors saying that our gang leader has been brain dead for a few months and that Golden Tooth, for its own personal benefits, has been hiding the news. That’s why we let a traitor enter our gang, which led to this chaos. Xiong Wei is definitely the one who said this nonsense. No one else but him would say such things!”

“You must think of a solution immediately! If we continue sitting around passively, Golden Tooth will be destroyed!”

Chapter 640: Golden Bloody Soul Saber

The words were like armor-piercing shells with crystals embedded in them and monster claws that tore apart the joy Song Jinbo had after he received authority over Golden Tooth.

In great pain, he realized that what he received was not authority, but a troublesome problem that was filled with thorns and poison.

A huge reason behind why Golden Tooth was known as the strongest gang in the lair was Saber Jin Wanhao.

The senior members had followed him through thick and thin, but after being protected under the Underground Emperor's wings for decades, they had regressed. Their reaction was really slow now, and they were also really weak.

Song Jinbo was a good example of that.

He had been the manager of Golden Tooth's entertainment industries for more than ten years, and he had long since lost all the bloodthirst he felt in the past. He was now a complete businessman.

His battlefield had long since turned from the monster-filled ruins to tables where wine glasses were passed around freely.

His friends were the same.

Over the past two years, under Red Brows Su Lun's lead, everyone gradually changed their way of thinking and became really good at making money. But if they were to fight against a lunatic like Phantom Bear Xiong Wei and risk their lives, none of them could stand tall and say with confidence that they could do it.

Besides, even if they could summon the courage to say it, they would be destroyed by a single slap from Xiong Wei.

After all, once Saber Jin Wanhao passed away, Golden Tooth could not cough up a second powerful fighter who could support the gang.

"Meng Chao, Lu Siya, where did you go?"

Song Jinbo was really anxious.

Now that things had progressed to this point, he could only place his hopes on drawing in external forces, especially Meng Chao, to their side.

He remembered how he was captured by Meng Chao, how he helped expose Red Brows Su Lun's true colors, how this led to the reconciliation between Leprosy Village and the gangs, then the stabilizing of the situation in Dragon City. This dazzling chain of events dizzied Song Jinbo even now.

Even though Meng Chao was just a young man in his early twenties, for some reason, Song Jinbo felt that the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City was the only one who could contend against Phantom Bear Xiong Wei.

However, what sort of reason and benefits could make Meng Chao come down and save Golden Tooth from this perilous situation?

Just when Song Jinbo sank into deep thought, a bone-chilling cold suddenly traveled from his foot to his spine. Then, it reached the back of his head, and finally, it went to the top of his skull.

He gave a full-body shudder, and his hair rose.

All his friends around him reacted in the same way as he did. Their legs trembled, and cold sweat broke out on their skin. They rubbed the goosebumps on their arms.

“What a powerful aura!”

“A powerful person appeared!”

“It’s not a powerful person, it’s a monster! A Hell Beast!”

“H-How is that possible?! It’s like more than one hundred Hell Beasts have risen from the underground and are right under our feet!”

Their hair rose on as if they were facing a powerful enemy.

Song Jinbo gulped.

Even though he found this hard to believe, he, too, felt the terrifying aura of more than one hundred monsters gathered together spreading out from under Golden Tooth’s headquarters.

In his daze, his mind played tricks on him, and he thought that the world around him was swallowed by a sea of blood from hell. The roof where they stood was the only piece of land left in the world.

But even this lone island was going to be devoured by the blood from hell a moment later.

“Someone snuck into Golden Saber Hall?”

Song Jinbo and his friends looked at each other. They found the situation unbelievable.

All the partitions on the highest floor of Golden Tooth’s headquarters had been removed to form a large, luxurious meeting room. It was known as Golden Saber Hall, where Saber Jin Wanhao used to discuss gang matters with his friends in the past.

Ever since Jin Wanhao went underground for isolated training, Golden Tooth Hall had been sealed.

Red Brows Su Lun and the other high ranking gang members used the lower floors. The small meeting rooms there were categorized for different purposes and were used by different industries.

Golden Saber Hall was the meeting room that belonged solely to Saber Jin Wanhao.

He was also the only person who knew how to open the place.

But now...

Song Jinbo and his friends looked at each other. They could see the surprise and delight in each other’s eyes.

They quickly left the roof and went to Golden Tooth Hall.

The door which had been sealed shut for nearly half a year was open once more.

Before they went inside, a dazzling, golden saber glare shone on them so brightly that they could not open their eyes.

They thought they saw a huge monster with a golden horn sitting on the throne that belonged to Golden Tooth's gang leader. There were also a pair of wings formed of hell's blood stuck to the ribs of the huge monster.

The powerful presence caused everyone's breathing to freeze.

One person even took an instinctive step back. They drew their sabers and became on guard.

But once they recognized the person who held Golden Tooth Saber and was surrounded by the flames from hell, it was as if they were struck by lightning. Like mud dolls, they could not say a thing even after a long time had passed.

"M-M-Meng Chao?"

A saber fell to the floor with a loud clang.

...

"Ha!"

Phantom Bear Xiong Wei let out a loud roar. His knuckles let out loud cracking sounds. His palms were already as large as a bear's paws, but in an instant, they grew even bigger, and there were even white flashes of electricity between his fingers.

With one palm strike, he struck a former Reaper Squad member's chest and crushed the person's motorized armor, along with his thorax. The Reaper's entire chest caved in, and the great pressure from his thoracic cavity went straight up to his cranial cavity. His eyes popped out, and he died a swift death.

Xiong Wei summoned his strength again. The corpse weighed around 250kg because of the armor, but Xiong Wei managed to send it flying more than twenty meters away. With a loud bang, the body slammed into the door of the warehouse, pushing it open. The tactical resource warehouse only had its walls burned and was still in perfect condition.

Xiong Wei narrowed his eyes slightly and sucked in a deep breath. The unique and thick scent from precious materials put him in a good mood.

He looked around. The elite fighters from Black Bone had already cut up the last robber into pieces.

The fight had ended, and they gained complete victory. Everything inside now belonged to Black Bone and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei!

Xiong Wei casually cleaned off the blood on his body and said to the adviser of Black Bone, who was right next to him, "Same rules. Filter all the resources inside. Bring half of those that look to be in good condition back to Black Bone, and offer up the rest. Tell them that we saved them from the fire!"

"Understood." The capable-looking adviser nodded. After hesitating for a moment, he braced himself and said, "But Mr. Xiong, we've already taken over five tactical resource warehouses and annexed three

middle-sized and small gangs that were crippled by the enemy. Aren't our acts of weakening Golden Tooth too blatant?"

"Hmm?" Xiong Wei scowled. "What did you say?"

His killing intent caused the adviser to break out in cold sweat. He gulped a few times before he finally found the courage to say, "I heard some rumors. The other gangs in the lair are criticizing our gang's aggressive approach. They might do something in the dark to cause trouble to us, and it'll be bad for Black Bone."

"Cause trouble? Hahahaha!" Xiong Wei laughed. He used the palm that had just destroyed the former Reaper Squad member's chest to slap the adviser's shoulder. "Jin Wanhao is dead. The lair is currently without a leader, and everything is in chaos. Right now, the person who takes action first gains an advantage. The ones who get the most spoils of war and spread their territory the widest will be the one who sets and controls the new laws!

"No matter what, this is a world ruled by the law of the jungle. The small troubles will not affect the overall situation. Without Jin Wanhao, no one in the lair can fight against me!"

"Of course." Black Bone's adviser winced because of the slap. He endured the pain and said, "Golden Tooth has suffered a major blow, and they're done for, while Poison Scorpion's power has never been able to compare to ours. The remaining middle-sized and small gangs are no cause for concern. You're now the strongest person in the lair, so it's only natural for you to lead the lair. But I'm worried about the forces from beyond the lair.

"If we act so aggressively, we'll encroach upon the interests of the mega corporations that exist beyond the lair, whether we're doing it intentionally or not. Mr. Xiong, will they be displeased by it?"

"You don't understand, it's precisely because the external forces might interfere with the situation in the lair that I have to make swift decisions and face the risk of biting more than I can chew by taking many resources and forces."

Xiong Wei gave off a manic aura, but his eyes were as calm as crystals, showing that his train of thought was really clear. "The spirit energy magnetic field interference in the lair is still as bad as before. Our communications with the outside world haven't recovered just yet, and most of the attention of the outside world is still trained on the pitched battle at the borders of Dragon City. No one there has the energy to interfere with the internal affairs of the lair.

"This is a rare window of opportunity, and it won't last for long. We must get things set so firmly in stone that the outcome would be impossible to change once the dust outside settles.

"If Black Bone really takes control of most of the resources and power in the lair, thus becoming the strongest gang in the lair in one go which controls a few hundred thousand people's livelihoods and businesses, even if the outside world is displeased with our methods, what will they be able to do? Would they attack the lair and destroy Black Bone, thus creating new chaos?"

"That's impossible. To Dragon City, the lair is like a toilet. It's a dirty place filled with filth. The government only has one request for the lair, and that is to maintain order inside. We're not supposed to cause new and greater chaos.

“At that time, we’ll offer up some of our profit, and we’ll ask them to destroy Golden Tooth! Once it’s gone, our profit will be enough for us to negotiate with the mega corporations!”

Black Bone’s adviser came to a realization. He stuck up his thumb and said with great admiration, “Amazing! Mr. Xiong, you’re amazing!”

At that moment, another Black Bone gang member climbed through the ruins and ran toward them.

“Mr. Xiong, Golden Tooth’s Song Jinbo asked you to meet with him at Golden Tooth’s headquarters!”

“Song Jinbo?” Xiong Wei’s face sank, and he scoffed. “He’s not even the new gang leader of Golden Tooth yet, and he’s putting up such airs? If he’s going to talk about the distribution of loot or the conflict between Black Bone and Golden Tooth, he should be coming to meet me at Black Bone’s headquarters!”

The Black Bone member said, “No. Aside from us, Song Jinbo also invited the leaders of the other gangs in the lair. Apparently, they’re going to officially announce Saber Jin Wanhao’s death.”

“What?” Xiong Wei’s anger turned to delight. He laughed. “Golden Tooth can’t hold on anymore and is going to admit defeat!”