

## Resonance 861

### Chapter 0861: Encounter

Li Feng and the party stopped right before they entered the Dark Domain.

"Dear Banner Leaders, we will just wait for all of you to finish the mission over here. Don't worry, we will keep watch over the Dukes from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. There are also not many rogue cultivators, and the ones that do enter this Dark Domain are usually only at the Heavenly Dipper General Stage. I reckon they won't dare to disturb you all," Li Feng told Li Luo and the other three with a smile.

Li Luo and the rest nodded with their banner members standing behind them quietly. With thousands of men gathered here, it was a truly magnificent sight. Many of the rogue cultivators on the other path had looked over curiously. However, they dared not stare any further once they realized who they were.

The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was truly an overlord in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. Dukes, who would usually be able to rule over others elsewhere, were merely elders.

As for the Earth Fiend Stage young members, they could condense their power together using special means. As a result, they were not any weaker than Dukes.

Such a foundation was way beyond what most common people could imagine.

In the next moment, Li Luo and the other three took a look at each other before they separated. Without wasting any more time, they each led their respective banners into the dark crack.

As soon as Li Luo stepped into the tear in the void, he sensed a really strong vibration in the air, and the space around him began to warp. His mind started feeling a little dizzy suddenly.

However, the dizziness soon dispersed, and the surroundings around him changed completely.

The sky was dark, and it stretched all the way to the end of one's vision.

The thick clouds were deep gray, giving people an uneasy and cold feeling.

Between the sky and earth was an irritating, low voice ringing faintly in the air, which disrupted one's mental state.

Luckily, Li Luo grew accustomed to this new environment quickly. He took a quick scan of the area vigilantly and noticed that he was currently on a huge, glowing stone platform atop the dark plains. There was an eerie, evil air floating about that reeked of corruption.

Shortly after, the members of the Green Nether Banner appeared behind him.

However, there was no sight of Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, Deng Fengxian, or their respective banner members.

Li Luo was not surprised by this. Before they had entered, Li Feng had already told them that there were five receiving platforms in this Dark Domain. They would be randomly teleported to one of them when they were transported. As such, they had already discussed beforehand on the meetup point and paths to follow.

"Is this the Dark Domain? Sure makes one feel uneasy," Zhao Yanzhi said as she scanned the surroundings with her charming face. In fact, it was extremely dangerous for Earth Fiends like them to enter this place if all they could rely on was their individual strength. Many of the Disaster-class Others in here would easily deal a fatal injury to them.

"Have you all fought against Others in the past?" Li Luo asked.

Li Shi nodded and replied, "I have experience. One of our missions in order to get into the Twenty Banners was to slay one Other on the same level as us personally."

Li Luo was surprised to hear this. It seemed like the Twenty Banners selection was extremely stringent. He was well aware of how strange and troublesome Others were. Whether it was in the Umbra Cave of the college or during the Holy Grail Meet in the Blackwind Empire, they had really given him a lot of headaches.

"Since you all have experience, I will not say much. Stay alert in groups of ten and move forward while keeping our formation," Li Luo ordered. When he finished, he took the first step down the stone platform and led the way forward.

The area around the stone platform had become a sort of safety zone, and many of the explorers had gathered here. With such a big crowd like Li Luo's appearing, they all looked over in surprise. Clearly, they had sensed the enormous power from the 8,000 members. Their faces changed immediately and they started whispering among themselves.

"They give off strong auras despite being at the Earth Fiend Stage."

"Look at the patterns on their robes. They must be from the Green Nether Banner, one of the Twenty Banners of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. I have an elder working in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, so I know. The Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner is named Li Luo. His father is none other than Li Taixuan, the man that once dominated the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. Furthermore, his mother is the famous Tan Tailan."

"Li Luo just returned from the outer divine continent a few months ago. Who would have expected him to become the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner so soon? Sigh. The best opportunity for one is really to be born in the right family," one of the voices commented with a sigh.

"That depends on whether he's talented enough to enjoy this opportunity. If he's just an ordinary guy, it'll just become additional stress for him," another voice commented.

"A division from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao entered just a little while ago. These two bloodlines have been at odds. If they meet each other, there'll surely be a big fight," another voice gloated.

Li Luo led his group through the crowd amidst the many whispers. In particular, the last piece of news gave him a little headache.

"There are people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao here? Just which one of them is it?"

Li Luo's question was answered very quickly.

As he got closer to the edge of the safety zone, he paused. He looked into the distance ahead and noticed thousands of people standing there neatly. Their resonant power was surging. With each breath they took, a ferocious, ancient tiger faintly appeared in the sky.

Right in front of the thousands of people was a figure casually seated on a big rock. A huge, dark-red blade that looked as though it was dyed with blood lay on his legs.

It was none other than Zhao Jingyu.

Li Luo shook his head helplessly. They had encountered each other so soon.

In the same moment, Zhao Jingyu lifted his head up when he saw Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner approaching. He revealed a happy smile on his face, and the tiger tattoo on his face bared its fangs. It appeared extremely savage.

"Li Luo, it seems like your luck isn't very good," Zhao Jingyu said with a grin.

Zhao Jingyu had planned to hinder one of Li Luo's companions right here before they could meet up in order to cripple their strength.

To his delight, he had actually encountered Li Luo directly.

Standing behind Li Luo, Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and the rest also prepared themselves. Their faces turned serious and they waved their hands. It was a signal to the other banner members to prepare for a big fight.

Although he was a wood-brained idiot, Zhao Jingyu was undoubtedly strong. The Tiger Division led by him was ranked second among the Twenty Divisions from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. If it was the Green Nether Banner in the past, they would not have dared to clash with them head-on at all.

Li Luo stared at Zhao Jingyu calmly as he led the banner to march forward. He had not intended to stay hidden in the safety zone.

When the eight thousand banner members marched on, a faint, draconic roar resounded in the air as their energies surged in support of Li Luo.

"Li Luo, sever one of your own arms and get out of this Dark Domain with the Green Nether Banner," Zhao Jingyu said lazily as he watched Li Luo walk out.

"Are the five dragon fangs ready?" Li Luo asked.

Zhao Jingyu smiled even more when he heard these words. "I'm curious. Where did a country bumpkin like you get such contemptible courage from? Is it because of your great win in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool? Do you really think that you're that amazing after being able to win the Golden Dragon Pillar? You managed to escape from Fairy Qin only because she couldn't use her full strength. A perfect person like her shouldn't be tainted because of a country bumpkin like you. This is exactly why I will take one of your arms along and go to the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing... to propose to Fairy Qin."

Zhao Jingyu stared at Li Luo and asked sincerely, "Can you help me out?"

In response, Li Luo smiled and replied, "You really are a fool."

Hearing this, Zhao Jingyu sighed helplessly and jumped down from the rock. With the huge blade that seemed to be oozing blood in his hand, he charged towards Li Luo like a savage beast revealing its white teeth.

"In that case, I'll help myself and cut you down directly."

He lifted his blade and pointed it directly at Li Luo.

#### Chapter 0862: First Clash

Facing the blatant hostility and murderous intent coming from Zhao Jingyu, Li Luo's expression did not change at all. He had not expected to make his first real enemy because of jealousy over a lady! However, it was beyond his ability and position to consider if Zhao Jingyu's actions were a ploy from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao to get closer to the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing.

As much as Zhao Jingyu wanted his arm for his marriage proposal, Li Luo also wished to obtain an arm from his opponent... Specifically, the arm with the pocket sphere.

He had not forgotten about the dragon fangs.

At this moment, many people back in the safety zone had started watching the conflict excitedly. It was not a common sight to see the top talents from two different Heavenly Emperor forces clashing.

Under all these gazes, Zhao Jingyu walked forward slowly with the huge, crimson blade in his hand. The Tiger Division did not move a single step behind him. However, their resonant power surged with every breath they took, forming an enormous, terrifying power.

Zhao Jingyu did not plan to activate Harmony right now. He simply stared disdainfully at Li Luo and said, "I heard that you have wasted dozens of years in the outer divine continent and are still at the Greater Fiend Palace now. What a tragic story. Too bad, I will not give you a chance just because of that. It was the dumb decision of your father and mother, after all."

When he finished his sentence, he gradually raised the huge blade in his hand. His resonant power erupted without holding back, and Fiend Dipper energy leaked out from the tip of his sword.

His Fiend Dipper energy was nearly eight hundred feet high! Zhao Jingyu was clearly at the peak of the Fiend Finisher Tier.

Taking a step forward, Zhao Jingyu slashed down fiercely towards Li Luo's direction. The Fiend Dipper energy was truly terrifying. When the blade fell, space itself was sliced apart with faint traces left behind in the void, and a blade scar thousands of meters long and half a meter deep appeared on the ground below.

Many of the Fiend Finisher Tier cultivators present were staring in shock when he wielded his blade. Zhao Jingyu's foundation was on a totally different level.

"Big Boss, activate Harmony now!" Li Shi shouted out in a hurry. Even the Gold Fiend Li Shi was feeling threatened by Zhao Jingyu's slash. If this slash were targeted at him, he would probably have died on the spot.

However, Li Luo simply waved his hand in response. Eagerness filled up his eyes. His power had increased greatly after his recent breakthrough into the half-completed Glass Fiend Tier. And Zhao Jingyu was the perfect whetstone for him.

He clenched his fist, and the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade materialized in his hand. Then he took a deep breath, and the three resonant palaces within him started shuddering. Like mighty tidal waves, an enormous resonant power surged within his body.

In particular, two of his resonant powers coiled together like giant pythons and rapidly fused with each other.

Dual resonances!

A dual-colored ring of light appeared around his blade as he swung it down with a calm face. A rapidly spinning blade wheel materialized in the air.

Weng!

Pure and condensed resonant power was seen flowing within the blade wheel. Hidden within it was a faint trace of the Vestiges of Spirituality. It was truly mystical.

The blade wheel flew through the air. After a few moments, it made contact with the terrifying Fiend Dipper energy-powered slash.

Bang!

The raging energy from the attacks exploded in the air.

The two powers started to consume and eliminate each other.

After a short while, the blade wheel's rotation gradually slowed, and it eventually shattered into motes of light. However, the Fiend Dipper energy slash had been greatly weakened too. When the attack finally reached him, Li Luo simply let it slide past his body.

He was emitting a thick, golden light with glazed patterns that appeared from time to time. The slash was unable to hurt him at all with this immense defense.

Seeing this, shocking gasps were heard from the safety region.

Zhao Jingyu's slash was powerful enough to severely injure an ordinary Fiend Finisher. Yet it had been stopped by Li Luo, who had not even cultivated any Fiend Dipper energy?

It seemed like Li Luo was not injured at all.

Li Shi, Zhao Yanzhi, Mu Bi, and the rest were also a little shocked as Li Luo had not gotten help from Harmony this time. He had blocked it solely with his individual strength.

They were very clear on just how big of a gap Li Luo had with the top talents in the Twenty Banners just a few months ago. Yet he had closed the chasm of strength between them.

Such talent was truly amazing.

On the other hand, Li Luo was not impressed like them. He shook his head lightly with a little dissatisfaction. After all, his attack was slightly weaker during his direct confrontation with Zhao Jingyu.

He could see why Fiend Dipper energy was the signature trait of Fiend Finishers now. It possessed extremely domineering power.

Fortunately, he had attained the strength to stand up against Fiend Finisher opponents.

The results from his breakthrough were evident now.

While Li Luo heaved a sigh of relief in his heart, Zhao Jingyu's face turned gloomy. Like the rest, this was not a result he had expected.

Based on his estimate, that slash should have left Li Luo in a pathetic state. Either that or he would have activated Harmony to block it.

However, Li Luo had dealt with the attack casually.

"So you've reached the Gold Fiend Tier, it seems," Zhao Jingyu said with a heavy voice.

The golden glow on Li Luo's body was a signature trait of the Gold Fiend Tier. He knew immediately that Li Luo was no longer in the Greater Fiend Palace like the information he had gathered previously. Li Luo had already skipped tiers in his breakthrough and reached the Gold Fiend Tier.

This was undoubtedly due to the rare opportunity he had grasped at the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool.

At this moment, Zhao Jingyu understood that Li Luo had gradually made up for the disadvantages he had earlier in life.

Nonetheless, he would not give up just because of this.

A fierce light flashed across his eyes, and he clapped his hands together. A tiger roar echoed from the Tiger Division behind him immediately, then a huge wave of resonant power surged up.

The real battle was about to begin now.

Seeing this, Li Luo kept his composure as he prepared to achieve Harmony.

Just as both sides were about to pull out their blades for the grand battle, countless guttural roars began to reverberate throughout the area. And an immensely thick wave of corruption spread throughout the sky.

When the people around the area witnessed this, a sense of fear could be felt. "Other Tide!"

A siren sounded off sharply in the safety zone.

Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu also stopped in their tracks and looked towards the approaching dark cloud of corruption. They could sense that countless Others were moving within it.

However, they did not panic. Such a scene was not uncommon in the Dark Domain. Besides, they were mostly low-level Others that did not pose a significant threat.

"Heed my order, Green Nether Banner. Prepare to defend yourselves!" Li Luo's low voice echoed in the ears of the Green Nether Banner members. The eight thousand banner members activated their resonant power and synced their breathing immediately. A huge power surged from them and isolated the influence of the approaching corruption.

With their powers combined, they were as strong as a Duke. Naturally, they were not afraid of this Other Tide.

At this moment, Li Luo also took a few steps back and combined his strength with his banner members. He would not be able to resist so many Others with his individual strength alone.

Even though these Others were merely Eroding-class, their numbers were enough to overwhelm him.

Just as Li Luo finished his preparations, the Other Tide rushed towards him. At this point, he could see countless weird and twisted things within the thick and cold cloud.

They looked like huge, bloodshot eyeballs. At the same time, there were many pale, human hands extending out of those eyeballs. They were moving it forward as if they were its hands and feet.

Deep inside the red eyeball was a dark light that could be spotted from time to time.

It would have been fine if they had appeared individually. However, with such a huge force densely packed like a mountain, its mere sight would send chills up one's spine.

When Li Luo activated Harmony, a huge wave of energy soared up and formed an energy wall that stood firmly in front of him.

**BANG! BANG!**

The innumerable Eyeball Others dashed into the energy wall directly. When they came into contact with it, a strong energy wave sent them flying backwards. They would then start trembling before finally exploding.

Puddles of flesh, blood, and black liquid splashed the entire area.

However, the Eyeball Others remained undaunted and continued charging forward without hesitation. At the same time, countless beams of foul-smelling, dark light shot out of the single-eyed creatures. The beams landed on the energy wall and set off ripples on it.

Li Luo simply looked on at the scene without much expression. Although the Eyeball Others did make one feel uncomfortable, they were of no threat to him when he was in the state of Harmony.

Just as he thought about this, he frowned a little. For a moment, he felt an uncanny feeling that someone was spying on him.

It was a strange feeling that he was being closely scrutinized...

Li Luo stretched out his hand, and a beam of energy shot out from the energy wall at the front. It pierced through dozens of Eyeball Others instantly, surrounding one of them in the distance before pulling it back fiercely.

When the Eyeball Other was just about to touch the energy wall, a small hole opened up so it could pass through. Then it landed in front of Li Luo.

The bloodshot Eyeball Other's veins moved about like squirming earthworms as it stared at Li Luo. It was truly grotesque and unnerving.

Li Luo frowned as he observed it. The previous sensation of being scrutinized seemed to have come from this guy... But now that he had captured it, the feeling was gone.

There was only Li Luo's face reflected in the eyeball that was as big as a human's head.

Then Li Luo gathered up his energy and pinched on the Eyeball Other, causing it to shatter into pieces. Following this, he used another wave of energy and purified the remains of the Others.

A serious look appeared on his face as he looked up into the dark Other Tide around him.

"Was I mistaken about the feeling I just had?"

Chapter 0863: The Unlucky One

The Other Tide continued coming like there was no end.

The air was thick with corruption, and the low voices of the countless Others reverberated with the power to corrupt one's mental state.

At this moment, many of the explorers in the safety region did not dare to step out at all. They could only stay hidden inside the protective barrier and wait for the Other Tide to pass.

After all, there were no Duke Stage cultivators around them. Moreover, even someone in the Greater Heavenly Resonance Stage could be trapped by an Other Tide and have their power slowly depleted.

However, Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner were not intimidated by this Other Tide with Harmony. It was not an issue as there had been no True Devil Others so far.

Nonetheless, Li Luo did not plan to stay here and exhaust his strength. Zhao Jingyu and the Tiger Division were still watching them closely from some distance away. To break through this, he sent out an order, and the eight thousand banner members started moving together. Their energy surged and they tore through the waves of Others as they speedily marched on.

When Zhao Jingyu noticed Li Luo and his banner moving out, he laughed out coldly and said, "Thinking of escaping?"

Getting this chance encounter with Li Luo and his banner alone was lucky in his eyes. This was the ideal opportunity for him to get rid of Li Luo. He was not going to let this chance just slip by. As such, he waved his hand, and the Tiger Division started acting up too. A wild energy roared upwards in the shape of an ancient, ferocious tiger. The tiger silhouette covered the Tiger Division, and they charged through the waves of the Other Tide directly.

The Other Tide was like waves of black sea water that kept coming. On the other hand, the groups led by Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu were like two boats breaking the waves apart as they moved forward.

This continued for dozens of minutes.



Finally, Li Luo could feel that his vision ahead was clearing up. The thick air of corruption was retreating, and they were finally close to getting out of the Other Tide.

He took another look at the Other Tide behind him. The countless Others were still wriggling in it, and strange, low voices carrying the ability to corrupt continued to ring in the air. It was fortunate that he had come here with the Green Nether Banner. If not, he would have had to hide in the protective barrier produced by the stone platform just like the other explorers. Even though he was nearly at the Glass Fiend Tier, he would not dare to stick his head out in this situation.

A moment later, he saw Zhao Jingyu closing in on them.

"That wood-brained idiot is really persistent."

Li Luo squinted, and murderous intent flashed across his eyes. With all the provocations from Zhao Jingyu, even a good-tempered guy like him was starting to get irritated. However, he was able to keep himself in check. It was not an option to engage in a deadly fight with Zhao Jingyu right now.

Besides, the feeling of being watched from a while back had made him uneasy.

Whether it was just his imagination or not, it was best for him to meet up with Li Fengyi and the rest as soon as possible. They would be able to face the dangers of the Dark Domain best with the strength of the four banners combined.

After all, there were quite a few True Devil Others lurking about.

"Just have to endure with him for a little longer."

Li Luo ignored Zhao Jingyu and led the Green Nether Banner to charge forward at full speed.

As they were moving forward, he took out a map of the area that he had gotten from Li Feng earlier. With the support of the Green Nether Banner, he was a formidable force that could easily defeat Greater Heavenly Disaster-class Others. As long as they did not encounter any True Devil Others, there was nothing to be afraid of here. His priority now was to avoid all the districts that might contain one.

"We'll pass by two dangerous districts if we head in this direction."

As Li Luo studied the map, there were two blood-red markings beside the area they were passing through. This indicated the presence of the True Devil Others.

Fortunately, their path was close to the two regions but not directly cutting through them. He figured that as long as they kept a low profile and did not disturb the True Devil Others, they might not necessarily come for them. After all, they were all intelligent beings.

It would be best if both sides left each other alone.

With these thoughts in mind, Li Luo continued marching forward. As the eight thousand Green Nether Banner members walked through the dark, ashen plains, the ground shook a little. They moved like a single entity, protecting themselves from the air of corruption.

Shortly after Li Luo and his Green Nether Banner had passed through, a tiger roar came from behind. Zhao Jingyu and the Tiger Division continued chasing after them.

However, Li Luo did not get distracted by him—he continued moving ahead at full speed.

Zhao Jingyu got more frustrated when he saw this, but the only thing he could do was continue his chase.

As the two continued playing cat and mouse, Li Luo noticed they were getting close to the two districts with the True Devil Others. He immediately ordered his banner members to restrain their resonant power and lighten their footsteps.

"Once we pass through here, we'll reach the meeting point. We will be able to catch our breath there."

Li Luo maintained his speed as his vigilant gaze scanned the distance ahead and kept a lookout. The two True Devil Others here were said to hang around deep in their respective mountain ranges most of the time. They were only at the outer region of the mountain range currently, so there was a high chance that they would not startle the True Devil Others at all.

As these thoughts ran through Li Luo's mind, he suddenly saw a silhouette walking slowly out of a dark forest in the distance.

His eyes froze at its sight. The figure was extremely fat and was wearing a purple robe. His face seemed to be compressed into a ball with a friendly smile on it. His stomach was bulging out so much that it was bigger than the belly of a woman who was nine months pregnant.

When the obese shadow casually walked out of the forest, he walked onto the path in front. His eyes squinted, and there was an eerie darkness but no whiteness in them.

The obese guy was extremely odd. Li Luo pondered for a moment, and information regarding a True Devil Other surfaced in his mind.

Big Belly True Devil. Unusually fat with a large belly and a ghastly mouth, it enjoyed swallowing people whole. Li Luo raised his hand and signaled for the Green Nether banner members to come to a halt. He stared at the obese figure, and he could faintly see its stomach under its robe. It seemed to be wriggling a little, and some chewing sounds were coming out of it.

Li Luo had stopped in his tracks as soon as it noticed him, and the obese creature grinned and tore open its robe. A big, fleshy belly was revealed with a massive mouth on it, full of sharp fangs and dripping with saliva.

At this moment, the obese Other stretched out its hand and reached deep into its fat. It pulled out a human hand stored within its paunch and stuffed it into the huge mouth on its stomach. For a moment, blood splattered everywhere as it chewed the human hand. After just a few crunches, the hand was swallowed.

This was a truly weird scene that sent chills up one's spine.

At this moment, Li Luo's eyes turned a little gloomy. The obese guy was clearly the Big Belly True Devil, a Catastrophe-class Other according to his intel.

Li Luo frowned and said, "So unlucky." The Big Belly True Devil lived deep in the mountain range, and they were just passing by the outer region. Why had it appeared here all of a sudden?

This did not make sense at all. While Li Luo was pondering over this, a shocking sound came from behind. Zhao Jingyu and his Tiger Division were charging towards him.

However, Zhao Jingyu had also raised his hands and signaled for his division to pause for a moment while they were still quite some distance from catching up to Li Luo. He had noticed the Big Belly True Devil in front of Li Luo too.

"Hahaha! Getting stopped by a True Devil Other while walking here? You're really unlucky, Li Luo." Zhao Jingyu laughed out loud as he stared at Li Luo with malicious eyes. He was planning to let those two fight it out and reap the benefits once they were both badly injured.

At this point, murderous intent flashed across Li Luo's eyes. This was a truly unfortunate predicament, with the Big Belly True Devil at his front and Zhao Jingyu at his back.

It seemed like a bloodbath would be inevitable.

Just as Li Luo was preparing to make his move, his expression suddenly changed when he saw something far behind Zhao Jingyu.

There was a surging air of corruption rising from there. In the next moment, yet another figure slowly emerged.

It was a skinny creature in white clothes that did not look that different from an ordinary person. However, its head slowly rotated as it gradually walked out. It was then that everyone noticed... there was another human face on the back of its head.

A guy's face at the front and a lady's face at the back.

Both the guy and lady had smiles on their faces.

The location of its appearance had cut off their rear path. However, it had also cut off the path for Zhao Jingyu whilst he tried to block Li Luo's path.

The Dual Face True Devil!

Looking at the situation on hand, Li Luo's face twitched slightly. He sensed that something was off. If it was one True Devil Other appearing, it could be considered unlucky. But one on each side? Surely it must have been planned, right?

Were they coming for him specifically?

Fortunately, with how things had turned out, Zhao Jingyu had gone from chasing Li Luo to being a shield between him and the Dual Face True Devil. Zhao Jingyu clearly understood this point as well. His initial big laughter had turned stiff and his eyes changed.

"What the hell? Two True Devil Others have appeared at the same time. Are we just unlucky?"

Zhao Jingyu could not help but scream out angrily. Ordinarily speaking, there was an extremely low chance of such a thing happening. Why was this happening now?

Was he the unlucky one? Or was it Li Luo?

With an uncertain expression, Zhao Jingyu waved his hand and attempted to retreat to the side with the Tiger Division.

However, the Dual Face True Devil's grin changed as soon as it noticed their movements. Without any hesitation, it dashed towards Zhao Jingyu.

Clearly, it had no intention to let him escape.

Zhao Jingyu's expression darkened when he saw this.

Fighting it here meant that he would be protecting Li Luo from the Dual Face True Devil in this pincer attack.

Chapter 0864: Kind-Hearted Brother Zhao

"Zhao Jingyu is truly a kind soul," Li Luo said when he saw the Dual Face True Devil going for Zhao Jingyu. His tense heart relaxed a little, and a smile of relief appeared on his face.

In that case, there was finally a glimmer of hope in getting out of this precarious predicament.

Zhao Jingyu would have to face the Dual Face True Devil whether he liked it or not. This really took a huge burden off Li Luo's chest.

At least now, he could focus on fighting the Big Belly True Devil.

Li Luo turned his attention back to the strange, fat figure in front of him. If not for the huge mouth on its fleshy belly, this Big Belly True Devil would look just like any other ordinary human despite being a Catastrophe-class True Devil Other.

Li Luo had never encountered any Others of this class before. Back in the Umbra Cave of the college and the Holy Grail Meet in the Blackwind Empire, the most powerful Other he had met was only a Disaster-class.

The Big Belly True Devil did not appear as terrifying and odd as the Disaster-class Other from a distance. However, the terrifying pressure emanating from it sent chills into anyone who laid eyes on it.

It was especially true for the huge mouth in its belly. It was constantly chewing, and the fresh blood that kept dripping from it left a very glaring trail on its white skin.

Standing behind him, the faces of Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and many of the Green Nether Banner members also turned a little white. They were all thankful that the Green Nether Banner was here together. If they had encountered such a crisis alone, they might not even have a chance to escape.

"Hehe." The Big Belly True Devil grinned as it stared at Li Luo.

It then slapped its own belly a few times, and a dark, gooey substance was spat out of its huge mouth. The substance was like an enormous, black river that flowed across the vast land, leaving the ground eroded and filled with wicked poison wherever it passed through.

Just like this, the black river surged straight towards Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner.

Li Luo took a deep breath as soon as he saw this. Forming hand seals with both hands, the power from the Green Nether Banner surged rapidly.

"Nine Revolutions Art, Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath!"

Facing a True Devil Other that was as strong as Duke, Li Luo was not going to start off by probing its strength—he went for a decisive move straight away.

Enormous energy surged up, and an illusory dragon manifestation materialized. The dragon manifestation let out a deafening roar as it opened its maw, and wave after wave of lightning dragonbreath spewed out of it.

Boom!

The air exploded with a deafening boom when the lightning dragonbreath pierced through the sky.

It collided directly with the black river, and the two attacks started to consume each other. The ground that came into contact with just the shockwave of the collision cracked open into a spider web-like pattern.

Just like this, they were at stalemate for a while before the lightning dragonbreath disintegrated the black river completely, and the remnants shot towards the Big Belly True Devil.

Seeing this, the Big Belly True Devil gave its belly another slap. Its huge mouth full of sharp fangs opened up speedily and it swallowed up the remaining lightning dragonbreath.

CRACKLE! POP!

When the lightning dragonbreath was in its belly, lightning crackled on the surface of its body and left it with many bleeding holes. The flesh and blood from these holes turned black, and stinky, black blood flowed out of it.

However, the Big Belly True Devil's body was much stronger than imagined. It wriggled its fat folds a little, and they gradually started to cover up the bloody holes.

Seeing this, Li Luo narrowed his eyes. He had gotten a sense of the Big Belly True Devil's true power now.

Based on the strength of its energy, it should be around the level of an upper first-grade Duke. It was not much stronger than Li Luo in the state of Harmony, as his Harmony energy had improved after his breakthrough as well.

There was no need for Li Luo to fear it in a one-on-one situation.

However, he did not plan to have a deathmatch with the Big Belly True Devil here. Ultimately, there was still the threat of Zhao Jingyu and the Dual Face True Devil behind.

His top priority now was to get out of this predicament and meet up with Li Fengyi and the rest.

As Li Luo was thinking about this, the Big Belly True Devil started laughing all of a sudden. Its laughter was pretty gentle, but it seemed unusually hollow, as if it lacked any emotion.

At this moment, it raised its palm and gave its belly a hard slap.

Pa!

Following the crisp sound, the flesh on its belly moved like waves. It opened its huge mouth, then its belly started tearing open and rose rapidly into the sky.

It was an extremely grotesque sight as they watched the huge mouth expand high up into the air.

Ptui!

The huge mouth spat out a dark light that opened up like a curtain, covering the entire region in just a short moment.

The surroundings were plunged into darkness with not a single ray of light being able to penetrate through it.

For a moment, it was as if they had lost all their senses.

The expressions of Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu changed immediately as they were both covered by the curtain.

In fact, the most disturbing part of it all was a faint, odd voice that kept repeating in the air. It felt like a kind of signal that was calling out to other True Devil Others.

Was the Big Belly True Devil thinking of trapping them here and summoning all the other True Devil Others over to gang up on them?

Li Luo felt a chill in his heart. This True Devil Other was truly intelligent.

Without any hesitation, he summoned the Onyx-Elephant Blade and slashed down. A knife wheel that was hundreds of feet tall appeared in the air and flew towards the dark-curtain sky.

However, the curtain was like a blackhole—it simply swallowed up the knife wheel without any signs of taking damage.

Not far behind, Zhao Jingyu had also summoned up worldly natural energy and launched his attack. It was ineffective against this dark curtain as well.

His face changed as he shouted, "Li Luo, let's work together and break out of this dark curtain first! If not, we will be dead meat when the other True Devils make their way here!"

Li Luo's eyes moved a little, but he did not turn down the offer. "Alright," he replied.

The two of them summoned up an immense burst of energy without holding back and launched a combined attack at the same point.

When their all-out attack struck the curtain, it started to rumble violently. Clearly, the Big Belly True Devil was not capable of trapping both Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu here with its strength alone.

However, the Dual Face True Devil started its offensive at this time.

Two gentle, smiling faces gradually appeared amidst the darkness. Their mouths started moving when they looked at each other, and a strange, low whisper could be heard.

The whispers emitted a corruption that was extremely strong and pervasive. Instantly, the mental states of both Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu started to waver and waves of negative emotions arose within them.

Moreover, even the members of the Green Nether Banner and the Tiger Division started to display signs of pain on their faces.

They were obviously affected by the corruption as well.

At this moment, Li Luo and Zhao Jingyu resisted the damage from the strange whispers. However, their attacks did not weaken at all. Instead, they grew stronger and stronger.

The black curtain vibrated violently, and faint cracks began to show.

When Zhao Jingyu saw the crack, he took another look at Li Luo with an icy smile on his face.

Crack!

The black curtain tore apart and revealed the outside sky.

In the same moment, a piece of ice chalcedony appeared on Zhao Jingyu's palm. When he crushed it, an extremely cold air surrounded him. The cold air contained the effect of purification, and the effects of the strange whispers from the Dual Face True Devil weakened significantly in an instant.

The Tiger Division members seemed to have also recovered as well.

"Li Luo, thanks for your help. This place suits you more. You can stay behind and enjoy it!"

Zhao Jingyu let out a cold laugh, then his energy surged up and he flew away with his people. They were headed directly for the opening in the dark curtain.

On the other hand, Li Luo was distracted by the Dual Face True Devil, so his speed was naturally slower. Once Zhao Jingyu exited, he could seal up the opening and leave Li Luo down below to fight against the two True Devil Others.

Just as Zhao Jingyu thought everything was turning out according to his plan, a deafening dragon chant suddenly resounded.

Li Luo had placed his hands together, and a giant Heavenly Dragon enveloped him and the Green Nether Banner. The Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment contained the might of the Heavenly Dragon, which was able to calm one's nerves and eliminate evil corruption. As such, the corruption from the Dual Face True Devil disappeared as quickly as it appeared.

Like a flash of light, Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner flew up into the air with the Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment. He got out through the opening one step ahead of Zhao Jingyu, and the latter looked at him with eyes of fury.

Zhao Jingyu tried to follow closely after him.

However, Li Luo simply sent out a punch without much expression. The punch was thousands of feet tall, and it knocked Zhao Jingyu one step back directly.

It was this small, little step that allowed the Dual Face True Devil to catch up. The female and male faces swelled up considerably and let out a strange, piercing sound this time.

It was so painful that Zhao Jingyu's ears started bleeding.

After which, he could only watch bleakly as the black curtain closed up. Li Luo and his members had broken out and left the area hastily.

At this point, his face was bursting with anger.

"Li Luo!"

An angry scream came from the black curtain behind him.

"Brother Zhao, hang in there! I'll go and seek help! You can do it!" Li Luo shouted. He did not look back and simply dashed away at full speed.

Chapter 0865: The Objective of the True Devils

Like a rainbow that crossed the sky, Li Luo escaped in a trail of light with the Green Nether Banner thanks to the Heavenly Dragon Resonance Enlightenment.

He was charging full speed ahead and did not dare to slow down.

Gratitude was what he felt for Zhao Jingyu at this time. If he weren't around, Li Luo probably would have had to pay a heavy price in order to escape from those two True Devils.

As for the unfortunate Zhao Jingyu, who was still trapped in the dark curtain, Li Luo could only grieve for a second for his treasured friend in his heart. As thanks for his proactive assistance, he would happily leave the five dragon fangs as ceremonial burial items for him to bring to the grave... He was a top talent from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao after all. One couldn't just bury him too shabbily.

"However, the True Devils were acting a little strange."

In the blink of an eye, Li Luo had forgotten about Zhao Jingyu as he thought about the encounter with a frown. The path he had chosen was clearly at the outer region of their territories. Under ordinary circumstances, he should not have attracted their attention unless they were coincidentally at the perimeters.

What was more... just encountering one was bad luck enough. But for both of them to appear at the same time? A preposterous proposition.

Moreover, they happened to appear in front of and behind him to block both his paths.

If all of this was merely a coincidence, his bad luck was truly out of this world.

At this moment, Li Luo's eyes changed a little. He recalled what Li Lingjing had told him back in Western City...

The Soul Eater True Devil.



It was the most mysterious True Devil in this Dark Domain. Furthermore, it was attracted to individuals with extraordinary talent. According to Li Lingjing, the more talented the individual was, the more attracted the True Devil would be towards them.

In that case, Li Luo with his triple resonances must have been as attractive as a ninth-grade resonance talent at least.

Could he have been targeted by the Soul Eater True Devil?

Did it plan to devour his sheer talent as well?

At the same time, he recalled the spying sensation he felt from the Other Tide earlier. This train of thought seemed very likely to be the truth.

"What a pain in the ass."

Li Luo's face turned serious as he looked up at the gloomy sky in the Dark Domain. The air of corruption was everywhere, sinister whispers echoing all around. It was targeted at the depths of people's hearts and made it very easy for one to lose control of their emotions.

Fortunately, the eight thousand members of the Green Nether Banner were moving as one entity. If they were traveling alone, their mental state would definitely be affected after a while, and they'd gradually fall prey to the corruption.

Besides, Li Luo was unable to sense the presence of the Soul Eater True Devil. He did not even know how it could spy on his movements.

Moreover, the Soul Eater True Devil could be an unbelievably frightening foe if even the Big Belly True Devil and Dual Face True Devil chose to act on its instructions.

Those two True Devils were already as strong as first-grade Dukes. If his theory was correct, the Soul Eater True Devil was even stronger.

Li Luo let out a sigh in his heart. The mission to retrieve the Sacred Infant Fruit would be far harder than he had imagined.

However, this involved Ox Biaobiao's recovery, so there was no way he would give up. He could not drag this on any longer either. Back in the Xia Kingdom, Ox Biaobiao was considered a top fighter despite his grave injuries. Now that he was back at the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, his spirit might not be able to take the mental blow of being weaker than those who were once weaker than him.

Therefore, it was essential to help Ox Biaobiao recover as soon as possible.

As Li Luo thought about these things, his eyes firmed up. He moved towards the meeting point at full speed.

And as for Brother Zhao Jingyu, who was still trapped... If the opportunity arose in the future, Li Luo would offer him three sticks of incense as thanks whenever he passed by the area...

.....

Meanwhile, in the dark curtain that covered the whole sky.

Zhao Jingyu's face was extremely gloomy. He had not thought that his plan to trick Li Luo would backfire. It truly was a case of going out for wool and coming back shorn.

In the end, he was left to face two True Devil Others.

Zhao Jingyu stared at the male and female faces that floated unsteadily in the darkness. There was a gentle smile on their pale faces as their eyes looked at him blankly.

And the Big Belly True Devil was also staring at him intently.

Turning round, Zhao Jingyu took a look at the Tiger Division, and the members' faces were filled with anxiety. This was as expected. After all, they were basically being stared down by two Dukes right now. If not for the state of Harmony, they would all be dead meat regardless of how many members there were.

"Don't worry. I secretly sent out a signal earlier. As long as we can buy some time here, the other three divisions will be coming to our aid," Zhao Jingyu said with a deep voice to calm their nerves.

At the same time, Zhao Jingyu formed hand seals with both his hands and summoned up the full strength of his Harmony.

"Tiger Fiend True Form!"

Energy surged up, and the shadow of a giant, crimson tiger materialized. It enveloped Zhao Jingyu and the Tiger Division before a ferocious aura swept through the air like a storm.

Facing this fierce display of strength, even the casually floating Dual Face True Devil retreated a little.

When the waves rippled through the darkness, the Big Belly True Devil emerged with dark eyes staring at the crimson tiger projection. It was like the Other was contemplating whether to break through it forcefully or not.

However, it shook its head after a while. The darkness in the surroundings started to fade away, and the last strand of it was eventually swallowed back into its huge mouth.

Afterwards, the huge mouth fell back down from the sky and went back onto the Big Belly True Devil's belly.

The Dual Face True Devil also restored its human form at this point. They did not make any noise and were not bothered by Zhao Jingyu's confused face at all. Just like this, they each left and disappeared back into their respective territories. Zhao Jingyu and the Tiger Division were left dumbfounded by this scene.

"They left just like that?" Zhao Jingyu asked in disbelief. He did not dare to release his technique immediately. After waiting for a while and confirming that both True Devils had disappeared from the vicinity, he released the Crimson Tiger Manifestation.

"Did they sense that the other three divisions were on their way? Did they decide to leave since they couldn't beat us in such a short amount of time?" Zhao Jingyu's guessed as his gaze flickered.

However, this train of thought seemed a bit too far-fetched. It did not matter how long they could drag the battle out. If the two True Devils had worked together, he and his division would have had to pay a really heavy price.

Besides, True Devil Others were not such friendly or logical beings.

In that case, the other guess would be... The two True Devil Others were never interested in targeting him.

And if that assumption was true... could it have been that they were after Li Luo?

Zhao Jingyu frowned and wondered. Why was Li Luo being targeted by them? That country bumpkin had just returned from the outer divine continent. Although he had some achievements recently, he was not really considered the best of the best in this generation of the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. At least Zhao Jingyu felt that he had a pretty high chance of being Li Luo in a fight.

As such, he was not confident of this guess either.

Perhaps that guy was really just unlucky.

"Whatever. Regardless of the reason, it's good that they backed down without a fight." Zhao Jingyu was not in the mood to contemplate over this. He looked with heavy eyes into the direction that Li Luo had headed off in. After this incident, their enmity had grown even deeper. There was no hurry though. Since Li Luo was going for the Sacred Infant Fruit, there would be a chance for them to meet again.

As such, he led the Tiger Division away and left at full speed in another direction. After this encounter with two True Devils, he did not dare to hang around any longer or charge around recklessly.

It was best for him to meet up with the other three divisions first.

.....

In the depths of the Dark Domain, monstrous amounts of corruption flowed along the streams on a mountain, heading towards a black lake located deep inside.

The atmosphere around the lake was eerie and strange, and there were no ripples on the surface—it was like a pool of stagnant water.

All of a sudden, a vortex appeared in the center of the lake, and a face emerged from it.

It was a truly beautiful face with clear skin and shiny, fair cheeks.

If Li Luo were around, he would have noticed... This was the face he had seen back in Western City. It was the face of Li Lingjing. The person in the lake turned her head slightly as she looked into the distance with smiling eyes, her red lips slightly curving up.

Chapter 0866: Discussion

When Li Luo arrived at the rendezvous point, there were already thousands of people lying about lazily on the abandoned square in the wasted plains. Despite how scattered they seemed, the over twenty thousand soldiers were breathing in sync as if they were one entity. Three overwhelmingly powerful forces that covered up the area were formed as a result, driving out any corruption that tried to enter.

They all noticed Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner arrive at the same time.

Three of the people rushed up from the crowd and quickly appeared in front of Li Luo.

They were none other than Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian.

"Little Brother, you're too slow! We've been waiting for you for over half a day! If you were any slower, we would have gone out to look for you," Li Fengyi complained to Li Luo after giving a sigh of relief.

Li Luo smiled bitterly and asked, "Was everything fine on your way here?"

Li Jingtao nodded and replied, "Perfectly fine. Although we encountered some Others, we simply finished them off along the way."

At this point, Deng Fengxian took another look at Li Luo and inquired, "Did something crop up on your end?"

Li Luo sighed and responded, "We met Zhao Jingyu."

Hearing this, Li Fengyi's face changed immediately and she asked, "Are you alright? Did the Green Nether Banner suffer great casualties?" The Tiger Division led by Zhao Jingyu was the second strongest out of the twenty divisions in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao after all. Their strength should not be underestimated. Among them, not even Deng Fengxian could say with confidence that he could fight off Zhao Jingyu. Hence, Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner must have suffered great casualties in that encounter.

Although Li Luo did come out on top in the Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, everyone knew that he had managed to escape from Qin Yi largely due to the fact that she had to split up her power and maintain the Aqua Palace. He might have proven himself to be extraordinary and one of the top few in the Twenty Banners, but it was still debatable if he was strong enough to handle a strong opponent like Zhao Jingyu.

In response, Li Luo waved his hand and told them, "I did not fight him."

It was only at this point that Li Fengyi heaved a sigh of relief. However, her heart started pounding as soon as she heard his next sentence.

"Because we ran into two True Devil Others blocking our road," Li Luo continued.

The three of them were dumbfounded. It had just been half a day, yet countless exciting occurrences had happened to Li Luo.

"How did you escape from them? I can see that the Green Nether Banner barely had any casualties," Deng Fengxian asked with some suspicion after taking a look at the Green Nether Banner.

One could not really blame him for asking this question. What Li Luo had just shared was too unbelievable. If he had really encountered both Zhao Jingyu and two True Devil Others, he would most likely be dead meat. Even though he had somehow escaped, the eight thousand members of the Green Nether Banner should have been largely wiped out in the process.

Li Luo shrugged and responded, "Luckily, Zhao Jingyu was there to help me out with one of the True Devil Others."

At the same time, he shared with them how Zhao Jingyu had tried to trick him at the last minute, but he had managed to turn it around and escape from the dark curtain in the end.

Li Fengyi and the other two looked at each other with weird expressions.

"It seems like you really have to thank Zhao Jingyu," Li Fengyi said as she held back her laughter.

"I'll definitely offer incense to him whenever I come back here," Li Luo replied with a serious tone as he nodded.

At this point, Deng Fengxian calmly told them, "Zhao Jingyu may not have died to those two True Devil Others. He's not as simple as you may think. After all, he's the second strongest in this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao."

"That's even better," Li Luo responded with some anticipation. It would not be an issue at all if Zhao Jingyu had survived, as there were still five dragon fangs in his possession.

Li Jingtao shook his head and commented, "But Third Brother, aren't you a bit too unlucky?"

Li Fengyi agreed with him too. They had also rushed to the rendezvous point like Li Luo, but they had only ran into a few weak Others along the way. They had not even encountered any Greater Heavenly Disaster-class Others, let alone a True Devil Other.

Yet Li Luo had come across two True Devil Others. This was truly unfortunate and unfathomable.

Hearing this, Li Luo smiled helplessly and replied, "I feel like this isn't just a coincidence."

"What do you mean?" the three of them asked. Not just a coincidence? Why would the two True Devil Others go after Li Luo? Was there a secret behind all this?

"Do you all remember Li Lingjing from the Western Region's Li Family?" Li Luo said.

"Of course. Cousin Li Lingjing is just a few years older than us. She was pretty well known a few years back. With her close ties to Aunt Li Rouyun, I heard that she was supposed to join the Green Nether Banner. With her talent, she would have elevated the Green Nether Banner's position in the previous generation. In fact, some of the guys in the Dragon's Fang Guardians even told me that she had the potential to compete for the Dragon's Head at the time.

"It's a pity that she encountered a True Devil Other and succumbed to its corruption. Her foundation was destroyed and she lost many opportunities as a result. Nowadays, she's staying home to recuperate, and we haven't heard much about her since," Li Fengyi elaborated while feeling sorry for her.

Li Luo nodded and replied, "I met with cousin Li Lingjing earlier. She shared with me that there was a mysterious True Devil Other in this Dark Domain known as the Soul Eater True Devil. This True Devil is particularly fond of talented individuals and enjoys consuming their talent and soul. It is the True Devil that she fell prey to back then."

The other three were surprised to hear about this. "Such a thing exists? This is something we have never heard of before." At the same moment, Li Jingtao's simple and honest face also turned serious as he asked, "Third Brother, do you mean you are being targeted by the Soul Eater True Devil too?"

Li Luo was a triple resonance user. In terms of talent and rarity, he was on par with those who possessed a ninth-grade resonance. Hence, it was not surprising for the Soul Eater True Devil to be interested in Li Luo if it had gone for Li Lingjing previously.

"The two True Devil Others may have come under its instructions," Li Luo explained.

Deng Fengxian frowned and commented, "If it can order two first-grade True Devils, just how strong is the Soul Eater True Devil?"

"There's no need to worry too much. The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li and the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao send people into the Dark Domain from time to time to hunt True Devils that are of too high a grade. After all, the explorers here are second-grade Dukes and below due to the seal. If a True Devil is too strong, it'll be a disaster for them."

At this point, Li Fengyi pondered for a moment before continuing, "As such, I feel like the Soul Eater True Devil is probably a second-grade True Devil.

"But a second-grade True Devil would be hunted down as well. The Soul Eater True Devil must be something special to have survived here for so long."

"A second-grade True Devil is also very strong," Li Jingtao commented with a frown. After all, this would mean it had the strength of a second-grade Duke. Right now, the four of them could only reach the quasi first-grade Duke Stage with the help of Harmony. There were still a lot of restrictions for them, and they were ultimately far below a real Duke in terms of strength and methods available.

However, Li Luo did not show any signs of fear. He still had the Three-tailed Heavenly Wolf, so he could put up a fight even if he really encountered a second-grade True Devil.

"One more question. If what Banner Leader Li Luo said is true, can this Soul Eater True Devil order the other True Devils as well?" Deng Fengxian asked after giving it some thought.

Everyone frowned when they heard this. Based on the intel they had gathered, there were around ten True Devils in this Dark Domain. If the Soul Eater True Devil really could command the others, it would be a really big headache for them.

Li Luo pondered over it for a moment. He took out the map of the Dark Domain and studied their destinations. They were headed for the places where the Sacred Infant Fruits grew. While they were found in multiple locations, they were all scattered in the deeper parts of the Dark Domain.

Considering that they needed a ripe fruit as well, there was only one spot that fulfilled all their requirements.

It was a district with four True Devils.

Li Luo stared at the red markings on those districts for a moment before his eyes lit up. He then raised his head and looked at the other three.

"I have a bold suggestion," he said as the three stared back at him.

"Get the jump on them. Clip the wings of the bird."

As he finished his sentence, Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian's faces twitched a little. This was indeed a presumptuous idea.

Chapter 0867: Clean Up

The sky was overcast and dark.

On a huge mountain filled with the thick air of corruption, strange whispers echoed throughout the forests.

**BOOM!**

A shockingly huge wave of energy rippled from the depths of the mountain. Like a hurricane sweeping by, the whole mountain started shuddering under the undulations of the immense energy waves.

Upon closer look, there was a True Devil Other howling on a peak of the mountain. Viscous and eerily cold corruption gushed out of it continuously, blanketing the whole sky.

The Other was preparing for battle at this point. Its flesh started to rip apart and pieces of its white bones punctured its skin from inside. In the next moment, the white bones separated from its body and transformed into white-bone swords. The swords were dripping a black substance that was dark as ink and contained the fearful power of corruption.

This was none other than the Bone Sword True Devil.

Its body was fully covered in white-bone swords. In the blink of an eye, it charged towards a nearby figure that was surging with energy.

It was none other than Li Jingtao.

With the assistance of Harmony, he took his time and formed hand seals with both his hands. In the next moment, countless dragon fangs brimming with energy materialized in the sky above and rapidly intertwined together.

Clack, clack!

A dragon fang shield possessing impenetrable defenses formed in an instant, engraved with glowing, runic patterns.

**BANG! BANG!**

The white bone swords struck the shield with a continuous wave of attacks, causing it to vibrate violently. However, Li Jingtao's shield was indestructible. The pouring attacks that were filled with corruption were deflected.

Nonetheless, the Bone Sword True Devil continued to grow even more bone swords out of its flesh. Its attacks were unrelenting.

Both sides were stuck in a stalemate.

"Eldest Brother's defense is truly the best. The Bone Sword True Devil's attacks are much more ferocious than those of the other True Devils that I met earlier. Furthermore, its swords contain the power of corruption. If it so much as grazed our bodies, the damage would be unimaginable." Li Luo could not help but laugh as he watched the two of them fight.

"It's just a turtle shell," Li Fengyi said with a pout.

On the other hand, Deng Fengxian shook his head and elaborated in a serious tone, "It's considered a victory if you are undefeated. This defense from Banner Leader Li Jingtao is probably the strongest amongst the Twenty Banners. At the very least, I wouldn't be able to break through it."

Hearing this, Li Luo nodded in agreement. With Li Jingtao's laidback and friendly temperament, it was clear that he did not enjoy attacking at all. However, he had found another way of success for himself. He had cultivated the Annihilation Fang Art, famed for its offense, into a defensive art. It highlighted how he had mitigated his weaknesses and made use of his strengths to transform himself by developing an absolute defense that was incredibly sturdy.

With this unique defensive art, he had established his own standing amongst the current young generation in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. No one would dare to underestimate him any longer.

"It's about time for us to act. We can't let the Bone Sword True Devil escape," Li Luo said with a grin.

Hearing this, Li Fengyi and Deng Fengxian nodded. Huge amounts of energy swelled within the three of them, and they each activated their strongest Duke Arts.

Three waves of energy split the sky apart and forcefully blasted away the thick air of corruption.

Faced with this surprise attack, a dense, black light flashed across the eyes of the Bone Sword True Devil. Without a doubt, it had sensed the fatal danger approaching it.

It let out a sharp cry, and the flesh around its body began to shrink whilst even more bones protruded out of its body. The bones intertwined with each other, and a short moment later, it had transformed into a giant, white-bone sword that was thousands of meters tall.

Its twisted face could be seen on the hilt of the sword.

Wrapped in viscous air of corruption, the gigantic sword let out a low, odd scream and clashed directly with the three incoming attacks.

Boom!

A shocking energy wave rippled through the air. The wooded area around the collision was completely razed to the ground. Many of the hidden Others in the forest were also wiped out as collateral damage.

When the energy waves weakened, cracks could be seen appearing on the gigantic sword. Noxious, black air gushed out of each fault, paired with a never-ending shriek.

BANG!

The sword exploded the next moment, and countless shards flew through the air.



"Destroy all the shards!" Li Luo shouted out as soon as he witnessed this.

The vitality of a True Devil Other was beyond one's imagination. If even a single shard managed to escape, it would take just a day of rest and absorption of corruption for the Bone Sword True Devil to recover. Hence, it was essential that they eliminated all the shards to kill off this Other completely.

Fortunately, Li Fengyi, Deng Fengxian, and Li Jingtao were already prepared for this. They shot out multiple energy beams repeatedly, forming a giant spider-web that covered up the mountain.

Many of the white bone shards were annihilated before they could escape.

A few minutes later, the four of them gathered after they had cleaned up the region completely.

"Not bad, we've finished off the second True Devil in the area," Li Fengyi said with a laugh.

When Li Luo gave the bold suggestion initially, they had all thought that his idea was simply crazy. However, after having a discussion, they saw the merits of it and gradually accepted it.

After all, True Devils were a hidden danger. If the Soul Eater True Devil could really order the other True Devils to gather and gang up on them, they would be the ones running for their lives then.

As such, this plan to clean up the powerful Others kicked into action.

It had actually proceeded better than they had originally expected. Since these True Devils were as strong as first-grade Dukes, it might have been hard to secure a victory in a one-on-one situation. However, they could increase their chances of victory significantly with the four of them working together in the state of Harmony.

Thus, they had slain two True Devils in the past few days.

"Let's continue," Li Luo said with a hint of determination. He did not intend to rest and was fully focused on the task of cleaning up the True Devils in this district before he searched for the Sacred Infant Fruit.

Although his plan had been a success so far, the presence of the Soul Eater True Devil had left him feeling uneasy.

Similarly, the other three had no objections. After Li Luo had shared the information of the Soul Eater True Devil with them, they also wanted to finish up the mission as soon as possible to avoid any unexpected surprises.

Once again, the four banners started to move out.

They arrived in the district belonging to the third True Devil a day later.

According to their intel, the True Devil here was known as the Red Eye True Devil, another first-grade True Devil. However, they noticed that things were different upon their arrival.

They could not find any traces of the Red Eye True Devil regardless of how much they searched the district.

"How did it disappear?" Li Fengyi was extremely puzzled.

Li Luo frowned with a serious face and said, "Did the Soul Eater True Devil realize our intentions and order the Red Eye True Devil to flee from here?"

Hearing this, Li Jingtao's face changed a little as well. "Is the Soul Eater True Devil that sly? The intelligence it possesses is as good as a human's."

With a deep voice, Li Luo told them, "Let's head over to the fourth True Devil!"

The other three understood his meaning. If the fourth True Devil had disappeared as well, this might not be a simple coincidence.

As such, the four of them set off again.

After half a day, they arrived at the fourth True Devil's region. Their faces turned dark after a search of the area.

It had disappeared as well.

The four of them looked at each other blankly. Was the disappearance of these two True Devils really linked to the Soul Eater True Devil?

"Damn it, it's the first time I have seen such a strange Other," Li Jingtao said with shock. Under normal circumstances, True Devil Others would stay in their own districts, being the undisputed kings of their respective regions. However, they had chosen to leave their own territories mysteriously, possibly under the instruction of the Soul Eater True Devil.

"What now? Do we give up? Two of the True Devils have escaped," Li Fengyi asked.

With a frown, Li Luo replied, "There's no need to worry too much. We still managed to clean up two of the True Devil Others after all. We've eliminated some of the uncertainties already.

"This district is close to where the Sacred Infant Fruit is. We'll have to head over there eventually. However, we need to be prepared to abandon the mission if things turn sour when we arrive."

The other three nodded helplessly. Although they did not want to abandon the mission, there was nothing they could do if things got too dangerous and out of hand.

This time, they did not set off immediately. Instead, they chose to take a day of rest. When the second day arrived, the four banners started moving out again. Li Luo saw a crimson mountain range appear at the end of his vision after traveling for close to a day.

The temperature of the surrounding area started to rise gradually.

As Li Luo looked over to the crimson mountain range, he knew that they had finally arrived at the place where a Sacred Infant Fruit could be found.

Chapter 0868: Crimson Fire Mountain Range

The crimson mountain range was like an enormous fire dragon that roamed the land, stretching out with no end in sight.

A very clear distinction separated it from the outside world. On the outside, the air was filled with thick corruption, and insidious whispers echoed throughout. In contrast, there was barely any corruption in the mountain range, and the worldly natural energy was extremely dense inside.

Such was a special trait of this Dark Domain.

In order to avoid the corruption, the worldly natural energy would usually gather in one spot, forming a special region. The worldly natural energy in those areas would be extremely concentrated. As a result, the corruption could not easily enter these regions full of energy.

Such special regions with extremely concentrated energy thus formed natural grounds for cultivation in Dark Domains.

It was a cultivation spot that many of the rogue cultivators would flock to if not for the dozens of Others in the Dark Domains.

Besides that, many rare treasures were born as a result of the extremely concentrated energy in the region. It was also where the Sacred Infant Fruits that Li Luo and gang had been searching for were located.

At this moment, Li Luo and the other three were standing on a mountaintop, watching the crimson mountain range in the distance. The members of the four banners were quietly seated behind them, breathing in sync with a strong force of energy that could be summoned by the Banner Leaders at any moment.

"It feels so easy to get drunk on the immense power granted by the state of Harmony," Li Luo suddenly said with a smile.

They were currently in the depths of the Dark Domain. Under ordinary circumstances, neither the banner members nor Fiend Finishers like Deng Fengxian or Li Fengyi would dare to come here alone for training. The Others appearing in this area tended to be of higher grades. Putting the True Devils aside, it would be extremely dangerous if they had encountered any Heavenly Disaster-class Others.

It was only thanks to the power of Harmony that Li Luo and the other three could sit here peacefully now.

Such power had enabled them, who were clearly still in the Earth Fiend Stages, to fight against True Devil Others.

In fact, it was just like Li Luo had said earlier—one could easily lose themselves in the face of controlling such power.

"Although being able to control the state of Harmony feels wonderful, one should be careful not to be overly reliant on it. If one starts to think such power belongs to them alone, it'll be extremely harmful to one's mental state and impede them from cultivating any further," Li Fengyi warned.

"In fact, that is not uncommon at all. Every now and then, a Banner Leader loses himself. Their mental state is affected, and even though they used to be a pretty talented individual, they end up as an ordinary guy unable to cultivate any further," Li Jingtao added with a sigh.

Li Luo nodded in agreement. After all, the power of Harmony was an external aid. He should not confuse it with his own true strength just because it was convenient. Otherwise, he would have to pay a heavy price for it one day.

As he thought about this, Li Luo drew his focus back to his inner self. They had been in the Dark Domain of the Western Region for close to ten days. As they were busy hunting Others, he had not had the time for his own cultivation.

The Dark Domain was actually an excellent place for cultivation despite its harsh environment. In the few days that passed, Li Luo had unexpectedly obtained two more Cosmic Sword Intents.

At present, he had three in his possession. This further boosted his confidence in acquiring a Sacred Infant Fruit.

"Let's head into the Crimson Fire Mountain Range."

Li Luo gave the order without any further words. His attention and gaze were focused upon the crimson mountain range in the distance before him. There were a few volcanic openings that were steaming with hot air over there. That was where Sacred Infant Fruits were said to grow.

His only thought now was to get a Sacred Infant Fruit as soon as possible and leave this Dark Domain.

Hearing his order, the other three nodded in agreement. With a wave of their hands, the members of all four banners started marching into the mountain range blanketed by a searing atmosphere.

The mountains were carpeted with red forests that were dispersed like spreading wildfire.

Li Luo and the rest noticed the presence of spirit beasts as soon as they stepped into it. These beasts looked like monkeys with crimson bodies that appeared to be wreathed in flames.

"Those must be Fire Spirit Monkeys. They appear in areas with extremely dense fire element energy and can be considered the true lords of this mountain range. Ordinary Fire Spirit Monkeys are around Earthly Disaster-class in power, while some of the elites are Heavenly Disaster-class. However, there are a lot of them, so it's best not to provoke them," Li Fengyi reminded the rest.

Li Luo nodded. Many of the Fire Spirit Monkeys were screaming at the intruders, but they did not dare to come close to them. Clearly, they must have felt the huge power coming from the four banners in the state of Harmony and knew it was best to steer clear of them.

This was a good thing for Li Luo and the rest. They did not need to worry about getting distracted.

"According to our intel, the Sacred Infant Fruits should be in the depths of this mountain range. There are three volcanoes that may have what we want," Li Fengyi explained.

"Let's go, then. Hopefully, the Sacred Infant Fruits are ripe."

Li Luo took a deep breath and led the banner forward. His eight thousand members were acting as one. There was not much disturbance wherever they passed—it felt just like four people marching on unimpeded.

It had been a strangely smooth journey with no surprises.

However, Li Luo dared not let his guard down. His mental state was closely connected to his banner, and they adjusted their conditions accordingly. This mission was full of uncertainties, whether it was the Soul Eater True Devil or the two other True Devils that had disappeared from their own districts nearby. Moreover, there was still the defective fool Zhao Jingyu and his three divisions that might be lingering somewhere.

The people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao seemed to have disappeared after Li Luo clashed with Zhao Jingyu when he first entered the Dark Domain. However, Li Luo knew that someone with Zhao Jingyu's temper would not take this lying down.

He was probably so taken aback by the encounter with the two True Devils previously that he had decided not to come for Li Luo in the middle of the journey. However, he knew very well that Li Luo and the rest would be coming for the Sacred Infant Fruits. If he wanted to strike again... this mountain range was the perfect place. The air of corruption was really thin here, so there was no need to worry about the appearance of True Devil Others.

Just as Li Luo was thinking about this, a chill ran up his spine. He took a heavy stomp and the floor below him cracked, making him stop in his tracks immediately.

Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian also stopped when they saw his reaction.

"What's the matter?" Li Fengyi asked.

Li Luo stared sharply at the fiery, dense forest in front of him. He couldn't see anything unusual in it, but he felt like something was wrong.

It was a feeling that came from the wood resonance within him.

As someone who possessed a wood resonance, he was particularly sensitive to forested areas like this.

Li Luo took a deep breath and puffed up his mouth. In the next moment, he exhaled, and resonant power shot out in waves into the dense forest in front of them.

As the resonant power passed through, Li Fengyi and the others could spot tiny, pearl-like particles floating in the air of the dense forest ahead.

The pearl-like particles had a fishy smell and were filled with smoke, as if they were some kind of poisonous substance.

Hidden in the air, these particles would have gone undetected if not for the breath of resonant power. Li Luo and the rest would surely have inhaled them and become poisoned as soon as he led them through this district.

The faces of Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian turned dark immediately. It was a truly vicious trap.

In fact, such traps could not have been set by True Devil Others.

In that case, there was only one possibility...

Li Luo lifted his head without any change in expression. He stared into the depths of the crimson forest and calmly shouted, "Zhao Jingyu, get your ass out here."

Although his voice was calm, it echoed repeatedly in the dense forest like the rumbling of thunder.

A few moments later, footsteps could be heard coming from the depths of the forest.

Four figures emerged and stopped not too far from the group.

As expected, one of them was naturally Zhao Jingyu.

Zhao Jingyu stared fiercely at Li Luo as he said with a sly smile, "Li Luo, you are really cautious. Even this wasn't able to get you."

Li Luo smiled and replied, "Likewise, I did not expect an idiot like you to survive those two True Devils either."

Hearing this, Zhao Jingyu's face twisted as he glared at Li Luo and shouted, "Don't worry. Since I'm not dead, you'll be dying next."

In response, Li Luo simply smiled and said, "May I ask you another question?"

However, he did not wait for Zhao Jingyu to reply. He continued in a warm and gentle tone, "You didn't lose my dragon fangs, did you?"

Chapter 0869: Gilded Armor Spirit Blade

As soon as Li Luo finished his sentence, murderous intent flashed across Zhao Jingyu's face. He truly detested Li Luo's tone, sounding as if the dragon fangs were no longer his.

Was Li Luo fit to say such words?

"You're just a country bumpkin. How dare you speak so arrogantly!"

Zhao Jingyu's eyes were brimming with killing intent at this point. He took a step forward, and his resonant power erupted, boosted by the strength of the Tiger Division standing not far away.

His body was surrounded by lightning resonance power, faintly blinking as if he was a giant lightning-tiger with four wings.

This was Zhao Jingyu's natural resonance.

Upper eighth-grade Four Winged Lightning Tiger resonance. With his own strength at the Fiend Finisher Tier, coupled with the boost from the state of Harmony with the Tiger Division, his power had reached the peak of an upper first-grade Duke.

In the next moment, a massive, sanguine blade appeared in his hands, and he slashed downwards before him.

"Tiger Soul Slash!"

A blade light that was thousands of feet tall materialized in the air. The blade was shrouded in a crimson glow and sounded like a ferocious tiger roaring. It exuded immense fiendish energy as the blade light flew across the field. Wherever it passed, all the crimson trees and fiery-red leaves in the area withered as if they had been corroded by it.

The blade light traveled straight towards Li Luo full of murderous intent.

Li Luo's eyes narrowed a little as he looked at the incoming fiendish blade-light. He had crossed moves with Zhao Jingyu earlier, but it was not until now that his opponent decided to give it his all.

Li Luo clenched his hands, and the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade appeared in his grip. He then summoned the power of Harmony to retaliate.

However, a figure suddenly took a step forward at this moment. It was none other than Deng Fengxian. His face appeared pretty calm as he took a step out, with golden light shining from his white robes. Soon, his robes turned into a suit of gilded armor, and he was suddenly holding a long, golden spear. Boosted by the power of Harmony, energy was surging within him as the air around him vibrated.

"I have long heard of the famed ferocious tiger Zhao Jingyu from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao's Tiger Division. Let me have a feel of it for myself today. Flowing Gold Art!"

The domineering energy around Deng Fengxian strengthened as he stabbed out with the golden spear in his hand. In an instant, golden light filled the air as if a giant, golden dragon with extremely sharp breath had emerged. The spear light flew through the air, leaving a really deep scar on the ground below its flight path.

In the next moment, the tiger blade-light and the golden spear-light clashed into each other. A wild storm of energy swept across the field, uprooting trees in the dense forest and reducing them to ash.

The destructive power of the Duke Stage was extremely terrifying. Zhao Jingyu sliced downwards with his crimson blade once again, sending forth multiple blade lights and shattering the energy storm. However, Deng Fengxian's gilded armor shot golden rays of light around himself, rapidly negating the energy of the opposing blade lights. Seeing this, Zhao Jingyu icily stared at his opponent.

"I have heard of the white-dressed gilded-armored Deng Fengxian from the Dragon's Fang Lineage. However, you'll not be enough to stop me!"

At this moment, Zhao Jingyu hacked down once again with lightning speed. Thousands of fiendish blade-lights flew out of his weapon at this very moment. Moreover, these blade lights started to fuse in midair, condensing their energy together and forming a bloody tiger claw that was thousands of feet tall.

An extremely condensed fiendish energy flowed throughout the interior of the claw. It was as if an ancient, savage tiger had ripped through the void and brought its terrifying presence to bear here.

"Duke Art, Great Tiger Seal!"

Zhao Jingyu sounded like a tiger roaring when he shouted. He knew that Deng Fengxian was no weakling, so he did not hold back. This time, he had used his ultimate skill and was giving it his all.

The bloody tiger-claw descended for the skies, directly towards Deng Fengxian.

When he saw the incoming hit, Li Luo, who was not far behind Deng Fengxian, grabbed onto his blade and prepared to help out.

However, Li Fengyi stopped him and said, "Don't worry. Deng Fengxian is not useless. Even though Zhao Jingyu is strong, he's still not strong enough to knock him out in a single hit. There are still three Division Leaders staring at us, we need to guard against them."

Li Luo turned his gaze towards Zhao Jingyu's back and noticed three figures eyeing them at this moment. They were the three Division Leaders from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, all in the state of Harmony and ready to strike at any time.

As such, Li Luo stopped in his tracks. Nonetheless, he grabbed onto his Onyx-Elephant Blade tightly.

In the same instant, Deng Fengxian raised his head and stared at the incoming tiger claw filled with fiendish energy. His face turned serious immediately, and he formed hand seals rapidly with both his hands. His gilded armor turned into strands of golden light and flew in front of him, quickly condensing together.

After nearly half his gilded armor had transformed into the strands of gold light, a small, golden blade that was about the size of a palm formed in front of Deng Fengxian.

The small knife was extremely exquisite, with a sense of endless sharpness hidden within it. Its blade was covered in extremely fine scales that were dazzling with golden light. As the light flowed through, it seemed to cause a piercing pain to anyone who looked at it directly.

"That is the Gilded Armor Spirit Blade, the Duke Art that Deng Fengxian cultivated. This art combines both offense and defense into one. Under normal circumstances, it can take the form of a suit of gilded armor to protect him. However, when he needs to attack, it can transform into a spirit blade that possesses sharpness that belies belief," Li Fengyi explained to Li Luo.

Li Luo nodded. This was indeed a versatile Duke Art, practical for both offensive and defensive purposes. Without a doubt, this must have been what allowed Deng Fengxian to rise to fame.

Weng!

As the spirit blade formed, it swam through the air like a fish in water. To everyone's surprise, it did not seek to clash with the incoming tiger claw attack. Instead, it turned into a ray of light that flew directly towards Zhao Jingyu's throat, appearing in front of him in an instant.

He had completely ignored Zhao Jingyu's attack and was planning to exchange injuries instead!

What a decisive move!

Deng Fengxian's decision was completely beyond Zhao Jingyu's expectations. As such, Zhao Jingyu's face changed immediately when he saw the golden blade flying towards him. It was extremely sharp, and if it penetrated the resonant power protecting his body, his body would not be able to withstand it.

"Hmph, the White Dressed Gilded Armor is really something."

In the blink of an eye, Zhao Jingyu let out a cold snort. However, he didn't withdraw his tiger claw for defense. Instead, he opened his mouth fiercely, and complicated runes emerged from his throat. Crimson light radiated from them.

Roar!



Terrifying shockwaves that were visible to the naked eye set off like a ravaging tiger-roar. They collided with the golden spirit-blade directly.

The spirit blade was weakened by the vibrating shockwaves. They were just like tiny fish trying to swim up a waterfall, trying so hard to move forward but ultimately not getting any closer to Zhao Jingyu.

Finally, the energy from the spirit blade was exhausted. It bounced backwards as it could no longer withstand the shockwaves any longer.

Li Fengyi's face turned cold when she witnessed this scene. "A Royal Engraving? Zhao Jingyu, you sure came prepared!"

When Li Luo heard this, he froze in his tracks. A Royal Engraving... He had received such a treasure as the prize back when he won the Holy Grail Meet. It was extremely rare in the outer divine continent. Now, he had finally seen someone using one in the inner divine continent. Using the crimson shockwaves, Zhao Jingyu had managed to deflect Deng Fengxian's surprise attack. However, Deng Fengxian still had to figure out a way to handle the incoming tiger claw attack.

Li Luo prepared to lend a helping hand once again.

"Leave this to me. You guys help me to keep watch on those other thugs in front."

At this moment, Li Jingtao gave an earnest smile as he speedily stepped forward and formed hand seals. In the next moment, worldly natural energy gathered above Deng Fengxian and manifested dragon fangs that intertwined with each other rapidly, soon weaving together into a dragon fang shield.

Bang!

The tiger claw smacked down aggressively onto the dragon fang shield. A shocking wave of energy swept across the field, causing the ground below to crack under pressure.

"Li Jingtao? Who do you think you are? A mere ant trying to stop my attack?" Zhao Jingyu ridiculed Li Jingtao when he saw him stepping forward. Li Jingtao had always held a low profile, so he had not roused much interest in this man.

In his eyes, Li Jingtao was simply a guy who languished amongst the bottom of the Twenty Banners of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

However, just as his mocking laughter came out, he witnessed a surprising scene. Although the shield was shuddering endlessly under the suppressive force of the tiger claw, it showed no signs of shattering. It simply stood there like a rock unabated in the midst of crashing ocean waves. No matter how aggressively the waves struck it, it would not give way.

After a few moments, the tiger claw's energy was depleted and it faded away.

There were many scratches on the shield, but it displayed no signs of breaking. Soon, the scratches turned into light glows and fell off the shield.

Zhao Jingyu stared at this with disbelief. He was dumbfounded for a moment before he turned his attention over to Li Jingtao, who stood there harmlessly with a silly smile on his face.

This bastard had been faking it! This fellow was playing the pig to eat the tiger!

#### Chapter 0870: Ward's Interference

Li Jingtao's move had far exceeded Zhao Jingyu's expectations. Out of the four of them, he had placed the least attention on Li Jingtao all this while. In his eyes, even Li Luo, who had just returned from the outer divine continent, posed a much bigger threat than Li Jingtao.

After all, Li Jingtao's reputation as a mediocre descendent had been too deeply rooted in everyone's hearts.

"Who'd have thought you had the power to even block my Great Tiger Seal?"

Zhao Jingyu looked at him with a face of uncertainty. His eyes were filled with surprise. He had not held back at all in that attack. That hit was bound to send even the famous Banner Leader Deng Fengxian out of action for a while, yet it had been totally blocked by Li Jingtao.

"Who'd have expected the Dragon's Fang Lineage, famed for its offensive abilities, to produce an oddball that specializes in defense now?" he continued.

"There're many more things beyond your expectations! Just scram with your men. We've no time to play with you here." Li Fengyi sneered.

At this moment, a flash of ferocity appeared on Zhao Jingyu's face. "Ask Li Luo to cut off one of his arms and hand it over to me, then I'll leave immediately."

Li Fengyi's eyebrows stood up when she heard his words. Her pretty face turned cold as she shouted, "I'll cut off your dog head instead!"

Following this, she clenched her jade-like hand tightly, and energy swept up like a storm, turning into waves of energy that flew directly towards Zhao Jingyu's face.

"Hmph!"

Zhao Jingyu snorted. He then opened his mouth, and an energy beam shot out, shattering Li Fengyi's attack completely.

Without any change in his facial expression, he stared at the four of them as he said, "You guys have surprised me indeed. But did you think I came here unprepared?"

As soon as Li Luo heard his words, his gaze turned pensive and huge waves of resonant power surged within him. He was on full alert yet again.

Although Li Luo had called him an idiot all this while, he had not underestimated Zhao Jingyu at all. After all, this guy was the second strongest from this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. Since he had only brought over a similar force and still kept harping on wanting his severed arm, there must have been an ace hidden up his sleeve.

At this moment, Zhao Jingyu revealed a formation flag in his palm. There was light flowing around the flag that seemed to form a series of special runes.

In the next moment, an uncanny sense of pressure was emitted into the air.

Zhao Jingyu shook his palm, then the formation flag flew into the air and landed on the ground not far away.

Swoosh!

A beam of light shot upwards. At the same time, Li Luo and the rest also noticed multiple beams of light shooting high up into the air further away. It was as if their location had been encircled by these beams of light.

"It's a ward. Retreat!" Li Luo shouted with a deep voice as he flew backwards. Although he did not know the effect of this ward yet, it was surely not something beneficial towards them. This must have been why Zhao Jingyu and his group had arrived at the Crimson Fire Mountain Range earlier than them.

Li Fengyi and the others also retreated hastily without any more words.

However, Zhao Jingyu's ward had been set in place long beforehand. He was just placing the final and main flag now. The speed at which the ward was covering the area was much faster than the four had imagined.

Gradually, a faint light curtain flowed across the sky like a river. After a couple dozen breaths, everything within hundreds of meters was completely enshrouded by the light curtain.

At the same moment, the group finally felt the effect of the ward.

The power of Harmony was starting to dissipate at a really fast speed.

Their faces changed immediately.

"My connection with the Crimson Cloud Banner is weakening!" Li Fengyi shouted in surprise.

"This ward is distancing us from our banner members. It'll cause us to be unable to use Harmony," Deng Fengxian said solemnly.

The faces of the four of them were ugly. It was an extremely uneasy feeling to sense the energy leaving them, especially after they had gotten used to it.

"Don't worry. This distancing does not differentiate between friends and foes. Zhao Jingyu and his group will lose the state of Harmony as well," Li Luo reminded the others.

Li Fengyi and the other two looked over to Zhao Jingyu's side and, sure enough, the surging energy was also dissipating on their side.

Evidently, this was a special ward created to counter Harmony. Zhao Jingyu and the group could not avoid its effects either. At this moment, Li Fengyi and the other two secretly heaved sighs of relief. It was great that both sides were affected. At most, they would all be back on the same starting line. What they were truly afraid of was the loss of Harmony on their side whilst Zhao Jingyu was still able to use it. This would lead to a ridiculously huge difference in their power. There was no way they could fight him in that case.

Once Li Luo noticed that he was unable to escape from the ward's interference, he stopped in his tracks and focused his attention on tackling the uncomfortable feeling that tugged at him when the energy from Harmony was drained away. At the same moment, his eyes lit up a little.

At this rate of energy dissipation, his Harmony should be gone soon and he would be back to his individual strength. He would have to rely on his own strength for the remaining battles.

Fortunately, he had already reached the half-completion Glass Fiend Tier. It was a huge power-up for him, and he would not fall behind too much even against a strong Fiend Finisher opponent like Zhao Jingyu.

Li Luo looked into the distance ahead. That was where the members of the four banners were located. Now that the state of Harmony had been extinguished, they were also uneasy without its protection. They were all back to square one as individual Earth Fiend Tier.

It would be fine if this were under normal circumstances. However, they were currently stuck in the depths of the Dark Domain. Even though the air of corruption here was thin, it still left them feeling extremely uneasy.

The sub leaders from the four banners tried their best to suppress the commotion and keep the banner members under control.

In contrast to them, the four divisions from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao were much more composed and calm. Clearly, they had seen this coming.

At this moment, Zhao Jingyu let out a big laugh as he shouted, "What's up? Can't get used to things without Harmony now? I'm helping you so you won't get lost in relying on external strength."

Li Fengyi replied coldly, "You guys can't use Harmony either."

A strange and cold smile emerged on the corner of Zhao Jingyu's mouth as he responded, "Do you really think that I spent so much effort to set up this ward just to even the odds on both sides?"

When Li Luo and the others heard those words, their faces changed slightly. What did Zhao Jingyu mean?

The effect of this ward was to distance people. Zhao Jingyu and his people had also been affected by this. What other tricks did he have up his sleeve?

"My Harmony with the Tiger Division has indeed been affected. I am unable to maintain it."

Zhao Jingyu started to explain at a very slow pace when he saw the looks of suspicion coming from Li Luo and his group. Then he threw his palm into the air, and ten black lights flew out from his sleeves, falling behind him.

Li Luo and the others looked over and found that they were dozens of black puppets that looked like tigers. The puppets were eerily dark and had faint runes glowing on them, absorbing all the worldly natural energy in their surroundings.

"However, I can still increase my strength in other ways. And this method won't be affected by the ward's interference at all."

When Zhao Jingyu's laughter died down, rays of light shot out from the dozens of black tiger puppets. The lights beamed into Zhao Jingyu's body directly. In the next moment, Li Fengyi's face turned extremely ugly as she noticed Zhao Jingyu's resonant power rising at an amazing rate.

A short moment later, the pulses of energy radiating from Zhao Jingyu's body increased from the Fiend Finisher Tier to the Heavenly Pearl Tier. The hearts of Li Fengyi, Deng Fengxian, and Li Jingtao sank when they witnessed this scene. Although his incremental strength was far from what it was in the state of Harmony, it was sufficient to pose a great threat to them in the current situation.

This must have been the ace that Zhao Jingyu had prepared.

While both sides weakened, only his own power was boosted.

Putting both together, the gap in their strength had widened significantly.