

The Ages 841

Chapter 841 - The Imperial Son Is Supreme

Xuanyuan Xie was the younger brother of the Earth Branch Sect Master, Xuanyuan Dao, and the true number two figure of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan.

"Xie!"

With a smile on his face, Yi Xingyin accepted a hug from the man.

"No way, you're so weak. How are you supposed to help! Are you sure you're not trying to make things harder for me?" Xuanyuan Xie squeezed his arm with feigned mockery.

"Don't judge me by my appearance. As long as I'm here, the formation will remain strong," said Yi Xingyin.

"Yeah, right! Stop boasting. I'm old and it's getting harder to take it. I believe you, alright?" Xuanyuan Xie then turned to greet Dao Yuanyi and Chen Cangshu.

Next to Xuanyuan Xie was a woman dressed in white. As she floated in the wind, her long hair fluttered in the wind. Quiet and at ease, she had an outstanding temperament. She was clearly an accomplished woman. She was obviously about the same age as Xuanyuan Xie and the others, but still looked young and beautiful, like an older sister.

"Wanfeng, it's been a while." Yi Xingyin smiled.

"Yes, it's been a long time." Su Wanfeng nodded, her lips curling into a smile. She was the city lord of Tianming City.

There were a hundred and eight cities in Archaion, but only about a dozen city lords. Su Wanfeng was one of them. Although she seemed gentle, she was certainly exceptional to be able to manage the first city in the south.

"Yi, I'm warning you. Don't think you can grin at my wife with those sneaky eyes. Stay away from her." Xuanyuan Xie glared.

"Just as I had expected, you're still so rumbustious. How are you a divine marshal?" Yi Xingyin spread his hands and said contemptuously.

"I'll poke your old bottom!"

Su Wanfeng smiled as she watched them joke around.

"Come on. You're more than three hundred years old put together. Stop acting like you're three! Come inside the city. The guys in the south should arrive soon," said Su Wanfeng.

"Hurry up! I hear the imperial son is here."

Slapping himself in the head, Xuanyuan Xie quickly searched among the crowd. He was very clever. Even if he had never met Tianming, all it took was one glance to recognize him.

"Imperial Son!" He quickly walked up to Tianming. Upon studying the young man, he said, "I've admired you for quite some time. Seeing you is definitely better than hearing about you. You're really amazing!"

"Divine Marshall, you're exactly as the rumors say you are—handsome and brave!" Tianming replied.

"You're a man of good taste, a fellow friend!" He looked at Tianming with appreciation. "You've really convinced me. Here you are, rushing to fight the enemy right after escaping from the Kilostar Domain. How thrilling! But if they know you're here, Tianming City will certainly draw more firepower."

"Am I causing trouble?" asked Tianming.

"It's alright. Worse comes to worst, you can run off by yourself," said Xuanyuan Xie.

"That makes sense," Tianming laughed.

"Come, follow me to the city. I don't think you'll have time to rest. Our enemies have almost assembled their armies and will most likely attack when it gets dark," said Xuanyuan Xie.

"Alright!"

Tianming glanced to the south. The vast lands were surging with killing intent and shrouded by the shadow of death. He turned around, only to see Xuanyuan Xie smacking Xuanyuan Yucheng and Xuanyuan Muxue.

"Who allowed a bunch of rookies like you to walk right into your graves?"

"I wanted to come," said Xuanyuan Muxue.

"How strong are you? What abilities do you have? How many people can you kill?" Xuanyuan Xie shouted.

"I'll kill as many as I can. It's my life, I'll make my own decisions," said Xuanyuan Muxue.

"Looks like you've got some backbone. In a while, you'll be able to see what corpse puppets and beasts are, and what a real battlefield looks like. You'd better not tremble and embarrass the Archaic House of Xuanyuan," Xuanyuan Xie sneered.

"Don't worry, we won't." They answered.

"Very well, since you're here, I'll give you a warning: you can die, but you can't surrender. If I see you kneel, I'll kill you myself!"

"We won't!" Blood pumping through their veins, the youths used all their energy to assure him.

Xuanyuan Xie pursed his lips. He couldn't be bothered to pay any attention to them.

"Imperial Son, I'm sorry you had to see that," said Xuanyuan Xie.

"It's alright. It just shows how much you care for them," Tianming replied.

"What a headache! I just want to make sure the Xuanyuan clan lives on. These kids have a long future ahead of them. Isn't it better to stay home?" Xuanyuan Xie said sadly.

"Divine Marshal, I'm also a 'kid'," Tianming said with a smile.

That's true." Xuanyuan Xie patted him on the shoulder and said, "Then let us youths team up and knock down our enemy's flag!"

"You're middle-aged—"

"Shut up!"

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Tianming City was enormous. In terms of scale, it was at least equivalent to the Divine Capital. The fact that the Sun-Moon-Star Formation could encompass the entire city spoke for its vastness. This was the power of a third-origin formation.

The tribulation elders entered the city. Tianming's arrival couldn't be concealed at all; thus, Xuanyuan Xie brought them up above the city as soon as they entered.

Countless spirit threads stretched through the hemispherical formation. The colorful spirit threads covered the entire city, permeating each and every house. And within the row upon row of houses were tens of millions of people. Whether or not they were lucky to have been brought to the city remained to be seen. None of them would be able to escape if the enemy breached the city.

"Brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, little ones, come out and see who's here!"

Xuanyuan Xie's voice shook half the city. Many people raised their heads and blankly stared at him, only to notice a white-haired young man next to him. At the same time, Tianming was watching them. The dense crowd filled with the old and young, along with their relatives and friends amidst the fear and gloom.

"Tell me, who is he?" Xuanyuan Xie shouted.

"I-it's the imperial son!"

The moment the first person recognized him, overwhelming cheers swept across the entire city.

"The imperial son is here!"

"Blessings from the progenitor!"

A deafening cacophony of voices rose into the sky.

Tianming was startled. Only when he arrived here did he realize what a reputation he had in Archaion. From the Number One Summit to the Kilostar Domain, the miracles he created had become Archaion's pillars of faith.

"This is the power of the people. It's their faith...."

He could see the condensation of their heavenly will. This was still before the war; obviously, Tianming's arrival had inspired their fighting spirit.

"Say something." Xuanyuan Xie patted Tianming on the shoulder.

This was the first time he had faced the masses with such an identity. Tianming couldn't help feeling nervous.

“Everyone...” He took a deep breath, “the imperial son is supreme!”

Before Tianming could speak further, he was drowned out by their thunderous voices.

Chapter 842 - Ghoul King Si Ling

“To the south gate!” Xuanyuan Xie led the way as they flew overhead of the citizens, headed to the city’s south wall.

Many people in Tianming City were discussing Tianming.

“The Imperial Son slew two ghouls and the Quadform Seadragon King. And now he immediately came to the front lines. I’m full of respect for him.”

“He looks so young. Is he really that incredible?” a little girl asked.

“Although the Kilostar Domain was a zone that sealed the ghouls’ power, a person in his twenties that could kill them is still a monster!” The little girl’s father was already a convert, and his eyes blazed with passion.

There were many such people in the city.

At the gates, Tianming looked back at the city. Before, he had actually been resisting the urge to say, “Let’s all survive this together.”

Although he hadn’t said it out loud in the end, he had still engraved those words in his heart.

“As long as I’m not dead, neither will they be.”

The more power you had, the more burdens you had to bear.

Tianming focused his attention back outside the city, already mentally prepared for what was coming next.

“We’ll leave this spot to you husband and wife. The three of us will head to the formation’s core. Hold on. Our lives are in your hands.” Yi Xingyin turned stern.

“I promise you, the formation will not fall.” Done speaking, Yi Xingyin brought Chen Changshu and Dao Yuanyi toward the core of the city.

The Sun-Moon-Star formation soon brilliantly lit up as if a starry sky had appeared, with an additional sun and moon to the south.

At the same time, the formation’s light pierced through the clouds, revealing all of the real stars clearly. All of their starlight was collected by the formation, making the starry sky even more resplendent.

“Ling’er, life is a journey. It’s our fortune to experience the majesty of life with all these people here. Our cultivation is a cultivation of the heart. It’s not about shutting ourselves away from the world and bitterly training, but experiencing things in the world. We have to meet people, do things, and learn how to live a life with a clear conscience. That’s how you become a god.

“I was fortunate to have my father and godfather show me the correct path when I was young. I don’t think I’m letting either of them down, standing here today.” Tianming knew that his current strength wasn’t enough compared to the continent’s peak.

However, he didn’t agree that was the case when it came to the cultivation of the heart. He watched as the enemy troops in the distance began mobilizing.

“The enemy has appeared. City, prepare!”

A loud drumbeat echoed out through the city.

“What is there to fear with the Imperial Son here?”

“His presence shows the ancestor is protecting us!”

A hot-bloodedness began spreading as such words filled the city. Not even Tianming was aware that his arrival had brought such encouragement.

The drum began pounding even harder.

“The corpse puppets have begun to appear. Push the Sun-Moon-Star Formation to its limits and activate the auxiliary formations!” Xuanyuan Xie’s voice was filled with boldness. His innate disposition was that of a general; everything ran like a well oiled machine under his command.

Hundreds of auxiliary formations sprang up. They had a wide variety of effects, from illusions, to traps, to spirit hazards. They covered over ten kilometers beyond the city, and invaders would need to cross that area in order to assault the city.

Tianming finally laid his eyes on the enemy.

On the horizon, a chaotic throng of men and beasts were advancing. The earth shook under their feet, and wails and moans were carried over by the wind. The starlight above allowed him a clear look at the puppets.

The corpse puppets were fallen beastmasters created by the fifth Ghoulish King, Si Ling, using the forbidden art, Necromantic Metamorphosis.

They had long since died, and they lacked any intelligence, but they had a certain level of power by relying on strength that hadn’t faded yet. They couldn’t be kept for long, but they were the perfect fodder to throw at formations.

The first three hundred thousand corpse puppets were all from Pentaphase!

It was the price Pentaphase had paid for allying with Monorigin. Pentaphase was currently experiencing internal strife. If it weren’t for Nonahall continuing straight north, Pentaphase wouldn’t have been able to survive.

“If the city falls, will we become such puppets too?” Tianming looked at the shambling corpses. They originally should have been buried and laid to rest, but instead, they were being controlled. With bulging eyes, wretched moans, and flailing arms, what part of them still looked human?

The puppets crossed the distance in the blink of an eye. Some of them didn't even have their heads, but they still continued to crawl forward. Behind the puppets was a dense crowd. It was the combined army of Nonahall and Hexapath.

Intel hadn't determined how many of them there were, but there were at least over a million!

"Who's that?" Tianming saw that behind the puppet horde, there was a masked woman wearing a grey skirt. She was standing atop a massive beast that had thick hind legs and a tail. Its head was very large, with a gaping red maw. Even though its entire body was made of rotten flesh, it clearly wasn't a puppet, as there were still stars in its eyes that flickered with green fire.

And over nine hundred at that!

"The fifth Ghoul King, Si Ling. She's the creator of the corpse puppets. The one she's on is a necrofiend flare dragon, and she has two more lifebound beasts, the necrostyx phoenix and the necrogale qilin.

"She's a first-rate opponent. For us, she's an even more important target than ghoul kings Xue Yi and Zi Xiao. If she's dead, there'll be no more puppets," Xuanyuan Xie said with a cold expression.

"Understood. Is killing her hard?"

"Yes. I'm not her opponent."

If even Xuanyuan Xie wasn't their match, what could Tianming do?

"As long as we hold out for this wave, we win!"

"I get it!"

Under Xuanyuan Xie's command, five hundred thousand of the Fienddragon Legion and five hundred thousand of the city's army got into formation. The tribulation elders that had come along with Tianming could reinforce them as needed.

"I won't be able to protect you in battle, so stay safe, Imperial Son."

"No problem." Tianming jumped off the wall, landing in the formation's area.

Eye-piercing starlight filled the area around him, as if he had arrived in space. Physically entering let him personally feel the tremors from up ahead, as well as the dense aura of death that was fast approaching.

Tianming took a deep breath before moving to the forefront of the defending army.

"They're here! Everyone, kill!" Xuanyuan Xie's order came down from above.

"Fienddragon Legion, formation six! Prepare your lifebound beasts and abilities!"

"City army, flank them!"

In a battlefield of such scale, one person was too small. Tianming knew this wasn't the Kilostar Domain, and there was little he could personally do. All he could do and had to do was give it his all!

"If the city falls, so will Taiji Peak sooner or later!" Tianming was only an ordinary soldier here. Four lifebound beasts were by his side, but Ying Huo's wings still hadn't completely healed.

“Let’s go!”

Countless puppets flooded into the formation.

Tianming saw the Infinite Starnet, which was the Sun-Moon-Star Formation’s own ability. It far surpassed the hundred auxiliary formations. Strands of starlight formed a net, which sliced through all the puppets in its path.

However, the enemy’s numbers were simply too great. As more corpse puppets entered, the defenders would have to face more enemies. The puppets’ fearlessness in death would allow them to wreak great havoc against the formation!

Chapter 843 - Rest in Peace

Even with ten million people supporting the formation, it wouldn’t last. The Fienddragon Legion and city army would decide who would win this battle.

Before the corpse puppets had even arrived, Tianming could already smell their stench. The corpses’ flesh was rotting and infested with maggots. They were already dead and soulless, but they still continued being manipulated by Ghoul King Si Ling.

“It’s unforgivable to desecrate the dead.” Tianming looked at Ghoul King Si Ling. She was a sinner even greater than Ye Bodhi. Although she was ranked fifth, it seemed not even ten Ghoul King Xue Yis would reach her number of kills and crimes.

It would be impossible to forget someone who could apathetically control three million corpse puppets.

“Rest in peace...” Tianming’s chain flew out before the puppets reached him. Killing them wouldn’t bring him any joy, but would instead bring pain. “They’re already dead, but they need to be killed again. When can they find release?”

Most frightening of all was that if the city fell, the more than ten million people there would end up like this as well. While they weren’t strong individually, their sheer numbers were scary, which was why Xuanyuan Xie had forewarned Xuanyuan Muxue and the rest.

Lumps of meat rained down in front of Tianming, who was already numb to it. Corpses still continued relentlessly rushing at Tianming, even when their eyeballs were falling out.

“When will this end?” Tianming hacked apart the puppets crawling onto Lan Huang. His body was covered in grey blood and his expression was pale. This battle was much worse than he had expected.

Tianming looked around and saw that the rest of the defenders were all fighting against corpse puppets. While casualties were still light, they would be exhausted by fighting these resilient corpse puppets, which would give the people from Nonahall and Hexapath a chance to massacre them later on.

“Things can’t continue like this. I’m sure the general and the rest are racking their brains over this too.”

Tianming cut apart another corpse, only for its rotten internals to explode. Even Tianming’s Infernal Armour was blown away. “Not good!”

The same thing happened to many others as well. Some were injured, and in more serious cases, had their flesh rotting away.

“Hey, they must be using some broodmother beast to do this. Let little sis try out the Evernight Curse!” Meow Meow suddenly said.

“Smart!” Tianming’s eyes shone.

“Exactly!” Meow Meow was pleased.

“Don’t get too cocky! If my wing wasn’t hurt, I would’ve thought of it too!” Ying Huo snorted.

“Your wings affect your brain?” Meow Meow said.

As they bickered, Tianming had Xian Xian take root in the battlefield. “Use the Evernight curse!”

“Yes, but rewards after!” Xian Xian said shamelessly. “Food, food, food!”

Tianming flew to the Evernight Rose. It was releasing millions of pollen toward the battlefield. “Is there any effect?” Tianming asked anxiously.

“Any effect?” Tianming asked hurriedly a short time later.

“Give me some time. Big Brother Meow was right. That ghoulish king is using some kind of broodmother-type beast to do this. There’s a small grey insect inside them. I suspect she has a fourth lifebound beast, which is a broodmother!”

“There’s a small insect?” Tianming couldn’t help but be excited. Xian Xian had shown itself to be the bane of broodmother-type lifebound beasts in the Kilostar Domain. Heartscourge worms and greenvoid skydevourers alike had all massacred each other.

Then, there had been over a billion. This time, there were only three million!

“They become much stronger when controlling a corpse. However, I can ferret out their bodies!” Xian Xian’s black roots dug into some puppets’ bodies. Some immediately broke apart the roots. However, some were no longer able to move.

“See!” Xian Xian finally brought a tiny grey insect the size of a mosquito over to Tianming.

“Can you kill them all in one shot?”

“No. When they sense danger, they’ll use the corpse puppets to defend themselves. However, I can use the Evernight Curse to make them go crazy!”

“Then do it!” If Xian Xian could resolve the corpses, that would be like one person overturning the whole battlefield themselves!

“How will Little Li show his appreciation if Xian Xian succeeds?”

“I’ll let you eat as much as you want! I’ll hire ten thousand people as your chefs!”

“Yaayyy!” Xian Xian was excited. In truth, it didn’t know how anxious Tianming was now and how eager he was to do something.

Before, neither he nor anyone else had seen any hope after seeing the corpse puppets. But now, it was a new start! "It's all up to Xian Xian."

The Radix World Tree hadn't let him down yet.

The Evernight Curse had filled the whole battlefield. The pollen entered the puppets to find the insects. This was the ghoulish king's secret! Perhaps she had never considered that someone could find them.

She stood outside the formation with a cold look, as if everything was under her control. It was all proceeding according to her expectations. "The corpse puppets will not only exhaust the formation, but also disrupt their formation and break their wills. Look down on my babies at your own peril." She smiled charmingly.

Pointing at the city, she commanded, "The time has come. Kill!"

The members of Nonahall and Hexapath were already raring to go. Immediately, countless powerhouses and beasts charged down the path the corpse puppets had opened and crashed into the formation!

Rumbling sounds rang out as countless abilities reached the formation ahead of the invaders. There was no way the Infinite Starnet could halt such an advance.

"Enter the city and kill as much as you can!"

"Yes!"

The area became even more chaotic as at least four hundred thousand members of Nonahall and three hundred thousand of Hexapath charged in.

"Haha, they're finished!"

"Once we kill them, the ghoulish king can turn them into new puppets for the next city!"

"Heh, they still want to resist? It's better to just roll over and die!"

However, just as they caught up to the puppets, Xian Xian shouted, "Watch and learn, boys!"

"Sis, you're wrong. This here is a heroic chicken, not a boy!" Ying Huo replied.

Xian Xian activated all of the Evernight Curses simultaneously.

"General! Have the troops retreat!"

Tianming had already warned Xuanyuan Xie in advance, and the general had chosen to believe in him.

The command to retreat was passed down. The defenders had free movement within the formation, so it wasn't difficult.

"Restrain them," Xuanyuan Xie ordered Yi Xingyin and the rest.

The Infinite Starnet seemed to become much gentler. If it were like knives before, it would now be ropes. Although its attack power had greatly fallen, its restrictive power had shot up.

The corpse puppets suddenly turned around. The insects within were currently in a berserk state, and when they saw the invaders, they went on the attack. They even started attacking each other.

The invaders were already deep inside the formation, and they couldn't quickly escape their restraints. They were quickly dragged into a battle and experienced the puppets that had previously made the defenders suffer.

At least half of them had already entered the formation, and of those, three quarters couldn't disengage and were quickly devoured by the corpse puppets.

"Let the corpse puppets have freedom of movement. Only restrict the army!" Xuanyuan Xie shouted.

"I know!" As the creator of the formation, Yi Xingyin could easily manipulate the formation.

"Everyone, the imperial son created a miracle. Give it your all, victory is at hand!"

Everyone in the city was ablaze with passion after hearing Xuanyuan Xie's words. The emotion would push the formation to even greater power.

"This is the power of the masses." Tianming was standing on the city wall. "It proves my choice was right. So, kill!"

In these circumstances, the enemy didn't dare to allow anyone to go in to save the troops caught behind enemy lines. Although a few managed to escape, many more died inside.

"How is this possible?" Ghoul King Si Ling was filled with disbelief.

The chaos lasted two hours. Finally, almost everyone inside the formation had perished, whether they were corpse puppets or members of the two sects.

The Fienddragon Legion and city army entered the battlefield to clean up and to kill any stragglers. There were mountains of corpses outside the city; this was a complete victory for the defenders!

As long as Xian Xian was around, the corpse puppets would be useless. This was a great blow to the alliance of five divine realms.

Tianming looked at the land that had been stained with blood. He stabbed Xuanyuan Yuheng's Draconic Swordbreaker into the ground and closed his eyes. "Rest in peace...."

Chapter 844 - Everyone Is A Sovereign

In truth, many had already fled north of Tianming City when Nonahall had begun their invasion. Those who remained had a deep love for their land and were willing to live and die with the city.

In this battle, the enemy would come with overwhelming firepower, so as to gain momentum. The citizens could only hope to hold on and, failing that, give the enemy nasty casualties. Under those expectations, the defenders had ended up nearly unhurt, while the invaders hadn't even touched the city before losing half their troops.

"All the corpse puppets are gone!"

"We cost them at least four hundred thousand troops!"

When the reports spread through the city, everyone was delighted and nearly went crazy.

“Maybe the losses are considered minor for the alliance, but we barely lost any in the process!”

When this news spread throughout Archaion, they would definitely be filled with hope and confidence.

“How did we do it?”

“It seems the imperial son took control of the corpse puppets from the ghoulish king. Then, we lured the enemy deep in. We all worked together to use the formation to counterattack.”

“It’s the imperial son again! I think he’s the reincarnation of the Progenitor. We can’t lose!”

“Yes, he’s a real god!”

Many people looked at the white-haired youth on the wall with passionate gazes. Tianming jumped with fright. When he looked at them with his Sovereign’s Eyes, he could see that practically everyone was emanating a white mist only he could see.

“Is karmic merit and the will of the masses really so great?” Tianming had to admit that it was a terrifying concept to be able to bear all this and make himself stronger using it. “Doing the right thing is the duty of everyone. With this, I can become much stronger before the battle!”

That was the rule of the heavenly dao. From now on, who would dare disregard the masses? Eighty percent of the formation’s power came from them!

“They used the formation to attack the enemy, and their will to make me stronger. I cannot lose while they think of me as a god!”

Tianming didn’t feel arrogant at all. While these people were all thankful to him, he was also thankful to all of them, because who he was today was all thanks to them.

“Maybe everyone is a sovereign, and I’m just the incarnation of their will.” Tianming didn’t overestimate himself and think of himself as a real god.

Every person in the city was a living, breathing person. They were all together with their families, hugging each other tightly. Whether they were an old person, an adult, married woman, child or even a baby, they were all currently providing power to the formation.

Tianming examined their Omnisentient Will. The Omnisentient Will of the children was especially pure and strong.

The children asked their parents, “Dad, mom, is that big brother really a god?”

“I want to be that kind of god when I grow up, too!”

Tianming heard all of it and gave a smile.

“Why is it said that god is always watching you? That’s because everyone is a part of god. A true god is a people, and the culmination of their traditions and will.” Tianming wasn’t aware that many of his thoughts had already exceeded the scope of the continent.

“Thanks all of you....” Tianming spread his arms and absorbed all of that will, while promising himself to protect them.

“If the city falls, it will only do so after I’m dead!”

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In the center of Nonahall’s army, a woman in grey clothes was standing on top of the necrofiend flaredragon’s head. She had a seductive figure, and her face was covered by a black veil. Her grey eyes looked at Tianming City, and the formation above it that was sparkling with numerous stars.

Her eyes were filled with confusion.

Everyone knew how violent her personality was, so no one dared to speak up. Her mission had been to cleanse the city with blood. It definitely wasn’t to leave them almost unharmed, along with losing her corpse puppets and much of the army.

“How?” Ghoul King Si Ling wracked her brain, but she just couldn’t understand.

“I lost control of my children,” came a voice from her lifebound space.

“How? What happened?”

“I don’t know....”

The corpse puppets were her trump card, and her biggest value to Nonahall. Now, they were gone.

“Ghoul King, do we continue to attack?” her vice general asked.

“Get lost!”

Even though those she had brought were elites, they would only be sent to their death if they attacked.

“Sect Master Feng, why not show yourself since you’ve arrived?” Ghoul King Si Ling said to the empty space behind her.

“I was just a bit late, and you sent two hundred thousand of my men to their death?”

“It wasn’t me. In the original plan, you all wouldn’t even be needed to bring the city down.” She grit her teeth. “Do you know what happened to my puppets?”

“Maybe it was karma for using such a technique? True powerhouses shouldn’t need the dead,” Feng Qingyu said mockingly.

“Sect Master Feng really is good at cracking jokes.”

“It wasn’t a joke, I really do dislike your methods. It’s good that this happened. Now, the enemy is united and we need reinforcements,” Feng Qingyu said.

“We’ll pay a price to take the city without puppets. Will Hexapath step forward?” Ghoul King Si Ling sneered.

“No need. Just get the reinforcements.”

Feng Qingyu headed in the direction of the city.

“You’re planning to?”

“Just go for the leaders. I’ll kill Xuanyuan Xie and Su Wanfeng. I heard Yi Xingyin is here too. Once those three die, the city will quickly follow. When I bring out their heads, I hope your reinforcements will be there.”

“Smart. I’ll wait for your good news. As for reinforcements, we’re currently attacking five cities. The other four will soon fall, and we can redeploy at least three million soldiers here!”

“Good!” With a cold smile, Feng Qingyu’s body flickered as he entered the formation!

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Xuanyuan Xie was making preparations for the next battle.

When the people in the city saw that the enemy had retreated a distance away, they relaxed.

Suddenly, a streak of green light entered the formation.

“The Hexapath Swordfiend!” Xuanyuan Xie’s expression changed. It was very obvious what Feng Qingyu’s goal was, coming in as he had when everyone was relaxed.

“Me, Wanfeng, maybe Old Yi are his targets.” However, Xuanyuan Xie quickly recovered. “Adjust the formation to target him only!”

The citizens had only rested for a short while. However, when they heard that a powerhouse had charged into the battlefield, they immediately threw themselves back into the war effort.

Outside the formation, Ghou King Si Ling saw the changes within the city.

“Ghou King, should we take this chance to invade?” her vice general asked.

“No, we have too few people. It’s too risky. Even if we do win, we won’t be able to stop them from escaping. Anyway...” her mouth twisted into a sneer, “he looks down on my methods? Fine, let’s see what he’s made of.”

“True. If he did this when the corpse puppets were around, that’d be fine. But now? That’s just too arrogant. Ghou King, will we act against Hexapath and Biritual next time?” the vice general sneered.

“You’re a smart person. Don’t ask too many questions,” Ghou King Si Ling said.

Chapter 845 - Kill Me

In the midst of the ghou king and her vice general’s discussion, the web of stars on the Sun-Moon-Star Formation changed again. The light from the countless stars had locked on to Feng Qingyu alone, forming a dense net in front of him.

He had two swords in hand, and another four hovering around him.

“You can stop me, but can you stop my swords?”

Against the backdrop of surging sword ki, his speed soared and two swords of the Hexafirmament Eradicator pierced the web of stars. Meanwhile, another two swords were aimed at Xuanyuan Xie and Su Wanfeng, and the last two shot into the city.

It was as if the swords had eyes. That was because Feng Qingyu's swordbeasts stood above these swords.

At that moment, one of swordbeasts noticed Tianming.

"You're here!" Feng Qingyu was beyond surprised.

In an instant, his surprise turned into killing intent.

"The value of your life is second only to the goddess, yet you dare enter the battlefield. You think too little of me!"

Feng Qingyu threw a sword at Tianming. Four swords and four swordbeasts against four people.

This wasn't the Kilostar Domain. Here, Feng Qingyu was at his peak. The Hexafirmament Eradicator was actually hundreds of times stronger when combined with his swordbeasts. The moment they locked onto Tianming, they came zipping through the air. However, Tianming had already planned to hide when he first caught sight of Feng Qingyu.

Entering the Prime Tower, he taunted, "You couldn't break my tower before. You can blame that on the Kilostar Domain. Why don't you try again?"

Feng Qingyu roared with laughter, then the sword slammed into the Prime Tower.

The impact sent the Prime Tower spinning out of control. Countless buildings were destroyed in its wake. The harsh, grating sound caused everyone in the city to cover their ears.

Apart from the sword looking for Yi Xingyin, the others were ferociously attacking Xuanyuan Xie and Su Wanfeng.

Xuanyuan Xie had three dragon lifebound beasts, while Su Wanfeng's lifebound beast seemed to be a butterfly. There were other powerhouses fighting together.

Unfortunately, as long as they approached Feng Qingyu, it was easy for him to kill them, despite being trapped in the Infinite Starnet that was powered by thousands of people.

With two swords, Feng Qingyu madly attacked the Infinite Starnet. His sword flashes collided with the Sun-Moon-Star Formation, exploding in dazzling lights and causing numerous changes in the formation. For the time being, it could still stop Feng Qingyu.

"Let them see the power of tens of millions!"

Feng Qingyu seemed to suffer under the power of their crazed will. However, without the formation, Xuanyuan Xie could only deal with one sword and swordbeast. Su Wanfeng also faced danger after danger. Yi Xingyin had to use a part of the formation's power to support her.

However, Feng Qingyu still had two swords. One of them attacked the Prime Tower, repeatedly slashing and slamming into it.

The back and forth motion made Tianming sick. Feng Qingyu was indeed arrogant. After failing to break the tower, despite numerous attempts, he still firmly believed that there was nothing in the world the Hexafirmament Eradicator couldn't break.

However, the most dangerous was the last sword aimed at Yi Xingyin, who was currently too weak to fight. Once he was found and killed, the power of the formation would decline. They weren't sure if they could stop Feng Qingyu once that happened. When the formation weakened, the first to die would be Su Wanfeng.

"How can Feng Qingyu alone force us into such a situation?" Tianming finally realized just how small their hope of survival was in this war.

At this moment, they were risking their all. Either Yi Xingyin would find a breakthrough in Feng Qingyu, or the Hexapath Swordfiend would.

"Stay strong. Everyone, hold on!"

"We need everyone's strength!"

Tianming knew that Feng Qingyu and Li Caiwei weren't completely submissive to Nonahall. If that weren't the case, Feng Qingyu could have mixed in with the corpse puppets and beasts and they would have broken into the city.

"Their internal strife could be our only opportunity...."

The Prime Tower had suffered too many blows from the sword.

"I got the Soul Tower and Purple Tower after opening the first floor. I wonder what's on the other two."

Tianming was battered and bruised from all the knocking.

"Break!"

The swordbeast drove its sword toward the Prime Tower, searching for its weakness. Almost every inch of the Prime Tower had been stabbed at least once.

Yet another harsh clank of metal sounded. Tianming desperately protected the Prime Tower amid the shock waves. At that moment, he suddenly thought of the man in white.

"The Imperial Sword! The Undying Tower!"

Undying meant eternal. In this desperate situation, his blood melted into the Prime Tower, drop by drop.

Then, Tianming heard a cracking noise.

"Is the tower broken?"

He was so shocked he was shaking.

"That's not right...."

Upon closer inspection, he realized the sound was coming from the sword. A crack had appeared on the surface of the blade. Though it was small, it could be fatal for the Hexafirmament Eradicator when integrated.

The roar of a gigantic beast resounded as a flame qilin burst into the sky from the sword. With more than nine hundred and eighty stars in its eyes, the qilin was as large as Lan Huang. This was Feng Qingyu's lifebound beast.

When a crack appeared on the sword, the qilin also sustained an injury—a bloody gash that exposed its bone. It held the sword in its mouth and angrily stared at the Prime Tower, eyes filled with disbelief. It had failed to break the Prime Tower, but was hurt instead?

Who would believe that?

“What?!” Feng Qingyu was shocked.

“It's rumored that his two divine artifacts were given to him by Xuanyuan Xi. Xuanyuan Xi was short-lived. How can his divine artifacts be stronger than the Hexapath Sword God's Hexafirmament Eradicator?!”

In fact, the Hexafirmament Eradicator was recognized as a legendary weapon throughout the Flameyellow Continent. It was far more prestigious than the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower that hardly anyone even knew existed; that was why Feng Qingyu was confident in his ability to destroy the Prime Tower.

But the moment he watched the Hexafirmament Eradicator that had accompanied him all his life crack, his heart was torn apart. His swords were as precious as his own life.

Feng Qingyu's eyes were red with rage. However, anger was useless. Once the swordbeast appeared, it wasn't free to move through the Sun-Moon-Star Formation like it had been before. The moment the qilin emerged, the Infinite Starnet immediately materialized and came crashing down on it.

The Infinite Starnet was more lethal to this huge lifebound beast than it was to the beastmaster. The web of stars entangled its body, the dazzling starlight burning its flesh, tightening frantically, even penetrating into the flame qilin's wound.

The flame qilin screamed in pain.

“Stop!” Xuanyuan Xie shouted.

Yi Xingyin and the others gathered all their strength to block Feng Qingyu and attack the flame qilin. This was their breakthrough.

“Comparing your resilience to my Prime Tower?” Tianming laughed. “The Hexafirmament Eradicator? More like dogshit!”

Feng Qingyu had already failed once in the Kilostar Domain. And now, he had suffered yet another setback in the face of the Prime Tower. The slightest change in the situation made him extremely upset. Tens of millions of people wanted the flame qilin dead; the Hexapath Swordfiend had lost all his decisive opportunities. He was furious.

“A bunch of stupid ants!”

His eyes were gloomy and dripping with blood. He didn't bother with Tianming any longer. The last remaining sword still searched for Yi Xingyin.

At that moment, Feng Qingyu directed his sword at the common people.

“Die!!”

The sword pierced through countless people—elderly, fathers, and even children.

A little girl with her hair tied up in a ponytail clutched her chest, where there was a gaping hole. Her vision blurred as she stared vacantly. Next to her was a white puppy. She was holding its tail at the last moment.

“Niuniu, I can't play with you anymore....”

With that, she collapsed. Around her were thousands of other people who had fallen into a pool of their own blood. Wherever the sword went, hell and death followed.

Mournful wails resounded through Tianming City; it was like hell on earth. Rooted to the spot, Tianming watched the life drain out of them. He clenched his fists, his eyes dripping with blood. The anger in his chest threatened to swallow him.

“Hexapath Swordfiend...” he spat.

In the blink of an eye, at least a hundred thousand people had died from the AHexafirmament Eradicator's attack. Their cries of agony echoed through Tianming City. Many people lay on their loved ones, miserably wailing.

“Daddy, don't go. Please move. Open your eyes. I'm begging you....”

“I'm scared. I'm so scared.”

An expert of his might had total disregard for human life. He had used his sword to slaughter these innocent lives like ants.

Tianming rushed out of the Prime Tower.

“Kill me!”

He roared in the wind.

The bloodstained sword stopped abruptly in the air, trembling violently. In the next moment, it turned around and spotted Tianming in the crowd.

The sword zipped through the air. Clad in the Dragonhide and wielding the Grand-Orient Sword in his hand, Tianming stared at the Millennium Fort in front of him. Under the impact of the Hexafirmament Eradicator, the Millennium Fort fell to pieces. In an instant, the sword had almost reached its target: Tianming.

He could almost smell death approaching. With a wave of his sword, he charged head first into danger. He didn't know what he was doing, but he felt as if this was who he truly was.

The entire world fell into dead silence.

Then a harsh noise pierced the air. A figure stood in front of Tianming, deflecting the sword for him. It was Xuanyuan Xie.

“You’re a brave one, Imperial Son!”

He patted Tianming on the head.

Then, raising the sword in his hand, he turned to the people in Tianming City whose eyes were stained with blood, and shouted angrily, “Do you see? This is what they call a top powerhouse! He kills mercilessly, and tramples on the lives of our relatives and friends as if they’re nothing but dust. We’re all human beings. What gives him the right to play with our lives while we kneel like dogs! He possesses the sword dao but has no principles. Why should he be called a powerhouse? Why should we tremble before such a man? We only live once. Even if we die, he must understand that there’s a price to be paid for his actions!”

Chapter 846 - The Solunar Blast

The sword was only one of the six Hexafirmament Eradicators. Residents of Tianming City below the Saint stage couldn’t even catch a shadow of the attack, but merely felt a chill sweep through their chests before breathing their last. A hundred thousand people wasn’t as many as the enemy had killed in the battle before, but this had all been done by one man.

Moreover, the ones who died in battle were frenzied invaders. Who said that the short-lived mayfly couldn’t courageously go forward?

No matter how humble their lives were, by combining the will of millions of people, they too had dignity. Under Xuanyuan Xie's guidance, millions of people and their lifebound beasts tightly grabbed the barrier spirit threads as they held back their tears.

“Avenge them!”

“Kill this so-called ‘powerhouse’, the Hexapath Swordfiend!”

“We’ll give everything we’ve got to the Sun-Moon-Star Formation. Let the stars guide us in slaughtering him!!”

The blood and tears of hatred were enough to make every person there burst with two hundred percent of their power. Their rage ignited the spirit threads like a spark. Although the spark was small, it could start a prairie fire.

For a while, the entire city was filled with countless sparks that traveled along the spirit threads and poured into the defensive formation above their heads. The formation shone even brighter.

Seated in the ‘star position’ of the formation, Yi Xingyin couldn’t believe the surging power at first, but soon he was ecstatic.

“The residents of the city can burst with such power!”

His eyes turned red. In fact, he wasn't happy, because this came at a cost of a hundred thousand lives. Everyone was overdrawing their strength. Countless hatred-filled gazes burned into Feng Qingyu's body like a raging fire.

"Perhaps these people don't know each other, but now they're all gathered in one city. If the city falls, they all die. They're now a family that's connected by blood, and they all share the same fate...."

Yi Xingyin had specialized in heavenly pattern formations for many years. However, this was the first time he realized that the power of those united could create miracles in the history of formations.

"We must not let them down. Cangshu, Yuanyi, gather all your strength. We're going to activate the Sun and Moon"

"Yes!"

Chen Cangshu and Dao Yuanyi, the deputy palace lords of Deepstar Hall, were both top tribulation patternscribes. They had been his assistants throughout the thirty years Yi Xingyin had spent on the Sun-Moon-Star Formation and were very familiar with it. In fact, it could even be said that the three of them had created this defensive formation together. That was why they were in Tianming City.

When they were first setting up the formation in the city, the enemy they had envisioned was the Nonahall Divine Realm to the south. The Ninefold Formation on Taiji Peak Lake was the work of their ancestors. After numerous enhancements, it was undoubtedly strong.

But to be honest, none of those ancestors were as familiar with the Ninefold Formation as Yi Xingyin was with the Sun-Moon-Star Formation. That was why the formation was so incredible today.

The lives of tens of millions, the power of their anger, their dignity and courage were all brilliantly displayed at this moment.

Two consecutive explosions shocked the formation. Rays of light radiated as the stars collided. Above the sky, countless dazzling beams of starlight were drawn to the formation and the light from Tianming City illuminated a five-hundred-mile radius. At that moment, the red-eyed citizens turned the city into the shining jewel of the Flameyellow Continent. Even from above the sky, one would still be able to see the dazzling light.

"This is the power of the common people..." Tianming was moved when the stars illuminated the entire city. He rarely experienced something so moving.

"This is the courage of the common people." This world had a strict hierarchy where the strong preyed on the weak, but the weak would still roar when they were overwhelmed with sorrow and rage.

"The people are my teachers!"

One by one, their fiery gazes filled with the will to fight to the end. When the starlight shone the brightest, the people supporting the formation let out a loud roar.

"The Solunar Blast lights up the mountains and rivers!"

The lives of these people, who had originally come from different corners of the Archaion Divine Realm, were connected because of the sun, moon, and stars.

Countless starbeams gathered within the formation. Starlight from the sky pierced through, making the shining jewel even brighter. Two enormous stars were birthed by two explosions.

One of them was a miniature sun—a fiery ball of fire that floated among ten thousand stars, becoming the king of the stars. The other was a miniature moon—a cold, silver star that accompanied the sun. One yin and one yang, one hot and the other cold, but both illuminating the world.

This was the Solunar Blast, the ultimate power of the Sun-Moon-Star Formation. When Yi Xingyin was constructing the formation, he never imagined that he would be able to use its power.

In the Kilostar Domain, he had once suffered all kinds of torture and repeated failures in seeking salvation. He hadn't told another soul about the fear he had experienced. But he had returned alive.

“Look clearly. I'm Yi Xingyin, not some nameless man!”

History would bear witness to his talents outside of combat power. Those present would experience the destiny-defying power of a top tribulation patternscribe!

At that moment, the sun and moon within the formation drew tens of thousands of stars crashing down. The sun slammed into Feng Qingyu, while the cold silver moon collided into the sacredflame qilin. This was the swordbeast that had been forced out of the Hexafirmament Eradicator by Tianming. It had a total of nine hundred and eighty-nine stars and was a twelfth-order tribulation beast.

In truth, Feng Qingyu alone could defeat the entire city if the formation didn't exist. But now he was being forced to the edge of life and death by this group of ants. It was something he never could have imagined.

If word of this got out, no one would believe it. The world's top three powerhouses had the power to face a hundred million on their own.

The formation's sun was like a giant, fiery beast that engulfed Feng Qingyu, who was currently trapped in the Infinite Starnet.

“Break!”

He fused the power of the six swords into one that was thousands of meters long and slashed it repeatedly at the formation.

Despite shaking more than a dozen times, the formation remained strong and came crashing down once more. The moment it exploded, the blazing flame swept the entire battlefield, burning almost all of the corpse puppets and dead warriors into ashes.

Flames soared into the sky as Feng Qingyu struggled to withstand the power of the explosion. After all, he was also being affected by the Infinite Starnet.

Then there was yet another earth-shattering blast. A raging flame came to life and rose up to the clouds right before everyone's eyes.

Upon looking closer, Xuanyuan Xie soon found a scorched figure. Feng Qingyu was no longer recognizable, his body almost completely burned. The terrifying power of the formation had ripped

through his flesh and exposed his bones. But he was still alive! He immediately rushed out from the flames. Although his injuries were severe, he would be able to completely heal one day.

Even so, it was a miracle that they were able to beat the Hexapath Swordfiend into such a miserable state. With such injuries, there was no way he could continue fighting in Tianming City. This outcome was completely unbelievable to Xuanyuan Xie.

But the point was, this was half the power of Solunar Blast. The formation's moon hammered down on the sacredflame qilin.

When the bright sun exploded, the cold moon had blasted into the qilin that was also trapped in the Infinite Starnet.

Before that, the sword that had slaughtered a hundred thousand people immediately whizzed through the air. The swordbeast shot from the side, breaking the dense web of stars as it endeavored to split the formation moon. It'd had the same thoughts as Feng Qingyu.

But since Feng Qingyu had failed, how could it succeed? In an instant, the intact moon fell from the sky like a meteorite.

The sacredflame qilin was shocked. While retreating, it consecutively spat ten huge fireballs, each the size of the formation moon and violently burning.

But in front of the power of tens of millions, the fireballs immediately froze the moment hot and cold collided. Although the moon's powers were weakened, it still came crashing down on the qilin's head. Facing the moon with the Infinite Starnet tightening around its body and tearing at its wounds, something incredible happened!

A cold explosion detonated in less than three seconds after the sun exploded. The qilin was the first to bear the brunt.

The way the cold moonlight exploded was completely different from the sun. But for the qilin, a top twelfth-order tribulation beast, it was unexpectedly terrifying.

In truth, it never dreamed that the power of a group of mortals below the Saint stage could actually pose a fatal threat to itself. Due to its arrogance, it was completely unprepared in the face of death. It had made a miscalculation the moment it was injured by the Prime Tower and trapped within the Infinite Starnet. Feng Qingyu was in over his head and had no way to save the qilin.

A dazzling cold light permeated the world as the qilin's flesh and blood splattered all over the sky. Hot and cold rushed into its body, the power of tens of thousands of fearless residents coursing through its veins and rupturing its internal organs.

A tragic roar shook the earth, but the roar soon turned into a bloodcurdling screech, then finally, a cry of despair. The dignified sacredflame qilin was blown into two pieces!

Chapter 847 - Capturing The Three Major Cities

For a while, there was a furor in the entire city. The victory had brought tears to their eyes—they managed to severely injure Feng Qingyu and slay the sacredflame qilin!

Before today, who could have imagined that these ordinary folk who had never come face to face with top powerhouses could achieve such a feat? Who would have thought that they could be part of such an inspiring moment? This was definitely a battle that would change history.

Perhaps they wouldn't have had such an opportunity if it weren't for the Prime Tower and Yi Xingyin's thirty years of hard work, but all that mattered was, they succeeded.

That night, the stars shone and the sun and moon dazzled. Tianming City was destined to become famous after this battle. The moment the sacredflame qilin died, their blood boiled, revitalizing their hearts through the barrier spirit threads. Despite the painful tears pouring down their cheeks, they grit their teeth and continued providing their strength to the Sun-Moon-Star Formation.

Tianming was dumbfounded. This incredible scene caused a sensation almost equivalent to killing Xue Yi. However, Xue Yi's powers had been sealed at the time, whereas Feng Qingyu had been defeated at his strongest.

"This is amazing!"

He felt his scalp tingle. The courage of the Tianming City residents helped him come to a realization.

"All living beings are equal. Everyone has the right to leave their mark!"

He stood on the southern city gates, staring at the stupefied Hexapath Swordfiend.

"Retribution comes so quickly! How self-righteous you were when slaughtering the masses! Look how miserable you are now! Just because you're strong doesn't mean you can do whatever you want!"

A man without principles wasn't a real master. Fearless and awe-inspiring—that was what Tianming sought to be.

The scorched man fell beside his sacredflame qilin, which had been split in two. His other three lifebound beasts emerged from their swords, letting out ear-piercing cries of misery. The remaining three beasts were a black tortoise, a dragon, and a luan, the greatest auspicious beasts. They were ranked above all other beings. They had never imagined losing a brother in a place like Tianming City. This was the biggest blow the Hexapath Swordfiend had ever received.

His face was completely charred and his expression difficult to read, but his eyes were blood-red. However, there was no time to mourn the qilin's death, because everyone in Tianming City was thinking the same thing: attack him while he was weakened!

"Feng Qingyu, either fuck off or die here!"

The Infinite Starnet pounced on them once more. Although three of Feng Qingyu's lifebound beasts still displayed full combat effectiveness, there was no way he would try capturing Tianming City if it meant sacrificing himself. At the moment, their wills were united; they were in their best form. Who knows whether or not they could activate the Solunar Blast once more?

When the Infinite Starnet exploded, Xuanyuan Xi, Su Wanfeng, and the others wanted to use the opportunity to trap Feng Qingyu.

“Die!”

Yet another explosive attack swept across the formation.

“Kill him!!”

There wouldn't be another chance for the normal citizens to play a part in the Hexapath Swordfiend's demise, but they could brag about it forever if they succeeded. Following their victory, the people proceeded to frantically attack Feng Qingyu.

Unsurprisingly, Feng Qingyu picked up the corpse of his lifebound beast and fled the formation in a most humiliating manner without so much as a word. Yi Xingyin and the others didn't dare stop him. After all, the Solunar Blast was actually a miracle.

Being able to severely injure him, kill his lifebound beast, and drive him away was the best they could hope for. There was no doubt that Tianming City had ushered in a complete victory that night.

The masses cheered as Feng Qingyu dejectedly left. They had almost emptied out their tears, but the fire in their hearts would burn forever.

These people taught Tianming what it meant to be really strong. He looked to the south; sooner or later, everything that happened here would cause a sensation in the continent and trigger a chain reaction. Right now, he was filled with confidence in Archaion.

“Ling'er.”

“Yes?”

“We'll definitely win.”

“Yes!”

.....

The south of Tianming City was originally shrouded in dark clouds, but now, the light of the Sun-Moon-Star Formation had dispelled them all and the million-strong army could no longer hide themselves.

All of them stood in place, watching the battle in the formation. It was difficult to see clearly from their location, so they relied on their scout's reports. The Hexapath Swordfiend emerged from the formation before the last report.

His black and burnt skin was obvious, a tragic sight to behold. More importantly, his three lifebound beasts were carrying a cold corpse that had been split in two. Everyone could see that it was the sacredflame qilin.

At that moment, they all assumed they were mistaken. Many samsarans rubbed their eyes. Although the heavens and earth had shaken when the Solunar Blast activated, they never expected Feng Qingyu would return like this.

“Wha-”

“Have my eyes deceived me?”

“I don’t think so.”

The entire region fell into absolute silence. They all stared at the scorched peerless man, their scalps tingling.

The Hexapath Swordfiend was well known. It was common knowledge that Feng Qingyu could enter the final death phase and charge onto the ultimate path of becoming a god. As long as he wanted to, he might even rank first in the world.

Rumor had it that he had been cultivating his entire life and had no wife or heirs. He couldn’t even be bothered to guide his disciples. Before he became the Hexapath Swordfiend, he was known as the Sword Fanatic.

A man more awe-inspiring than Xue Yi had unexpectedly walked out of the small Tianming City with the corpse of this lifebound beast. What a shock! What irony!

The incident had toppled their beliefs.

"Has the world changed?"

"How can a peak powerhouse be inferior to ordinary people?"

How ridiculous!

The Hexapath Swordfiend was at least ten times, a hundred times, or even hundreds of times more powerful than any number of common people. For example, even Ghoul King Si Ling could enslave three million corpse puppets with ease.

In the dead silence, the coal-like man appeared before Si Ling.

“Sect Master Feng...”

The matter was beyond the control of the alliance, so Ghoul King Si Ling didn't dare mock him. She had originally planned on laughing if Feng Qingyu was defeated. But with her standing, she could certainly see the turbulence in Feng Qingyu’s heart despite the calm expression on his face. His loss wouldn’t be beneficial to Nonahall.

“What’s the situation in the other cities?” Feng Qingyu spoke as if nothing had happened.

“We just received a report. It’s all good news,” said Si Ling.

“Elaborate.”

“At present, the armies led by Fu You, Lan Yi, and You Ying have captured the cities, broken the defensive formations, and killed five hundred thousand of the Fienddragon Legion, as well as six hundred thousand city guards. Except for those who escaped the city, there are fifteen million captives altogether,” said Si Ling.

This should have been the normal outcome. The major cities in Archaion were under siege from three different directions, and Nonahall was the strongest. When the Heptastar Aerial Sect and Quadform Oceanic Sect joined them, more and more cities would fall into their hands.

“What are the three ghouls planning to do next?” asked Feng Qingyu.

“Move up north, remove all of Archaion’s allies, and finally occupy the entire realm, leaving only the isolated Taiji Peak Lake,” said Si Ling.

“Get them to turn around and come here instead,” said Feng Qingyu.

“Do we really have to? Support from Pentaphase’s legion will arrive in two days. Once we take Tianming City, we’ll also head north. Even if we ignore Tianming City and continue north, we’ll have no problem conquering Archaion,” Si Ling replied.

“We might not be able to capture Tianming City even if two million warriors were to come. The Sun-Moon-Star Formation is Yi Xingyin’s work. Because he’s here, the power of this third-origin tribulation pattern formation is more powerful than the formations in the other cities. I’ll need half a month to heal. There’s three million of you, but we’ll lose at least a million more just breaking into the city,” said Feng Qingyu.

He couldn’t help but commend them based on this point alone.

“They’re so strong?”

“Well, there’s one more thing: Li Tianming is in the city,” Feng Qingyu added.

“The imperial son?!” Si Ling’s eyes turned red.

“Yes.”

“Do you mean the man who killed my brother?” She inhaled heavily, her grey eyes surging with killing intent.

“Yes.”

“He’s here to die instead of hiding in Taiji Peak Lake?”

“Who knows? That kid has always been cocky,” said Feng Qingyu.

“Alright, I’ll inform the three of them immediately and ask them to come back to capture Tianming City before heading north. Although Li Tianming is a junior, and only managed to dominate us because of the Kilostar Domain, he’s still the spiritual pillar of Archaion. The cities along the way would definitely be shaken if we kill him and use his head to lead the way,” said Si Ling.

Ghoul King Zi Xiao was currently in the Blood Cauldron, while the first and the second ghouls were confronting the twelfth death phase. Si Ling was the chief commander of Nonahall’s march northward.

“The other thing is—”

Feng Qingyu glanced at Si Ling with his hands behind his back.

“Sect Master Feng, do speak.”

"He's most likely responsible for the defection of your corpse puppets," Feng Qingyu continued.

"Are you serious, Sect Master Feng?"

A cold light flickered in Si Ling's eyes. The corpse puppet army was her signature. If it hadn't been for the changes, she would have broken into Tianming City according to their plan. On top of that, she would now have far more than fifteen million captives.

"There's little doubt about it. If we don't get rid of him, your army of corpse puppets is useless." Feng Qingyu looked up at the moon, his gaze fiery. "Call the three ghouls back as soon as possible. I want to destroy Tianming City."

"So you're not going to stop me from using forbidden arts?" asked Si Ling.

"Yes." With his eyes closed, Feng Qingyu exhaled heavily.

"I'm curious why," Si Ling said, batting her eyes.

After a long silence, Feng Qingyu replied, "These ordinary people disgust me."

He pulled out his sword and stared intently at the crack on the blade.

Chapter 848 - Every Dead Soul

Meanwhile, within Tianming City...

"I have news to report..." said a tribulation elder with a pale complexion as he knelt on the ground, breaking into tears.

"Friend, stand up and tell me." Xuanyuan Xie helped the man up.

On the walls of the southern city gate stood the tribulation elders in a neat row. Countless normal citizens beyond the walls looked up at the bringers of news.

"The cities of Fufeng, Liuyun, and Guiyang have been breached. Our brothers in the Fienddragon Legion suffered five hundred thousand casualties, while over six hundred thousand garrison troops were slain. They were all heavily encircled, and fifteen million citizens have been taken captive. Linyu City is the only one that remains, and is at its limit." The elder immediately slumped to the ground after making his report. He had seen the most despairing sights possible in the human realm; his hurt could hardly be put into words.

The mood within Tianming City was just as dismal. Having experienced war, they finally understood the value of peace. Everyone's faces were filled with pain and a sense of numbness. Even though Tianming City had seen a great victory, Archaion as a whole had suffered huge losses.

The fiends continued heading north to slaughter the brothers and sisters of those in Archaion. Even if Feng Qingyu had died then and there, the people simply wouldn't be able to bring themselves to celebrate it. The sheer cruelty of it all was like a chain weighing down their hearts that made it hard to breathe. They didn't know when this all would end. If their nation fell, there was only one fate for them: death.

"Is death our only release?"

"I have to work harder in my next life to grow strong. Then I won't have to worry about being oppressed. I won't have to watch fathers, mothers, and children die before my eyes ever again."

The fall of the other cities made Tianming City the only shining beacon remaining in the south of Archaiion. They would have to fend for themselves. Perhaps fighting to their deaths was their only option now. Putting aside saving the captives, they didn't even know how long Tianming City could remain standing. After their short moment of glory, their gloomy prospects dawned on them once more.

"Big Brother... did I cause all this? Perhaps something like this wouldn't have happened if there was no goddess...." Feiling was a picture of unease, her gaze cold and depressed. She hadn't felt good since the battle had started.

"Don't overthink it. It's already clear to us that the 'threat' the goddess poses is merely an excuse. Their real goal must be up there. Even if we weren't here, this day would've come sooner or later. We should muster up our courage and change our own fates like they're doing. We must make sure to live a life we won't regret so that we can live up to their hopes!" Tianming didn't want to give up just like that.

"I... I want to be able to do even more." She held his hand, many thoughts flashing across her eyes.

"You will."

.....

The next day, a group of people stood before Xuanyuan Xie as he sternly announced, "There's good news, everyone."

The others' gazes seemed to brighten upon hearing that. They got word that since the three ghoulish kings had breached the cities, they hadn't continued north. Instead, they were turning back and trying to surround Tianming City. How could there be any good news in their predicament? The city would be breached within days! They anxiously waited to hear what the news was.

"Word of the imperial son being able to render the corpse puppet army useless has spread. We've decided to continue defending Tianming City and make our stand in the south so that we can prevent the enemy troops from advancing north. We'll draw all their firepower to us.

"As such, the sect has sent a third of the tribulation elders to reinforce us, led by the Human Branch Sect Master, Jian Wuyi! Additionally, another two legions are on their way to help us and have arrived at Kunyang City to the north. They'll be able to form a pincer attack with us during the critical moment."

Everyone in Tianming City felt renewed hope at hearing the news and cheered. A third of all tribulation elders being on the way meant that the sect had decided to make Tianming City a stronghold that was second only to Taiji Peak Lake. Now, the city would stand a chance of surviving, and even possibly choke the enemy forces!

"No matter what, we'll have a higher chance of survival if we get reinforcements."

Everyone was rather agitated at hearing the good news.

"Additionally, even though Triflair and Octagram's legions are afraid of leaving, thanks to pressure from Quadform and Heptastar, they will also send a third of their tribulation elders here!" Xuanyuan Xie announced.

"Whooooaaaa!" The crowd exploded in uncontrollable cheers of joy. Some even broke into tears.

"Our struggle at the frontlines has earned their respect! This is what we all deserve! Our performance last night shocked the entire continent!" he roared, riling the crowd up even more.

"Stooooop!" Xuanyuan Xie suddenly yelled, causing them to fall abruptly silent. Then he took a deep breath and said, "Next, I'll be breaking down what we'll be in for from now on. Did all of you notice that all the reinforcements we're getting from our sect and the others are all elite tribulation elders? The reason they were chosen instead of normal armies is because they still have to defend the other cities and Taiji Peak Lake. But sending the sect master of the Human Branch here with other elites will be able to keep the enemies at bay even if Tianming City falls, while incurring minimal losses to the number of troops the sect has and allowing them to effectively defend Taiji Peak Lake.

"Now, Tianming City is a thorn in the enemy's eye. Without reinforcements, we're doomed to perish. But now, our enemies can't be so sure! Our mission is to draw their fire and thin down their numbers as much as we can! Once the city falls, don't blame anyone that retreats, for they are doing so to continue serving the sect! So, do you all know where I'm going with this? Tianming City never had any hope for the future to begin with. We are the ones that are desperately fighting to extend its life! As a result, our alliance has also risked their experts to fight here.

"As the imperial son is here, the enemy will not stop their deathly attacks. As long as we can hold on, there's a chance we can rely on the Sun-Moon-Star Formation to deal them a heavy blow and take some of the pressure away from Taiji Peak Lake! As long as the city stands, we'll be able to backstab the enemy whenever they try advancing toward Taiji Peak Lake. We are the number one city in the south! It has always been our mission to fight the invaders to the death to defend our pride and homeland!

"We just obtained a glorious victory, and now we have another chance to turn things around! Perhaps everyone here with me might die, but history will never forget us and how we refused to bend down and continued to resist the strongest army ever seen in the Nine Divine Realms! This city is directly influencing the fate of the skies and the world! Every sacrifice made by this city will cost our enemies ten times. So I ask you again, do you understand what I'm trying to say?!"

"We do!" Thunderous roars of agreement shook the whole area. The cheers were filled with passion.

"All of you who dared to remain here to live or die with the city, you are the true warriors!"

That was all a rhetorical flourish, though. They were nothing more than victims of circumstance, children trying to sacrifice themselves after seeing their seniors putting up a fine example.

"Where's the imperial son?" Xuanyuan Xie asked. He knew that Tianming was now bait. As long as he was here, the enemy wouldn't head north. He suspected Tianming had predicted this would happen.

"Divine Marshal, he seems to be cultivating."

"Then we shan't disturb him." Xuanyuan Xie took a deep breath. "The next battle will decide this city's fate. Let's hope we will get another chance to go wild! But will it be possible...."

.....

Tianming could hear every sound outside from within his plain room. Yet, he remained fully focused on cultivation. The Omniscient Will he received contained the feelings of passion, despair, dedication, and courage toward the upcoming battle, allowing him to see a broad path ahead.

"The sovereign gave me these eyes...." He opened them, his gaze piercing through all obstacles until he saw the enemies assembling outside the city.

"I'm now at the sixth-level death phase!" It had taken him a few days to transition from the life to death phase, though it was still record time in all of the Flameyellow Continent. Nobody would believe that he actually managed that even if he told them the truth, and it was all thanks to the huge boost everyone in the city had offered him, for which he was incredibly thankful. They had raised him up once more.

"Jian Wuyi and the reinforcements from Triflair and Octagram will be facing off against the four ghouls and their gathered army. Will it be another dire battle? Though, with the Sun-Moon-Star Formation being so impressive, it'd be a waste not to use it to its full potential. Since we're so far away from the Heaven Cauldron, the sect will stand a chance even if we fall back from here. However, the citizens here won't be fine...."

A piercing light radiated from his eyes. He wanted to do something for their sake.

"Even without Ling'er's Spiritual Attachment, I can face off against ninth-level death samaras. But with her here, I can even take on third-origin tribulation elders in the tenth-level life phase!"

It was worth noting that figures like Yi Xingyin and Xuanyuan Xie were only at the tenth-level death phase, while Su Wanfeng, Chen Cangshu, and Dao Yuanyi were at the tenth-level life phase.

"From now on, even without the sealing formation, they won't be able to easily mess with me. Come on."

The Prime Tower appeared in his hand. He put it down and entered it, then went up to its second level.

Chapter 849 - Undying Tower

Tianming really had to thank Feng Qingyu; the opening of Prime Tower's second level had a great deal to do with the Hexafirmament Eradicator's rampage. When he came to that level, he was greeted by a completely white landscape. There wasn't the slightest bit of impurity; the white seemed to be the fusion of all colors imaginable.

"This is...."

Tianming's gaze fell on the very center of the level. At the same spot on the first level was where the Purple Tower and Soul Tower had been. The two 'towers within the tower' were able to make his soul and saint palace practically unbreakable, so he was really looking forward to what he would find here. A greenish white tower appeared before his eyes. The green of the tower was the only speck of color he could see on the entire second level. It looked like a lone leaf in a desolate world of eternal quiet, the only sign of life in the void.

"Greenspark Tower...." Tianming identified its name as he mulled on it. It appeared to be another tower after all, but there was only one rather than two. For now, he still wasn't aware of what functions it had, but he had a vague feeling it had something to do with the Prime Tower's healing ability.

The Prime Tower had always been able to heal his lifebound beasts when it was within his lifebound space. No matter how badly injured they were, they would recover completely. This time especially, Ying Huo's wing had already recovered seven-tenths of the way after it was reconnected, and that power probably came from the Greenspark Tower.

Tianming stretched his hand out to touch it. What he didn't expect was that the tower would instantly turn into a greenish white liquid and enter his body like a snake with a life of its own.

"Eh?" The first thought that came to his mind was how comforting it felt. The liquid felt like a flow of warmth that permeated every corner of his being. Currently, his body was undergoing a fundamental metamorphosis, as if he was being converted into a completely different lifeform. Unlike the Soul Tower and Purple Tower, the green liquid spread out through Tianming's body in four paths and flooded into his lifebound space.

"What in the world is this?" Ying Huo said as it avoided the stream. But when it saw Meow Meow, Lan Huang and Xian Xian basking in the liquid, it no longer avoided it.

"The Greenspark Tower?" Its little eyes observed its body and eventually fell on its broken wing. The liquid seemed to be nourishing his wound, connecting his flesh and bone at a rapid pace. "My chicken wing!"

"What's wrong?"

"I think it's recovered! That was hellishly quick!" It gave it a few hard swings. "It feels like it was never broken in the first place!"

Tianming looked closer and could see a vague image of the green tower near Ying Huo's feathers. The tower had infused itself into his flesh, forming a kind of formless protection around its body, feathers, and even innards. The same ethereal image was seen around the other three's bodies. He could even see the mirage of the tower hovering above himself.

"That means the Greenspark Tower's protection extends to lifebound beasts as well. But unlike the Purple Tower and Soul Tower, it has completely fused with me and become a part of my body. As for its use...."

Tianming took out the Grand-Orient Sword and made a cut in his palm, causing blood to gush out. Almost immediately, a flow of green and white sealed the wound at a speed visible to the naked eye, removing all traces of the wound.

"The Greenspark Tower is the main source of Prime Tower's healing abilities... Even the wounds in my chest have fully healed," he said as he looked at his body with a satisfied gaze. "The Prime Tower is also the Undying Tower. Apart from the protection offered by the Purple Tower and Soul Tower, I now have the regenerative abilities of the Greenspark Tower! With it, as long as I'm not killed in an instant and torn to shreds, I'll quickly be able to recover! I wonder if I'll die if my heart gets pierced or if I'll be able to reattach my head after decapitation...."

Those were things he could only experience during actual combat. However, he had a feeling that the Greenspark Tower was far more powerful than the Purple Tower and Soul Towers combined. Not to mention, it wasn't just him; even his lifebound beasts had the regenerative abilities of Greenspark Tower. They were all unkillable, in a sense.

"No matter what, our combat endurance definitely increased, Lan Huang in particular. It was always rather good at taking hits, and now it'll be able to quickly recover from them too!"

Tianming left the tower and summoned Lan Huang.

"What's wrong, Boss?" Lan Huang squeezed its legs together and looked at Tianming pitifully with its two heads.

"What? Sword practice, of course!" Tianming slashed at it with the Grand-Orient Sword.

"Nooo! Traitor! Evil!" it cried, greatly disorienting Tianming. However, the blade still made a three-meter-long wound on Lan Huang's foreleg that was thirty centimeters deep. He watched as a large amount of liquid emerged from the wound and sealed it up entirely.

"Huh? It no longer hurts." Lan Huang gave it a few licks and could feel no wound there at all.

"Amazing." Tianming stopped trying it out. Since he wasn't sure if he could survive being impaled through the heart, he wouldn't go out of his way to try it. However, he could still be sure that the Greenspark Tower had greatly increased the survival chances of him and his beasts.

"It looks like the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower are far better treasures compared to the Human Emperor's Dragonhide and Kilostar Photondragon." They were a perfect combination of attack and defense.

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Dark, oppressive clouds floated above Tianming City. In the twilight, Tianming saw Xuanyuan Muxue at one of the defensive walls. She was sitting beneath it and her hair was rather messy, and there were traces of blood on her. Though she had switched out for a new set of armor, it seemed rather worn down.

"How many did you kill, Muxue?" Tianming asked.

"Eighteen? Or was it nineteen? I forget." She looked up and squeezed him a smile.

"Not bad. Are you tired?"

"A little. I'm fine."

"What about your brother and the rest?"

"They're fine for now. The corpse puppets were quickly defeated, so we weren't really in any deep trouble. But who can say the same next time?"

"That's right."

There was no saying if the youths would survive the next clash.

"I heard the four ghoulish kings of Nonahall are on their way here. They'll have an army of at least five million with them, right?" she asked.

"That's right. We're in deep trouble now. Do you regret coming here yet?"

"No. I just hope I can kill more before I fall. Otherwise, I'll die with lingering regrets."

"You can do it," he said after some thought. He couldn't come up with any other words of encouragement, as not even he could be sure of what the future held.

Right as he was leaving, she asked, "Hey, should I return Frosty Mercurius to you?"

Tianming turned to her and shook his head. "Promise me you'll use it if you survive this ordeal."

"Alright!"

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After a peaceful night, day broke. Tianming had cultivated throughout the night as Feiling, in her acquired godchild form, leaned against him to catch a few hours of sleep.

"Ling'er, the Human Branch sect master seems to be coming," he said as he gently ruffled her hair.

"Okay." She rubbed her eyes and quickly entered Tianming's body. There was no way she could let herself be found here.

Tianming stood up and left his plain-looking accommodation, only to be greeted by a huge crowd.

"The imperial son is out!"

Almost immediately, thousands of gazes fell on him. Even though Jian Wuyi was there, Tianming was no doubt the more reassuring presence to them. He saw thirteen third-origin tribulation elders behind Jian Wuyi. Coupled with Chen Cangshu and Dao Yuanyi, there were now fifteen third-origin tribulation elders at Tianming City. Not to mention, Jian Wuyi had brought another thousand second-origin elders from seventh- to ninth-level to join them, as well as ten thousand fourth- to sixth-level first-origin elders as part of the reinforcements sent by the sect. As for elders of lower rank, they were too weak to be allowed to come. Only those of the fourth-level death phase and above could be considered true elites on the Flameyellow Continent. These reinforcements were a huge commitment by the sect, and they would be devastated if they lost them all.

"Imperial Son!" Jian Wuyi greeted.

"Sect Master Jian." Tianming came forward.

"When you first came to the sect, I had to spend a period of time protecting you. I never would've imagined that you'd be fighting by my side here at Tianming City."

"The world is an unpredictable place."

"I heard that you have a method you can use to neutralize the ghoulish kings' corpse puppets."

"I do, in fact."

"Is there a limit to it?"

"As long as I have enough time, I can take care of any number of them."

If they couldn't hold Tianming City, not even Xian Xian would be able to do anything. The timing was absolutely crucial.

"Will do. I'm confident to hear that, we still stand a chance of winning with it. There's no doubt we'll be able to deal another heavy blow to Nonahall and keep them outside our southern border!"

Chapter 850 - Fufeng's Corpse Puppets

It seemed that Jian Wuyi had taken command of the troops, which wasn't a surprise as he ranked above Xuanyuan Xie. His arrival had further bolstered their confidence in being able to resist their enemy.

However, the good news didn't stop there. Two hours later, reinforcements from Triflair and Octagram arrived from the east and west, with the former group led by Coral Fairy Beigong Linlan. She was Jian Wuyi's wife and had been the one to forge the alliance with the sect masters of the Archaion Sect, so she decided to take the risk and come in person. As for Octagram's group, they were led by Sect Master Lin Yuntian's younger brother, Lin Qingtian.

Triflair sent over eight third-origin tribulation elders, five hundred second-origin elders, and five thousand first-origin elders. As for Octagram, they sent over seven third-origin elders, more than four hundred second-origin elders, and around five thousand first-origin elders. Now, the combined forces had thirty third-origin, two thousand second-origin, and twenty thousand first-origin tribulation elders.

It was worth noting that the whole of Archaion only had fifty-three third-origin tribulation elders, yet the elites gathered here numbered more than half of Archaion's full roster. In fact, it was more numerous than Triflair's full force. The three sides had joined up to make Tianming City among the most fortified strongholds, akin to an entire divine realm in might. The only thing they fell short on was the total number of troops. A normal army would never have been able to travel to the city so swiftly.

As combat was just on the horizon, they were received with little fanfare. Xuanyuan Xie retained control of most military matters, as he was the most familiar with the terrain. He announced, "Everyone, I'm sure we're all roughly aware of where we stand compared to our enemy. Currently, we have roughly the same number of first-origin tribulation elders as the enemy. It's said that among the four ghouls' forces, there are around forty third-origin, three thousand second-origin, and thirty thousand first-origin tribulation elders. Even though they've got more than us, we can make up the difference with the Sun-Moon-Star Formation. The only thing that can't be easily made up for is the number of first-origin elders and the regular army!"

"Those below the fourth level won't help much as reinforcements, given Tianming City's current predicament. The enemy has more than a hundred thousand normal tribulation elders, which is equivalent to an army of two million. Not to mention, their regular troops number more than four million, coupled with another five hundred thousand from Hexapath. In terms of normal troops, they total around five million, while our Fiendragon Legion and the garrison here number a million."

"Fortunately, our allies in the Pentaphase Divine Realm include Fang Shenyu and Jian Qingyuan's Origin Phoenix and Arcana Sword Legions. There are around two million of them in total, but they aren't going to come yet due to the state of battle. They'll be waiting for an opportunity to reinforce us. That's the roundup of our forces! Remember our advantage. We have a formation and tens of millions of allies. We also have Yi Xingyin and the imperial son!"

Xuanyuan Xie pointed at Tianming when he was done speaking. Everyone's passions were burning bright—would they be able to defend Tianming City during the battle?

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Not long after Jian Wuyi and the others had arrived, their scouts reported that the four ghoulish kings' army had completely surrounded Tianming City, and weren't just attacking the south gate this time. Their forces stretched out in all directions. There was no doubt that they would also mount a joint attack from all sides.

Jian Wuyi immediately readied their defenses and the entire city was put on alert. Once more, the curtains would part to make way for the cruelty and depravity of war. Yet the ghoulish kings' troops didn't show any sign of activity even six hours after they assembled. What could they be doing wasting precious time like this?

"It's only one city, yet an army of five million doesn't dare attack us. Don't tell me they have even more troops on the way?" Xuanyuan Xie said, his brows furrowed with worry.

Given the scale of the Nonahall Ghost Sect, if they were willing to leave their strongholds and weren't worried about being attacked by the four sects, they would be able to send out an army of up to twenty million troops. The standing army of Archaion, not including its garrison troops, only numbered around eight million. But now, the Fienddragon Legion had lost half its number already.

Apart from them, the other six legions, including Origin Phoenix and Arcana Sword, were in other war theatres defending against the troops of Hexapath and Biritual. As for the garrison troops of the various cities, they were inferior to the standing troops, in some ways, and didn't number as many as those in Tianming City either, which had only served to hasten the fall of the three neighboring cities. Given that the enemy had a hundred thousand tribulation elders and five million troops, there was a good chance they would be able to take Tianming City, so what in the world were they waiting for?

The defenders would soon find out. "Human Branch Sect Master, Divine Marshal, we've identified the reason for their inaction."

"What is it?"

"Ghoul King Si Ling and her five attendants, the Five Wraiths of Shoal Mountain, have gone to the nearby Fufeng City. There are six million citizens of Archaion there. The ghoulish king intends to turn all of them and their lifebound beasts into corpse puppets."

"My dear husband, doesn't she know that our imperial son is able to render her corpse puppets useless? Why would she waste her time?" Su Wanfang asked.

"She no doubt knows. It's probably because she refuses to accept it. After all, this is her signature ability. Not to mention, if they're careful, they can probably avoid making the same mistake of being

surrounded. More importantly, making those on our side into corpse puppets will lower our morale," Xuanyuan Xie said.

"It's too dastardly! Yet... nobody is able to stop them. It looks like the Hexapath Swordfiend is nothing but a tool."

"What can we do now that we're trapped here?"

"Is watching as our six million comrades are killed and turned into corpse puppets the only thing we can do?"

The encirclement was already having a demoralizing effect on Tianming City. Ghoulish King Si Ling would probably be able to make tens of millions of corpse puppets out of the six million captives and their beasts if she wasn't stopped, not to mention there were another three fallen cities. If the encirclement continued, the atrocities they committed would only continue to grow.

By the time they had an army of tens of millions of corpse puppets, they would easily be able to swarm Tianming City without the defenders even putting up a fight. The elites that came to reinforce them would only die in vain. Not even Xian Xian would be able to take on all those corpse puppets at once.

In fact, Nonahall's forces were quite happy to hear that so many elites had gathered in a single city. No matter what, wiping the entire city off the map was now their main priority. They wouldn't let a single fly escape.

Even if Tianming could counter the corpse puppets, he and Xian Xian couldn't stop all of them at once and would be overwhelmed, not to mention the ghoulish king was directly harming the citizens of Archaion in the act. Even if the puppets were neutralized, those that were used in their making wouldn't come back to life. That realization paralyzed those in Tianming City once more. They had underestimated the sadistic lengths Nonahall would take to achieve their goals.

"All we can do is hold on while the imperial son neutralizes the corpse puppets."

"That's right. We're encircled, and retreat isn't an option."

"But... will the citizens of Fufeng City die just like that?"

Everyone was filled with worry at the impending doom coming to the citizens there. Would it be their turn soon?

At that moment, Tianming asked, "How long has it been since Ghoulish King Si Ling left for Fufeng City?"