

## Star Gate 991

### Chapter 991: Successful Creation (I)

Li Hao sank into deep thought and opened his eyes moments later. “Director General Wang, release some indestructible matter. I’ll mix it with Water of Life and the treasures within the pool so I can trace the dao meridians.”

The director general’s expression flickered. It was hard to produce more indestructible matter in this age. If he offered too much, his own body would be crippled. It had only been repaired after collecting the trunks of five Immortal level plant spirits!

He sighed and manifested a surge of indestructible matter without another word.

Li Hao took it in hand and extended his senses toward it, nodding after a moment. Indestructible matter was very durable and resilient. The results should be excellent if it was used to create dao meridians.

The young man was fully treating the director general as a lab rat at this point. If they failed, they would just discard the crippled body and find another five Immortal trunks to repair his body with.

It was no big deal.

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Dao meridians snaked into being according to the layout that Li Hao had committed to memory. This was easily done when there was no corresponding flow of energy from the Hao Cosmos to deal with at the same time.

Soon enough, Li Hao artificially created a body with thirty-six dao meridians. The group exchanged strange glances with each other when they were greeted with it. It was shaped exceedingly like

Director General Wang, just a bit younger. There was no presence of life emanating from it at the moment.

“In order to prevent mishaps, let’s try with one body first,” Li Hao remarked. “Let’s see if it can communicate with the Hao Cosmos. If not, creating more would be a waste.” He turned to the director general. “You don’t need to place too much importance on the first try. The director general doesn’t need to sever your core origin dao, but you do need to move your mental strength over. In addition, you’ll need a powerful weapon to be the vehicle for your connection to the Hao Cosmos.”

A powerful weapon?

Director General Wang thought it over and summoned a pair of boxing gloves. “This is all I have... I can’t use the city lord seal on a whim.”

Li Hao glanced at it. It would barely do. Let’s give it a try! He took the gloves and commenced the next stage of the experiment.

More people crowded around them now. Yuan Shuo had returned, bringing Hong Yitang and a few others with him. No one said a word. They watched silently, waiting for a miracle to happen.

After Li Hao finished a few more steps, he forcefully melded the boxing gloves into the dao meridians through use of supernatural characters.

“It’s best if we have a guiding dao meridian as well,” he said. “We’ll use it as the catalyst to beckon to Hao Cosmos energy. Does the director general have a liking for any supernatural attribute?”

Director General Wang blinked. What did he like? So he could choose? How interesting.

“How about the meridian of thunder and lightning?”

“The thunder attribute?” Li Hao smiled. “That’s a nicely powerful one. Since the director general is skilled at boxing, it will be nice to add thunder and lightning on top of that.”

The thunder attribute belonged to the dao meridian of the spine. Li Hao promptly carved one in without further delay. It was complete, but there was no corresponding energy within.

“When we first start the process, there will be no energy inside the dao meridian,” Li Hao explained. “But the various parts of the human body and their dao meridians should be connected to different parts in the Hao Cosmos. They should be able to summon the energy of thunder and lightning.

Here came the most difficult issue. Li Hao now needed to roam the Hao Cosmos and punch through its barrier to connect the body to the dao universe. This was the most critical part. However, the Hao Cosmos was unbounded without end. How was one to orient themselves, locate the correct site, and break through it?

That was the most problematic question to answer!

Li Hao sank into deep thought. It was also easy to lose oneself in the Hao Cosmos. If he did, he would be done for.

“I’ll go!” Yuan Shuo suddenly said and chuckled merrily at his student. “I’ll go take a look!”

He’d once traveled through the dao universe. Not only was Li Hao creating a new body for Director General Wang, but it was a deeply meaningful gesture for an artificial meridian to traverse the Hao Cosmos. If it succeeded, it would be a miracle within cultivation history.

This would accelerate exploration of the Hao Cosmos and deepen everyone’s understanding of the new dao. It was also a very dangerous course of action, so Li Hao could not be risked in this endeavor.

“No, I’ll go!” The young man took a deep breath. “I’ll leave Stellaris outside as a homing beacon and put it inside the body. You also have a mission, teacher! You need to coordinate with Director General Wang to control his new body and operate the Five Styles, as well as operate a secret art of wind and thunder!”

“Meanwhile, I’ll need to see how position orientation goes. If the signal is too weak for orientation, then I’ll need teacher to help me again from this side to locate where this body’s dao meridian is!”

“It’s all just speculation so far.” Yuan Shuo frowned. “If we cannot communicate or determine location when you’re inside, you might be lost for good inside. Let me do it!”

“No, I’ll do it,” Li Hao laughed. Stellaris circled around him like a tiny dragon as he addressed it. “You’re the foremost sword of the world at present! You need to pinpoint this world’s position as strongly as you can and continuously erupt with the greatest presence you have. You are the catalyst for my return! Otherwise, you will fall silent again if I am lost inside.”

Stellaris vibrated, erupting with a particularly sharp presence. Li Hao could not be lost! If he was, he might survive, but it might be countless eons later when he emerged.

There was no sense of time when it came to the great dao. Once he vanished from Silver Moon and entered the Hao Cosmos, it might be millions of years later when he reemerged.

“We can.. forget it if it’s that dangerous...” Director General Wang couldn’t help but say. Being lost in the dao universe sounded insanely scary.

For a period of time, the powerhouses of Battle Heaven had also suspected if the Human King and the rest were lost in a dao universe.

Of course, not that of core origin, but the enemy’s dao universe!

The universe was vast, but the Human King shouldn't be lost among the stars with that group of powerhouses by his side. If he'd exterminated the enemy and wanted to fully eradicate their faith and cultivation, he might further march on their dao universe.

Then... he might be lost in it.

This was a possibility that no one wanted to explore further. Bringing the battle to the enemy's dao universe represented one goal: to eliminate the enemy from the roots and destroy their foundation of cultivation. That was harder than annihilating a world.

Would the Human King do so?

Who knew?

Li Hao laughed and faded out of sight. Not far away, Zhang An sighed softly. The little fellow made the Black Armor quite indecisive at times.

A lot of people came to mind. The little guy resembled a lot of people, but also didn't resemble them. He was more vicious than anyone when he set his mind to it, but the most gentle soul in the room when he wished to be so.

Zhang An thought of the Human King during his time. Now that was a merciless and unyielding individual. He thought of his grandfather—a benevolent man, but also a flinty personage with the blood of untold individuals staining his hand.

Li Hao had killed people and once imitated the Human King, wanting to rid the world of his enemies. But somehow, somewhere along the way, he lost his direction. He'd been influenced by an unknown factor and grown a so-called woman's soft nature. He hadn't killed that many out of the one million supernaturals in the City of Supernaturals.

Many thoughts swirled in Zhang An's mind. He didn't know who Li Hao resembled.

Perhaps no one at all. Li Hao was possibly just Li Hao.

Every person who succeeded had their own unique charisma. For example, Zhang An was much stronger than Li Hao, but when he saw the young man leap into the endless dao universe by himself for the sake of legitimacy, the great dao, and heritage... Zhang An found himself lacking when it came to the same resolution and determination.

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The unending Hao Cosmos.

Li Hao appeared by himself and looked around him at the scintillating celestial bodies filling the void. He grinned, having wanted to roam this space before, but not daring to do so. The opportunity was in front of him this time! Exploring the cosmos contained not only the mission to connect Director General Wang to the great dao, but an occasion of self encouragement.

I want to see just what this great dao universe is like!

Li Hao was no longer content to be restricted to the tiny patch around him. How would people be at ease if he, the pioneer of the new dao, was unfamiliar with it? Therefore, it was time for a round of exploration today.

The young man's body transformed into a ferocious tiger and pounced forward. He couldn't sense the coordinates left by Director General Wang's physical body yet, so he could only aimlessly wander through the dao universe.

Within the cosmos.

Li Hao flew toward the closest celestial body. It was shaped like a sharp sword and he'd been wondering if this was Hong Yitang's dao meridian. He couldn't be certain and hadn't investigated it before. Now, Li Hao approached it without reservation.

The universe was so vast that although he moved at an extremely rapid clip and the celestial body was very close to him, it took a long flight time before he gradually drew near the celestial body.

It was rooted in the void like an upraised sword!

Li Hao approached it with the ferocious tiger, more curious than anything. There were numerous sword marks left behind on the celestial body. Was this Hong Yitang's dao meridian or not?

It erupted with rays of scintillating sword light when the young man drew near, as if expelling enemies!

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At the same time, the outside world.

Hong Yitang suddenly frowned and sat down cross-legged. A universe seemed to manifest in his eyes; there looked to be a ferocious tiger ahead of him. He displayed his sword intent and filled the world with it!

That quickly raised attention from others. They looked at him with confusion, whereas Hong Yitang opened his eyes to ask, "Has Li Hao drawn near my area? I seem to see a ferocious tiger pouncing on me..."

Yuan Shuo's eyes shifted around in rapid thought. The body they'd just created flared with brilliant light.

“Director General Wang, infuse your mental strength into the body and operate the Five Styles method. Hurry!”

The director general immediately projected his mental strength into the new body. Since it was his first time controlling this body, he wasn't too familiar with it yet. However, he knew the Five Styles method. It'd been made available to the public when everyone discussed it. Since it didn't focus on the locks of the five organs, it was different from before.

Director General Wang quickly operated the method while Yuan Shuo took up the reins to guide it.

#### Chapter 992: Successful Creation (II)

At the same time, in the Hao Cosmos.

The celestial body in front of Li Hao started flickering through changes—it was a golden planetoid one second and a dirt-colored one the next. The young man blinked, then grinned happily. He really did seem to have discovered Hong Yitang's dao meridian!

It was one that shifted through a myriad of permutations!

Interesting... so this is the case!

Then... what if he destroyed someone's dao meridian in the Hao Cosmos? That seemed feasible in the core origin universe of old. Destroying someone's core origin in the dao universe would cause their complete demise. Was that the same case in the Hao Cosmos?

However, it was impossible to determine friend from foe in here, unless they had very special dao meridians such as Hong Yitang. If the young man just took his best guess and started hacking around, he might accidentally kill someone on his side.

“The great dao is so interesting!” laughed Li Hao and left without a word.



He continued storming through the void and wandering through the dao universe, but couldn't sense the existence of a method that shared the same roots as him. The young man's head ached. How was he supposed to find that in this endless expanse?

Inspiration struck in the next moment and he summoned a supernatural character. It glittered like it contained all of the stars in the sky and countless great dao gathered to it. The radiant star hung in the void.

Dao!

The character of dao was on full display and burst with an uncontrollably powerful presence. It illuminated the nearby void like a sun.

The sun's ripples pulsed; Li Hao called upon the Five Styles without second thought. His form quickly appeared over it as the Five Styles operated and pulsed with ripples. The ripples spread outward, as if probing the void to determine where ripples similar to them may be.

After an indeterminate period of time, Li Hao's eyes snapped open and a light twinkled in them. The blazing sun immediately moved in a certain direction.

"The great dao is too scattered," he reflected as he flew. "This makes it hard to find anything. It should be properly organized. The dao of thunder and lightning should remain in the thunder and lightning section, the five elements should all be separated as well. That will make things easy to locate!"

"It probably hasn't been long since the Hao Cosmos was born. For a dao universe, a lifespan of one million years may be just the beginning. Of course it's disorganized right now. If I have time and the proper strength to, I should help organize it!"

If the Hao Cosmos proved impossible to organize, then he would put his own dao in order. It would make cultivation easier if the great dao was clearly delineated into the relevant sections. Otherwise,

the intermixed aspects of the great dao would make it very hard to train. The current difficulty of locating Director General Wang's physical body was a prime example.

However, Li Hao could still sense some differences. Perhaps there were too few people who'd sensed the Hao Cosmos thus far—only those with auras could, after all. That made the dao universe very quiet.

It also gave Li Hao a chance.

The celestial star moves!

One young man and a blazing sun hurtled through the void.

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The outside world.

Time passed, minute by minute. One hour, two hours, three hours...

Even Stellaris started agitating, finding that it'd been too long since it lost contact with Li Hao. Its presence fluctuated wildly.

Everyone remained quiet without a word.

A solemn look had entered Director General Wang's eyes after he input his mental strength into the new physical body. Li Hao had entered the Hao Cosmos by himself in order to craft a new body and seek the new dao for the director general. If the young man grew lost and was unable to find his way back...

The director general didn't dare think of the consequences.

“Keep your thoughts under control and continue operating the Five Styles!” reprimanded a calm Yuan Shuo. “We need to provide a direction for Li Hao... The universe is so vast that he'll need some time. What are a few hours worth?”

Although he maintained the veneer of confidence, growing anxiety crept into Yuan Shuo's heart. It'd already been a few hours. Once a deviation occurred.... who knew where Li Hao would veer off to? Would he be able to return with just Stellaris?

“Do you sense it?” Yuan Shuo suddenly lifted a brow as the group silently grappled with their worries.

Director General Wang looked curiously at him. Sense what

“The ripples of a method from a common root, do you sense it?”

No.

Although Director General Wang didn't sense anything, he still forced himself to say, “I think I do... a little...”

He had to respond with that to calm his heart and the heart of others. Yuan Shuo closed his eyes to take stock of his senses. He could sense that perhaps Li Hao was here. The young man had done it! He'd really found their corresponding location in the vast unknown of that dao universe!

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In a dark expanse.

Li Hao paused in front of a patch of empty space. There was nothing here—no stars, no aura, just darkness that stretched on forever. But for the moment, the darkness seemed to be pulsating.

His star of ‘dao’ was also trembling. The two sets of ripples seemed to share a common origin.

This is it! But... how should he puncture through the Hao Cosmos?

We produce the same ripples since we share the same method. Perhaps I can punch right through it!

Probably... right? It was his first time attempting such a feat. Therefore, he wasn’t too practiced at it.

After some thought, other stars manifested around the ‘dao’ sun. The various supernatural characters turned into stars of the five elements, wind, and thunder. A surge of sword intent rose as the stars turned into Li Haos and started operating the Breathing Method of the Five Styles.

The young man took a deep breath and drew in pure special energy. There was no time to spend wondering about this energy. The longer he stayed here, the more he could sense some problems. It’d been too long. His connection with the outside world was growing fainter.

If he stayed in here for too long, he might be assimilated by the great dao and lose the opportunity to go back.

Multiple stars repeatedly shook the void. Each attempt was a try to patch the director general’s dao meridian through to the dao universe via their shared cultivation method.

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“I sense it!” A surprised Director General Wang sensed it as well this time. “Something seems to be calling out to me!”

“Li Hao’s found the right spot,” Yuan Shuo announced. “But since this body isn’t a connate dao entity, it lacks a natural ability to connect to the Hao Cosmos. Only through our efforts can it break through—and this is a latent problem for future human cultivators. If they are unable to naturally communicate with the dao universe, then they must do so one step at a time…”

“Full speed ahead, Director General Wang. We need to operate the method with everything we have so we can pierce the barrier with ripples of a common origin!”

“Very well!”

Boom!

Blood qi shot into the sky as the newly born body furiously absorbed energy from the surroundings. Thirty-six meridians operated in joint fashion while the meridian on the spine marshaled all of their force, emanating surges of powerful ripples.

Thud thud thud!

Ripples appeared over the new body with the beat of a heart and shook the void!

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At the same time, the outside world.

The world seemed to take a breath. Faint reverberations rose in all directions as everyone looked to the sky. There seemed to be a second sun there.

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In the far off Divine Nation of the west.

There was a group of existences sealed off in the ruins. One of them suddenly opened eyes that shone as radiantly as the stars. It looked at the sky and murmured, “What... is that?”

There was a second sun in the firmament!

Anything unusual was indicative of a conspiracy afoot! Who was leading all of these changes in Silver Moon Territory? It wasn't the first time that these kinds of changes had occurred; different outcomes resulted from each of them.

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Silver Moon province.

Someone in an ancient city opened their eyes and looked to the outside world. An image of it appeared underground. There was a sun in the sky with feeble stars around it. All of them pulsed in unison.

“Is the great dao changing?” murmured the one who'd opened their eyes. “Is a new dao appearing?”

How strange! Why would there be such a unique change occurring?

“Is there anything happening in the outside world?” the person asked softly.

“In response to milord, nothing noteworthy has happened lately,” a voice quickly responded. “The world has stabilized some more and certain core origin replicas roam the land. However, the world is still not strong enough to contain the primary bodies of the noble heavyweights...”

“What of this age’s humans?”

“There is no one of note among this age, just the heir of the Silver Moon Li family—Li Hao—who may have received certain opportunities. It is said that he is a seven element Arcanus now and on par with an Apex!”

Someone from the Li family?

The one who’d opened his eyes mulled over the response before saying slowly, “Send people out. Sever their core origin for replicas to eliminate Li Hao!”

“Understood, milord!” Figures quickly rose into the air and disappeared.

The one who’d opened his eyes closed them again. Li Hao... seven elements... was this his doing?

Most likely not.

Perhaps it was the appearance of heaven’s will that disturbed the world. No matter what, they should eliminate the young man.

### Chapter 993: Successful Creation (III)

A second sun seemed to appear throughout the world on this day. Countless martial masters that’d comprehended the aura sensed its existence. They looked blankly at the sky, feeling the sun above them, but also feeling it in their heart!

It was a very peculiar sensation, like the sun in the sky was the one of their heart.

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Silver Moon, the Tiger Wings.

Many people tilted their heads to the sky—Hu Dingfang and Li Hao's senior sister Chen Yuhua were also looking at the sky. Their presences grew steadily as both operated the Breathing Method of the Five Styles.

"These stars... have appeared rather abruptly," Hu Dingfang murmured. "They are tremendously important, but why do I think that they have something to do with the Five Styles?"

Next to him, Chen Yuhua also took a breath. "I don't know, but I feel the same way too. Perhaps they have something to do with master or... my little junior brother."

"But how can this be... The sun has appeared so suddenly... and is like the sun..." Hu Dingfang frowned. Although he thought the two to be related, how was that possible?

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In another locale.

Director General Zhao was also looking at the sky, a frown on his face. Anything unusual was indicative of a conspiracy afoot. The key was that when he closed his eyes, he seemed to see a god!

Indeed, a god!



There was someone seated on the sun while the stars revolved around him. He seemed to be the master of heaven and earth—it was quite a stunning sight.

Although it was a few simple images, it was enough to shake him.

Also, why... did that person seem so much like Li Hao? How was that possible?? Wasn't Li Hao in Skystar City and focused on having everyone build roads?

Director General Zhao shook his head to himself, constantly repeating that this was an illusion. To think that even he would see a mirage after this sun appeared!

His form flickered as he entered an ancient city. Figures rose from it in response.

“Director General Zhao, why are there changes again in the outside world?” someone asked. “Do you know what’s going on?”

“I wanted to come ask you.” The director general shook his head.

A towering tree in the middle of the city emanated faint radiance. It transmitted weakly, “It might be that a new dao is about to appear with the great star illuminating the world. Dao heritage is newly established, core origin is no more, a new era is to come!”

A faint shadow appeared, one that resembled a hunched over crone. She tightly gripped a cane and tilted her head back at the sky. “Who can establish another great dao thousands of years later? Or are these changes in the world a new dao established by the world itself?”

“What do you mean by these words, revered one?” asked Director General Zhao.

“The appearance of a new dao means that the new era is about to arrive... Or rather, that the time of the Heavenly Emperor is about to commence! There may be opportunities to be found everywhere from today forth. One’s fortune can be made anywhere, and anyone who grasps them in hand will ascend to the heavens in one step!

“What a pity that we walk the path of core origin and will likely lack such chances... From henceforth, all new humans of the modern era will have these opportunities!”

“Not necessarily.” Director General Zhao raised an eyebrow with a smile.

The crone looked at the sky again instead of saying anything. “What a pity...” she murmured after a long while. “But you still have opportunities. Do you sense anything different?”

“Not much, just that cultivation seems to be easier lately,” the director general responded after some thought.

“Precisely!” concurred the crone. “The new dao might have something to do with martial masters!”

“Since no one here knows, I’ll take a look outside,” Director General Zhao quickly responded. “Additionally, the world has become more stable and the energy within the surroundings is denser these days. Even the revered one has naturally revitalized. It looks like that will be the same for all of the major families soon. When the world stabilizes, I hope that everyone will lend a hand to Silver Moon!”

“Naturally!” nodded the crone. “Ah, yes. A few days ago, we sensed that something might have happened to a few of the eight heritage weapons. It will be difficult to open the Star Gate again. Is there any news or clues to that?”

“A bit. Ying Hongyue and Li Hao clashed against each other and both sides detonated their weapons. Those might have been the eight heritage weapons,” the director general responded with a chuckle. “They’re both ruthless people that we cannot afford to offend... so we can only wait for everyone to emerge from seclusion.

He raised cupped fists. “Then I’ll be off first!”

“That one... does not trust us,” the guardian plant spirit said softly after the man had vanished.

“That is to be expected,” rumbled a Gold Armor. “He has always restricted our recovery rate. Even the later activated Battle Heaven has seen their General Pagoda revived. If it wasn’t for more energy being in the world lately, the revered one might have found it hard to revitalize as well. This person... ai!”

There was nothing much else to say.

The group fell silent, as did the rest of the ancient city.

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At this moment, inside the Skystar Town ruins.

A burst of dazzling light covered Director General Wang’s new body. He roared as another universe with a couple of brilliant stars appeared behind him!

Zhang An quickly rushed to him and looked at the shadow behind the director general. “Quick, deploy your core origin dao! Stabilize the passageway and use the boxing gloves as the shell for the core origin...”

“This... is just the first body...” Pain appeared on Director General Wang’s face.

“Forget that, deploy your core origin first and stabilize the dao universe...”

“Alright!” Director General Wang said no more. A massive avenue stretched forth as Zhang An’s great dao also appeared to help the other secure the passageway.

“Imperial Guard, suppress the ripples with the projection!”

The little tree immediately summoned the projection of the imperial palace. Vice Head Qi and Yuming also popped into view, holding up a massive machine between them.

“Director General Wang, your great dao needs to be separated and the passageway to the Hao Cosmos stabilized. We’ll help your mental strength meld with the body more...”

Abject fear appeared on the director general’s face!

Fuck! Isn’t this just the first trial? Why are you starting with this already?

The two ignored him and shoved him into the machine. “Mental strength becoming one and a transfer of great dao,” the vice head said joyously. “He’ll be able to convert to a human of the new age once the dust settles...”

“Who would’ve thought that I’d be able to one day personally witness the reincarnation of mental strength and a conversion of great dao!” Yuming was also quite excited. How splendid was this!

Director General Wang struggled before he yelped with dismay, “Ouch! Martial uncle, what are you doing?”

A book was in Zhang An’s hand and a figure floated out over it. He wielded a large blade that was slicing into core origin dao. “Don’t worry, I’ll help you sever your dao. Just grin and bear it—there is bound to be some pain. It’ll be like you’re dying, but be at peace, we’ll safeguard your life!

“All plant spirits are to infuse Water of Life to maintain his life signs!” The worked up Zhang An called out to the plant spirits. “Troop leaders of the Skystar Army are to coordinate with Silver Moon martial masters to ensure that he remains calm and does not struggle...”

Multiple Silver Armors descended upon the scene, followed by large sums of Silver Moon martial masters to pin Director General Wang down where he was.

“It really hurts!!” wailed the man. Heavens above! These people were going to be the death of him!

His great dao was being severed and his physical body locked into place. His mental strength was being forced into another physical body, producing pain beyond belief. His own body seemed like it was going to explode as a peculiar strength flowed from the shadowy figure behind him.

“I’m not going through the conversion anymore!” he howled with agony. “Let me go, martial uncle!!”

The pain of death by a thousand cuts from a blunt blade was too much to bear.

“Stop cutting into me, martial uncle!” Director General Wang shrieked. “You keep going at it stroke by stroke, I can’t take it anymore!”

“As you wish.” Zhang An abruptly turned his head in the man’s direction. “I was worried that you wouldn’t be able to endure it...”

His blade descended with finality! Director General Wang’s great dao shattered with crunch; screams of untold suffering echoed before they cut off, as if the owner had died.

The projection of the imperial palace came down firmly over the great dao, refusing to let it crumble away. Zhang An's book of dao manifested, dragging Director General Wang's great dao and shoving it into the void.

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At the same time, Battle Heaven.

The powerhouses all stilled at the same time. The Ninth Division leader floated into view. Everyone looked at the sky with a solemn expression.

"Wang Ye... seems to have died!" intoned the grave commander. "Has he... perished?"

The two old men had no answers for him. They could also vaguely sense it.

"He might have died," the old turtle said slowly. "His great dao has crumbled away. The trace of core origin I left in him has fully snapped its connection with me. His core origin dao... might be gone."

The others were silent.

Dead!

Wang Ye had gone out to protect Li Hao. If he was dead, then what of Li Hao?

Few were those who'd revitalized in Battle Heaven. Wang Ye had held down the fort for many years. While those awake hadn't been familiar with each other at first, they were each other's rare comrades after so many years. And today, the world changed and Wang Ye seemed to have died!

Grief overtook the three powerhouses. Thousands of soldiers pounded their chests on the city walls.

“We send off Director General Wang!” called out the sorrowful troop leaders. Another one was gone!

Thud thud thud.

Battle drums pounded and a stern ray of killing intent seeped out. Battle Heaven shook. The heavyweight who’d sat in residence for so many years was dead!

“We will take revenge on those who have killed one of Battle Heaven and a general of our city!” roared the Ninth Division leader. “It is unforgivable for my comrade and colleague to fall! I will sever a replica to set foot into the outside world. Battle Heaven Army, you will march with me!”

“Understood, sir!” The loud yells bounced off of the shining armor.

A set of gold armor manifested in the Ninth Division leader’s hand as he unsheathed his longsword. “Set forth from the city! The Reserve Defenders are hereby reclassified as the vanguard. MARCH!”

Boots thumped on the ground as thousands of soldiers mobilized. Their killing intent shook the sky. Although the two old men wanted to say something, they didn’t know what to say. The Gold Armor promptly sprinted out of the ruins with the soldiers!

#### Chapter 994: Successful Creation (IV)

Thousands of Battle Heaven soldiers abruptly popped into existence at Rift Canyon in Silver Moon, startling the Night Watchers on duty.

“Vengeance will smite those who have killed the director general of Security at Battle Heaven!” A Gold Armor’s voice echoed through the world. “We are certain to execute the traitors who betrayed

New Martial! The eight main cities share a common hatred for the same enemy, you are on your own!”

Rumble!

The army mobilized and rushed for Skystar City, leaving uneasy ruins at Silver Moon province in its wake. The director general of Security at Battle Heaven had been killed? Did the changes of the world have something to do with his death? The key was, how had the director general left the ruins? Where had he died!

The one who’d appeared just now seemed to have been the formidable general Li Daozong of Battle Heaven. He’d killed an uncountable number of enemies in his time and his Eternal Sword was the complete Li family heritage. Even though the world still restricted them at present, his replica was invincible among his peers!

The general of unmatched prowess had led troops out of Battle Heaven!

Far off in White Moon City, Director General Zhao’s jaw dropped. This was bad! What was going on?? Battle Heaven had outright sent out its troops!

The ancient city had been sealed for countless years, but now mobilized thousands of dead soldiers with its commander. They were out in the world proper! This was most incredible of all. How were these soldiers able to retain their sentience after leaving the city?

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The immensely suffering Director General Wang had no idea any of this was happening. He only had one thought in mind—end me!



Indescribable pain crawled through him, and this was just the beginning. His core origin dao stretched toward the Hao Cosmos. Within the dao universe, Li Hao swayed with anguish as well. The passageway was so unstable!

What should he do about it?

Director General Wang could puncture the barrier, but how to stabilize the result was a big problem.

The Hao Cosmos started shaking as well, possibly due to Li Hao traveling through it. That seemed to cause certain discomfort that made it reject Li Hao and want to squeeze core origin dao out of it.

After some thought, the young man set his jaw and left his sun behind. He grunted and grabbed the core origin dao, shoving it right into the sun.

Whatever! Everything could wait until after he stabilized the passageway!

BOOM!

Multiple radiant figures appeared on the 'dao' sun as it shook violently. Li Hao was thrown back and forth, but now was not the time to pay attention to his discomfort. He needed to get back; this was not a place to linger for too long!

What a pity that he couldn't go through the director general's tunnel. How nice would that be!

When all those thoughts ran through his mind, Li Hao left his dao sun on the spot and transformed into a tiger of fiery sparks. He disappeared from the locale and threaded through the void.

After an indeterminate period of time, the tiger snarled and punched the air. A small sword came flying toward it and Li Hao followed the passageway it created out of the Hao Cosmos.

When the young man reemerged, the director general had been pulled out of the machine. He looked like death and was completely numbed by pain.

I'm dead! No one disturb me!

Li Hao smiled after he took a quick glance. He saw traces of his own presence on the director general. It was the presence of the dao star. The passageway had been stabilized!

The presence that Director General Wang exuded quickly shifted from core origin dao to that of the Hao Cosmos. The man came back to his senses and murmured when he saw Li Hao, "Father..."

"....." Not only did Li Hao blink, but the director general immediately jerked awake.

"What did you do to me?? Why do I feel like I'm seeing my old man when I see you?!"

The fuck?! What had Li Hao done to him? This was intolerable!!

"I left the dao star there to be your connection point," Li Hao answered after some thought.

"Therefore, you're temporarily anchored to my dao character. I'll remove it after your connection is stable. So... for a period of time... you'll feel... very close to me!"

Director General Wang paused, then threw his head back with a howl. Fuck this existence! no wonder! I wondered why it felt like I was seeing my father when I saw Li Hao! This is why!

Zhang An looked strangely at Li Hao from his position in the void. This conversion of great dao... was a strange process. Li Hao was also a very bold person to leave behind even his dao character.

Meanwhile, the rest didn't care about this. They began cheering one after another.

“We succeeded!”

It could be done! Core origin dao really had traversed the Hao Cosmos. Even the plant spirits were tempted by the possibilities. What if we connected our core origin dao to the Hao Cosmos?

It was at this time that Director General Wang's physical body cracked. He looked down at the cracks spreading over him, then at Li Hao.

“I think... this is it for this body...”

“That's to be expected.” Li Hao nodded. “This body isn't that strong, but your core origin dao has created a bigger passageway than expected, so the amount of energy we've infused in you is a bit too much. That's why it's so hard to bear. But no worries, this was just the first time. We'll craft more bodies of different compositions for you to try...”

Director General Wang suddenly wished that he had died in the first attempt. This... was just the beginning.

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The Skystar ruins.

Body creation continued. There wasn't much to be gleaned from one physical body. Li Hao and the rest needed more data points.

.....

At the same time.

Two groups of people charged toward the central region. One was the replica of the Ninth Division leader who'd set out from Battle Heaven. The other was more than a dozen formidable core origin replicas. All of them tested the limits of what the world currently tolerated—they were initial Apex.

The world could absolutely support Apexes at present. The second group had severed core origin to create replicas, making for blurred features. They seemed to come from the north and headed to the central region to kill Li Hao.

Li Hao of Skystar City was quite strong as he was reportedly a seventh element Arcanus. And yet, seven elements was only just initial Apex of modern times. Just one of the people from the second group was sufficient to eliminate the young man.

But in the interest of caution, they'd sent out a dozen replicas to ensure successful attainment of their goals. Some of them guessed that Li Hao was the reason for the changes of the world. Even if he wasn't, all geniuses of this age must be killed! Even those Silver Moon martial masters must die, not just the young man.

The two groups of people did not take the same path. Their routes were slightly different as they sped toward Skystar City.

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The dozen in the second group flew so quickly that weaklings couldn't even catch sight of them. They could break through the void if that was a possibility, but the void was so unstable at the moment that they only ripped through the most shallow layer.

In order to avoid trouble, they stayed away from piercing through all of the void to travel five hundred kilometers at once.

“Li Hao’s group is at Skystar City in the central region. We need to keep our level of disturbance down on this trip. We can find and kill Li Hao directly on the spot! Kill anyone who resists or sees us! We need to be fast and raise as little a fuss as possible...” Their leader’s voice was muffled as he gave his orders.

Around him, the other heavyweights voiced their assent.

“In addition, Stellaris is in Li Hao’s hands. Seize the sword and if possible, strip the boy of his bloodline!”

“Understood!”

“Sir, was that Li Daozong of Battle Heaven just now? He said that someone killed Wang Ye... what does he mean by that?”

“Did Wang Ye’s replica die? Battle Heaven has deep ties to Li Hao and has responded in kind to the boy helping them revitalize. Apparently Li Hao is a division leader there. Has something happened in Skystar Town, leading to the death of Wang Ye’s replica?”

“That’s possible... we also have another mission for this trip—to reestablish communications with Skystar Town! The bramble rose has been preventing our people from gaining entrance all this time. If possible, we should take stock of their strength. If weak, we’ll outright kill the plant spirit!”

“That might be difficult! Sun Xin has not been able to dispel it... The rose might be a Saint by now!”

“If it’s a Saint, then we’ll enter from the other entrances. The other plant spirits might still remember us and won’t dare not let us through. We’ll ally with the other plant spirits and Sun Xin to kill the bramble rose!”

“I wonder if that great one has awakened yet?”

“I’m not sure... Another lord said a few days ago that there were ripples of core origin to be detected. He suspected that something had gone wrong with the great one’s core origin...”

“Core origin? Was it true core origin or fake? Do they still have core origin left?”

“That is uncertain, so this is a speculation.”

“Understood!”

“.....” The group traveled at a fast pace and chatted as they flew. They soon crossed the North Sea and entered the central region.

There were many teams traveling through the central region—ones of supernaturals and ones of martial masters from the regions. The dozen plus in the sky saw someone familiar.

Upon checking the face against a list and pictures, one asked, “That one down below is a Silver Moon martial master known as Southern Fist He Yong. Do we kill him?”

“Don’t alarm them ahead of time. It will be troublesome if Li Hao learns of our presence and takes shelter in a ruin! We’ll take care of Li Hao first and clean up these minor characters later. Any we don’t have time for can be left to the three great organizations!”

“Understood!” The group quickly flew over He Yong’s head.

Chapter 995: The First Battle of the New Dao (I)

On the ground.

He Yong was highly satisfied with a most perfect completion of his mission. He'd driven off the Prince of Southern Conciliation and Prince of Western Conciliation, completed the unification project of the central region, and was on his way back to Skystar City.

He suddenly raised his eyes to the sky. Frowning slightly, he attempted to determine what he'd sensed. A passing powerhouse?

He was no weakling these days. The current He Yong was no longer the insignificant character who could not fight Northern Fist, Earthturner Sword, or anyone he encountered. He was stuck at six element Arcanus now, just like everyone else.

Therefore, he wasn't on lesser footing than anyone.

A six element powerhouse! There weren't many heavyweights at this level in all of the central region—most of them came from Silver Moon. But... had someone been scanning him just now?

He continued to frown at the sky. If that'd been a Silver Moon martial master, they would naturally take a moment to greet him. So... that hadn't been someone from Silver Moon then?

Could it have been someone from the three great organizations? Or perhaps his senses had been wrong and he was mistaken that someone had been spying on him?

At the same time, he trusted his intuition as a martial master.

Who the hell was peeking at me??

He sent out a message through his armor. This equipment now supported a range of fifteen hundred kilometers when it came to communication. They were more than fifteen kilometers out from Skystar City, but Li Hao's communication system spanned far enough. There was certain to be a Black Armor on duty within fifteen hundred kilometers.

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The news swiftly made its way to Skystar City. Not only that, but a report from Battle Heaven of their troops mobilizing quickly traveled to the central region as well.

Skystar City.

Li Hao had vanished once more and taken a group of martial masters with him. Lin Hongyu was quite resigned about that. At the moment, she was busy with the various martial academies across the land and literacy classes within the city.

Deputy Zhou suddenly floated over to her. He manifested a set of silver armor without further word. “The commander wanted me to give this to the city lord. We were so busy before that I temporarily forgot about it...”

“Battle Heaven armor?” Lin Hongyu asked with surprise when the deputy wasn’t forthcoming with more information.

“Yes, troop leader armor!” Deputy Zhou quickly explained. “First things first, Battle Heaven has sent out its troops. A Gold Armor is at the head of one thousand soldiers. They are headed straight for Skystar City, saying that they wish to avenge Director General Wang.

“We’re uncertain of the details, but this shouldn’t be a major problem since we’re on good terms with Battle Heaven. Of course, we must still be on guard against any undesirable happenings!

“Secondly, Southern Fist detected someone flying through the void during his return to the city. The interlopers scanned him—he didn’t sense anything else, but suspects that a seven element heavyweight has come from the north...”



Lin Hongyu frowned. The first matter could raise a major fuss, but could also be inconsequential. Li Hao had a close relationship with Battle Heaven. There may not be any problems from the Battle Heaven contingent and they might even turn out to be reinforcements.

The second matter could equally go both ways. A heavyweight passing by seemed to be quite normal. The world had stabilized enough these days that it could support the appearance of certain powerhouses. Even if their primary bodies wouldn't be tolerated, it was no problem for a replica to set foot aside. There are many ruins in the central region, so it wasn't a big deal for He Yong to come across one.

There was no need to make it into such a grave matter!

"Deputy Zhou has specifically made a trip to discuss this..."

"It would be fine in regular times," the deputy said solemnly. "But today, changes have rocked the world. Outsiders don't know much about them, but you and I know about some of the details. It might be the commander researching a new dao again.

"He made a trip to the Lu Zhen Research Center prior and brought a few things back. The phenomena in the world took place not long thereafter. Therefore, these people may have been lured here by the commander's actions. They may not know that he's caused the change in the world, but they might think that whether it is the commander or not, now is a good time to kill the commander since the world's restrictions have loosened.

"Battle Heaven has sent out troops also because they are taking advantage of such a timing. They say that it's to avenge their colleague... that may not be true. It could be to get a lay of the land!"

Battle Heaven may not have necessarily mobilized their troops for so-called vengeance. They should be clearly aware that Director General Wang was not dead. In that case, they might be here to investigate the changes in the world.

After all, a second sun had appeared today. Although it quickly vanished, it caused such an enormous disturbance. Who knew if the soldiers were really here for that instead?

“Skystar City may not be able to remain at peace!” intoned the deputy. “We fear nothing at present, but the commander does not wish to see the city lie in rubble after the ravages of war. He is pushing educational reforms and a technological revolution. What he needs most now is peace! Any sort of mishap might result in enormous changes!”

Lin Hongyu nodded and thought over the situation again. Li Hao was most likely preoccupied elsewhere. “If there really are powerful enemies on our doorstep, they’ll most likely be seven elements strong. Although you and I won’t fear them, casualties are inevitable if fighting breaks out...

“I hear that there are many New Martial student puppets within the city walls at present.”

“That is correct.”

“Let’s gather them and burn mysterious power stones for the cause. We’ll head outside the city and take a stand at the Skystar Sea to stop the enemy in their tracks!” Lin Hongyu declared. “We’ll make all the preparations we can. Summon thirty students, request one hundred million mysterious power stones from storage, and give each student three million stones.

“I will personally lead them to lie in wait for our enemies. It’s fine if no one comes. If they do, we’ll try to capture them alive. If we can’t, we’ll kill them all!”

Being a decisive person, Lin Hongyu quickly came to a decision. There was temporarily no need to notify Li Hao of the happenings. If she had to depend on him for guidance in all matters, then what was she good for?

She was here to alleviate the young man of his worries and solve his problems!

“Bring the sky canopy with us, just in case!”

“Alright!” Deputy Zhou nodded.

“What is the commander researching this time?” wondered Lin Hongyu. The deputy shook his head. He really didn’t know.

“Let’s take the Mus and Chens with us. They need to put in some effort even if we only end up intimidating those incoming. If they do turn out to be strong enemies, then these people will have an effect,” the deputy recommended.

“Sounds good!” Lin Hongyu quickly concurred.

A group of excited student puppets walked out of the city before long, flying to the north with another group of people. It hadn’t been long since they emerged from prolonged confinement in the ruins. Who would’ve thought that there would be a battle to participate in so soon after their foray into the new world?

This group of dauntless fellows did not know the meaning of fear. The world at present did not support the existence of even stronger personages. They would face initial Apex at most; that was a level not too far from them. If they couldn’t take the enemy in single combat, they would fight two against one!

.....

Li Hao had absolutely no idea about the events of the outside world. Such were the benefits of a team. Some matters could be entirely handled by others. He didn’t need to do a single thing.

Armed with experience from the first trial, the young man was creating more bodies.

“This is just a whetting of the appetite.” He grew more excited the more he worked with the bodies. “The earlier bodies wouldn’t have that many supernatural locks, the ones formed later will have more...

“We’ve already successfully set the coordinates with core origin dao, not the physical body. Therefore, all we need to do later is move the core origin dao to the body of your choosing. I don’t need to establish the location again!”

However much Li Hao was exhilarated was however much as Director General Wang was glum. He’d been raked over the coals numerous times and the key was, he felt an innate sense of kinship whenever he saw the young man now. Li Hao was blatantly taking advantage of him!

Li Hao ignored whatever thoughts the man might have and continued crafting more bodies. He raised an eyebrow at the divine corpse nearby. “We can’t waste this body. Although it only has one dao meridian, it’s very, very strong!

“It’s actually rather suited to Vice Head Qi and the rest of you guys, but... you guys don’t know much about the dao of divine spirits. You might not bring too much of its battle strength to bear...

“Elder Qi, if you want, I can make a modern human body for you later. Or I can help you recover your New Martial body. Whatever it is, I want this divine corpse!”

“You can do whatever you like,” smiled the vice head. He didn’t care.

“Nice!” Li Hao exclaimed. “Then I’ll take it and modify it to be my trump card. I’ll fortify it to the Saint level. The faux Empyrean King body from before was a New Martial body that I can’t use, but I can refine this one and control it through the earth supernatural character. Although I won’t be able to fully deploy its battle strength, it will absolutely dominate the modern age!

“I was just worrying that although my strength has risen by a lot, I’m still not on par with those powerful existences at present. Venturing off into the ruins by myself is a very dangerous proposition!

“But if I refine this body, I’ll be invincible in the outside world! And inside the ruins, it’ll take more than an ordinary person to break the body of a Saint...”

Li Hao wanted to modify this divine corpse into a puppet for his use. With it by his side, he’d be daring enough to head underground by himself and clean up a few messes.

“In addition, everyone should practice the Breakthrough Incantation these days,” he commented. “We need to improve our strength as quickly as possible and turn these resources into personal might. You can use this mine however you’d like! If it still stands when we are dead... then that would be a waste!”

No one said anything in particular to this announcement; Li Hao turned his attention back to creating human bodies.

Director General Wang suffered through attempt after attempt as the young man wasn’t in a hurry to call it a day. After Li Hao ran through another few attempts, he changed tack to studying the divine corpse. This was one of an earth divine that had a dao meridian so strong it eluded Li Hao’s full control.

Despite the young man not being able to bring Saint-level strength to bear, he could still sense how formidable the body’s strength was when his control over it deepened. It was as magnificent as the great earth!

#### Chapter 996: The First Battle of the New Dao (II)

Just as Li Hao and the others busied themselves with research.

Outside Skystar City, the reaches of the Skystar Sea.

The void rippled as a group of people looked beyond the sea. A supernatural who appeared to be a scholar widened his eyes. “I see clouds of killing intent...”

“I sense incomparably mighty strength.” A lecherous old man next to him trembled violently. “It’s not just one person, but many!”

“How many?” Lin Hongyu had purposefully brought these two with her on this campaign. They were supernaturals of special attributes selected from the City of Supernaturals.

“Fourteen entities of black killing intent!” The scholar swallowed hard.

“They are too formidable to be fathomed.” The lecherous old man’s ears twitched and he shook like a leaf. “They’re stronger than even the city lord!”

Lin Hongyu’s expression changed. Fourteen incoming! There was no need to guess, they certainly did not have friendly intentions.

Fourteen unknowns with killing intent, heading straight for Skystar City. What more needed to be said? They were certainly here for Li Hao!

Thankfully, she had thirty students with her. Lin Hongyu’s face flickered through a variety of changes as she looked at those around her. “Mobilize the Demon Hunters and utilize the void shield and void chain. Additionally, fire the energy cannons in a full spread at our enemies! Have the sky canopy record everything so it can be educational material later on. This will also show enemies just how strong the Skystar Commander Office is!

“All seniors and students are to change into Demon Hunter armor!”

The Evenround Martial students didn’t mind the order. That armor was Battle Heaven armor to begin with. In fact, they were all very excited!

Fourteen... they’d been worried that there would be too few enemies to go around. But now, it was the more the merrier! Would there be anyone they knew among the crowd?

But their dean had said that they could ignore all else after leaving the ruins. They just needed to follow whatever Li Hao arranged, there would be no problems. For a group of lawless and reckless imperial descendants, their dean had just rubber-stamped any course of action.

It didn't matter who it was in front of them! They would kill all of the enemies!

Lin Hongyu was also slightly agitated. This was her first time commanding so many powerhouses against a group of ancient existences. Even though she was most likely facing their core origin replicas and not their primary bodies, the impending clash still made her quail.

She quailed with eagerness and anticipation!

Her opponents were martial masters, supernaturals, the nine ministries, and royal family when she ruled the City of Supernaturals. Ever since joining the Skystar Commander Office, however, she felt that her life had changed.

It was the ancient powerhouses who were her opponents now! This was the kind of life to live! Such were the goals of the strong, were they not?

"Deputy Zhou, you'll be in charge of command." Lin Hongyu looked at the deputy with some embarrassment. "I'd like to personally test these people's strength and see if six element Arcanus, as well as 144 acupoints, can hold their own against some of these core origin replicas!"

She wanted to take the field herself! Deputy Zhou was rather resigned by the request. Martial masters... were martial masters in the end. Lin Hongyu seemed calm and steady in regular times, but wished to be in the thick of action at critical moments.

"Be careful, we haven't notified the commander about this development." Deputy Zhou didn't say anything otherwise. "Try to take at least one of them alive. They won't die if their core origin replicas are destroyed, but it will be a significant blow to their primary bodies. These people will

self-detonate only when they lose all hope! Therefore, it's best if we get one of them before they fully despair...

"The heavyweights from Battle Heaven may be arriving behind them. We must be fast and prevent anything else arising from Battle Heaven's side. After we take care of the first group, we need to prevent the second group from entering the city! No matter what happens, we need to wait for the commander and rest to emerge."

"I understand." Lin Hongyu nodded.

Off to the side, Chen Zhongtian only shifted with some excitement. Meanwhile, Chen Yao weakly transmitted, "Old man, we're about to go against some ancients, right? Can we actually do that?"

"What are you afraid of?! So what if they're ancient powerhouses?? You've got a ton of strength on your side! Everyone can underestimate Li Hao, but we cannot! The young man has ample and strong troops under his banner now. If it wasn't for his attention being elsewhere, it wouldn't be that easy for the three great organizations to withdraw!

"The other side has sent about a dozen ancient powerhouses and thinks this will be enough to take care of the young man. Just look at how we're responding—Li Hao's primary battle strength isn't even in play. Lin Hongyu is only holding down the fort, but she's thinking of eradicating the enemy and claiming first glory in everyone's service to the young man!

"The primary bodies of these guys is the key. Li Hao probably won't be able to sit still with this group's mobilization. It'd be one thing if the enemy didn't take action. Will these Silver Moon folks be able to keep it to themselves after someone's come knocking on their door? Therefore, seize this chance to make something of yourself and earn some merits. This is the only way you and I will be able to find our footing! If not, we'll be left in the dust soon enough!"

Chen Yao nodded thoughtfully.

.....



At the same time, large numbers of Demon Hunters alighted from an earth driller and quickly fanned out. Huang Yu led them instead of Liu Long. He brandished a spear, waiting for further commands.

This was the Demon Hunters' first large-scale operation against ancient heavyweights. Although they were just the supporting cast, they would demonstrate the army's impressive bearing nonetheless.

“We only have one mission—seal off the void and don't let anyone get away! There are two groups of enemies. The first is a batch of ancient powerhouses, the second is the same and we actually know them—the Battle Heaven Army! This is the real Battle Heaven Army. I've brought all of you with me today to witness the true might of the real Battle Heaven Army!”

Huang Yu outright viewed the Battle Heaven Army as the enemy when he received word of the army's movement. This was what an army officer should do. Regardless of whether the other side was friend or foe, it was best to treat them as a foe first to prevent losing one's guard.

Shudders ran through the thousands of Demon Hunters on site. They wore Battle Heaven armor and were aware of the Battle Heaven Army; it was time to personally meet these legendary characters today! How could they not be keyed up?

The group held a very complex view of Battle Heaven and the Battle Heaven Army. But if the two were truly to clash in battle, the Demon Hunters didn't think they would come off any worse for the wear.

.....

Ripples shook the void again and again. More than a dozen powerhouses with blurry figures sped forward. They were wholly unafraid as they didn't think that there was anyone at present in the outside world that could stand against them.

They were invincible!

And it wasn't just one of them, but fourteen. If it wasn't for a desire to cover their tracks so that certain Silver Moon powerhouses wouldn't be aware of their existence, they would just outright land next to Skystar City and demand that Li Hao present himself for execution!

"Hmm? There seems to be a lot of people nearby..."

"There are, but there's no need to pay attention to them. I sense them too, they're a bunch of pathetic ants..."

The first group sensed a bit of what lay in wait ahead of them as soon as they set foot into the Skystar Sea. However, the obstacles were so weak and so far away that they might as well not exist, despite their high numbers.

What a bunch of weaklings!

To the first group, anything below Apex was an insignificant worm. Their primary bodies were more than the Apex level. If it wasn't for the disappearance of core origin and suppression from the world, they wouldn't mind the appearance of true Apexes.

"Oh? They seem to be coming for us." The group's leader was a bit surprised. A grunt traveled into their ears—someone seemed to have given an order as a massive shield blinked into existence, blotting out the sun!

"A void shield?"

A chain with thousands of rays of blood qi snaked through the air and sealed off the four sides. Shield and chain appeared at the same time, sealing off the world.

“Battle Heaven Army equipment?” asked a surprised heavyweight.

“The ants dare ambush us! Did they learn of our movements ahead of time, or did they accidentally come across us?”

“Who cares, just kill them all!”

“Kill!” Someone punched the void, splitting it open! However, what greeted them was just a shield.

The one who’d struck sniffed with disdain. If the Battle Heaven Army of old had sent out one thousand soldiers, they really would be able to deter any enemy. But these poor excuses of imitations were just a joke if they wished to imitate the real Battle Heaven Army!

Although blood qi had melded into the items, the heavyweight’s blow would vibrate these fellows to death, if not outright smash the shield.

“Fire the cannons!” echoed an order within the armor communication system.

Ten supernatural cannons appeared and let loose with a barrage.

KABOOM! Explosions rocked the void!

The fourteen figures all took corresponding action. Someone snorted, “Save this for other weaklings. What use are these against us?”

Boom!

Bomb after bomb exploded, but were also instantly extinguished! Some punched back, others flourished swords. The void shattered into pieces as the imprint of a fist appeared on the massive shield as well.

Countless Demon Hunters were shaken to the point of losing their focus and blood qi. They fell to the ground, vomiting blood!

The scene caused many frowns across the defenders' faces. Upon the shield, both Lin Hongyu and Deputy Zhou looked on solemnly.

“The Demon Hunters are still too weak. Even though their equipment is the best, it is hard for them to withstand a true Apex!” Lin Hongyu transmitted.

“Mmhmm, there's too few of them.”

“We can't help that, we only have so many sets of armor. Of course, we're producing more as fast as we can...”

The Mu father and son were stunned by the transmitted conversation. It was their first time participating in this kind of battle and frankly, they were already shocked. What they saw was more than a dozen premier heavyweights being stopped by a group of weak Demon Hunters. The ancients were being kept over the sea!

Any one of these people had stronger presences than them. This was a stunning outcome! Were these the enemies that Li Hao was up against?

No, perhaps the young man didn't care about them. So the gap between the nine ministries and Skystar Commander Office was this pronounced. No wonder the nine ministries hadn't been able to fight back and were immediately defeated!

Chapter 997: The First Battle of the New Dao (III)

“To action!” Lin Hongyu commanded when she saw that the Demon Hunters alone weren’t able to restrain the enemy. Suits of armor immediately responded—the student puppets had also put on Battle Heaven armor.

As the shadowy figures prepared to kill the Demon Hunters, the world split open and a person presented herself to them. Clad in silver armor, her charming face was visible through the open visor.

“Skystar Commander Lin Hongyu of the Skystar Commander Office is here to engage the enemy!” she snorted. “You are clearly heavyweights of the ancient civilization and each equipped with seven elements. But since you dare show yourselves without an invitation and trespass on our territory, you will be shown no mercy!”

“KILL!”

Thirty figures shot out from behind her with her shout.

Boom!

Immense forces ripped the void apart. The shadowy figures jerked with surprise and dismay.

“Lin Hongyu?”

Who was that? Why were there so many experts here? Hadn’t they identified this place to be a minor faction formed by modern martial masters?

The shadowy figures were immensely surprised, but there was no time for further talk since fighting had broken out.

“We have always stayed out of ancient affairs,” Lin Hongyu intoned coldly from her high vantage point in the sky. “In contrast, you have infiltrated the borders of Skystar City and are here without a summons. You will be spared if you speak of your master now. Otherwise, you will be executed down to the last!”

“How impudent!” snarled one of the shadowy figures. “How dare pathetic, mewling humans of modern times dare talk so loudly...”

“Pathetic? Mewling?” snorted Lin Hongyu. “Forget my offer, I shall show you what the new era looks like! Who says that modern humans are weak and insignificant? You are as ignorant as you are arrogant! Mountain and Sea cultivator Lin Hongyu will demonstrate the error of your ways!”

Her curved blade materialized as she brought it downward!

The void shattered, startling the ancients. How was Lin Hongyu’s physical body weak at all when her curved blade crashed through the air? On the contrary, she was so much stronger than entities that were only made of core origin!

Her blade rend the void while blade intent soared through the air!

I repel strong enemies from our land and protect our people. May the world bestow greater strength to me and aid my actions.

The world really did seem to favor her in this moment. Her blade intent swelled and her blow raised a rumble through the sky. The shadowy figure responded with a punch, likewise breaking the void apart.

When the two forces clashed, it was the shadowy figure that took a step back. It stared incredulously at its fist, at where a blade had scored it.

“The commander has invented a new dao that has no rival beneath the heavens!” roared Lin Hongyu with invigorated spirits. “Core origin is a construct of the past. I am sixth level Mountain and Sea, but I can kill peak seven elements all the same!”

Boom!

Blade light sprayed through the sky as the curved blade ripped through the void again.

“What new dao??” panicked the shadowy figure.

“How are ignorant fools worthy of knowing its nature? This dao will be taught throughout the world soon and everyone will be able to learn it. How can you lot understand the commander’s might?! All Skystar citizens will be able to surpass the ancient civilization. CHARGE!”

BOOM!

The shadowy figures were swiftly suppressed on all sides. Puppet after puppet from Evenround Martial made their moves, showcasing a variety of battle methods. These imperial descendants might not possess their bodies or even core origin anymore, but who wasn’t a genius back in the day?

Who wasn’t matchless and unparalleled?

Thirty student puppets immediately exerted so much force on the other twelve figures that the latter couldn’t even lift their heads. The Mu and Chen quartet handled one shadowy figure by themselves. The two old ministers were exceedingly strong on the battlefield. Although they hadn’t occupied first mover advantage or the upper hand, they gave quite a good showing of themselves.

The shadowy figures were utterly dumbfounded. How was this possible?? Where had all of these heavyweights suddenly sprang from?

Boom!

Three puppets jointly made short work of one shadowy figure.

“Take them alive!” Lin Hongyu roared. “We will show mercy to those who surrender! Even though only your core origin replicas are present, destroying them will still deliver a hefty blow to your primary bodies! Surrender! We will not do anything to your primary bodies if you do not know the particulars behind the scenes!”

It was incredible that she still had the capacity to speak while fighting one ancient!

“Stubborn as donkeys and unwilling to surrender... Kill them all!”

Bam!

The figure in front of her disintegrated with a wave of her blade. Its mental strength lingered as it exclaimed, “How... how is this possible?! How are you guys... so strong?? No... those people aren’t of your time...”

It turned to the Black Armors. It could tell that these soldiers weren’t of the modern age, but this woman was!

“Where’s Li Hao?!” screamed the person. “You shameless cretins employ ancient existences against us and hide in the shadows. What kind of hero is that?? Don’t Silver Moon martial masters like to rely on themselves?”

“Does the commander need to be present to kill you guys?” Lin Hongyu sneered. “The commander doesn’t even know you’re here! You’re just a bunch of stink bugs. You might have some more rights



at the table if the person behind the scenes was present, or if your primary bodies were here. And now... we'll send you on your way!"

Blade light once more crossed the world!

BOOM!

The void shattered as a massive beast appeared—a red, ferocious tiger!

The observing Deputy Zhou took a deep breath. This was the tiger aura and a tigress form! So Lin Hongyu was also nurturing the tiger aura, no wonder she was so fierce!

Pinpricks of light appeared over the woman, like a cloud of stars. Her acupoints were being cleared in rapid succession; 108 dots of light promptly collected.

"Kill!" Her daunting physical body rushed the enemy. Blood qi shot for the sky as her blade swung again. The strength of six element Arcanus erupted at the same time! Five elements flared into existence!

Boom!

Part of the void collapsed. The immense shadowy figure howled with outrage, but was confined to the spot by the void chain. Despite its horror, it didn't have time to strike back before the blade landed on him!

The shadow fully dispersed after a loud collision. "The strength of a new dao?" it asked with reluctance and disbelief. "You've... discovered a new dao?"

“You realize that too late!” Lin Hongyu threaded through the void, blade light dancing around her. She struck a dozen times in quick succession and ripped her opponent to pieces. Core origin energy gathered around her hand; she stuffed it into an origin weapon.

Around her, various shouts and curses rang through the air. The shadowy figures were ripped apart one by one as the stunned soldiers watched on!

“Incredible!” Such powerful existences had been pulled apart so easily!

“These are just a bunch of rats,” Lin Hongyu’s voice echoed through the air. “And mere seven element Arcanus. The new dao is about to inherit the world. Mere seven elements are completely insignificant after one sets foot into seventh level Mountain and Sea!

“The commander has created a new dao and lit a new path ahead for martial dao. The world is about to become one. All enemies are but hot air!”

Ringling cheers greeted her words.

“The commander is mighty!”

“The world is one!”

Huang Yu also raised his spear and shouted, “All those who stand in our way are demons! The Demon Hunter Army was born to hunt demons! We are demon hunters!”

“Demon Hunters!”

“Demon Hunters!” The answering cries traveled far out. The army was highly stunned and excited. So strong! The Skystar Commander Office had somehow grown so very strong at some point in time!

A group of seven element Aracanus had been easily killed; they didn’t even see familiar faces in the field! They only knew the surrendered Lin Hongyu and a few of the ministers. Where were the Silver Moon martial masters?

.....

At the same time, off in the distance.

One person’s eyes shone bright as he pierced through the air, gazing at a spot in the distance. How... how could this be?!

The Ninth Division leader had accelerated the marching pace when he sensed the ripples from battle. He wanted to ascertain the situation, but what came into view was a drastic change in the world. Core origin replicas were being ripped apart right in front of him!

Not only that, but he recognized the puppets and mostly identified the ones within them. But that Lin Hongyu... had just killed a core origin replica by herself. This was incredible!

When had Li Hao recruited such a formidable female general?

Chen Zhongtian erupted with blood qi while the Gold Armor grappled with his thoughts. His acupoints manifested as he roared sternly, thrusting forward with his sword to tear through the void. “Chen Zhongtian of the Skystar Commander Office, sixth level Mountain and Sea, hereby executes a seven element Arcanus of the ancient civilization!”

He knew that there was a sky canopy recording their actions, that the battle today might very well become propaganda for the new martial dao. Lin Hongyu’s words had been voiced after careful

thought. Being a shrewd old fox himself, he would naturally take this opportunity to make himself more valuable.

“The commander is magnificent and has increased our strength within the sea,” he growled. “Mere seven elements do not even withstand a single blow from us!”

Despite Chen Zhongtian rapidly depleting the energy within his body, he sought to present a coolly unconcerned air for the recording.

Lin Hongyu glanced at him and didn’t add to his declaration. We’re definitely going to run the recording through an editing process. Only my commands and you executing them need to be kept. This self-flattery... will be cut from the final product!

#### Chapter 998: The First Battle of the New Dao (IV)

Seeing as there were a few core origin replicas that refused to surrender, Lin Hongyu snorted coldly. “Kill them all! We don’t need to learn anything from them. The commander will sweep through the world and eliminate those who don’t obey him after he emerges from seclusion!”

“KILL!” rang answering shots as several more core origin replicas exploded!

“A grisly end’s coming for you!” one of them howled. “Do you think this is our full force?? When my primary body emerges...”

“And do you think this is our full force?” Lin Hongyu sniffed. “I am just sixth level Mountain and Sea. There are a dozen Sun and Moon heavyweights in the Skystar Commander Office! They’ll exterminate your primary body like they’re slicing tofu! You are such a cocky idiot, how are you worthy of being hailed as a New Martial powerhouse?? This is ludicrous! You are an affront to your age and should be executed!”

“Sun and Moon?” the ancient asked with incredulity. What cultivation level was that?

But there was no chance for them to ask.

Kaboom!

All of the remaining core origin replicas shattered!

.....

Silver Moon.

Multiple powerhouses in an ancient city spat out blood as their core origin shook. The city seemed alive in this instant.

“Our replicas have all died!” gasped one of them. “Someone killed them all!”

Based on this timing, they should’ve just reached Skystar City. How was this possible?! Who’d done it?? That’d been fourteen heavyweights, how could they all have died so quickly?

Within the city lord manor at the center of the city, a ponderously ancient existence opened its eyes. “No wonder...” A solemn and aloof look could be found in them. “It looks like the change in the world has much to do with Li Hao!”

The fourteen core origin replicas all possessed the strength of an Apex. While they weren’t as strong as Apexes of New Martial, they were the undisputed titans of this age.

How could they have been killed in an instant?? It was impossible to believe! Less than half a day had elapsed since he gave the order.

“Milord...” An apprehensive subordinate waited at the door.

“Send someone to investigate, but keep a lower profile and don’t take brash action!” grunted the ancient existence. It frowned with the implications of this result—the restrictions of the world were still present. Wouldn’t that mean an even higher level of power had taken action in order to kill fourteen Apexes? So the other side also had large numbers of New Martial citizens helping them?”

The possibility stymied the existence, so it could only choose to gather more information before making their next move.

“Have the three great organizations quickly deliver a report. Also, have that Ying Hongyue come see me as soon as possible!”

“Understood!”

.....

Lin Hongyu looked out over the Skystar Sea and into the distance.

“Battle Heaven seniors have come to visit, we apologize for the delayed greeting!” she said softly with a smile. “The commander is still in closed door cultivation and I, Lin Hongyu, am the acting city lord. I have prepared a welcome banquet outside the city gates. Please make your way over and have a rest! I will report your arrival to the commander so that we can open the city gates and properly welcome our honored guests!”

Thousands of Demon Hunters stood in formation on the shore. Multiple powerhouses hovered over the sea. Across the way, thousands of Battle Heaven soldiers remained unmoving in silent formation.

“To think that the Eleventh Division leader would recruit thousands of soldiers in such a short duration!” the Ninth Division leader sighed with gratification. “You show good training. Although you are not elite troops, this is a rare feat that you have accomplished!”

“This is only one third of the Demon Hunter Army,” Lin Hongyu smiled. “What we have sent into the field today is our second echelon of troops. Our first echelon is currently defending the Skystar Commander Office and suppressing various rebels throughout the land. This is but a trifling demonstration to the senior!”

More than ten thousand troops! The Ninth Division leader took a step forward through the air. He recognized almost no one present.

“If the Eleventh Division leader is still in seclusion, then...”

“You wait!” snapped someone by Lin Hongyu’s side. “You talk too much, Li Daozong!”

“.....” The Ninth Division leader blinked. Who was that? He looked at the people next to Lin Hongyu.

“Who you looking at? It’s me, Jiang Yingli!”

The Ninth Division leader blinked again. Although he’d guessed it was that group of students, he hadn’t thought that they would speak up in Li Hao’s defense. “Have you... seen Wang Ye?”

“We have!”

“His... great dao has broken...”

“Oh, that. He’s fine, he’s still alive! Not to mention, Teacher Zhang is here too. What can go wrong?”

“Martial uncle is also here?” The Ninth Division leader’s eyes widened.

“Of course. Li Daozong, we should not have stopped you and your troops, but the times have changed. Teacher says that since New Martial has abandoned this world, we should follow its own rules. The times now are not what they were one hundred thousand years ago!”

The Ninth Division leader looked around in a daze. The times now are not what they were one hundred thousand years ago! Martial Uncle Zhang wanted everyone to respect the rules of this time period.

The Gold Armor looked at Skystar City and scanned the thousands of armored warriors in front of him. He then rested his gaze on the modern powerhouses standing in his way. “Then I will wait here for the Eleven Division leader to emerge from seclusion!

“We make camp here!”

“Understood, sir!” chorused the troop leaders.

The Demon Hunters watched as thousands of Battle Heaven troops quietly set up camp. They watched with bated breath, staring at this ancient army that was said to be dead. Only lingering obsession was left of them, but they remained the elite forces that they were!

Some Demon Hunters had grumbled when the Gold Armor had said that the Demon Hunter Army was not elite. However, they understood what he meant when they saw the Battle Heaven Army set up camp in a massive defensive formation. Not a single motion was wasted as they completed their task in record time. It was a marvelous layout that one could both attack and defend from; the sight gladdened the heart.

Was this what was meant by an ancient army of elite troops?



Huang Yu was observing them as well; the man was quite solemn. This army was comprised of the dead and just the reserve defenders of a city. They weren't the first echelon of their army either!

How long could the thousands under his command hold on if they encountered a Battle Heaven Army in peak battle condition? Perhaps... not even fifteen minutes before they were completely eradicated.

The Ninth Division leader also silently assessed his modern counterparts, feeling quite a mix of emotions. These were weak existences, but there was nothing to pick at when it came to their military discipline. It did not falter even when faced with strong foes. How had Li Hao accomplished this level of training in such a short period of time?

The kid was irreverent, lackadaisical, and a martial master without orthodox training. Was it possible for a guy lacking military bearing to train such an accomplished troop?

It was incredible!

And, was Wang Ye dead or not? Also, what was the Mountain and Sea or Sun and Moon that these people spoke of?

A multitude of questions swirled in the Ninth Division leader's mind. He was even more curious where the core origin replicas had come from. Which faction had revitalized so many people? Fourteen replicas indicated that fourteen existences had awakened. The weakest of them must be Immortal as Apexes would not easily sever their core origin.

The two armies faced off against each other.

Lin Hongyu went about her duties, assigning runners to take the new recording and have it edited by professionals. The new martial dao was due to be shared with the world. This battle would be more effective for advertising compared to anything else.

Perhaps the four continents would outright surrender when they heard of how the Demon Hunter Army had killed so many seven elements! And she had firmly found her footing after this battle. While the Battle Heaven experts were very strong, she put them out of mind since they'd chosen to stand down.

Lin Hongyu was in excellent spirits after achieving such a smashing victory without needing to inform Li Hao. The Demon Hunter Army had also put their mettle to the test after facing the Battle Heaven Army. The results of the day put her in a very good mood.

Her smile deepened when she looked at the merry Chen Zhongtian next to her. You won't be so cheerful after the final version of the film comes out because... no one will know you. Take a look at who your opponent is next time before you try to steal someone else's thunder!

Meanwhile, Deputy Zhou didn't say a word. He vanished with the wind to bring a report to the city. This wasn't just a skirmish against fourteen replicas, but a sign that the enemy was starting to move against them.

How would Li Hao answer the challenge?

.....

The Skystar Town ruins.

Numerous bodies hovered in the air. Some had exploded, others were fully preserved. Director General Wang was dazzled by the sight and his eyes gleamed brightly, not knowing which one to choose.

Li Hao ignored him, turning to refine the divine corpse instead. Immense earth energy swept in all directions—it held sway over the earth!

An 'earth' character darted into the body. While it couldn't bring Saint-level strength to bear, the body still proved to be a formidable asset. It was enormous at first, but began gradually shrinking until it was the size of a normal human. It stood next to Li Hao like a bodyguard, one that was much stronger than anyone else. The key was that it wasn't afraid of death and could wholeheartedly protect Li Hao.

Yuan Shuo and the rest were very satisfied with this outcome. To be honest, they were uneasy at relying on New Martial citizens to protect the young man. The divine corpse perfectly filled the gap.

Li Hao was very strong and possibly the only true Sun and Moon cultivator at present. But he was still very far away when compared to the New Martial powerhouses. Everyone was much more reassured to have another divine bodyguard by his side.

The young man was also quite delighted. While he couldn't use the body indefinitely, it would buy him more time and opportunities. This was the body of a local divine spirit. Compared to the formidable bodies of New Martial, Li Hao felt that it might be more useful than the body of the faux Empyrean King.

At the very least, he could control this one. He couldn't manipulate the Empyrean King because core origin dao was required for that.

#### Chapter 999: Publicizing Martial Dao (I)

"Many thanks to Yuming and Vice Head Qi!" Li Hao grinned at the two. "Please raise any requests that you may have for your body, Vice Head Qi. I'll create one to your satisfaction as soon as possible."

"I would like a more unique body, is that possible?" responded the man after some thought.

"Please voice your preferences!" Li Hao repeated extremely politely. After all, this was a personage who'd resolved many of his problems with a short conversation.

“I would like a very unique body that has only developed the potential of its brain,” said Vice Head Qi. “There should be many dao meridians in the brain. I don’t need any abilities of the body or any other supernatural abilities. I just want the pure excavation of the brain!”

Li Hao blinked, then frowned. This was a tall order. How many dao meridians were there in the brain? They’d tallied the meridians before and realized that there were less than ten known meridians of the brain at the time. That was far too few compared to other dao meridians—that wasn’t even enough to form a complete circulatory system. Thus, it was quite a headache to create a body that’d only developed the meridians of the brain...

“Then how about forgoing other abilities. I just want dao meridians of the physical body and the brain?” suggested the vice head when he saw how troubled Li Hao was. “I’d like to see what happens when I give up the other elements and only focus on the brain.

“The bodies of New Martial aren’t as complicated as those of the modern. The ones of this age... are a veritable treasure trove!”

Zhang An and the others had been quite disdainful of modern human bodies at first, but the vice head was highly admiring. Humans of this age were uniquely favored by the heavens!

If one viewed dao meridians not as locks or restraints, but as blessings from above and a natural dao body, then it quite induced jealousy. Perhaps these were the advantages conferred to humans of a new world and burgeoning consciousness.

“I can manage dao meridians of the brain and that of the physical body,” Li Hao replied. “But excavating the brain is a very dangerous endeavor. Even I haven’t explored a single meridian of that area. If the vice head wishes for this kind of body... then you must proceed with caution.”

“It’s an interesting idea precisely because no one else has done so,” chuckled the vice head. “What would be the point of doing something if another’s already walked that path?”

He felt that the young man spoke erroneously, very erroneously!

Only when one trod the path unknown was there a chance of creating results that were vastly different. This new age was a haven for research! What a pity that other powerhouses who loved to study new ideas back in the dead were either dead or not present. Otherwise, they were certain to raise a wave of research frenzy.

On the other hand, many people of the new age might be turned into lab rats. In that case, he should keep these words to himself.

Li Hao thought it over and felt that the vice head made sense. A shadow shot toward them as they conversed. Deputy Zhou landed and inclined his head at the New Martial seniors before quickly transmitting a report to Li Hao.

The young man listened quietly without a change in expression. Fourteen core origin replicas had come... that wasn't a surprise. He just hadn't anticipated that the disturbance of Director General Wang's new body would be so great that it created a second sun.

To be honest, Li Hao felt that it was a sign of underestimation and arrogance that the hand in the shadows hadn't taken action until now. I've already conquered the central region and seized the mine at Skystar ruins. How little do you think of me to send people against me only now?

At least they'd finally taken action, and sent fourteen replicas in one operation. That was acceptable.

"Lin Hongyu has done well. Her performance passes muster." Li Hao smiled.

Deputy Zhou answered out loud since the young man had responded audibly. "Does Lin Hongyu wield too much authority?"

She'd outright commanded the student puppets and the Demon Hunters in Li Hao's absence. Although Deputy Zhou had permitted her to take command, he'd done so because he wanted to see if these students and soldiers would still execute their orders when the young man wasn't there.

As it turns out... they did.

The deputy didn't know if this was a good or bad thing. Hence, he was still conflicted at the moment. It was unfathomable in the past that someone would be able to deploy so many troops without Li Hao's direct order and kill 14 seven element Arcanus.

"That's fine, she's borrowing my authority," Li Hao smiled. "It's not really hers. It would also be troublesome if everyone only listened to me."

Deputy Zhou nodded.

"Deputy, I haven't paid much attention to your side of things since I've been absorbed in studying the new martial dao lately." Li Hao gave Deputy Zhou his full attention. "You walk the path of core origin from New Martial. Now that we can build new bodies..."

"I know, but whether it is the dao of New Martial or the Hao cosmos, they are all great daos." Deputy Zhou shook his head. "They will all be the same once the Star Gate opens. We have many enemies these days and plenty of indestructible matter, as well as unending core origin strength. I'll be able to put all of the core origin energy to use when the commander kills more ancient enemies. This is a prime opportunity for me.

"When no one needs core origin energy, it's my chance instead." The man smiled.

Everyone blinked at his response, then broke out in laughter. That made a lot of sense! If everyone switched to the new martial dao, then they wouldn't have much use for core origin energy. That would indeed mean a lot of opportunities for Deputy Zhou. If the Star Gate opened again and core origin dao flooded through it, then it was unknown who had a brighter future.

No one dared say that the Hao Cosmos was stronger than the core origin universe.

They hoped so, but that didn't mean the truth was so. Too many powerhouses had come from core origin dao. Even the Human King's inner world was that of core origin.

That era had produced so many heavyweights that modern humans could not hope to measure up to them, at present.

"Director General Wang can keep experimenting with the bodies." Li Hao adjusted his shirt. "The rest can come with me. Although I want to spend more time exploring martial dao and developing the lives of the people, I also know that we are surrounded by strong enemies. We need to focus on killing enemies first! Let's go!"

The group followed him, whereas Director General Wang jumped up. "I want to go too! I don't need more time to acclimate. The body I'm in now will do. I can swap out for another in the future if I don't like it anymore!"

He was currently in a body with 108 dao meridians.

"Opening thirty-six meridians will bring me to peak Apex of our time," chuckled Director General Wang. "If I open all 108, I'll be just as strong as an Immortal!"

This one would do for now.

"Alright then, let's go!" Li Hao smiled. There was no need to say anything else.

Yuming quickly followed their footsteps. He had to finish setting up the sky canopy system throughout the region. There were plenty of sky canopies in the warehouse at the research center, which would save a lot of time.

Vice Head Qi chose to stay at the mine. He wanted to keep Zhang An company.

Zhang An didn't require his company.

The latter prepared to head elsewhere in the ruin after the group left, but Vice Head Qi spoke up, "Dean Zhang."

Zhang An looked at him, taking a moment to remember who he was. "Junior Qi."

Junior!

So Qi Yun had attended Demonic Martial as well.

Many of the Lu Zhen Research Center were alumni of Demonic Martial. Lu Zhen himself was a counselor at Demonic Martial, even the principal. His daughter—the Human King's teacher—was a senior executive at Demonic Martial and his son-in-law once a principal as well.

Qi Yun looked older than Zhang An, but his actual age wasn't. He smiled at hearing Zhang An hail him junior brother. "Senior Zhang, I have something to report to you."

"What is it?"

"It has to do with the center's research. I wasn't at liberty to speak of it before when so many were present."

"Speak of it." Zhang An raised an eyebrow.

"The research center focused on eight topics, including the range of core origin dao..."

Zhang An nodded.



“This Commander Li has discovered the Hao Cosmos. I’ve been musing if the break in core origin dao has to do with the Hao Cosmos? Are dao universes connected to each other? If they are, are we able to locate the core origin universe and reestablish communication with New Martial again?”

“We are weak and unable to explore the Hao Cosmos. Senior Zhang might be the strongest New Martial citizen and Demonic Martial alumni in this age! As the Human King’s guard, the supreme’s grandson... I feel that the senior has a duty and obligation to sacrifice yourself and enter the Hao Cosmos!”

“You must explore its great dao and find a way to reconnect with core origin dao!” He looked at Zhang An. “I see that the senior has remained quiet all this time and has not mentioned searching for New Martial. Commander Li and the others can set that aside because they are not of that age. They do not care. But why doesn’t the senior work hard to find the way back?”

“Are you really going to sit back and wait for Li Hao to open the Star Gate before searching for New Martial again?”

“You and I are both of Demonic Martial. The university had many students, but those truly of Demonic Martial are few and far in between. The senior is in the same class as the Human King. Are you unwilling to give up your Saint strength?”

“Is Junior Qi lecturing me?” Zhang An raised his eyebrow.

Qi Yun had been mild and placid before, but now he nodded and spoke frankly. “As the strongest alumni of this age, we should all be flocking toward you! Senior’s identity and status are great and you are our leader. I am very happy to see the senior here, but... you have not expressed any plans to return to New Martial, nor have you moved to search, rescue, or investigate its current condition! Even Wang Ye is attempting to try the new dao so he can return to New Martial. Why does the senior not say anything?”

“I have my considerations.”

“Are your considerations to wait, to observe from the shadows?” Qi Yun asked bluntly. “No wonder... no wonder they say that senior was the most mediocre out of imperial descendants in that age. They say that you have no ambition and can only stay at Principal Fang’s side to curry favor with her.

“She was a legendary heroine! How could she have found you pleasing to the eye? The Human King wouldn’t accept a brother-in-law like that either. Therefore, don’t even think of it, senior! This is not what those of Demonic Martial are like!”

Zhang An looked at him silently with a cold look in his eyes.

#### Chapter 1000: Publicizing Martial Dao (II)

“What, does senior want to beat me up?” Qi Yun didn’t care about the vicious look shooting from Zhang An’s eyes. “Violence between our own is the greatest prohibition in Demonic Martial. Once your actions are discovered... the senior will be grievously punished even though you are the supreme’s grandson! Not to mention, I am just a strand of mental strength!

“As the strongest Demonic Martial alumni of this age, senior should refrain from referring to yourself as such if you are not of a mind to reconsolidate the university or New Martial!”

Zhang An snorted and walked off.

“What is the senior concerned about?” Qi Yun frowned with displeasure. “Are you still clinging to your identity as the supreme’s descendant? They are long gone! That might actually be a good thing for the senior. At the very least, you don’t have to think about considerations of background anymore!”

“I’ll consider it. I don’t need a lecture from the likes of you!” Zhang An was already gone.

“Who would want to talk to you if you weren’t so strong?” Qi Yun murmured. “What a pity that none of us possess the same strength as the Human King. We would’ve challenged you a long time ago!”

That was the Demonic Martial tradition. If one wasn't up to the task, someone else would be and would mount a challenge for the right. Sadly for Qi Yun, his strength wasn't up to par, so there was nothing he could do.

Forget it, he couldn't be bothered with saying too much more. If Zhang An wasn't willing to enter the Hao Cosmos, they would try it themselves.

.....

Li Hao was unaware of their discussion. He was rushing to the Skystar Sea. A powerful presence was apparent from far away—it was familiar. He knew who'd come; Ninth Division leader Li Daozong.

It was likely his core origin replica.

Director General Wang sensed it as well. He didn't need Li Hao's protection anymore—he could freely move about the world, but with much weaker strength.

“That guy's here!” He was excited by the presence that he knew. “But... why is he here?”

This was strange! The world did not fully tolerate them yet. Based on Battle Heaven's plans, they would not mobilize troops just yet.

.....

The Ninth Division leader also sensed certain things in the air; he saw Li Hao and the others break through the void in the next moment. The young man smiled when he saw the Gold Armor and other familiar faces.

“The Ninth Division has come to visit! What a happy occasion!” Li Hao smiled and walked through the air, ignoring the rest. He immediately drew close. “Test me again today and see if I am qualified to be a division leader!”

He punched with the momentum of a ferocious tiger descending the mountain and shook the sky! Tiger Roar Through Mountain and Woods! It even shattered the void.

The Ninth Division leader looked coolly at him. His golden armor emanated light as he punched back! The kid always wanted to turn the tables and looked for chances to get his own back whenever possible. He loved to hold a grudge.

But... can you do it?

Two Gold Armors balled up their fists and slammed into each other in the void!

BOOM!

The sea exploded!

An enormous black hole swirled into being to devour seawater and raise a vortex. Li Hao walked over the water surface, dispersing the vortex. The ferocious tiger punch reappeared and brought with it a magnificent surge of strength.

RUMBLE!

Neither of the two stepped backward after exchanging a dozen punches. “The Ninth Division leader’s replica is strong. I shall use a replica against you as well! Go!”

A figure appeared behind his opponent and punched with the momentum of a descending mountain. The sea was as if the ground as the figure absorbed earthen energy and shook the world with its punch!

BAM!

The divine body didn't shift from the punch this time, but the Ninth Division stumbled a few steps backward. A light glinted in his eyes as he looked at Li Hao with some amazement.

This world and this time period could just barely tolerate Apexes. Therefore, his replica was very strong and nearly invincible! And yet, he was suppressed by Li Hao's replica and beaten back! The young man's replica didn't seem alive, but there was Li Hao's presence active within it. It was very strange.

The Ninth Division leader was surprised, as were the troop leaders behind him. Although their superior officer wasn't here in the flesh, everyone was well aware of his battle strength. But... the Eleventh Division leader had sent him reeling!

"We're just having some fun," Li Hao roared with laughter. "You don't mind, do you, ninth brother?"

"....." The Ninth Division leader paused. "What... did you just call me?"

"You are the Ninth Division leader according to military regulations, I am the Eleventh Division leader," Li Hao smiled. "You are ranked number nine, I am number eleven. We're all brothers here, so let's not be so formal!"

Still roaring with laughter, he addressed the troop leaders standing further away. "So the Seventh and Eighth Troop leaders have all come! Long time no see, I've missed you a lot. Are you interested in joining my Eleventh Division as troop leaders?"

The troop leaders found themselves in a very awkward spot and didn't say a word.

"Li Hao, are you able to employ them effectively if they march under your banner?" snorted the Ninth Division leader. They were all dead. The young man wouldn't be able to maintain their form if he oversaw them.

"I will if you dare assign them to me!" Li Hao barked with laughter. "If you don't believe me, troop leaders, just come give it a try. I'll create a most suitable body for you. It'll be very useful!"

"Director General Wang, come on out and meet my ninth brother!"

Director General Wang felt very awkward standing behind the young man. The kid was... very cocky sometimes.

Ninth brother? You're the only one with balls to call him that. Although you're both of the Li family, strictly speaking, he is the brother of your ancestor from eons ago. How are you calling him ninth brother??

Director General Wang broke through the void. The Ninth Division leader regarded the newcomer, ignoring Li Hao and the replica. A light shimmered in his eyes as he sought to pierce through the person.

"You are Wang Ye?" he asked coolly after a long moment.

"It's me..." Director General Wang nodded with a start. "Do you... not recognize me?"

He immediately realized the crux of the situation. His physical body was a new one, his great dao had collapsed, and he bore the presence of the Hao Cosmos on him. It was like he was a completely different person.

“You turned him into a puppet replica?” The Ninth Division leader looked at Li Hao, a new frostiness in his voice.

“A replica?” Li Hao blinked.

“He bears your presence...”

Aha.

Li Hao shook his head with a smile. “I haven’t, I’ve just utilized a special technique. Not to mention... what need would I have for an initial Immortal that’s switched to a new body?”

The connotations of that were that he had a lot of initial Immortals at his beck and call. What need did he have for a Wang Ye in a new body?

“That is true!” The Ninth Division leader inclined his head, then turned back to Director General Wang.

“It really is me,” the man said with resignation when his comrade regarded him skeptically again. “The circumstances are a bit special, so I didn’t have time to tell you guys.”

“We thought you died,” Li Daozong answered calmly. “Everyone in the city bid you farewell when we departed!”

“.....” Wang Ye had no words. “So you guys sensed the breaking of my dao?”

“A bit.” The Ninth Division leader was as composed as usual. “Since you are still alive, I will be returning now.”

“Wait...” Li Hao interjected. “What are you in such a rush to go back for? You’ve already made this trip! Don’t be so hasty, ninth brother. None of the rest are!”

“There are critical missions in the city!” intoned Li Daozong.

“Forget them. Not to mention, the two guardians are present. Is there any room for ninth brother to be involved?” Li Hao chuckled and transmitted, “We’ve found some of the traitors. Your brother, Li Daoheng, was one of them!”

“And then?” an unflappable Li Daozong asked out loud.

Li Hao was astonished. What ‘and then’? Are you not shocked??

“Your brother turned traitor and razed Skystar Town!”

“To each their own. Everyone has their own path and ambitions.” Li Daozong was unmoved. “Although we were brothers, he made his own decisions. Traitors should be killed! I would’ve taken action myself had I encountered him.”

Fine then! Li Hao had nothing to say. Why can’t anything startle a reaction out of him? His blood must run cold after being dead for so many years and existing purely in mental form.

“I’ve found a way for everyone to cultivate the new dao and recover their physical bodies. You may not care, but the troop leaders can’t always be weapon souls, can they? There wasn’t a way to resurrect weapon souls before, but now I am able to.

“There is also a place for these weapons in the new dao. With their armor as the vehicle, there is a big chance that we can recreate their physical body.” This was possible only now. Li Hao didn’t have any feasible methods prior to this. “Strong enemies attacked us right before this, likely from the traitors’ faction. Does the Ninth Division leader not care about this either?”



Why bother going back now that you're here? This is perfect. I felt that we weren't strong enough before. But now with these Battle Heaven Army reinforcements, they can help train the Demon Hunter Army. There might be a wondrous effect from this exchange!

There's no way I'm letting you guys go after you ended up here!

"Of course!" Li Hao grinned. "It doesn't really matter either way to me personally, but it does once they've gone on the offensive against me. Not to mention, they turned against the Li family at the end of the day. I have both personal and official reasons to strike against them!"

"We can make use of this time to keep them down and prevent them from stirring up further trouble. Otherwise, I'm not terribly interested in them. But since they want to stick their noses where it doesn't belong, I won't show them leniency then!"

"Then I will camp here for a period of time. But... not for too long."