

## Star Gate 681

### Chapter 681: A Dense Multitude of Powerhouses (I)

Restlessness rustled through Skystar City. Not a sound was heard outside the city gates. The sky began to brighten, many hadn't slept tonight as they waited for events of the day to unfold.

The sun was out. Those up early did not raise a clamor as they usually would. They walked soundlessly through the streets and busied themselves at work, occasionally looking toward the north.

Massive projection screens suddenly rose within various parts of the city. People glanced at them to see the northern gate being shown on them.

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Inside the Nine Dragons Pavilion.

The female manager looked to the north and at the massive projection screen inside the establishment. Numerous members of the nine ministries and royal family were present to watch the proceedings. Unease stirred the great hall.

"We have to kill him and kill him in a fast, gruesome way!" someone forced out through gnashed teeth. You deserve to die, Li Hao!

Plainly, someone from his family was on the list of three hundred. The female manager looked at the crowd. Is killing Li Hao worthy of so much happiness? Aren't those on the list deserving of death? Which of them would dare say that they're innocent?

She laughed in a self-deprecating manner and put those thoughts aside. Her heart soared with emotion and she internally shouted, kill them! Kill them all, Li Hao! Let Skystar City know that anyone who commits a crime is treated in the same way!

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Everyone's gazes were focused on Night Watcher headquarters and the northern city. Clad in armor and wielding a longsword, Li Hao moved out as well.

One thousand Silver Moon Guards shepherded more than two thousand nobles. The remaining one thousand were left behind as they were attendants or other servants of the Four Seas Island or the Colosseum. There was no point in bringing them.

The crowd of three thousand walked straight out of headquarters instead of taking cars, marching down the Avenues of the Nine Ministries.

"The Skystar Commander Office is enforcing the law! Make way, give way!" Mu Lin roared while wielding a large shield. He led the army forward, his shouts and yells reverberating in the surroundings!

Thousands of people set foot on the avenue and headed for the northern city quadrant. Nobles in shabby condition covered their faces, wanting nothing more than to eat Li Hao alive. How dare he parade them around in public! He needed to die!

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"Damn him!"

"Kill him already!"

"Little bastard!" Furious cries rose from all over the city. Li Hao was crazy! He was turning two thousand nobles into an exhibition display, that asshole! If it wasn't for plans already in place, they'd rise up and kill the son of a bitch now!

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The long procession swiftly headed toward the northern city. Li Hao was in a very relaxed mood as he laughed from his perch on Panther. Today would be when all of Skystar City feasted their eyes on Demon Sword Li Hao, Commander Li on the back of a large dog, the savage from the north!

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The northern city gates.

There was almost no one here. A long line of people snaked its way toward the gates.

Along the streets.

None of the residents on either side of the street dared show their faces. They quietly hid behind the windows, off the streets to sneak peeks at the happenings. They couldn't afford to watch this kind of show, so as such they didn't dare watch it.

However, everyone was concerned about it.

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Some nobles were dead on their feet after nearly an hour of walking. The northern city gate finally came into view, prompting some sighs of relief. They would be unconscious on the ground soon if they kept walking; they were finally here!

Everyone looked at the man in front of them. Do you know? You must know! It will be your death sentence soon! Why are you so pigheaded??

Li Hao was as coolly composed as before as he surveyed the surroundings. There were so many supernaturals here today as well as powerhouses! And yet, the enemy seemed to know that he could see something. There weren't many balls of light near the city gates.

Granted, after multiple battles, it was only to be expected that the outside world would determine that he was a Heaven's Eye.

A convoy of cars slowly followed behind him—the Night Watchers. They weren't interested in walking, but they wouldn't pass Li Hao either, instead meandering behind him.

Inside the car.

Yellow Dragon glowered at the sight in front of him and didn't say a word. In another car behind him, Deputy Director Zhou glared viciously at the young man. All directors of the Night Watchers were present, apart from Yao Si. Hou Xiaochen was in the very back, his eyes closed in repose. He was also a target that everyone was on guard against.

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In the royal palace.

Dressed in armor, He Yong tightened his hand around a mallet and headed outside. A man on the younger side wearing yellow robes pleaded earnestly, "Please stay, Master He!"

He Yong looked at the man, unusually calm on this day. "I am a Silver Moon martial master!"

This was his only reason. There was no need for plots and gambles today. All that needed to be said was that he was a Silver Moon martial master. Therefore, he would go.

“Master He...” the man sighed. “I know it will be hard to persuade you otherwise, but insisting on a course of action despite understanding full well that it will be a failure is unwise! If Master He is willing to stay, I will avenge Commander Li for you once I consolidate the world.”

“I am of the martial world!” He Yong laughed loudly and soared into the sky. He looked down at the nine ministries with a sneer. “I’ll wait for you guys to come kill me!”

He broke through the air as various people looked up at his figure. Some did so with respect, others with a disdainful snort. He Yong really had emerged from the palace. These northern savages were still the same after all these years! It would be hard to kill him if he continued to hide in the palace under the ninth prince’s protection.

His decision to come out now wasn’t that much of a surprise. They simply felt that Silver Moon martial masters were as impervious to reason as before.

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The Silver Moon Guards slowed down when they reached the northern city gates. There was no one around them and a big plaza on the outside. It was a boundless plain that reached straight to the Skystar coastline.

Li Hao jumped down from Panther’s back and ordered, “Bring the prisoners to the execution grounds!”

“Understood!” Mu Lin waved his hand, prompting the Guards to yank three hundred nobles out of the crowd. Some of the nobles were Solars and registered their treatment with unpleasant expressions. Some sneered, others cowered. There were also those who shook themselves, unwilling to let the Guard close.

Bam!

Some of the more hot-headed Guards decided to answer with a punch and make their subject vomit blood before dragging them off.

The various nobles were quickly hauled to the massive plaza. Li Hao walked through the air and quickly put himself on the city walls of middling height. He turned to look behind him with a soft chuckle. “The Night Watchers are carrying out an execution. If anyone wishes to observe, you are welcome to come!”

The sound of someone breaking through the air and a bark of laughter reached everyone’s ears. “I’d like to watch! What can people do about several hundred dog heads being cut off?”

He Yong landed, dressed in bronze armor, wielding a mallet, his beard frosted over, and a violent light in his eyes.

Li Hao smiled without a word. Was he surprised that He Yong had come? Not really. However, the man was normally an opportunistic fellow. Making his stance known at this time was likely not a fair weather indication. The human heart was very complicated at times.

The young man didn’t say anything. Behind him, the convoy of cars slowly rolled to a stop. Yellow Dragon and the others flew to the city walls with cool composure. Since Li Hao had invited them to watch the execution, then they would play along in accordance with his wishes.

They picked a spot that was slightly removed from the young man—approximately one hundred meters apart. Ten deputy directors were present, as well as the other three commanders. There were also a dozen Novas, including Big Eyes and her two friends. There were many heavyweights among the Night Watchers. Nearly thirty Novas alone were gathered on this spot. Different thoughts flitted through their minds. Some kept silent, others looked expectant, and some gazed wordlessly at Li Hao.

The Night Watchers were a grassroots organization, most of them came from ordinary civilians. But after twenty years, some had forgotten their roots while others were like Yao Si. They remembered, but had succumbed to reality.

Li Hao scanned the crowd, not minding that he didn't see Yao Si. He ignored everyone present and peered imperiously down at the plaza. The nobles on the list craned their necks upward, some with bitter hatred, others with burning fury.

"The criminals will kneel!" Li Hao declared.

No one listened to him.

A moment later, the Silver Moon Guards next to them forced them into kneeling. Some struck extremely harshly, breaking legs with a loud crunch. Nobles sprawled on the ground as wails of agony rose.

"Li Hao!" someone shouted. "We are honorable aristocrats and should be treated with dignity even if we are to die!"

"There is no talk of blue blood or red blood among criminals," Li Hao answered coolly. "All of you are sentenced to die as you are unredeemable criminals! Ever since the ancient times, princes have been treated the same as commoners when they break the law! The dynasty is still ruled by law and order. Unless it completely topples, you are sentenced to die today!"

He checked the hour and took out a sheaf of documents. Certain members of the crowd stirred when they saw the papers and one in particular shot through the air. He was very strong and landed with a smile.

## Chapter 682: A Dense Multitude of Powerhouses (II)

"Commander Li, I am Chief Justice Qi Zhao of the Supreme Court from the Ministry of the Judiciary. According to the law, the Ministry of Justice needs to appraise and pass judgment on the crimes that these people have committed. Is that their decision letters in the commander's hand?"

"If so, please permit me to peruse them!" A man looked at Li Hao with a smile. "Aren't you talking about law and order? Then give me that! If not, everything you're doing today is illegal and you, Li Hao, are just abusing your power."

Qi Zhao was undermining the legitimacy of Li Hao's judgments and sentencing from the roots. His veto was to say you're wrong. When nobles set their plans in motion, they did so in an airtight manner. Whether it was out in the open or in the shadows, they wouldn't open with an outright attack on Li Hao. They wouldn't be able to salvage their dignity and losses even if they publicly executed the young man.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Senior President of the Tribunal were the two positions with the most power under the minister and deputy ministers of the Ministry of the Judiciary. Qi Zhao was a metamorphosis and even stronger than some deputy ministers. He was one who possessed real strength.

Li Hao looked at him, then at the documents in his hands. He smiled at the man. "Chief Justice Qi wishes to audit these files?"

"Correct!" Qi Zhao nodded. "This is the proper procedure and the law. We can neither acquit a criminal nor convict an innocent if there are discrepancies. Commander Li is prejudiced against the nobility and committed to their sentencing before a thorough investigation. That does not conform with the law..."

Li Hao continued smiling and looking at the man. "You are wrong, Chief Justice Qi!"

"Hmm?" Qi Zhao stared at the young man. I'm wrong? How am I wrong?

"The nine ministries enacted a new law twenty years ago!" Li Hao explained calmly. "The new law stated that superhumans and mundanes are to be governed separately. The Night Watchers represent the superhuman, so any that fall under this purview will be part of their jurisdiction. The Ministry of the Judiciary oversees only the mundanes. The Night Watchers are the agency that governs superhumans!"

"Are there any mundanes present here?" Li Hao grinned with a shake of his head. "Not only do the superhumans fall to me, but so do you, Chief Justice Qi!" The young man's tone turned severe. "Do



you understand? Also, how do you not comprehend basic law as the highest senior of the Ministry of the Judiciary?”

“There was such a rule twenty years ago.” Qi Zhao frowned. “But the supernatural had just appeared then and laws were not complete. The Night Watchers were just temporarily in charge of the superhumans. Now that twenty years have passed and the times change, so have the laws been reformed. The Ministry of the Judiciary submitted a new proposal several days ago that does not leave the Night Watchers solely in charge of the superhuman...”

“Have the nine ministries and royal family ratified it?” Li Hao looked at him. “If they have, where is the document stamped by the nine ministries and royal family?”

“They naturally have!” Qi Zhao took out papers that Li Hao grabbed for a look. He narrowed his eyes at them.

“The Inspectorate, Ministry of Finance, and royal family have not stamped these.”

“It is enough if the majority agrees!” Qi Zhao refuted calmly. He was prepared as expected since he’d stepped forward.

The Ministry of Finance had shut its doors and washed its hands clean of everything. The inspector general had disappeared—apparently for closed door cultivation. The royal family had always been of the attitude of not signing anything that the nine ministries gave them. Delaying tactics were its usual response.

However, stamps from seven of the ministries was enough. That was over half of the nine ministries.

“Very well, I see.” Li Hao inclined his head with a smile. “But this does not apply to me.”

“Does Commander Li flout the law now as well?” Qi Zhao smiled.

“No.” Li Hao shook his head. “It’s just that these documents do not adhere to regulation! As the party involved, the Night Watchers were completely oblivious about it...”

“I knew about it!” Yellow Dragon strode forward. “I knew of it and agreed to it!”

“Who the hell do you think you are?” Li Hao snorted at him. “Do you really think of yourself as something by being a deputy director? Has Director Yao agreed?”

“Director Yao is in poor health, leaving me in charge of the agency. What is so inappropriate about this?” Yellow Dragon looked coldly at the young man.

“Do you have the director’s official seal?”

Yellow Dragon frowned. “Li Hao, there is no use in presenting unreasonable demands!”

“I speak of the law with you, but you tell me it’s unreasonable demands,” Li Hao laughed. “When I speak of fighting with you, you wish to discuss rules and regulations. Do you think people don’t know the one who’s actually being unreasonable? You are neither the director nor have his seal. How is a deputy director qualified to make decisions for the Night Watchers?”

Li Hao ignored him and looked into the sky. There seemed to be a supernatural object there recording everything and beaming to all of the projection screens in the city. He smiled at it.

“An ad-hoc revision of the law is not valid! That does not fulfill procedure or agree with custom. Or do the seven ministries think that the dynasty no longer needs law and order? If that is so, then please dismantle the Ministry of the Judiciary!”

No one answered him. Qi Zhao pursed his lips and looked at Yellow Dragon. This guy hadn’t been able to secure a document stamped by Yao Si. He couldn’t even handle such a minor matter!

Meanwhile, Yellow Dragon cursed to himself. Yao Si had completely shut himself up lately. He neither participated in anything nor received visitors. All he said was that he wasn't involved in these matters, so how was Yellow Dragon supposed to produce a document bearing his seal?!

“Therefore, the law is still the law of before!” Li Hao smiled. “Please stop interfering with me, I am about to proclaim these people's crimes to give everyone an explanation and a reason for them to accept their deaths. I ask the world if these nobles should die!”

The two wanted to speak further, but the look in Li Hao's eyes abruptly chilled and aura surged out of him, pressing down so firmly on them that they could barely breathe. The two men were startled—they were metamorphosis experts!

“Wu Yu...” Li Hao began.

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Everyone in the city listened intently to the words coming out of the screen.

At this moment.

Powerhouses stood in a high building. Some scanned the surroundings, others quietly watched the screen, while some wore faint frowns.

“He can't be allowed to read aloud like this. The blow to us will be too strong if he continues!”

“No, give him time, let him read!” coughed an old man. “Some people aren't here yet. According to my knowledge, some of the Silver Moon savages are still on the way. These people will all run away as soon as Li Hao dies, which will put you in a difficult spot. As for what he's reading, it will all become fabrication as soon as he dies. There's nothing important about it!”

This was a rare joint operation; everyone hatched their own plans and ideas about the upcoming clash. However, they needed to wait! They needed to wait for some more Silver Moon martial masters to arrive so they could capture all of those barbarians in one go.

If they took action now before the right timing, they would have issues killing Northern Fist and Tyrant Blade. Neither of these men had been spotted. They knew about Yuan Shuo arriving, as well as Huang Yu.

That was far from enough. Were Earthturner Sword or Light Sword present? How about Sky Sword? He might come even if the others didn't, since he wasn't as far away as them.

"This will create quite a disturbance..." someone murmured. Li Hao was proclaiming all of their crimes in exceedingly loud voices. Projection screens were set up everywhere in the city and the entire city listened to the roll call.

"So what?" laughed one of his peers. "Even if the crimes are real, the children will all be found innocent in the end. The people won't dare resist in the future!"

Their most important goal was to kill Li Hao. So long as they killed the brat and all of his people, none of these rebels would dare show their faces in the future.

"Have these juniors really committed so many crimes over these past years?" Some turned their attention to what was being read. "This old man recognizes some of them and they're biddable enough in normal times. How could they have committed such wrongs?"

There were certain martial masters-turned-supernatural among the older generation. They'd been in closed door cultivation all this time and felt uncomfortable at what they were hearing.

"Some of them have indeed crossed the line... We should punish them after this and privately execute a few of them to intimidate the others." Some nobles nodded, but were still in disagreement at Li Hao's public executions.

They wouldn't declare war on Silver Moon right now if Li Hao had done all this in private. Private and public were two entirely different concepts. Some people might not agree with the crimes that'd been done, or felt that the nobles had done absolutely nothing wrong. However, the masses and nobility should not be treated the same when they committed wrongdoing. Levying the same punishment on them and openly executing the guilty was a challenge to the nine ministries and royal authority.

Powerhouses who were dissatisfied with their proposed course of action said nothing further.

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Li Hao sped through the list of crimes. A slow unrest gradually built within the city. Deep, pained sobs emitted from victims—the victims that were alive. Some were filled with righteous indignation, but there was nothing they could do. Some prayed quietly that these people must be killed. They'd only thought that it was a killing of nobles before, that it would be such a satisfying act. But why was it satisfying?

They didn't know.

But in this moment, they gnashed their teeth with fury! What a bunch of animals! They all deserved to die! They all needed to die! Why did people want to protect animals such as these!

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On the city walls.

Li Hao read for a long period of time, answered by ringing silence around him. Yellow Dragon, Qi Zhao, and a few others frowned wordlessly. That the powerhouses in the shadows hadn't made their moves meant that they didn't feel it was the right time to yet. However, the transgressions were hard to hear. It felt like millions of gazes were converged upon them, wanting to flay them alive through the sheer force of their eyes.

It took roughly an hour for Li Hao to finish the list of three hundred.

“This is only the tip of the iceberg!” he called out. “But we are short on time and cannot fully investigate all of the accusations, so we casually chose three hundred out of 2642 nobles! It is likely that at least ninety percent of the rest bear crimes on their heads!

“This is only the first batch today. There will be a second batch, third batch in times to come... These people ride roughshod over the people, turn a blind eye to the law, kill without regard for life, and are completely unredeemable. According to the law, they should all be executed!

“This is the judgment of the Skystar Commander Office, that they all be beheaded and displayed to the public! Prepare their execution!”

Three hundred Silver Moon Guards walked out with their weapons.

#### Chapter 683: A Dense Multitude of Powerhouses (III)

“Li Hao!” Yellow Dragon grunted. “You said that the execution would take place at 10am. It’s only 9am!”

Not everyone was here yet! He and Qi Zhao were in charge of protecting the nobles in the plaza!

Li Hao looked at him and smiled, suddenly recalling something. “I almost forgot about another letter of judgment!”

Yellow Dragon blinked, there was another?

The young man took out another document.

“Yellow Dragon, first deputy director of the Night Watchers, deputy of the Inspectorate, and commander of the north, is guilty of slaughtering innocents and firing city annihilation missiles at

will. He has caused the displacement of tens of millions of civilians and the deaths of millions. He shelters all manner of wrongdoing and breaks the law knowing full well its definition. That is an additional layer of crime!” Li Hao sighed. “I don’t wish to read out all of your crimes, there’s too many!”

“You collude with the three evil organizations and pirates, harm innocents, and stand as an umbrella of protection for crime. The key is that you started a war with the three great organizations, but didn’t eliminate them. You haphazardly fired off city annihilation missiles instead! You are guilty of too many crimes to record!”

“What right do you have to pass judgment on me?!” demanded an apoplectic Yellow Dragon. “I am your superior officer, not to mention that the crimes are fake! Even if you think I am guilty, the matter should be handed over to the nine ministries...”

“No no no, you forget that you are a superhuman, so the Night Watchers can pass judgment on you.”

“It is never your turn to judge me!” Yellow Dragon roared. Li Hao was crazy! He wanted to sentence a deputy director!

Yellow Dragon was truly part of the senior executives of the dynasty, not one of the minor nobles kneeling the plaza. Those amounted to the ranking officer of a military troop at most, but Yellow Dragon was very, very lofty. He was incredibly strong as a metamorphosis expert. He fell short only when compared to someone at the level of the nine ministers. Otherwise, he was a preeminent heavyweight with an untouchable status!

And Li Hao wanted to pass judgment on him! How ludicrous!

The young man laughed and took out a seal. “Of course I have the right. Director Yao does not feel up to the task lately, so he temporarily gave me the official seal for safekeeping. I oversee all of the Night Watchers at the moment, you are no exception!

“I hereby sentence Yellow Dragon to death!” He slammed the seal down, prompting a look of wide-eyed horror from the man.

Yao Si! Damn it, what did Yao Si want to do?! How could he have given the seal to Li Hao?? Had the brat forced the old man's hand, or was it the old man himself who could no longer sit still and wanted to bring about Yellow Dragon's death?

He wanted to break into a berserk rage, but Li Hao's voice sounded in his ears. The voice sounded in many people's hearts, in all of Skystar City.

"That a law enforcer breaks the law means that Yellow Dragon shall be executed on the spot! Let his death serve as a warning to others!" Li Hao seemed to transform into a ferocious tiger and pounce before some could react!

Off to the side, He Yong soundlessly erupted with blood qi as well and blasted out with a punch! Yellow Dragon snarled, also thrusting his fist out as he howled like a dragon. The skies darkened!

Li Hao wanted to execute him?? He was crazy!!

Qi Zhao wanted to help Yellow Dragon when Li Hao's voice echoed again. "Those who attack law enforcers will be shown no mercy!"

Qi Zhao paused, then grit his teeth and made his move all the same. Shown no mercy? I'd like to see you try!

"Kill! Kill the brat!" Yellow Dragon howled. Some Novas stirred with action on the Night Watcher side.

Off in the distance, frowning figures quickly materialized. They hadn't anticipated Li Hao acting ahead of time, and the key thing was, he wanted to kill Yellow Dragon. This was very surprising and forced their hand. They would turn into laughingstock if Yellow Dragon died in front of them. As for some of the Silver Moon martial masters that'd yet to arrive... they couldn't wait any longer!



A dozen figures appeared; their presences crisscrossed the land.

“Li Hao, you slaughter innocents and collude with the three great organizations to kill loyal subjects. You will not be permitted to further draw breath!” one of them announced simply. There was no need for evidence, this was their greeting.

The dozen flew toward the northern gate. Li Hao turned to scan them—there weren’t many Arcanus, just five members. The rest were easily identified as metamorphosis. The presences of Arcanus were extremely violent as their cultivation levels were not stable. Power swept through the land and turned Skystar City into a land of death!

Yellow Dragon was overjoyed by the development. Heh, you would’ve lived a bit longer if you hadn’t attacked me. Since you have a death wish, these guys aren’t willing to wait either. Prepare to die!

Li Hao sighed and looked into the distance. “You surely think highly of me. Five Arcanus and seven metamorphosis... this is quite the effort to kill me!”

Multiple powerhouses walked through the sky, in no hurry to conclude their business.

“You’ve arrived at Skystar City for just a few days before initiating mass slaughter and colluding with the three evil organizations,” a wizened old man said slowly. “You frame loyal subjects and condemn them to death. When it comes to you, we naturally have to ensure your demise so that the evil elements in the capital know the meaning of fear!”

“Who are you?” Wholly unafraid, Li Hao smiled at the old man. “Since you are here to kill me, you must have a name. You have mine, so who are you? What right do you have to pass judgment on me?”

“I am the Skystar vice commander, so it can’t be any random passerby who is sent to kill me. If so, things will be difficult in the future. Being an official will not be a good career as one might die at any time!”

There were twelve people—eight men, four women. They were all of older age. The old man stood at the very front and answered calmly, “Hu Xiao of the Ministry of the Judiciary. I was the previous minister and am still the honorary minister. Am I qualified to sentence you?”

Li Hao smiled and nodded. He really had lured an old fart out of hiding! He looked at the other four Arcanus.

“First deputy minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs!” a woman said indifferently.

“Director of the Monster Spirit Division from the Ministry of Foreign Relations.” That was an old man in opulent robes.

“Commander of the Skystar Army from the Ministry of Armed Forces!”

“First deputy minister of the Ministry of Commerce!”

The five Arcanus introduced themselves, revealing their identities as people of note. It was one previous generation minister leading four deputy ministers. The deputy ministers looked to have just broken through to Arcanus. None of them were from the three great organizations, seven divine mountains, or pirates of the four seas. They were all from the authorities!

Plainly, they were still taking their dignity into account. Li Hao looked into the distance without saying a word. There... presences rose into the sky. He could even sense the old duke from last time.

There were more Arcanus there, but not for him. They were waiting for the Silver Moon martial masters that were coming to support him. The old duke wasn't the only Arcanus. Since they were to fight a cohort of Silver Moon powerhouses, multiple Arcanus presences rose into the sky.

The seven metamorphoses in front of Li Hao were either from the ministries or royal family.

“Have the Ministry of Administration or Ministry of Examinations sent anyone?” Li Hao asked them instead of attacking Yellow Dragon.

“Liu Qi of the Ministry of Examinations!” smiled a middle-aged man with a nod. “My pleasure, Li Hao!”

“Xie Yong of the Ministry of Administration!” said another man with some regret. “The Ministry of Administration thinks that certain matters can be discussed and negotiated, that might is not necessarily the answer. But Commander Li looks to be... obsessed!”

“How about the royal family?”

No one responded. They didn’t seem to have sent anyone.

Li Hao laughed. Was no royal representative here, or were they hiding, waiting for the best opportunity?

Five Arcanus and seven metamorphoses had walked out of the seven ministries. This was a significant investment. Just those four newly ascended Arcanus must have taken a lot of resources. One could determine that from a quick look at their presences—they still fluctuated uncertainly.

Off to the side, He Yong took in a deep breath and looked at Li Hao, then at Hou Xiaochen. They were in trouble now!

Those outside likely wouldn’t be able to join them. The old duke from the Xus was out there and he could also sense the presence of the lord of Buddha Mountain. This was an old acquaintance who’d likely been summoned to hold off Yuan Shuo or Sky Sword. He was a veteran heavyweight.

He Yong's information network was more comprehensive than Li Hao's. He could also sense the presence of the three elders of Red Moon. They... they... also seemed to be Arcanus!

Incredible!

There were five Arcanus among those people alone, and there would be more than that...

He Yong smiled ruefully. Aw fuck, does the whole world want to kill Li Hao? More than ten Arcanus, a bunch of metamorphoses... The kid was dead without a doubt!

He Yong wouldn't necessarily kill one Arcanus even if he erupted with everything he had. Hou Xiaochen was better off than him, but not by much. They were done for!

Granted, he wasn't afraid of anything at this step. The Night Watcher powerhouses in the distances registered the changing circumstances with ashen faces. There were so many powerhouses! Too many!

Big Eyes and the other two also watched with dropped jaws, scanning the area around them and then at the sea. They knew that all sides would send people to kill Li Hao, but they hadn't anticipated that the scene would look like this!

"There's... two digits worth of Arcanus... here" Big Eyes transmitted wryly to the other two. She hadn't expected this, she truly hadn't! She'd thought that there might be three... five... But five alone had come from the nine ministries!

#### Chapter 684: Slaughter (I)

"You're very talented, Li Hao," said the old minister from the Ministry of the Judiciary. "You are very strong, but you must understand that sometimes, being young is a mistake. You are usually ignored when you go about your business, yet it doesn't mean that you truly are invincible!"

All sides had invested a great deal of resources to kill Li Hao today. People might think that just two or three Arcanus would be enough to kill Li Hao, but who were those on the scene?

Existences who'd overthrown the royal family! Crafty, wily old foxes, they knew how difficult someone like Li Hao was to take down. Since they'd decided to eliminate him, they did so with full force! Therefore, Hu Xiao personally led the team and brought four Arcanus with him. Setting that aside, just the metamorphoses was enough to stymie Li Hao.

"You think so highly of me!" Li Hao sighed with emotion. They really did! Even he himself hadn't thought that so many premier powerhouses would be present today. He'd thought there would be five or six, maybe seven or eight at most.

But... that was just the number facing him. There were a lot more outside, and everyone was in positions of power in their factions. Deputy ministers, ministers, dukes, mountain lords...

"I'm the only one involved in this, it has nothing to do with Southern Fist and the rest." Li Hao smiled. "You won't kill innocents now, will you?"

"Li Hao, do you think that everything is within your control?" Hu Xiao said faintly. "Do you think that those such as He Yong and Hou Xiaochen will be able to escape?"

Close at hand, those with Hou Xiaochen had spread out. The man himself was revealed in the process.

"What are you daydreaming about?" Hou Xiaochen looked ruefully at Li Hao. "Do you think all these people are here just for you?"

"Whether it's me or Sky Sword, they're including us in their schemes. We're their targets as well. It's not just you, but Silver Moon that has always been thus. The world strikes at us together!"

It was deathly quiet in Skystar City as everyone was pale with horror.

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There were projection screens in the slums as well. Quite a lot of people were gathered in front of them, but everyone was open-mouthed with dismay.

Arcanus!

The cultivation level that'd just been named was general knowledge. Everyone knew that Arcanus was a symbol of invincibility. But five had come today! Those quicker on the uptake could surmise that there were even more. More Arcanus must be stopping Silver Moon powerhouses outside the city.

Crack!

Someone kicked at the ground and lowered their head sullenly. The spark of hope in their hearts was extinguished. It was very satisfying to have Li Hao read these people's crimes aloud, but when these powerhouses walked out, everyone knew that the commander would fail!

Not only that, but Li Hao would die.

.....

In the Nine Dragons Pavilion.

The female manager stood in mute silence as people laughed heartily around her. "Hahaha, what are these Silver Moon barbarians judging? Who can he sentence? He's the one being sentenced today! It's Silver Moon's judgment day!"

"Bring out wine, General Manager Jiao! Bring out your best wine! It's all on me!"

“Yeah, wine!” roared the audience.

The female manager kept her head down and walked to the back without looking at the guests. The sky was still that familiar sky, but it seemed particularly dark today.

You guys are... truly vicious in your desire to kill him!

.....

Little Ye drifted about despondently, looking back to peer at Yao Si. Her superior was gone.

She didn't mind; the secretary stared dumbly at the small screen in the office. She was a little lost and didn't know what to do. Commander Li was going to die!

Why?

These people were all guilty of heinous crimes! Are you deaf or blind??

She'd heard of Hu Xiao of the Ministry of the Judiciary. He was even listed in history books. He was the pioneer of the new system of laws eighty years ago! He'd overthrown the royal family and established new regulations. Crime immensely decreased within the dynasty and four seas during that period of time, so why was he in the lead to kill Commander Li eighty years later?

She didn't understand!

Such a figure was an existence that everyone revered. The nine old ministers were targets that countless people adored even today, a time in which the nine ministries were corrupt. But Hu Xiao's presence today smashed all of their fantasies!

Why?!

Little Ye stared dumbly, feeling her faith crumble. So it turned out that the nine ministries were completely rotten! Not a single shred of happy thoughts remained for her.

.....

Skystar City was shrouded by darkness. Storm clouds bore down on it and not one mote of light could be seen.

.....

Li Hao also sighed softly. Hu Xiao of the Ministry of the Judiciary! This one was highly unexpected. He was the chief justice who'd drawn up the new laws. He's here today to kill me... The young man shook his head, possibly out of dejection, possibly out of self deprecation.

The nobles in the plaza beneath were highly excited and apprehensive. They were deeply afraid of being dragged into the ensuing fight.

Twelve powerhouses walked through the air. Yellow Dragon swiftly reconvened with Qi Zhao and Deputy Director Zhou. He looked at the contingent of Night Watchers behind them. Some hesitated while others swiftly stirred to action. Another three deputy directors stood beside him in the blink of an eye.

The rest of the Night Watchers didn't join him; they backed away instead. Yellow Dragon sneered at them. What a bunch of idiots, pretending to be above it all at a time like this. If he counted himself, Yellow Dragon had five deputy directors on his side. That was precisely one half the number of directors in the agency. Hou Xiaochen and another four were the other half.



Once Hou Xiaochen died, he needed to take out those guys as well. That was just as well! There would be no voices of dissent in the Night Watchers after today.

As for Yao Si... he'd dared hand his seal over to Li Hao! Someone would come along for him, even if Yellow Dragon left him alone. Just you wait and see! Yellow Dragon was quite satisfied with the outcome of the situation!

.....

Strong foes abounded within and without the city. Rumbles sounded in the distance; battle was not yet joined in the city. A powerhouse roared with fury by the sea.

"Come and fight, Huang Yu of Silver Moon!"

A spear broke through the void in response, Huang Yu was on the other end!

"You dare stand in my way, Buddha Mountain?!" A shout filled the air; Huang Yu's eyes were bloodshot. "If Silver Moon is not razed today, we will topple your mountain tomorrow and exterminate your sect!"

His blood qi ran through heaven and earth. The lord of Buddha Mountain did not respond.

Cannibal, Huang Yu!

One of the three commanders of the Skystar Troops, the commander-in-chief of Silver Moon's armies and a premier powerhouse. He once swept the four directions with his spear, so domineering that those on all sides shook and cowered. He killed so many that some of the martial masters of Silver Moon's martial world cried out for mercy.

Two of the three commanders were here.

BAM!

Another loud explosion rocked the world. One fist, one blade. Northern Fist, Tyrant Blade!

The two had come together and forced a figure out from the shadows. It was wearing a veiled hat—a Celestial representative.

“Northern Fist of Silver Moon is honored to make your acquaintance!” Northern Fist smiled radiantly. “Are you the senior elder Dark Godless of Celestial?”

“That is me,” responded the figure before it vanished. A long blade thrust through the air as a streak of blade light filled the skies.

“Get back out here!” Tyrant Blade was as his moniker—tyrannically domineering. He didn’t give the other a chance to sink into the shadows. His blade cut through the void and connected with a loud collision, forcing Dark Godless out again.

“Is there a need for this, gentlemen?” Dark Godless asked softly. “We do not intend to fight with Silver Moon. We are just tasked by others to impede you for the time being. It will be hard for you two to defeat me without fully unsealing yourselves.

“Get out of the way!” Northern Fist laughed.

“We must resolve troubles for people when we take their money!”

Then there was nothing to talk about. The skies collapsed and earth shattered when a fist descended. The Skystar Sea frothed as blade and fist were deployed in conjunction with each other. Two

powerhouses that were yet to fully unseal themselves manage to force an Arcanus into steadily backing away.

In the further distance.

The three senior elders of Red Moon looked around warily. There was no sign of their opponent to be seen, just a longsword rushing through the air.

“Have Ying Hongyue come!” an aloof voice rang through the area.

BAM!

The sword swung through the air as thunder and lightning rose with an onslaught of sword intent. Sky Sword was here! All of the renowned martial masters of Silver Moon were present.

.....

All was still quiet within the city. Hu Xiao did not make a move. The rest also seemed to be waiting for something as they looked outside the city.

“Sky Sword, Northern Fist, Tyrant Blade, Cannibal...” Hu Xiao murmured. “The Five Styles King and Jadelight Sword are also present. We have in front of us Southern Fist, Golden Spear, Yu Luochoa, Sickly...” The old man smiled. “Li Hao, do you think the martial world of Silver Moon will still stand if all of them die this time?”

Sky Sword was very powerful! He faced three Arcanus. Although their cultivation levels weren't stable, he was able to force them to a standstill with his sword alone. One had to say, this kind of strength exceeded expectations. His cultivation level was plainly fully consolidated.

Northern Fist and Tyrant Blade could only jointly fight one person together. It was plain to see that Sky Sword had exceeded them.

That Cannibal could match the lord of Buddha Mountain was within expectations. The three commanders had been slightly stronger than these people back in the day. Their cultivation levels were also higher. They'd been Dominators. Yuan Shuo and the rest were Sunderers.

Another came in over the sea, riding the fog and cloud, raising waves to herald his arrival.

"Heh, so many old friends from Silver Moon have come. I'm here to join the fun!" The newcomer was exceedingly fast and seemed to almost punch through the void when he whipped his leg out. A massive boom sounded as the newcomer fell back with a mouthful of blood. His lecherous cackling was silenced, replaced by resignation. "I am Thunderleg of Silver Moon and have lost face for my brothers!"

Thunderleg ranked among the thirty-six; there hadn't been much news of him for a very long time. He managed to make it today, but he wasn't that strong. Just one move from the enemy had been enough to drive him back.

## Chapter 685: Slaughter (II)

"It's said that Thunderleg and Deficient Leg's methods were part of the same whole to begin with," coughed the old Xu duke from his position over the sea as he looked at Thunderleg. "Your grudge with Deficient Leg spanned many years and we killed him for you. Why don't you thank us with the Thunderleg secret art?"

"Your son died such a pathetic death!"

It was Li Hao's first time seeing Thunderleg. This was a wretched, disheveled old man who jumped up and down like a flea. His laughter grated on the ear.

"Old duke, no, old marquis! Come and lick your granddaddy's feet! I'll give you the secret art if you lick it well!" Thunderleg spewed an endless stream of obscenities.

The old duke didn't lose his temper, he simply let loose with both fire and water abilities. Great waves reared out of the sea and churned in the four directions like dragons. Flames exploded within the fire, lighting up Skystar Sea in a particularly resplendent fashion.

Thunderleg quickly backed away, his haste proving unable to conceal the fact that he was on the backfoot. His injuries immediately deepened and he spat out a mouthful of blood. There were too many powerhouses present! There was no sign to be seen of the Yama heavyweight yet, but even so, there were already six Arcanus visible on the scene.

Yama's representative soon showed himself. Someone stood in front of Yuan Shuo the moment he appeared. This person was different from typical Yama members as he held himself with an urbane manner. He looked like a scholar and chuckled softly, "The Five Styles King is here! The Chu River King greets you!"

The Chu River King of the ten court masters!

"I thought it would be Yama himself coming for me." Yuan Shuo rolled his eyes. "But a kid's come instead. Does he not think enough of me?"

"I should be enough," laughed the Chu River King. "The Five Styles King is strong, but that was twenty years ago. No one would dare say they would be able to take you down then. I wouldn't, the head of Yama wouldn't. But it is twenty years later, isn't it?"

Seven Arcanus had shown themselves, there seemed to be no more coming from Silver Moon's martial world. Fighting had already broken out in some places, whereas conversation flowed in others. Yuan Shuo, for instance, chatted casually with the Chu River King. He didn't seem to be in a hurry.

.....

Inside the city.

Hu Xiao looked for a bit and then at Li Hao. “Anyone else?” He smiled, then looked at Hou Xiaochen. “There are seven Arcanus out there. Is that a big enough present? The inclusion of us five makes for twelve total. Does that show sufficient respect to Silver Moon’s martial world?”

“No one refutes that all martial masters hail from Silver Moon. There is nothing we can say about that. Therefore, we made thorough preparations in order to send you on your way to the underworld. We knew that you would come!”

Hou Xiaochen laughed, his presence deepening. “Minister Hu, I have to say, you really do think highly of us!” he replied with gratification. “That’s just as well—I am lucky enough to see Thunderleg today. I’ve chased after him for twenty years, but he hides so quickly that I’ve never been able to catch sight of him. Today is the day!”

That Thunderleg hadn’t shown himself before this had much to do with Hou Xiaochen. Or rather, with the Silver Moon Guards.

Hou Xiaochen really had tried to arrest Thunderleg for twenty years. The man had accidentally killed a lot of spectators when he fought an opponent. Hou Xiaochen had chased him down ever since that day, but his quarry vanished without a trace. To think that they would meet today!

Not all Silver Moon martial masters were kind souls. There were also those who did evil. Most of them had died, but a few were alive. Someone such as Thunderleg was a villain in Hou Xiaochen’s eyes.

Off in the distance, Thunderleg’s lascivious laughter echoed beneath the heavens as he fought the old duke. He seemed to know that Hou Xiaochen would be discussing him, so he roared with laughter despite not hearing what Hou Xiaochen was saying.

“Come get me, Hou Xiaochen, Huang Yu! Hahaha, can’t get me, can you? Do you know where I’ve been for the last twenty years? You have no idea!”

“Don’t lose your marbles when I tell you! I’ve gotten nine wives and sired twenty-eight children these years! I’m a landlord in Near River and am rolling in money. Life is so damn good!

“I ran off to Near River when you guys wanted to get me. Hahaha, you can’t~ get~ me! Fan Chang of Near River knew my identity and protected me all this time. Hehehe, so~ damn good. If I don’t die this time, I’ll go to Great Li. Keep trying to get me!”

Thunderleg brayed with laughter, but he was also receiving quite a beating. The old duke only needed to deploy a few simple techniques to throw the martial master back while vomiting blood. The gap between their strength was noticeable; Thunderleg was likely just a bit stronger than a metamorphosis.

Sky Sword and the three Arcanus were locked in a standstill. In the other battlefields, only Huang Yu held a slight upper hand against the lord of Buddha Mountain. But was this really everyone?

Li Hao looked back and suddenly said, “It’s a surprise to me that the three great organizations have sent five Arcanus. I thought you would call upon the pirates instead, such as the North Sea pirates. I have his grandson, but the North Sea King isn’t here? And where’s Director Hou’s old boss, the Steppe Prince?”

Those were the strong foes of his imagination. But it was Red Moon who unexpectedly sent three Arcanus! Li Hao had thought that Ying Hongyue would either not send anyone, or just send one to watch the show. Three at once was rather surprising.

“Aren’t the Silver Moon martial masters not fully present yet either?” Hu Xiao said meaningfully. There was still Earthturner Sword, Light Sword, and Laughter to consider. These people weren’t here yet.

“Fair enough!” Li Hao nodded with understanding.

“Aren’t you afraid?” Hu Xiao laughed at Li Hao. “Because of your brashness, Li Hao, such are the consequences. Don’t you regret what you’ve done?”

As opposed to outright killing someone, it was more devastating to condemn their thoughts and motivation. He seemed to want to see Li Hao mentally collapse. Look at the horrific results of your actions! Many Silver Moon martial masters may not be able to leave Skystar City alive this time!

He Yong snorted by Li Hao's side and sent his blood qi racing to the heavens. "You think so little of Silver Moon martial masters huh, old fart? Let's see how many we can kill today!" He promptly shouted at the battlefields out of the city, "You're so trash, Northern First! You and Tyrant Blade can together can only fight one of them? How are you worthy of being called Northern Fist?"

"It's not like we have a choice!" Northern Fist shouted back, blood at the corner of his mouth. "How are we to match Arcanus if we don't break our supernatural locks? Kiddo there stirs up trouble left and right, but we're the ones who have to put our lives on the line for it. I just told him last time to keep a lower profile and follow the rules more!"

.....

As they chatted and insulted each other through the air, Li Hao looked down at the ground. He seemed to be contemplating something or regretting something.

Hu Xiao ignored him and raised an eyebrow at the shoreline. "Are Earthturner Sword and Light Sword really not coming?" Plainly, he was still waiting for them.

He wasn't the only one, the Arcanus by the sea didn't seem to have used their full strength yet. They were waiting for those martial masters to arrive. They seemed to be concerned that if they killed those already on the scene, that would scare off the remaining two.

BOOM!

A streak of sword light filled the surroundings as two swords struck in unison. The skies overturned and the sea seemed to be upside down. Two people walked through the sky and Earthturner Sword



broke through the void with a sword. A person rose from the bottom of the sea after a loud impact. He was dressed in yellow robes and appeared quite stately.

“Sharp senses, Hong Yitang!” he couldn’t help but laugh. “I wanted to go to you after you killed General Qian Feng. I can save a trip now!”

He looked at Earthturner Sword, then at Light Sword. The two looked rather bedraggled and were panting heavily, as if they’d made it only through rushing long distance.

“It’s always you, Steppe Prince!” Hong Yitang breathed out gently. “You were present in the unrest of the three northern provinces, you were there at the battle of the North Sea, and you were at the founding of the Skystar Guards.

“You’re a very annoying guy and the nosiest out of the nine princes!”

“It’s not that I’m nosy.” A smile appeared on the Steppe Prince’s majestic face. “It’s that you Silver Moon martial masters have always plagued the world since the ancient times. All disturbances beneath the heavens come from the north!”

.....

Hu Xiao heaved a long exhale. They were here! He’d waited so long because he’d been concerned about scaring these two away. Now that they were here, he could be at ease. Earthturner Sword and Light Sword rounded out the Silver Moon martial master contingent.

Once this operation concluded, the vast Silver Moon martial world would be empty. There would still be a few renowned martial masters left, but not that many. Laughter may very well be Director General Zhao Shuguang. Kong Jie would be another one of their stronger powerhouses.

Neither of the two needed to be guarded against!

As for how the two Swords had rushed here so quickly, that was to the ministries' credit. They'd even arranged for helicopters to escort the two to the royal city! Indeed, they'd done so blatantly because they were worried that the two wouldn't make it in time!

It was best that they did.

Meanwhile, Li Hao sighed to himself. I made the deadline a mere three days later so that you guys wouldn't come. Why did you still rush here?

Silver Moon martial masters were such fools at times. This wasn't Silver Moon, it was Skystar City. But what could he do since they were already here?

Hou Xiaochen's spear was out in the open and a pair of gossamer gloves had manifested on Yu Luochoa's hands. They brimmed with a stern killing intent. There was no need for further words now. Someone made their move in the next second!

BOOM!

Metal and wood energy intersected as an overwhelming presence flared from the commander of the Skystar Army. He sprinted for Hou Xiaochen, also wielding a spear. He brought it down with an explosion of arcane abilities!

Two currents of domineering mysterious power met. Hou Xiaochen roared and stabbed his spear forward. The Flaming Phoenix Spear lit up the skies and cracked the earth.

Bam!

Part of the city walls collapsed. Nobles scattered in all directions. Li Hao's plan to behead them was over.

Both He Yong and Yu Luocho made their moves. In the void, peak Nova Qin Lian hesitated, then set her jaw and charged forward with her sword at a nearby metamorphosis!

However, the gap between the two sides was too great. If anyone was hoping for Silver Moon martial masters on the outside to help, they would be dismayed by the results. The explosions on the outskirts grew in volume as Sky Sword was also in the field!

There seemed to be only one sword in the world. His frosty voice trailed upon the wind, “How are you three pieces of shit qualified to stand in my way?”

Bam!

His longsword shook, forcing three shocked Arcanus back. How was Sky Sword this strong? He was too strong!

### Chapter 686: Slaughter (III)

Even Hu Xiao couldn't help but take a sidelong glance. Sky Sword was unequivocally strong given that his Arcanus cultivation level was fully stabilized. No wonder he conducted himself so conspicuously! Three Arcanus had been sent to stop him, a level of treatment that no one else received.

Martial masters summoned their blood qi elsewhere on the battlefield. Earthturner Sword's strength swelled by a massive proportion, one matched by the Steppe Prince.

“You're very strong, Hong Yitang.” The prince remained smiling. “You've saturated all nine of your supernatural locks, haven't you? But... it seems that I have too!”

He was a martial master as well!

Indeed, a martial master. His blood qi surged so ferociously that it almost crashed through the void. The Steppe Prince continued to smile. “Step aside, Light Sword. That bandit from the North Sea will entertain you. I’m going to have fun with Hong Yitang!”

Light Sword’s expression shifted slightly; she parted the seas with her sword. An old man walked out from the bottom—one in a shirt cut off at the arms and wielding dual axes. He seemed particularly menacing!

The North Sea King!

He flicked a glance at the Steppe Prince, then at Light Sword, and ultimately addressed the distance in a loud voice. “Nothing better happen to my grandson, Hu! If so, don’t blame me for what I do!”

“Nothing will!” Hu Xiao’s voice came back on the wind.

“Good!” The North Sea King flung an ax at Light Sword. “You should’ve anticipated today when you killed one of my dukes!”

Light Sword frowned slightly and dodged swiftly. She turned and fled after taking another look at Hong Yitang. She would only drag him down with her if she stayed. Her opponent was also an Arcanus!

By now, all of the martial masters understood that all sides had invested in a great deal for this operation. All factions had in the world made up their minds to exterminate the Silver Moon martial masters!

There were five Arcanus from the three great organizations, the old duke, lord of Buddha Mountain, the Steppe Prince, and the North Sea King. That made for nine Arcanus on the outskirts of Skystar City to hunt down martial masters who came to reinforce Li Hao.

Meanwhile, there were five Arcanus and seven metamorphoses inside the city. No, there were nine metamorphoses if one counted Yellow Dragon and Qi Zhao. The nine ministries had mobilized fourteen Arcanus for this battle—a highly unexpected decision!

.....

Even the inspector general resting inside the Inspectorate was shocked and surprised.

“They’re all crazy,” he murmured. “They’re all here with unstable cultivation levels...”

“It’s to be expected.” His father stroked his beard. “Silver Moon martial masters pose too great of a threat. Since the ministries have made the first move, they need to see it through to completion. Who would’ve thought that all of these Silver Moon guys would rush here one after another, despite knowing that this is a trap!

“Forget it, we’ll just hunker down like this.” He shook his head and looked at his son. “We won’t offend anyone and it’s fine if we lose some authority! Here I was thinking of maybe adding some additional splendor to the scene if there were only three to five Arcanus, but Ole Hu and the others aren’t giving me the chance to...”

“Which side would you be adding splendor to?” asked the inspector general. The seven ministries, or Li Hao?

“Guess!” chuckled the old man.

“Not interested!” The inspector general shook his head at the screen. “Forget it, we’ll do as you say and stay out of the limelight. We can’t afford to offend any of them. They’re all mad.”

There were more Arcanus than cabbages by the side of the road. An Arcanus like him with an unstable cultivation should stay at home.

His father nodded. It was better if they kept their heads down, in case they became a target for others. They were the only ones out of the nine ministries who’d yet to express a stance. The

Ministry of Finance had already eaten a loss and Li Hao was one of theirs. It would be very dangerous to stick their noses out now.

.....

The northern gates.

Li Hao still did not make a move, even though battle raged around him. He Yong, Hou Xiaochen, Yu Luochoa, and Qin Lian clashed with their opponents. Even Panther had rushed out after a loud bark. The young man remained where he was.

He wasn't playing it cool, he was just waiting. Waiting for someone to come!

Stellaris stirred in his hand. It'd been nurtured for a very long time without much effect. The five auras were merged as one and this might be his last stroke as a martial master! All of his internal force had been absorbed, only a little remained in the sword—the vestiges of the last remains.

He would no longer be a martial master after he deployed this stroke. He might be one at heart, but not in terms of strength. Li Hao looked at the Arcanus in front of him.

“Is no one coming for me?” he asked softly. The waiting Stellaris seemed to cheer. Were none of them going to come for him?

“Are we needed to kill you?” Hu Xiao laughed and looked at Yellow Dragon. “Take him!”

Yellow Dragon blinked. Why? You guys are all present, why aren't you making a move?

Hu Xiao didn't say a word. The time had come to test Yellow Dragon and have him fully break with the Inspectorate. He also wanted to test Li Hao and see if the young man had more trump cards up his sleeves. Were there more core origin talismans, or others?

It didn't matter if Yellow Dragon survived or not.

Yellow Dragon cursed to himself and looked at those next to him. He set his jaw and transmitted to them, "We go together! He's killed metamorphosis experts before, so he's not weak!"

That old fart wanted him to prove himself and openly declare his loyalty! That fucker!

"Don't worry too much," Hu Xiao's voice sounded in his ear. "If you succeed, we'll be in charge of everything you need to ascend to Arcanus!"

Yellow Dragon's eyes lit up! He roared and punched at Li Hao. What could the young man do with multiple Arcanus staring at him? The others seemed to have received certain promises as well and made their moves too!

Big Eyes and the other two wavered with indecision not too far away. They wanted to help, but ultimately decided against it. That would be courting death.

Li Hao, on the other hand, frowned. Yellow Dragon and the others were just small fry that could be eliminated at any time. It was nice to kill Yellow Dragon, but that wasn't what he wanted to do at the moment. He wanted to reserve his final strike as a martial master for an Arcanus.

What a pity!

The young man sighed with some regret. This might be the greatest regret of his martial master career, that he didn't kill an Arcanus with his martial dao.

“To sever the self.” It was a soft cry that reverberated through hearts, the four corners, and the world.

One stroke!

All of his remaining internal force melded into the little sword. He would no longer be a martial master after this blow. Whether it was his mind intent or sword intent, those would all be supplemental to his power and just existences to protect his organs. His five auras would completely extinguish and withdraw into his organs. Even if they erupted again, there would be no power behind them because there was no internal force bolstering them.

The tiger howled and the mountain peak shook! They seemed to have realized that they might be forever trapped within the five organs after this eruption. Or if Li Hao was unable to convert back to being a martial master, the locks of the five organs would one day break to their complete demise.

“ROAR!!” The tiger snarled, fissuring the earth!

The stroke descended so quickly that it cut through the void. The Arcanus standing nearby collectively took a step back!

Crack!

The void seemed to break apart. When Li Hao retracted his sword, it was dim. Yellow Dragon, Qi Zhao, Deputy Director Zhou, and three other deputy directors stopped in front of him—two metamorphoses and four peak Novas. All of them halted at this moment.

Yellow Dragon led the pack and forcefully turned his head to look at Hu Xiao. Why... didn't... you... save me?

Hu Xiao looked on gravely. “Is this your final ace?” he asked softly. “You want to take down an Arcanus as your burial goods? You certainly defy expectations, Li Hao!”



BOOM!

All six heavyweights exploded!

The scene induced brief silence on all sides. Even the powerhouses fighting each other paused, looking in Li Hao's direction. Six experts that included two metamorphoses had died to a singular stroke!

"Nice! Yeah!" came overwhelming cheers from somewhere in the city. They promptly vanished in the next second. Citizens in the city couldn't help but cry out at the stunning scene. However, they promptly shut their mouths when they realized how inappropriate their reaction was.

Li Hao heaved a heavy sigh and slightly shook his head. He smiled at the six that'd been detonated. "What a damned waste!"

Although he'd killed six powerhouses with one move, there wasn't anything to be happy about. He really didn't think much of Yellow Dragon. What a pity that those Arcanus hadn't come.

The people around him were heavily dismayed at what they'd witnessed. What a powerful stroke! But they also quickly detected the inappropriate nature of the blow. That should have been Li Hao's full force—his internal force and auras seemed to have extinguished after it!

Had the young man completely depleted himself?

Hou Xiaochen put everything out of his mind and erupted with maximum strength. He thrust his spear forward and sent the commander from the Ministry of Armed Forces flying!

“Count me in!” Another Arcanus took to the field—the deputy minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Both of them targeted Hou Xiaochen, whereas He Yong and Yu Luocha were occupied by the metamorphoses.

Hu Xiao said nothing further. There was no need for words at this stage of the game. They’d probed everything they wished to probe, it was time for Li Hao to die and this farce to end. A ruler manifested in the air and crashed down on Li Hao. It seemed to confine heaven, earth, and the four directions as it swung at the young man.

Li Hao raised an eyebrow and looked in a particular direction. Someone was walking on air out of the city.

A punch blasted forth! It shook the four cardinal directions and stunned even He Yong. Off in the distance, Northern Fist also snapped his head their way.

BOOM!

The ruler shattered to pieces; a powerful origin weapon was instantly demolished. Yao Si continued walking toward them, looking at Hu Xiao and then Li Hao.

“You say that I’m disgusting?” He smiled at the young man.

#### Chapter 687: Slaughter (IV)

“You weren’t even born yet when I fought my way through the world!” Yao Si bared his teeth at the young man. “And you have the temerity to call me disgusting??”

He pointed at Hu Xiao, who bore an unpleasant expression on his face. “I have no opinion if you call this old thing disgusting, but you call me disgusting??”

He seemed to take great offense to the descriptor. Blood qi shook heaven and earth as he sneered, “When has it ever been the nine ministries’ turn to interfere in Night Watcher business? When has it ever been your place to stick your nose in things, Hu Xiao? Where is your respect for me?!”

“I can’t be bothered with that trash, that dog Yellow Dragon. He jumps up and down with a lot of energy, but died too quickly. Otherwise, I would’ve let him know that not everyone can stick their hands into the Night Watchers!”

He punched out with the howl of a dragon!

“Kill!”

BAM!

Blood qi shook the world as Yao Si’s face flushed red. Hu Xiao’s eyes widened as he flung out a palm strike. Chains appeared in the void and snaked toward the Night Watcher director.

“Give it up, Yao Si!”

“You’re the one who should quit life!”

BOOM!

Reverberations shook all of the nearby houses to pieces. Thankfully, no one was inside them given Li Hao’s announcement yesterday. Yao Si had chosen to act! Not only that, but he roared angrily, “Any Night Watchers that still listen to me—kill all of the traitors!”

Some of the deputy directors, as well as Big Eyes and her cohorts, brightened when the director took to the field. Yao Si was here!

This old director of theirs had been frightfully quiet these five years. Everyone thought that he’d settled into hibernation, so to think that he would take action today! Although this gave an

additional Arcanus to their side, the odds still didn't seem that good. They were just a bit better than before.

That Yao Si had stopped the strongest of the other side—Hu Xiao—as soon as he stirred into action sent waves of shock through the assembly. The old guard was certainly strong!

Li Hao was also surprised from his position on the ground, but abruptly smiled. He looked at the four corners and suddenly felt that... this was just as good. It was fine that they'd all come! It didn't feel as terrifying as it might have been.

Hou Xiaochen roared with fury as he fought two Arcanus by himself, forcing them back in an unprecedented display of battle strength. The remaining two Arcanus charged Li Hao without hesitation. One of them was the director of the Myriad Spirit Division from the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the other was the deputy minister from the Ministry of Commerce.

Both of them were Arcanus and ignored the others on the battlefield. Their target was Li Hao!

Within the trio of perverse Night Watcher geniuses, Spear shouted at the sight, "Kill!"

He rushed forward with his weapon, a mantis seeking to stop a chariot! However, he couldn't resist the urge to strike. Even Yao Si had shown himself. This battle held the potential to draw out even more powerhouses as reinforcements so long as Li Hao didn't die.

There would always be someone to take a stand for justice!

"Ole Spear!" called out Big Eyes. She cursed as her eyes turned bloodshot. A faint current of mysterious power rippled from them. The area around Li Hao seemed to turn into nothing and disappear.

Longsword was close behind his comrade and smashed his weapon down on the two Arcanus, cursing Spear as he did so. The guy had gone crazy!

.....

Li Hao ignored all of the happenings. The silver armor on his body suddenly vanished. Since everyone who was supposed to be here was present and those who were supposed to make a move had done so, he didn't want to think too much. He dismissed the armor and looked at the sky.

Storm clouds abruptly gathered overhead; lightning flashed and thunder roared. Gale winds rose, thunder and lightning exploded with a rumble!

A downpour seemed ready for action as winds churned through the scene, whipping sand everywhere. Even the projection screens were obscured as everyone in the city sensed the day darken before their eyes. The two Arcanus, irritated by the actions of these insignificant ants, abruptly jerked their heads upward!

A bolt of purple lightning had materialized in the sky. What was this, another Arcanus? From where? How were there more?

As confusion and doubt brewed in various minds, Li Hao disappeared. No one saw how the young man vanished. The premises sank into a dark gloom as wind and thunder fought for supremacy. Only lightning was visible as it flashed through the sky.

The two Arcanus with unstable cultivation levels were on high alert. In the next moment, the fiercely battling Hu Xiao widened his eyes and opened his mouth to call out a warning. His heart palpitated with fear!

KABOOM!

Thunder and lightning exploded, deafening the ear. The entire city seemed to have exploded!

“Hu Xiao, the old minister of the Ministry of the Judiciary, established our laws, but violates them himself. He should be put to death!” A cold voice echoed beneath the heavens. “Wind and thunder have come, he will be baptized by thunder and lightning!”

RUMBLE!

Thousands upon thousands of bolts of lightning descended. Incomparable presences appeared within the city as various current ministers and old ministers rose into the air! They were all highly dismayed!

Yuan Shuo was jumping around and cursing hotly in the distance when he suddenly paused. The Chu River King sent him flying with a slap, but it was like he felt no pain despite the blood streaming from his mouth. His eyes opened wide as he looked behind him!

“Supernatural...” he murmured. Supernatural... My disciple... is a supernatural? How is my disciple a supernatural??

Fighting on all sides suddenly stopped; everyone peered through the lightning to see a giant that resembled a god of lightning standing inside.

Li Hao was not using his sword. He stepped through the void with the Windchaser Boots and appeared in front of Hu Xiao so quickly that it seemed like he'd teleported. He ignored the other two Arcanus and set his sights on Hu Xiao.

It took only a split second for the young man to reappear. A massive fist of thunder and lightning rose without a word and slammed down on Hu Xiao. The latter was exchanging blows with Yao Si—he roared with fury and sent out a dragon of fire, but it was instantly dissipated by the punch!

Thunder and lightning split open!

Li Hao's arm seemed to be an iron band as it looped around Hu Xiao's neck. Flames erupted with a roar and a mountain exploded—earth and fire energy from a stable cultivation detonated over Li Hao's body. The young man suffered numerous flesh wounds, but he remained unmoved.

Was it terrifying to be injured?

Not at all!

Creak! He smashed a fist down, his arm still around the other's neck. Bam!

The earth armor shattered! Another fist, and another! He rained down thousands of punches in a single moment. Hu Xiao spewed out blood as he screamed with outrage, "Li Hao!"

A middle-aged man broke through the air from the city. "Don't you dare, Li Hao!"

Boom!

Thunder and lightning exploded again as Li Hao lifted Hu Xiao up with the arm around his neck.

"Today, I execute one of the founders of the nine ministries, Hu Xiao of the Ministry of the Judiciary!" A cold shout resonated in the four directions as a fist slammed into the other's face!

Endless mysterious power erupted as Hu Xiao howled. His organs were rupturing, but he could not block that fist. All of the supernatural defenses in his face broke.

BOOM!

His head exploded!

Li Hao tossed away the headless corpse and moved so quickly it was like he'd teleported again. He vanished on the spot, disappearing as a bolt of lightning racing across the void. The people didn't have a chance to react before the old duke suppressing Thunderleg jerked with surprise.

How was this possible?!

The thought had just formed in his mind when a person appeared in front of him. Li Hao seemed to have broken straight through the void to appear in front of him. The young man didn't say much because Thunderleg was weaker and almost being beaten to death. Li Hao came here first to punch again and again!

His fists of wind and thunder were too fast! Not only that, but he seemed to blast straight through all of the mysterious power in his surroundings. He was too fast as he was of the wind and thunder attribute. The wind attribute mapped to speed to begin with, not to mention he was wearing the Windchaser Boots.

The old duke attempted to withstand the assault with a mixture of fire and water. But since Hu Xiao couldn't defy the onslaught, how could the old duke prove up to the task?

Li Hao delivered one hundred punches at once!

BOOM!

A massive hole gaped in his chest as the old duke couldn't believe his eyes. He stared at Li Hao, his organs completely beaten to a pulp.

"You're... you're an Arcanus..."

Aren't you a martial master?



“I must thank you all for helping me see through a lot of things!” Li Hao smiled and crushed his head with a loud crack. The young man casually tossed the corpse into a nearby river and disappeared again.

“Hurry and kill him!” someone roared in the distance.

Boom!

Several Arcanus within the city immediately shot at Li Hao. Li Hao was an Arcanus!

.....

The young man vanished amid gale winds. When he next reappeared, he was in front of two fleeing Arcanus—the ones from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commerce. They wanted to run, but Yao Si beat one of them down. When he sought to bring down the other one, he cursed to himself!

A foot as large as a mountain descended and stepped on the other fleeing Arcanus, smashing him to bits!

Everyone in the battlefield gaped with astonishment! It was one thing for Li Hao to be an Arcanus, but his cultivation level was clearly highly stable and his body formidable. With the Windchaser Boots at hand, his speed was also incredible!

The sight stunned all participants, but they were able to be more at ease in the next moment. Several figures appeared next to the young man—all old men with white hair. Each of them were uncommonly grave as they looked incredulously at Li Hao.

Chapter 688: Supernaturals Are Trash (I)

“You broke a supernatural lock?” Someone gaped at Li Hao. The young man didn’t respond—he simply vanished. Both parties took a step back when his fist collided with another, whereupon Li Hao promptly vanished again.

Boom boom boom! Explosions repeatedly sounded!

“All Silver Moon martial masters can unseal yourself to the fullest!” Li Hao declared frostily. “Kill them all, I have time to suppress your locks!”

The first person to erupt with full strength as soon as those words were spoken was Yao Si. The man immediately snapped all of his locks, leaving only the tiniest sliver. He punched outward with a roar and pierced straight through the minister from the Ministry of Commerce that he fought!

“You should’ve said so earlier!” he grouched. Damn this felt good!

Hou Xiaochen was at a complete loss—stunned and astonished beyond belief. There was also anger and regret rising from his heart. He suddenly howled as his presence expanded balefully with crazed fury!

“Damn it, you guys have ruined him! Cough cough cough!” A violent coughing fit drowned out everything else he would’ve said. His spear shot through the void with rage and extreme regret. He wanted to kill people!

BAM!

The spear ran straight through the head of the commander from the Ministry of Military Affairs. The man stared at the berserk Hou Xiaochen with disbelief and a refusal to accept the circumstances of his death. Ignoring him, Hou Xiaochen raised his weapon and charged his second target.

“You will suffer the vengeance of Silver Moon, our unending retribution! You will face the wrath of all Silver Moon martial masters, every last possible avengement from all of our foundations! You’ve ruined the genius of our generation!!”

His spear once more split the air as even flames burst into being around his body. Hou Xiaochen paid no attention to this—all of you have destroyed the heir of the eight families!

BOOM!

His spear seemed to move with the momentum of the ancient times as it tore through another Arcanus!

“Yao Si, your choice is correct! They... will all die!” Hou Xiaochen looked coldly at those surrounding Li Hao. He suddenly turned and charged into the sea. He Yong and the others quickly followed him. Yao Si hesitated briefly with indecision before Li Hao’s voice sounded in his ear.

“Kill everyone out there, Director Yao,” transmitted the young man. “It won’t be that easy for these old shits to kill me!”

Yao Si immediately broke through the air without protest.

KABOOM!

Pitched battle broke out over the sea. The old ministers surrounding Li Hao widened their eyes, the kid was too fast! They hadn’t anticipated how strong he’d be and the key was, they couldn’t catch up to him.

RUMBLE!

A bolt of lightning danced between them, ripping through heaven and earth again and again. Two figures materialized in the distance. The inspector general looked down at the scene with a flickering expression.

“How dare the three evil organizations trespass in Skystar City!” he roared with outrage.

BAM!

He punched through the air, aiming his fist outside the city.

“The Inspectorate executes traitors and evil supernaturals today!” his father called out. “None of you will get away!”

He was even faster as he disappeared and reappeared over the sea in the blink of an eye, blocking the Chu River King who wanted to get away. The latter jerked back in terror!

“It’s you guys...” he began shouting.

“Kill!” The old minister’s roar overwhelmed all other sounds as his blade crashed through the void. All Arcanus, supernatural abilities, and battle techniques were shattered by this blow!

The Chu River King could only watch with the greatest indignation as he was chopped into two by this blow.

The old minister coughed out of a mouthful of blood and looked back at the bedraggled Yuan Shuo vomiting blood all over the ground. “Your disciple is very strong!” He smiled.

Yuan Shuo stared coldly at him without responding. The old minister's smile slowly disappeared; he vanished as well, shock still roiling through his heart. How was Li Hao an Arcanus? Was this good or bad?

It was difficult to come to a conclusion, but a furious slaughter was being conducted on all sides. Some wanted to run, some gave chase.

.....

Li Hao blazed with power as soon as he entered Arcanus. The combination of wind and thunder made him too fast to be believed. The bursts of thunder and lightning combined were too fierce to be contended with. His condition was stable and his organs balanced. Under such circumstances, the young man was too strong to fathom.

Five old men circled Li Hao. They were premier Arcanus with stable cultivation levels. Apart from Hu Xiao who'd just died and the old inspector general who'd killed the Chu River King, there were two more old ministers yet to appear. Li Hao neither knew which ministries they were from, nor did he care.

There was only Hou Xiaochen and a few others by his side at the moment—they were swiftly killing the metamorphosis experts. Hou Xiaochen glowered, stabbing through one enemy with each thrust of his spear! The horrified metamorphoses ran for their lives. Terrified down to the last man, not many of them survived.

Li Hao flashed through the scene like lightning, striking again and again, but unable to find results. The five powerhouses paled in terms of only speed; their offensive power rivaled Li Hao and they were five against one. The young man wasn't the slightest bit afraid, but he didn't have the ability to fight them all.

The five old men brooded at their target. He was changing too quickly!

“Hup!”

Wham!

A massive item shaped like a whetstone descended from the sky, noticeably decreasing the young man's speed. An old man had called upon his supernatural abilities. Li Hao didn't know what it was, just that the air was suddenly much more viscous.

"Suppress!" An old man waved his hand and brought the whetstone down. It ground into motion, seemingly wanting to squash out Li Hao!

Hou Xiaochen killed all of the fleeing powerhouses and looked as if he was going to charge over to help.

"Go kill the Arcanus outside!" Li Hao roared. "I'll handle these old things!"

Hou Xiaochen's expression shifted slightly, but he left as a breeze without protestation. There were still numerous Arcanus outside.

The Steppe Prince, Dark Godless, three senior elders of Red Moon, North Sea King, and lord of Buddha Mountain were all trying to escape. Other than the old duke that Li Hao killed and the Chu River King that the old inspector general had killed, the other powerhouses were in a frenzied fit.

They scattered to the four directions without hesitation. Circumstances inside the city had taken a turn for the worse. Although Li Hao was confined, their hearts still pounded from the sight of the young man killing Hu Xiao. Adding Yao Si and Hou Xiaochen to the mix, as well as two Arcanus from the Inspectorate, the heavyweights knew that it was time to quit the rapidly devolving situation.

While Li Hao was preoccupied with several premier Arcanus, Light Sword howled with effort and erupted with light energy. She swung her sword down, making the North Sea King stumble after a loud impact.

Even though Light Sword was bringing her full force to bear, she still didn't measure up to an Arcanus. However, the Arcanus in question only wanted to run away at the moment. Therefore, he was in no condition to fight. But an unsealed martial master was also a premier heavyweight who wouldn't let him get away so easily.

Just as the North Sea King readied to flee one more time, his expression changed. The inspector general was here!

Wham!

A longsword manifested in the inspector general's hand and he slashed it down with an eruption of power. Heaven and earth stood still for a solemn second as Arcanus power rushed out. That this individual could sit firmly in the position of inspector general naturally meant that his strength was a force to be reckoned with.

The newly ascended Arcanus that was the North Sea King could hardly stand against such a foe. He lost an arm as the longsword came down. He wanted to howl and curse—it was the nine ministries who had me come! But there was nothing he could say because...

The inspector general waved his longsword around again—an incredibly ferocious beast appeared on his blade and broke through the void in the blink of an eye. The longsword cut through heaven and earth!

Pfft!

It beheaded the North Sea King while the inspector general briefly stumbled. Mysterious power emanated from his body. It was apparent that his condition wasn't the most stable. He swiftly swallowed multiple drops of Water of Life to bring himself back under control.

"The great bandit of the North Sea has been eliminated!" he roared with laughter.

An incredible explosion rang in the distance as Sky Sword pierced through the firmament. One of the three great elders of Red Moon exploded in a mixture of his own water and wood energy, and was then churned to bits by the broadsword!

The remaining two elders gasped in horror. They were three on one, but one of their own had died. Sky Sword rivaled Li Hao in his strength! He was just a bit slower as he couldn't zip through the void like Li Hao could.

The other two elders felt their hearts shrivel up in death as Yao Si bore down on them. This was another premier powerhouse and they would have no place to run to once he was here! The skies darkened as their thoughts ran wildly, heaven and earth overturned as Sky Sword roared, "How dare you!"

A broadsword illuminated the world and struck with a loud bang! A fan had manifested in the void and stopped the sword with a portentous collision. A large hand grabbed the two elders and a person slowly walked over from the surface of the sea.

A smile hung on the newcomer's face as he waved the fan that'd appeared in his hand. He looked at the scowling Sky Sword, then at Yao Si. "So Li Hao has set foot into the supernatural and broken his locks! What a pity, what an utter pity!"

Yuan Shuo's eyes widened even further away and he looked across the void at the newcomer. "Ying. Hong. Yue!" he bit off!

"Long time no see, big brother Yuan!" Ying Hongyue looked over with a smile and a nod.

## Chapter 689: Supernaturals Are Trash (II)

Handsome, dashing. Ying Hongyue was still the same as he was all those years ago. Yuan Shuo broke through the air to take a close look at him. Ying Hongyue wore a smile on his face, Green and Orange Moon standing by his side. The man seemed particularly jaunty as he waved his fan, like those around him were nothing.



Yao Si and Sky Sword were premier heavyweights, but he didn't fear them. Ying Hongyue simply looked at the city and sighed, "Blood runs hot in the veins of the young, alright. They snap their locks without further thought. I have to say, that makes them much stronger than we were back in the day.

"Stop watching, everyone," he laughed. "It's not good to have everyone die as you watch, is it?"

"Are you always this flamboyant, Ying Hongyue?" An incredibly muscular man appeared upon laughter in the wind. He forced the old inspector general back with a punch. "Old Chen, do you want to match fists with me?"

"Yama!"

"We're all the same, Old Chen, stop pretending and step aside!" the muscular man roared with laughter. "I won't take you to task for killing Chu River. His condition was poor and unstable, but only an old thing like you had it within you to attack him!"

The old inspector general raised an eyebrow; his son swiftly rushed to the scene. Father and son stood together to block Yama's path.

Yama didn't mind. He looked around with some regret. "Chu River is dead, your second elder is dead as well... Dark Godless is alive, so haven't they lost one less than us?"

"Precisely!" Ying Hongyue laughed. The two of them suddenly acted together!

BOOM!

The void was shattered after a loud boom. A longsword flew out of the air, jointly forced out by the two. It was aimed straight at Hou Xiaochen, but the two men had knocked it out of the sky. Hou Xiaochen stabbed forward with his spear and ran Dark Godless through!

He turned back to regard the two with an arctic look. “Celestial Sword Immortal seeks to stop me with a stray stroke? You two are entirely superfluous.”

“We just wanted to make sure!” Yama roared with laughter. “It’s only fair if all three of us lose one, isn’t it?”

The void broke as a woman with preeminent grace stepped forth. Celestial Sword Immortal was a woman!

The flying sword returned to her hand with a casual grab. She swept a glance over Yama and Ying Hongyue, then at Hou Xiaochen. Finally, her glance returned to the city. She wholly ignored the dead Dark Godless. All three parties had lost an Arcanus. She’d wanted to save her own, but these two had thrown a wrench into the works.

Celestial Sword Immortal assessed the situation instead of engaging in conversation. Her gaze settled on the raging Yuan Shuo. Her voice was calm and coolly collected. “Hand over the Breathing Method of the Five Styles, Yuan Shuo. We are not here for Li Hao. That matter is settled since he’s become supernatural. Yours will be as soon as you hand over the breathing method. Otherwise... all of you probably won’t have time to seek him out and recover your locks!

“Hou Xiaochen and the others have all unsealed their strength and won’t endure for long. Think it over yourself, we won’t force you. We will leave after you hand over the Breathing Method of the Five Styles. If not... all of us can continue to dawdle and waste time!”

“Hahaha!” Yama roared with laughter. “That’s right, losing an Arcanus doesn’t mean anything! We’ll leave once you hand it over, Yuan Shuo! How long do you think Li Hao can hold out? How long do you think any of the others can hold out?”

So the three of them were here not for Li Hao, but for Yuan Shuo’s breathing method!

Many expressions shifted when people heard these words. Indeed, their battle strength was unsealed, but they couldn’t maintain their condition for long. If the leaders of the three great

organizations weren't on the scene, then everyone could swiftly defeat their foes, converge upon Li Hao's location, break the blockade posed by the five old ministers, and leisurely retreat at ease.

But with the three leaders on the scene, the situation turned inscrutable. Not only that, but laughter ran in the air as a gentle breeze brushed past the premises.

"This seat is very much interested as well, Yuan Shuo! Count me in for a copy of the Breathing Method of the Five Styles! There are some martial masters in the City of Supernaturals too!"

A person walked out after the void shook, their eyes as bright as torches. A Heaven's Eye! This was a Heaven's Eye who'd trained to the utmost of their craft! Someone from the City of Supernaturals!

And all of these people had come for Yuan Shuo! As fine as Li Hao's sword was, that was just an external object. For these premier powerhouses, the Breathing Method of the Five Styles might be the key to breaking through to the next cultivation level.

Yuan Shuo looked around gravely, not saying a word.

The Arcanus still alive swiftly gathered where the premier heavyweights were. The Steppe Prince, two elders, and lord of Buddha Mountain quickly departed the battlefield. Of the nine Arcanus in the outer battlefield, the three great organizations had each lost one. The North Sea King and old duke had also fallen. Five Arcanus were dead over the sea and five dead inside.

Ten of these eminent beings had died in the blink of an eye. But with the arrival of the leaders of the three great organizations and a Heaven's Eye from the City of Supernaturals, their side was reinforced rather than weakened.

Soon enough, Sky Sword and the others also congregated together. Huang Yu, Sky Sword, Hou Xiaochen, Yao Si, and two generations of inspector generals were all equipped with the battle strength of Arcanus. The others, including Earthturner Sword, were slightly weaker. He hadn't occupied the upper hand when fighting the Steppe Prince.

The group came together with unpleasant expressions and stepped in front of Yuan Shuo. Ying Hongyue and the others were in no hurry—they were the ones with all the time in the world.

“Big brother Yuan,” chuckled Ying Hongyue as he waved his fan. “Martial dao is for people to cultivate and pass down. You are not the progenitor of the Breathing Method of the Five Styles—it is the cultivation of knowledge from the ancient civilization. Big brother destroyed countless ancient tomes to create it. It would be propelling martial dao to new peaks if you shared it with us!”

“That’s right, Ole Yuan, we’re all old friends here!” Yama roared with laughter. “And it’s not just us—the situation will become even more complicated if you drag things out. Yonder seems to be coming.”

The void split open again, displaying a man with extraordinary bearing and long locks flowing in the wind. He wore a faint smile on his face. “Brother Yama is of one heart with me. You knew it as soon as I arrived.”

The lord of Yonder Mountain!

Three lords of the seven divine mountains were present today. Buddha, Yonder, and Sky Sword Mountains were all represented. Apart from the two monster spirit mountains, the other remaining two mountains didn’t care about such matters. They busied themselves with their own cultivation and there was no sight to be seen of them.

The number of powerhouses opposing Li Hao grew with the appearance of the Yonder lord. Just their presence alone was making it difficult for He Yong and the others to breathe. They were too strong, and all of them were stable Arcanus!

Not only that, but Ying Hongyue was likely to be stronger than he showcased. He’d easily brushed aside Sky Sword’s stroke.

Muffled explosions sounded within the city as Li Hao still battled in a circle of five heavyweights. He could sense all of the developments outside, but there was nothing he could do. There were too many powerhouses opposing him!

So many beyond expectation, and more key figures than anticipated. The leaders of the three great organizations were mysterious individuals that stayed out of the public eye, as was the lord of Yonder Mountain. The City of Supernaturals may have named the Arcanus realm, but they'd never showed evidence of possessing one.

Yet, here they all were today.

Their only goal seemed to be the Breathing Method of the Five Styles. This was the best opportunity for them to procure it. If Yuan Shuo didn't give it up, his disciple would be in danger, as would all Silver Moon martial masters present. They would be the only ones on the losing side if battle dragged on.

Valiantly storming the battlefield just moments ago, Yao Si and his colleagues were livid. Sky Sword showed his true features at this moment—he bore an exceedingly solemn expression and a piercing look shot out of his eyes. He looked at their opponents and swung his broadsword through the air.

“Silver Moon martial masters only fall in battle!” he declared frostily.

“Don't say that, we're Silver Moon martial masters too!” Ying Hongyue laughed. “I am one, and while Yama, Celestial Sword, and Yonder aren't fully, they count. They grew up in Silver Moon too and would've been part of the Record if it didn't reject non-local candidates.

“See how well they're doing for themselves! It's all thanks to Silver Moon for that. We're full of yearning and enthusiasm for martial dao. In that case, why must big brother Yuan keep every last scrap of knowledge to himself?”

Yuan Shuo regarded them with an icy look.

Ying Hongyue fanned himself and smiled to see Yuan Shuo look at him thus. “Don’t yell at me, there’s also no use calling me flamboyant. I’m used to it and as such, it’s become a part of me. Does big brother Yuan still not know me after all these years?”

“Look at my little martial nephew being forced to become supernatural! Would we have permitted this to happen if big brother had given us the breathing method earlier? The nine ministries may be strong, but we’re no pushovers either. It’s one big family when it comes to Silver Moon and we naturally would’ve helped with a thing or two...”

The old inspector general looked around, not saying anything. Yao Si’s expression was deeply unpleasant, he’d ended up on the wrong side today. Sky Sword seemed ready to erupt in all out slaughter.

Yuan Shuo took a deep breath and looked at them calmly. “Will you retreat if I give it to you?”

“Of course!” Ying Hongyue smiled. “We’ll all leave, don’t worry! You know how martial masters are, we are people of our word! Granted, I’m none too familiar with the one from the City of Supernaturals. It’s a difficult feat for a Heaven’s Eye to cultivate to this step, but she’ll be dead all the same if she’s the only one who stays after we leave. You can’t possibly be afraid of her.”

The Heaven’s Eye was a female cultivator; there weren’t many female cultivators on the scene. Celestial Sword Immortal was one, while Light Sword shone dimly compared to the two.

“I will also leave after obtaining the secret art, there is no need to worry!” the Heaven’s Eye said softly.

Since she, a supernatural, also wanted the breathing method, that meant these people more or less knew the particulars of the Breathing Method of the Five Styles. This was because Yuan Shuo had utilized it when he fought Xu Qing in conjunction with Li Hao. This would be a hard method to obtain normally even if one killed Li Hao. Today was a perfect opportunity!

Chapter 690: Supernaturals Are Trash (III)

Inside the city.

Li Hao threw himself against his confinement again and again, but he was having difficulty breaking through the defenses of five ultimate powerhouses. They had almost completely surrounded him.

“Let me out to kill them!” the young man suddenly transmitted. “If you don’t, do you think six locks is my limit? Can’t you see that I am of the wind and thunder attributes? My locks of the organs are completely fine. As weak as my body is, it can endure the strain of another broken lock. Do you really want to battle to the death with me?”

The five old men looked solemnly at each other.

“Let me out!!” Li Hao transmitted again. “I need to kill these guys for threatening my master! I can leave you old dogs alone, but I have to land a few blows on them!”

The five heavyweights exchanged grave looks. Do they let Li Hao go?

Li Hao had killed so many Arcanus and even Hu Xiao—so long as they kept him trapped, that would keep him from the martial masters outside. Their supernatural locks would fully break sooner or later and some of their organs might explode.

That was the chance that Ying Hongyue and the others had seized upon. If both sides coordinated well, then all of the Silver Moon martial masters might be eliminated today.

“Do you think they’ll share the Breathing Method of the Five Styles with you once they obtain it?” Urgency crept into Li Hao’s cold tones. “I’ll give you three seconds to think. If you don’t let me go, I’ll break the seventh lock and we’ll see who kills who then!”

The five looked at each other again. Moments later, the enormous whetstone in the air relaxed somewhat. Li Hao promptly disappeared from the center of the encirclement. The five old men

furrowed their brows, not knowing if this had been a good idea or not. But their decision didn't seem like it would worsen the situation—they rather hoped that Li Hao and those people would beat each other to the point of being broken and bleeding!

The Silver Moon savages were very hard to bring to heel. Currently, hesitation marked their movements since they were concerned about Li Hao's safety and needed to endure the risks of their locks fully snapping. Even Yuan Shuo moved with some indecision.

But if Li Hao was free... a different development might appear.

The five still looked around uncertainly and with a complicated mix of emotions. They'd let Li Hao go—who knew if this would give rise to even worse circumstances?

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Ying Hongyue and the rest smiled as Yuan Shuo responded to them. As they thought! They wouldn't find much effect if they moved against Yuan Shuo by himself. But now, the old man's wavering was a very good outcome.

The death of an Arcanus that'd barely managed to ascend didn't matter to them. Arcanus were hard to come by, but if the Breathing Method of the Five Styles could effectively raise them to another level and consolidate their organs, then the Arcanus level might not mean much in the days to come.

As such thoughts ran through their mind, Ying Hongyue's face twitched and he looked to their rear.

Li Hao already glimpsed them, but didn't say anything. He summoned Stellaris and stabbed it into his heart. Heart blood rushed into the sword, an action he hadn't taken against Hu Xiao. He was incensed beyond words, the peak of wrath!

Stellaris furiously sucked in blood, turning scarlet. Li Hao knew that his upcoming opponents were thornier and stronger than the five old ministers. But... so what?



He was as pale as a ghost with how much blood essence the sword absorbed; his organs felt like they were collapsing. But did he care?

He didn't!

He was waging war on the nine ministries, but the three great organizations interfered again and again. Do you really think that you're one family?!

Sky Sword stirred restlessly as his broadsword began shaking. Li Hao shot through the void with a blood-red longsword. Unbounded sword intent emanated from it while blood circulated through the surface.

"Sever!" A harsh shout sounded from the sky. The sword stroke that descended was as if the one that Li Hao had seen that day. He was in a towering rage and stabbed his sword at a target without thought of anything else!

He didn't aim at the leaders of the three great organizations because he knew they were very strong, he couldn't necessarily kill them! He aimed at the powerhouses behind them—the Red Moon elders, Steppe Prince, and lord of Buddha Mountain!

These people had just weathered a huge battle. A sword descended with killing intent that pierced through heaven and earth!

Ying Hongyue's eyes widened as he hesitated, then grabbed Orange and Green Moon before vanishing. Yama cursed under his breath and immediately vanished into the void. Celestial Sword Immortal was faster than them and had already disappeared. Their people were already dead. Since Ying Hongyue would rather save two weaklings instead of his elders, they wouldn't expend the effort to take Li Hao's world-shaking sword stroke head-on!

Boom!

The void exploded as the two elders and Steppe Prince gaped with dismay. Golden light sparkled around the lord of Buddha Mountain—a protective golden body! The Steppe Prince roared as something exploded with a rumble. Fire flickered into existence around him. Though he was a martial master, he decisively broke one of his supernatural locks—fully broke one of them—to instantly grow stronger and vanish on the spot.

It was too late for the two elders, however. They were much weaker compared to these people and did not have any foundations to speak of. Despair appeared in their eyes.

Off in the distance, the fleeing Ying Hongyue seemed to be pricked by a guilty conscience. He flung out his fan; it immediately appeared beneath the longsword, but promptly broke with a crunch. The fan that'd held off Sky Sword was completely obliterated!

Ying Hongyue grunted, frowning solemnly. Stellaris had been unsealed by quite a bit...

Crunch!

The void cracked as the longsword swung down. The two elders were reduced to powder and a large fissure opened in the sea. All of the water in its path evaporated, an opening that was swiftly filled by other seawater that raised towering waves!

Li Hao was apparent to the rest by now, his face stark white! He looked coldly at those fleeing. The golden light around the lord of Buddha Mountain had cracked. While he was covered in blood, he was still alive. The livid Steppe King had retreated far away; fire energy wafted from him.

He was a martial master and had suppressed Huang Yu and Hou Xiaochen before this. He was a vaunted powerhouse with nine saturated locks! The full breakage of one of them utterly infuriated him!

“Li Hao!” The Steppe Prince glared at the young man. Since fire energy drifted around him, he no longer had any reservations. “You’ve done well!”

Fully breaking a supernatural lock was an immeasurable loss to a martial master. How could he not be enraged!

“You can speak to me after you break two more!” Li Hao flashed him an arctic look.

The prince remained silent. There was still hope to convert back to being a martial master when only one lock was broken. But a few more... he would be unable to attempt the conversion no matter what enormous price he paid.

The five old men swiftly arrived, followed by some current ministers. The sky over the sea thronged with powerhouses in the blink of an eye. There were those from the three great organizations, several divine mountains, and the representative from the City of Supernaturals in front. They had not retreated.

The old men had brought more Arcanus with them, but they didn't draw nearer. They were waiting for something, weighing up something. If they joined hands with the other group, they would still be able to eliminate Li Hao's people. While they'd suffered heavy losses at twelve Arcanus today, Li Hao's side was still the more dangerous. He didn't have enough time to repair everyone's supernatural locks; their only option was to emulate the Steppe Prince's actions. But if that happened, then the young man would find it highly regretful.

He may have become a supernatural, but he could not extinguish hope for all martial masters.

Li Hao plunged the blood-red sword into his heart without another word. More blood gushed forth and he turned even paler.

“You have not reached the step of forcefully unsealing Stellaris.” Ying Hongyue frowned. “You'll only consign yourself to death through a depletion of blood qi! Li Hao, we just want the breathing method. It's not yet for martial masters to meet each other in fights to the death...”

Li Hao said nothing. When he pulled out Stellaris, the hint of an ancient sword intent blossomed from the little sword. The young man swayed, unsteady on his feet. He stared at Ying Hongyue before abruptly smiling, “So you’re Ying Hongyue!”

The man did not respond.

“You’re very strong, you’re ridiculously strong! But... I know why you don’t make a move against me!”

Ying Hongyue still did not respond!

“I know why you leave as soon as you see me!” Li Hao roared with laughter. “Ying Hongyue, how does it feel to be caught in a cocoon of your own making?”

“Don’t force my hand, Li Hao,” Ying Hongyue remarked faintly with a frown. “I may not be able to kill you, but your master and friends will all die!”

“No no no, it’s that you don’t dare to!” Li Hao threw his head back, laughing uproariously. “Ying Hongyue, my Li family is the head of the eight families! You’re so ambitious to swallow seven bloodlines and combine them as one! But your bloodline seems to be afraid of my bloodline! Ying Hongyue, you’re playing with fire!”

“You can try it too.” The man’s brows drew tightly together.

Li Hao continued roaring with laughter! He could see seven threads over Ying Hongyue’s head, which meant that the man might be able to see the same! The threads seemed to have something to do with the diagram of the eight trigrams in Silver City, but they showed some resistance. Some of them even wanted to draw closer to Li Hao!

The young man suddenly understood why Ying Hongyue didn’t go to Silver City or kill him in person! He knew why the man kept sending underlings to kill the last heir of the eight families!

Ying Hongyue was afraid of him!

Or rather, his bloodline resisted him because he'd devoured seven families' worth!