The Boss Behind The Game –

Chapter 201 – 210

Chapter 201: A Malignant Player Does Not Deserve A Natural Death!

The tables were turned on the Sea King Navy from being the informidable party that dominated the battle initially to the current neck and neck situation. The Sea King knew he had blundered as he did not expect the forces of Beigi to all join them in this battle.

What surprised him more was that the Xiao Tian Army's leader that he once thought to be dead was still alive. He even led the Xiao Tian Army in this blatant betrayal.

Under these present circumstances, the strength of the two sides was not far apart.

When the battle came to the third hour, it was a scene of great carnage with corpses of the Sea King Navy all over the Mansion of the Dead's border.

Meanwhile, the first batch of respawned players began to log in one after another, maneuvering the forces of Beigi from an unfavorable position to ascendancy.

The Sea King seemed to know that his side would lose if the situation kept on this way. With a howl of rage, his body was engulfed by beams of blue energy before it started to expand.

The players were familiar with this ability. It was the Sea God Figure, the sacrificial ability Liu Chai gained after swallowing the famed Son of the Sea.

However, Liu Chai's Sea God Figure could not be compared to the Sea King's, be it in either size or vigor.

Huge waves suddenly rose from the Mansion of the Dead's border as the Sea King swung his icy blue trident.

"Oh no, he's making a realm!" the Rock Ghost King yelled in fury.

Seeing this, the Hydra King promptly turned sideways and charged toward the Sea King, trying to ruin his realm construction.

The Sea King Navy was unable to fully display their combat strength on land. Nonetheless, the forces of Beiqi would definitely be weakened if he were to build a Realm of Sea here. On top of that, the Sea King Navy's power would grow immensely.

"Leave now!"

The Sea King swung his trident hard upon the sight of the charging Hydra King. The enormous wave that rolled ahead of him was subsequently transformed into a roaring water dragon. It then swept across the horizon and sent the Hydra King flying.

The Mansion of the Dead's border was soon flooded with water. As the water level rose, countless beasts of the Sea King Navy started to bellow and all the water-controlling sea creatures began to cast their water spells.

"Your Daddy Tong Gua is here!" it was then that a silhouette descended from the sky with his wings slapping the Sea King violently in his face, interrupting his spellcasting.

"Tong Gua!" the Sea King's pupils shrank.

In this Land of Beiqi, he feared Tong Gua the most. But now that he knew Tong Gua's strength was fully predestined, he dreaded him no more. He immediately swirled his trident and sent three rogue waves thrusting upward as they rolled Tong Gua up and smacked him into the water.

"Hmph, paper tiger!" the Sea King snorted as he watched Tong Gua struggle out of the water and flutter his feathers.

"Sea King, you brat, you're just lucky this time that your daddy Tong Gua was predestined to the Ghost King Intermediate Realm's strength. Don't let it get to your head... with three of us fighting you now, you'll be knocked out in any second!" as Tong Gua spoke, he threw both the Hydra King and the Rock Ghost King a significant glance.

Both of them took the hint and hurried to Tong Gua's side. All of them had their gaze fixed on the Sea King who was in his Sea God Figure from afar.

"Three of you can't beat me either!" sneering, blue lights gleamed on top of the Sea King's trident before he plunged it into the sea.

Within a split second, the seawater in the newly-formed sea realm began to surge vigorously. The turbulent waves slammed on every side and greatly hindered the players as well as the various forces of Beigi on the battlefield.

On the other hand, the Sea King's soldiers took the advantage to attack the players. Their attacks became progressively brutal.

"Kill them!" the Rock Ghost King let out a wail, followed by his body rising into the air before it went crashing down on the Sea King's head with overwhelming momentum.

At the sight of this, the Hydra King dove into the water and began to attack the Sea King from below.

At the same time, Tong Gua flapped his wings and lunged at the Sea King as he kept on screaming, "Tong Gua's eighteen smashing styles!"

"Sea God!"

A blue armor precipitated out of the seawater and covered the surface of the Sea King's body. The bluish glow made him appear godly as he shone bright like a diamond.

Attacks from three directions hit on the Sea King's body simultaneously. Right then, cracks appeared on the Sea God Armor.

"Hmph! Pay for the lives of my dead men with your blood!"

As the Sea King's voice died down, his trident sank into the water. Following that, the seawater rapidly converged as it revolved around the trident. It morphed into a giant water dragon, raising the Sea King up into the sky.

Although this water dragon was made up of seawater, it had a sturdy body. Despite being crushed by the Hydra King, it did not succumb to his attacks and scatter. Instead, it stretched its claw out to pin him down. It then lifted its head and bit the Rock Ghost King who dropped from the sky again, throwing him into the water.

. . .

On the other side of the battlefield which was now enshrouded in the Sea God's Realm, the players were drifting along in the water. They were once again the weaker party fighting the Sea King Navy.

"Everybody summon your warship! Fuck it! They think they are the only party who can do a naval battle, huh?" Liu Chai yelled in that zone's live chat channel.

Almost instantly, numerous warships began to take shape in the realm.

"A naval battle on land is so fucking exciting! It's time to test out these newly evolved energy cannons. I will only admit defeat if I don't kill a thousand sea creatures!" Lu Zhan from the Slayer Alliance stood in front of the warship discharge outlet and shouted excitedly while holding the energy cannon's handle.

"Come out! Wandering Spirit!"

"Fight! Spirit of Desperation!"

"Growl! Guardian Spirit!"

The spirits of warships in their virtual forms were summoned by the players. They detached from the warships and pounced on the snarling sea creatures from afar.

The players, previously in a disadvantageous state, were now able to compete with the enemies after summoning their warships!

"Hahaha, secret weapons, as expected from a secret weapon! Sea King, looks like your realm is just for show!" the Rock Ghost King laughed jeeringly at the Sea King.

"Go to hell!" the water dragon made by the trident dashed forward to bite him, pushing the Rock Ghost King underwater.

At this moment, innumerable vines emerged from the water and trapped the water dragon before dragging under the water.

"I'll take care of it. You hold the Sea King down and don't let him engage in the war. The longer you drag it on, the better it is for us. It seems that these secret weapons can be reborn!"

Hearing this, the Hydra King threw an astonished glance at the player who was standing on the warship amid the battle with the Sea King Navy. He then nodded hard and charged at the Sea King again.

The Sea King's Ghost King Peak Realm strength was undoubtedly the mightiest. Regardless of the merged attacks from the Hydra King and Tong Gua, the two elites in their Ghost King Intermediate Realm, the Sea King still had them under his thumb. Both of them ended up being continuously attacked by the Sea King.

However, they could not afford to care about all these anymore. They had gambled their every asset the moment they chose to enter the war. If they were to lose this battle, all the forces of Beigi would be destroyed and the Sea King would fully take over Beigi.

"Roar!" the severely wounded Hydra King tensed his hideous face up and let out another battle cry as he sprang forward relentlessly.

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When the battle lasted till the sixth hour, the Sea King started to sense that something was wrong.

Although the number of players in the Beiqi main army force was sharply reduced, a portion of people would rejoin the war from time to time.

This gave him a sense of foreboding.

If this force had sufficient backup, they could have joined the battle at the beginning. What was going on with this bizarre situation where they would come in batches?

Being completely in the dark and not knowing the players' respawn ability, the Sea King's face was ghastly pale.

Nevertheless, he was being kept in check by the Hydra King and Tong Gua. He could not possibly rush forward to aid the battle, and this led to his frustration.

"Brothers, keep fighting! The Sea King Navy is declining in numbers!"

Seeing that the bodies of the Sea King Navy's soldiers were continuously floating to the top of the water as time went on, the players realized that they had regained their advantage and burst into excited cries.

Though this was just a game, the players could feel the passion and excitement rushing through them once again. This was what they couldn't get from the bustling city life as they unleashed their beastly instincts, hence it fueled their impetuousness.

"We'll grill sea creatures for dinner tonight, so let's work harder! If we don't beat the crap out of the Sea King, count this as our failure, the Fourth Disaster Army's failure!"

"Nothing can stop us today. Since you guys are here, don't leave! As the heir of Beiqi, I would like to welcome you warmly! So, take that!"

"Haha, we're getting the upper hand now! Kill them! Push forward!"

. . .

The tide was turning in their favor.

As the flocks of support arrived, their strength gradually expanded. The Specter Warships that had cost them millions of soul coins to cultivate were currently repaying the players with their artillery fire and powerful Warship Guardian Spirits.

Seeing the light of victory at last, the players got more exhilarated as they fought. On the contrary, the Sea King Navy began to get exhausted in the incessant war and slowly, their fatigue showed.

"Go away!" the Sea King knocked the Hydra King down with a punch. He tried to rush to their rescue, but the Hydra King threw himself at him again with his eyes gleaming with determination. Constraining him tightly, he prevented him from heading to the main battlefield.

As he sent the Hydra King sprawling with another punch, the Sea King knew he could not continue fighting like this. The constant support of Beiqi's new backup forces was

beyond his comprehension. If this went on, his side would definitely suffer a disastrous loss.

This consequence could be so serious to the point that he might lose ground and get chased out of the Void Ocean completely.

After all, there were many forces outside the Void Ocean keeping their eyes on him, so he could not afford to lose.

"Retreat!" the Sea King growled unwillingly to the sky. As his words rang out, the Sea God's Realm began to dissipate.

"Dumbass, don't just come and go as you please, stay right here!"

"Wanna go? Leave your head!"

"Fuck you! You killed me twice! Let me kill you just once before you go!"

. . .

Shouting excitedly, the foolish thought of letting the dying foes go never once crossed their minds as all of them were thinking of just one thing right now, "Fuck!"

Meanwhile on the Sea King's side, the Rock Ghost King leaped out of the water and landed on the Sea King after the Hydra King was sent flying once again.

"Change... give him to me!"

The Hydra King nodded tiredly and dove into the water to fight the water dragon.

Having fought to this point, the Rock Ghost King could clearly see that the new forces of Beigi wanted to wipe out the entire Sea King Navy.

They never had this notion even when Lu Yan was here. Seeing the players who held sway over their enemy and counter-attacked crazily, the fire of passion within the Rock Ghost King was lit up again.

Annihilate the Sea King Navy! It was something that he did not even dare to dream of back then, but now everything seemed to be steering toward the impossible.

The memory of being oppressed by the Sea King after Lu Yan disappeared was still fresh in his mind. All the rage erupted at this moment and was converted into his power to battle.

He began to throw himself around the Sea King at the risk of his life and restricted him from leaving. The way he did it with all his might showcased a madness peculiar to the players!

With the help of the Rock Ghost King and other Ghost Kings, the players continued to widen their strength and fought on bravely. Their aggressive attacks somehow made the Sea King Navy tremble.

The enduring battle, exhaustion, and the ceaseless death of their comrades had taken a toll on their mental health. The Sea King Navy was now certain to be at a complete disadvantage.

They were now on the horns of a dilemma. Just as the Sea King ran out of ideas, a black silhouette appeared from the East. Looking at the Sea King, he then shifted his gaze to the Cliffs of Desperation. A tinge of perseverance shone in his eyes as he pressed his hands downward.

A giant veil of black light swept across the entire area like a shock wave, engulfing the battlefield.

What happened next stunned everyone.

Those floating bodies of the Sea King Navy soldiers in the Sea God's Realm suddenly moved. In the next second, they stood up and charged toward the forces of Beiqi fearlessly.

Under the control of Mu Zhiguang, the Sea King Navy's dead soldiers were infected by death energy and became zombie fighters! Their transformation once again helped the Sea King Navy to even up the odds of the battle

This time, the players could also feel how troublesome this was.

It was because these zombie fighters could be respawned under this black light even if they were killed.

Unless they were completely smashed into pieces, they could still attack the players even with a single arm left.

"Dumbass! Report the bug, and what an overwhelming respawning bug this is!"

"What the heck is this? Cheating, darn him!"

"Who's that up there who fucking came straight away with the bug?"

"Motherfucker, come down if you dare. I promise I won't fucking kill you!"

. . .

Staring at Mu Zhiguang who was high up in the sky, the players could hardly hold back their curses.

Right now in the left region of the battlefield, Hu He was fighting his way out through the enemy with his strengthened zombie spirit, Cha Na.

In this battlefield where everyone was fighting against the enemy, Hu He was forgiven by other players despite being the public enemy of the whole server. The players around him no longer attacked him when they saw him fighting tooth and nail. In fact, some of them even shielded him from attacks.

Hu He had also met the bounty couple that he feared the most, but they spared him as well.

Being deeply touched, Hu He felt that his name could finally be cleared after this battle and he would never have to hide himself like a street rat anymore.

"Hu He, your zombie soul is very strong. Let it follow our fighters to the front line later," a guild leader shouted at Hu He.

"Okay, no problem!" this acknowledgement caused tears to well up in his eyes.

Is this friendship? It's been such a long time!

Hu He's emotion rose under such a circumstance as he put his heart and soul into the battle.

Just then, Mu Zhiguang's Aura of Death enveloped the land and the Sea King Navy soldiers respawned as zombies.

While the players were cursing Mu Zhiguang, they could not help but scan him with their analyzing ability.

[Mu Zhiguang (Ghost Emperor Peak)]:

Character Information: He was the previous king of the Mu Te Sea Nation and his people fell under the invasion of the Death Clan. Since then, he aspired to seek revenge by guarding the abyss under the ocean in order to restrain the Death Clan. He was later awakened by player Hu He and returned to the Void Ocean with the determination to assist the Sea King in rebuilding the Mu Te Sea Nation.

Character State: Handicapped (Absence of right arm).

When the players saw the Analysis Menu of Mu Zhiguang, they were all dumbfounded.

Especially for those who fought in the same zone together with Hu He, their intentions to forgive Hu He collapsed right away.

Hu He raised his head with awkwardness written all over his face.

"Believe it or not, this really had nothing to do with me. I just took a stroll down there and then he suddenly woke up. I think the analysis has a bug!" Hu He tried to explain with a solemn expression as he looked around.

"Why don't you just say that the analysis menu is slandering you!" a cute girl beside Hu He pointed her sword angrily at him.

"Fuck us for believing you! Again? We were already winning, you fool!"

"Malignant player, what a fucking malignant player! We tried so hard and were just a step away from defeating the Sea King, yet you created such a super big boss. Let me beat the shit out of you!"

"Hu He, leave the game and get lost! Fuck your ancestors!"

. . .

The same went for the other parts of the battlefield with scoldings of Hu He filling every corner. This malignant player had left them speechless. He was such a troublemaker! Was he trying to take down the entire legion of players before he called it quits and settled down?

Chapter 202: The Strongest! The Strongest!

At that moment, Hu He, who was on the verge of clearing his name, was turned into public enemy number one once again.

Hu He was so desperate that he would die for a chance to explain himself, yet he could not think of anything to say. All he could do was look around him pitifully.

The players did not give him a second chance at all this round. They proceeded to activate their hostile mode and encircled him.

"My dear brothers, this is the time for us to unite and fight the intruders, you can't kill me!" Hu He cried while pulling a long face.

"I'm afraid that we would still have uncertainties if you were to stay. You're the biggest enemy of all!"

"I won't be at ease without killing you, so you must die!"

"Go to hell, you malignant player. From today onward, we'll be enemies for life!"

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Amidst the shoutings of the crossed players, a wave of despair washed over Hu He. After being slashed with multiple swords, he morphed into a puff of black smoke and logged out of the game.

Back in the outside world.

Hu He's gaming pod slowly opened, yet he did not get out. He remained lying in his pod, weeping quietly.

It was as if fate was playing games with him. Just as he was about to clear his name, he was stabbed brutally in the back while twisting him around like a finger puppet.

It was just like a backstabbing truth that would appear behind him anytime; it was utterly despairing!

Does my future only hold darkness?

He rolled himself into a ball and sobbed.

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Beiqi, at the border of the Mansion of the Dead.

The battle switched sides again due to Mu Zhiguang's appearance.

The players' respawning advantage was offset by the undead army they had. Currently, the players' factions have yet to overpower the Sea King Navy's strength, so the arrival of the zombie soldiers made the battle more arduous for them.

Seeing Mu Zhiguang in action, the Sea King burst into laughter because he knew there was no longer any doubt about the outcome of this battle. The Sea King Navy will be victorious!

From what the Sea King remembered, Mu Zhiguang once fought the Death Clan all on his own. He had the strength of an army and this gave the Sea King great confidence.

"Soldiers, kill! Let's take Beiqi down today!" the Sea King who initially gave the order to retreat once again called out for the soldiers to keep on fighting.

Upon seeing such a sight, the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King's hearts hammered hard against their chests. They thought they were only up against the Sea King Navy in this battle. However in this round, a Ghost Emperor Realm Elite had appeared unexpectedly.

This deflated their high spirits that they had brought with them to battle.

This was because they knew that there was no way they could ever defeat a Ghost Emperor Realm Elite. They were destined to lose the battle the moment Mu Zhiguang arrived.

As he looked at Beiqi's combined forces at the mercy of the Sea King Navy and the zombies, the Rock Ghost King put on a melancholic smile.

History is indeed the best verification. No one can stay at the top forever. Someday I will meet my end as well. Little did I know that day would come so soon.

"Old buddy, let's battle till the end! Even if we die, we will die fighting!" said the weakened Hydra King as he turned to look at him.

"This is our last fight! Let's make it a great one!" the Rock Ghost King hollered to the sky in reply and the veins that were tangling around him danced like crazy.

Just when the two great Ghost Kings thought that there was no turning back from the battle, an ancient war song rang from far away.

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

It was a mixture of heavy footsteps, drawn out melodies, and rhythmic sounds of weapons knocking on shields.

An earthy yellow army marched slowly from the west.

"What should be done to the ones who sullied His Majesty's pride?" Lie Shan, who was walking in the front, shouted at the top of his lungs.

"Kill!" the warriors of the Earth Breaking Clan growled in unison.

"How about the ones who invaded our Land of Beigi!?"

"Kill!"

"The enemy is standing right before us, let us obey His Majesty's orders and chase the intruders away!"

"Roar!" all the warriors from the Earth Breaking Clan yelled in excitement.

"Go, my children. Prove your loyalty to His Majesty!"

After Lie Shan said this, the Earth Breaking Clan's warriors started to run. They picked up their speed, and like a yellowish sandstorm, they charged murderously into the battlefield!

"The Ancient Earth Breaking Clan!" the pupils of the high-flying Mu Zhiguang shrunk.

From afar, the Sea King, the Rock Ghost King, and the others were all astounded.

This clan which had never shown themselves to the world before had actually appeared at that very moment.

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Three hours ago, at the Earth Breaking Clan's base.

Sun Qi the dog, who had just rushed back from the Cliffs of Desperation, handed the expired Beiqi Royal Decree he received from deceiving the white-haired man to Gu Yu.

This was the reason why Gu Yu had asked him to visit the cliffs.

When he saw that the players were having the lower hand through the live stream, Gu Yu knew that even if he had interfered, he would not be able to save them. Thus, he thought of lending the strength of the Earth Breaking Clan.

To the Earth Breaking Clan, the King of Beiqi had never left them. Although Gu Yu and Sun Qi knew that the decree had long expired, it still proved useful to the Earth Breaking Clan.

When Gu Yu took out the decree, even Lie Shan, the Ghost Emperor Realm Elite, got down on his knees before it.

Gu Yu had borrowed the supremacy of the Beiqi Royal Decree, expressing that by the order of the King of Beiqi, he was required to bring in the Earth Breaking Clan to join the battle to protect the Land of Beiqi.

The Beiqi Royal Decree was unique to the King of Beiqi, so Lie Shan did not suspect Gu Yu. He obeyed the order right away and hurriedly maneuvered his Earth Breaking Clan to take part.

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The Ancient Earth Breaking Clan. Even their name could put fear in the mightiest elites. The strength they portrayed could even send shivers down the Sea King's spine.

The sky was covered in yellow dust as rock giants emerged one after the other on the battlefield. Each of them had combat powers that were almost on par with a Ghost Commander's, and most of the people from the clan had the strength of a Ghost General Level. Also, the amount of people among them who had achieved the battling power of a Ghost King Level was a terrifying number of eight.

Once this monstrous ancient army appeared on the battlefield, the tides seemed to have completely turned again.

No matter how resilient the undead army was, they would only be torn to pieces when going against the strongest of the strong.

Gu Yu cackled when he saw the scene unfold before him. Sun Qi was hopping in excitement next to him.

In the sky, Mu Zhiguang's expression darkened. He clenched his teeth and transformed into a black flow of light, falling from the sky. He wanted to dash toward the Earth Breaking Clan, but before he could even touch the ground, he was blocked by someone.

"Boom<u>!"</u>

Two silhouettes fell backward at the same time!

After catching his balance, Mu Zhiguang glared at Lie Shan coldly.

"Piss off, you're not my enemy!"

"Hahaha, you sure think highly of yourself. You're just a clansman from the Mu Te Sea Nation, how dare you invade the Land of Beiqi! Did you really forget how your clan's king was defeated by the King of Beiqi?" Lie Shan looked at Mu Zhiguang with a jeering expression.

Hearing this, Mu Zhiguang's eyes became colder and colder. He transformed into the black light again and struck at Lie Shan.

"Earth!" as Lie Shan yelled furiously, the earth below his feet began to crack and a muddy-yellowish energy was drawn up continuously from the earth.

Boom!

The earth where Lie Shan and Mu Zhiguang collided sank instantly. All the players and the Sea King Navy around them were flung away and shredded into dust.

"Impossible! How could you have such strength!?" after fighting hand-to-hand, Mu Zhiguang turned back, his face full of terror.

This was because Lie Shan's strength was evenly matched to him. From his standpoint, this was impossible, since he himself was a Ghost Emperor Realm Elite!

"Haven't you heard? In ancient Beiqi, every competitor of the King of Beiqi had the strength of a Ghost Emperor Peak Realm! And I am one of them!" Lie Shan slowly raised his head after sustaining the heavy impact. He stared at Mu Zhiguang, a smile forming on his lips.

"Every single one of them are Ghost Emperors Peak Realms!?" Mu Zhiguang was horrified, he thought he had heard wrongly.

"Since His Majesty has ordered me to fight, the seal shall be broken!" Lie Shan hammered his arms onto the ground as he spoke.

The cracks were like spiderwebs spreading all across the earth as large amounts of muddy-yellowish energy flooded into Lie Shan's body.

Crack!

A silvery sound rang as Lie Shan held out his arms with a face full of contentment, "Oh, how I miss this strength!"

"I'll make you take back your words this instant, you are no match for me!"

Mu Zhiguang's face turned gloomy upon hearing this. His hand grasped below him and uncountable black lines of energy shot in Lie Shan's direction.

Each of these lines carried a strong sense of death. Even when the earth came into contact with them, black holes were formed from the corrosion.

Soon, Death Threads tangled around Lie Shan, restricting him in place.

The corrosive energy began to seep into Lie Shan's body.

However, Lie Shan did not move an inch. He proceeded to raise his right foot and stomped it down hard. All of a sudden, he extended his arms out, snapping the twines of death.

After glancing at Mu Zhiguang, Lie Shan stomped his foot again, shaking and wobbling the earth.

"You've used one of your chances, you have two left. Unleash your strongest technique!"

Lie Shan's provocative words successfully enraged Mu Zhiguang to his core. On his forehead, a Death Halo engraved with runes was formed. Then, this halo enlarged ferociously, dashed toward Lie Shan, and finally stopped before floating above his head.

Boom!

A black energy pole surrounded by black lightning streaks struck Lie Shan from above.

The death energy poured out by this black halo was so lethal that other players and creatures who touched its remnant waves would disintegrate into dust in mere seconds.

Under the impact of such energy, worried expressions started to show on the players' faces.

Although they had never met the Earth Breaking Clan, they were still their comrades because they had taken part in the battle. Naturally, they would hope for them to be victorious.

After a minute of blasting by the destructive death rays, the halo shrunk gradually and flew back to Mu Zhiguang's forehead.

When the smoke dissipated, the people noticed that a bottomless hole had formed in the earth. Lie Shan was nowhere to be found. No one knew if he had fallen into the hole or had turned into dust.

Just as the crowd was still making up theories, a silhouette levitated from the hole and landed by one side.

As he dusted away the debris that covered him, Lie Shan looked up with a smile again.

"Not bad this time, but if you truly want to inflict injuries on me, try a little harder!"

Who on earth is this monster!?

It was not only Mu Zhiguang that stood stupefied, but the Sea King, the Rock Ghost King, and the others were all stunned, too.

Everyone, including the Sea King, thought they could not hold on for long when the death ray shone. However, not only did the leader of the Earth Breaking Clan sustain all damages, he was not injured one bit. This left everyone feeling appalled.

"How did you do that?" Mu Zhiguang asked coldly.

"The Earth Breaking Clan are the best at defense. If you've never heard this before, you might want to ask your ancestors from the Mu Te Sea Nation, perhaps in return, they'll tell you... not to mess with me!"

After he had said those final five words, Lie Shan stomped the ground fiercely once again. The land quaked horribly and both armies who were fighting toppled to the ground.

"I know, I know who he is... he is the Rock! He's the man who was given the name 'Rock'!" the Rock Ghost King began to cry out in alarm.

"What do you mean, aren't you the Rock?" the Hydra King turned and looked at him, flabbergasted.

"That's because my territory is on the rocks, so I'm called the Rock Ghost King. I've once read the history of the North Rocks on an inscription located in the depths of the North Rocks. The origin of this name had relations to the largest forces that had entrenched themselves in the northern area. This was because the strongest king of the force was given the name 'Invincible Rock' in the outside world. Perhaps that person is him!"

As if Lie Shan heard all that the Rock Ghost King had said, he turned to him and grinned.

"Junior, you're absolutely right. The North Rocks were named after me!"

Seeing the astonished eyes of the crowd, Lie Shan looked at Mu Zhiguang again.

"If I take action this instant, you'll be left with no more chances... so last chance, show me the best you can!"

Looking at the grave expression on Mu Zhiguang's face, Lie Shan slowly crossed his arms over his head. He was in a defensive position.

Just as everyone held their breaths to see if Mu Zhiguang's last move could inflict damage on Lie Shan, a silhouette suddenly appeared behind Lie Shan. With a tight slap across his face, Lie Shan fell to the floor.

Lie Shan was taken aback. He snapped his head back, only to see more slaps coming.

Whack! Whack! Whack!

"The strongest! The strongest! Watch as I kill you myself, the strongest!"

"Your Majesty, why are you hitting me, please stop!" Lie Shan rolled on the ground while covering his head.

"You still don't know where you went wrong? If I don't teach you a good lesson today, I'll regret it for the rest of my life!" the more he thought about it, the more furious the white-

haired man became. He rolled up his sleeves and started to punch and kick Lie Shan on the ground.

The scene that had unfolded before everyone's eyes left them stunned. The two armies had even forgotten that they had a battle to fight. They all stared at Lie Shan who was magnificent and boasty just a second before, but was now crouching like a child getting smacked.

Chapter 203: Bei Li's True Form

At that moment, the white-haired old man's figure remained blurry, but Lu Wu could see his appearance clearly behind the scenes with the help of the artifact.

It was the white-haired old man who lived halfway up the Cliffs of Desperation.

Lu Wu finally realized that the predictions he had made were correct. This man was the first King of Beigi, North Sea himself.

Looking at the white-haired old man, a sense of familiarity arose from within Lu Wu. He felt as if he had met this person before.

After going through his training, Lu Wu's soul had grown stronger, making these kinds of feelings obscure to him. There seemed to be some kind of connection between their souls.

Lu Wu was puzzled by this. Logically thinking, his ancestor should be Lu Yan. Not to mention that that man had left his traces all over the Land of Beiqi, and this was an actual fact. However, why would he feel this way when it came to North Sea, a man who had barely anything to do with him?

"Do I know him?" Lu Wu turned his head swiftly to look at Bei Li.

Bei Li immediately started to act adorable and awkward, as if totally clueless about who she was, where she was, and why she was there.

"Little Li!" Lu Wu threw himself at Bei Li and raised his paws.

"Is it alright if my answer is that I don't know?" Bei Li squeaked.

"Not a chance!" Lu Wu rolled his eyes at her.

"Okay... basically, he's not your enemy. You two are closely related, but not biologically!"

"What do you mean? Could it be that he was my lover from a previous life?" fear surfaced in Lu Wu's eyes.

Bei Li blushed with shame and could not help but to swing her hand and slap Lu Wu's head.

"It's not what you think, what were you actually thinking? He was personally trained by you..."

As she went on, Bei Li's voice turned into a soft whisper. Lu Wu had his ear right in front of her mouth, his curiosity beginning to overflow.

"Say it... what do you mean by trained by me? Tell me clearly!" Lu Wu could not wait anymore.

"I won't say it!"

"I'm gonna have to fight you if you keep this up!" Lu Wu showed his paw.

"Over my dead body!"

"I'll cut down on your snacks by half!"

"Okay, I'll talk!"

Bei Li sadly hung her head low.

"Spill, what does this old man have to do with me!?" Lu Wu questioned her in a pretentious manner.

"He's the heir that you've trained yourself!" Bei Li puffed up her mouth, her face fuming.

"Heir? Isn't he the first King of Beiqi? And he's going to continue my legacy as the next King of Beiqi?" Lu Wu was utterly dumbfounded.

Bei Li looked up, stared at Lu Wu seriously and said, "Wu, do you still remember the girl who called herself Li?"

"Yes, she's strong, she even sealed the Demonic God away!" Lu Wu nodded.

"Her real name was Bei Li! She was the elite of the Beiqi Divine Clan and the founder of the Land of Beiqi!"

Bei Li's words left Lu Wu completely shocked. Then, he showed an expression as if he expected this.

"That girl in white was really you!"

"I already told you that she wasn't me, but you must be mentally prepared for what I'm about to tell you next…"

Lu Wu nodded, although his heart was jumping up and down, feeling as if it was not going to be good news.

"The elite of the Beiqi Divine Clan, Bei Li, was you. And who you are now is her present form after countless rounds of reincarnation!"

Lu Wu's cat eyes widened, his body leaning backward from the surprise.

"Yes, you heard it right. You were once Bei Li, the elite of the Beigi Divine Clan!"

Splat!

Lu Wu fell to the floor.

"What about Lu Yan? Who was he? Was he my reincarnated form, too? Also, why did I choose to reincarnate if I was so strong? Moreover, if I'm Bei Li, then who are you?"

Bei Li picked Lu Wu up in her arms.

"Lu Wu was the old ancestor from your reincarnation. As I have mentioned before, you and I, we both have a very complicated relationship. After you left, I changed my name to Bei Li, and about my identity..."

As she spoke, Bei Li smiled, her eyes disappearing in squints, "You wouldn't wish to experience the pain back then, right?"

Lu Wu shook his head without hesitation. Having experienced that feeling once, he never wanted to try it again. The agony from within his soul was far worse than killing him.

"That's right, so you should focus on improving your strength as fast as you can. Follow your thoughts and take one step at a time. Now, your soul has achieved Ghost Commander Intermediate Realm. Just have a bit more patience and everything will reveal itself in the future!"

"Okay then!"

At that moment, Lu Wu was still shocked and had yet to recover from it.

Little did he know that the one who suppressed the Demonic God was himself, and the white-haired old man was his heir that he had trained.

Right now, his mind started to run wild, but his train of thoughts gradually became clearer.

If the goddess in white was really him, then the order for the white-haired old man to suppress the Demonic God had obviously come from him.

But what was I really conspiring? Could it be that I had given the order for the white-haired old man to conceal himself, too?

The more Lu Wu thought, the more dumbfounded he was.

But hey, I was so cool back then! Why did I have to be a girl!?

Lu Wu stomped on the floor in frustration!

. . .

After enduring the white-haired old man's ruthless beating, Lie Shan's tears dried up.

I only followed his orders obediently to leave the Barren Grassland and go into battle Where did I go wrong?

Was it because I was too cocky when I granted three moves to the opponent before I took action, and this has enraged His Majesty?

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that this was the reason behind it. Lie Shan raised his head.

"Your Majesty, I was wrong, I shouldn't have acted cocky, I shouldn't have granted the opponent three moves!"

The white-haired old man glared at him, "You still don't fucking know what you did wrong!"

Seeing that the white-haired old man was about to hit him again, Lie Shan habitually pulled himself back and lied down on the ground.

Nevertheless, the white-haired old man did not hit him this time, but only said, "Since you're here, finish your business first before meeting me at the Cliffs of Desperation. I'll be waiting!"

After he was done talking, the white-haired old man glared at Mu Zhiguang before disappearing on the spot.

. . .

Seeing the white-haired old man leave, Lie Shan's heart was in despair. Deep down he knew that there would only be bad news if he went and looked for him.

Even until now, Lie Shan was still unsure about what he had done wrong.

He then slowly picked himself up. His gaze once again fell on Mu Zhiguang, who was hovering in the sky.

"Tsk! It's all your fault for making me receive a beating from that old man just now, you should have a taste of it, too!"

This time, Lie Shan did not mention a word regarding his last move. He banged both his fists on the ground as rusty yellow energy gushed into his body, making him twinkle in golden light.

Mu Zhiguang was aware that Lie Shan was about to make his move. Thus, he held a straight face as the Death Halo appeared once more on his forehead.

The halo shot up in the air and enlarged, its shine complementing the black light that enveloped the world. A black, scaly, enormous arm slowly emerged out from this halo and dashed toward Lie Shan.

"So you finally grasped the basics of the Law of Death? Not bad!" Lie Shan flashed a cunning smile and his figure disappeared. Then, a glimmering gigantic golden hammer morphed in his hand, which he swung heavily toward the enormous hand.

Boom!

The impact from the collision tore a crack in space and time.

A roaring current swept past as pebbles on the ground shot in every direction like bullets due to the titanic shockwave that was brought upon by it, causing tons of creatures beneath them to be caught in the crossfire.

As he blocked the oppression from the enormous black hand, the golden hammer in Lie Shan's hand burst out in rays of light, which only got more and more blinding.

"Open!" with an angry growl from Lie Shan, the giant hammer thrusted upward.

Under such enormous force, the black gigantic hand began to slightly back off and was forced to re-enter the halo. Lie Shan then lifted the large golden hammer before smashing it onto the black aura.

Crack!

The Aura of Death enveloping the world instantly broke and the zombie fighters of the Sea King Navy fell flat.

"Today, anyone who dares to invade my beloved Beiqi will not leave. Kill them all!"

With Lie Shan's words, the warriors of the Earth Breaking Clan charged at the Sea King Navy once again.

The players also quickly followed up and assembled, launching an attack on the Sea King Navy alongside the army of the Earth Breaking Clan.

The tables in this fight had turned so many times. After a few ups and downs, even the experienced fighters, the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King had drawn a blank.

They didn't dare say if they would surely win this round. After all, what if there was another stronger party hiding behind the scenes?

However, the Sea King knew that his strongest trump card was Mu Zhiguang. Nonetheless, judging from how they fought, it was clear that Mu Zhiguang was not someone who could go against the leader of the Earth Breaking Clan, so he knew he had already lost.

Looking at the vast land covered with the bodies of fallen soldiers, the Sea King understood that his position as the overlord of the Void Ocean was no longer guaranteed.

"I will not resign myself to this!"

There was a malicious look on the Sea King's face. He threw himself at the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King fiercely as the hopelessness that weighed on him turned into his last hysterical fight.

Chapter 204: The Final Curtain

After the white-haired old man disappeared, the battle erupted once again.

The Sea King was fighting against the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King while Lie Shan and Mu Zhiguang continued their battle of the strongest.

Facing such a strong opponent like Lie Shan, Mu Zhiguang did not dare to take any risks. He began to catalyze the black halo and a humongous ugly beast peeked out from within.

"Dark Sky Beast!" seeing that large creature, excitement flashed through Lie Shan's eyes.

"Have a taste of my hammer!" as the Dark Sky Beast pressed toward him, Lie Shan raised his battle hammer and was prepared to clash directly with him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

With each clash, lightning boomed in the sky and space was stirred by the strong force. Ruptures appeared occasionally, but they were repaired immediately.

After years of inactivity, Lie Shan's blood boiled with an intense passion. He had finally met a worthy rival. Yelling with euphoria, his large hammer smashed into the Dark Sky Beast's huge claws again.

"Open!"

After smashing away the Dark Sky Beast's huge claws, Lie Shan darted closer and grabbed the giant Dark Sky Beast's finger with his left hand. The muscles and veins on his body popped and he flung his hammer backwards as he moved along swiftly. Then, he utilized this force to throw the Dark Sky Beast onto the ground.

Boom!

Dust flew, the earth cracked, and a massive pit appeared.

"Nice!" Lie Shan cackled loudly. With his battle hammer raised high, he sprinted downward while yellow gusts of smoke steamed on the surface of his body. When he struck the Dark Sky Beast with his hammer once again, it was like a high magnitude earthquake. The land rumbled and was parted into pieces.

A deep imprint of a hammer was left on the Dark Sky Beast's back.

Stepping on the Dark Sky Beast's back, Lie Shan looked upward to Mu Zhiguang, whose face was pale.

"You think you can invade Beiqi with this kind of strength? You should know that that kid Frozen, that fool Da Huo, and the rest haven't even arrived, and you can't even defeat me. You're just here as a joke, right?" Lie Shan could not help but sneer at him with a smile.

To Lie Shan now, no matter how many newbies Beiqi had, those old forces were still the same, so he thought Mu Zhiguang overestimated himself.

Watching the extremely arrogant Lie Shan, memories appeared in Mu Zhiguang's head.

Back then, many of the clan's people stayed beside the dying king of the clan, promising him that the legacy of the Mu Te Sea Nation would go on.

However, the king of the clan gave them a warning before he died.

If the Mu Te Sea Nation plans to enlarge their territory in the future, they must never touch the Land of Beiqi. This is because that is a forbidden and untouchable land, a land where numerous elites had fought and killed!

Mu Zhiguang almost forgot this memory.

According to what Lie Shan said, every competitor for the King of Beiqi in ancient Beiqi were Ghost Emperor Peak Level Elites. Now, Mu Zhiguang finally knew why the old king of the clan gave the clan this warning before he passed away.

Just then, Mu Zhiguang looked at the Sea King and his eyes sparkled with affection.

A forbidden land? A land of massacre? So what? I have been fighting against the world my whole life. I am the pride of the Mu Te Sea Nation! I shall protect the glory of our clan!

"O' Ruler of Death, I am willing to sacrifice my dying body for the power of the supreme Law of Death..."

Mu Zhiguang mumbled lightly and the death halo began to shiver. Black light flowed within it, as if they were answering Mu Zhiguang.

Upon feeling the struggles of the Dark Sky Beast to break free, Lie Shan sank down in order to suppress it. Then, he looked at Mu Zhiguang with hope in his eyes.

"Don't let me down!"

"I won't!" Mu Zhiguang replied coldly. His pupils suddenly turned black, his black robes flew without wind blowing and his body was covered in black flames.

"Sacrificing yourself, are you planning on going all in?" Lie Shan had yet to make a move, but he asked with anticipation.

Mu Zhiguang did not answer. He raised his hand to point at the halo. Instantly, a black light appeared from within and quickly rushed into his body.

Lines of the Death Curse floated on the surface of Mu Zhiguang's body, glowing with a dark black gloss.

Roar!

Mu Zhiguang started to growl in pain. He opened his mouth and sucked in the direction of the Dark Sky Beast. The Dark Sky Beast also began to shriek in agony, its body disintegrating, turning into black smoke before flowing into Mu Zhiguang's mouth.

After swallowing the Dark Sky Beast whole, Mu Zhiguang's body began to swell and contort. Black scales grew on his skin and sharp black claws grew from his hands. In a matter of a few seconds, he transformed into a terrifying monster of around 30 feet tall.

"Wow, looking all intimidating now, are you? Come at me!" Lie Shan laughed, hoisting the battle hammer onto his shoulder.

Roar!

Mu Zhiguang's figure vanished into thin air before suddenly reappearing in front of Lie Shan. He then slammed his huge, pointy claws down.

Crack!

As the claw and hammer collided, a rupture in space and time was formed. It expanded instantly and the bent timespace continuum tore up every creature it touched into nothing.

Lie Shan was taken aback by Mu Zhiguang's power, but this only fueled the fire burning within him. He lifted his battle hammer again and made a hard swing directly onto Mu Zhiguang's head.

The hammer landed firmly on Mu Zhiguang's head, causing him to fly out. When he stood up again, there was a dent on Mu Zhiguang's head which was quickly dissipating.

Roar!

The uninjured Mu Zhiguang transformed into a flashing light again, charging toward Lie Shan.

"Ha, good one!"

The two silhouettes collided once more.

The earth continued to crack from the huge force of the collision. Moreover, the close combat techniques showcased in their fight made the other forces around them suffer. The remnant energy waves were too strong, making it unbearable even for Ghost Kings like the Rock Ghost King.

From those who were watching from the outer world, these two silhouettes were too fast. All that could be made out were just black and yellow lights running into each other.

Currently, Lu Wu was lying in Bei Li's arms, focusing attentively on the battle of the two Ghost Emperor Peak Level Elites.

Before him was a data menu added up by the artifact.

These numbers caused Lu Wu to be truly stunned.

In just a mere second, more than 10,000 collisions had occurred between them. To top it off, an average of more than 300 close combat techniques were performed per minute.

Nonetheless, this was not the most frightening fact. After their collisions were digitized by the artifact, the health bars that reflected their health conditions appeared on their bodies.

With every collision, their health would drop.

However, Mu Zhiguang was in the state of Death Curse and had triggered a health revival feature. Thus, no matter how much health he lost, it would recharge instantly.

On the other hand, a similar phenomenon was happening to Lie Shan. Every time he was injured, a pure strength of the earth would emerge from the ground, healing all his wounds.

As this battle grew fiercer, all other forces stopped fighting and scattered to find shelter.

At this point, the battle was starting to affect other parts of the world.

The constantly splitting space and time caused a sudden change in heaven and earth. One moment it was bright, then in another second, it turned dark. The skies howled with strong winds and wept with rain, then all of a sudden, the sun would return again to clear skies.

After another half an hour of battle, not only were there no signs of stopping, Lu Wu realized that both their body's statistics were still increasing.

A black line fell from the black halo in the sky, connecting itself to Mu Zhiguang. Lie Shan was still summoning the strength of the earth to support himself in maintaining his full power.

Luckily, the battle was happening at the border. If it had been at the Mansion of the Dead, they would all be done for. Lu Wu was mentally rejoicing.

The two silhouettes sped up in the lasting battle, their speeds completely overcoming the sound barrier. The outer world could only hear delayed explosions coming from all directions, with no head nor tail of their origins.

"Bow down!" With a deafening holler that shattered the world, a gigantic golden battle hammer came into sight. Then, it plummeted right smack on to Mu Zhiguang's body.

Boom!

A blinding white light changed the world into daytime.

A mushroom cloud rose from the borders of the Mansion of the Dead.

"Arghh, I'm blind! Is this some sort of fucking atomic bomb!?"

"Dammit, can the two of you who are fighting with cheat codes sympathize with us players? This is too much!"

"Am I dead? Why did the world turn white!"

"Totally amazed! The battle between the Demonic God and Hiderigami was scary enough, but I think this battle is way cooler. I'm watching from so far away and yet my health bar is still going crazy. It can't go on like this, I gotta run further away."

"Whoa, I'm so glad that I could play till this stage in this life!"

"We can't afford to provoke the gods while they are battling, let's run!"

. . .

This strike caused chaos among the players as they scattered to retreat to safe areas farther away.

The tree spirits, wolves, mythical snakes, and other creatures, too, dug into the earth and hid.

A few moments later, everything returned to silence.

What followed was a magnificent shock wave that travelled three times the speed of sound. Everything outside was cut by the pebbles which were flung out, and no players were spared from the fatal barrage of the bullet-like pebbles raining down on them.

Aside from the Earth Breaking Clan who were protected by the rock giants and some Beiqi forces that hid underground, all of the players and the Sea King Navy were wiped out simultaneously.

A bead of cold sweat fell from Lu Wu's forehead when he saw this.

This is so terrifying. If these two came to the real world, they would be walking nuclear weapons.

As a heavy hammer dropped down, Mu Zhiguang's health decreased by half on the menu.

However, before he could recover, Lie Shan hurled down another strike with his hammer.

The roaring shockwaves swept across the land once more.

When the storm ended, Lu Wu noticed Mu Zhiguang lying half-dead on the ground, his cursed body plastered with cracks.

"This is the end. You are an elite, but because you are an invader, you must die!" Lie Shan said while heaving his golden battle hammer up.

Mu Zhiguang opened his eyes weakly, his eyes full of resentment as he looked at Lie Shan.

Once, he was called the black sheep of the Mu Te Sea Nation because he possessed the power of death.

However, there was also a time he was called the hope of the clan, ironically for the same reason.

One thing never changed.

He was the strongest genius in the history of the Mu Te Sea Nation!

Moments before he passed away, Mu Zhiguang had an epiphany.

The world is big, hence it's expected that there are still many geniuses stronger than me.

He slowly closed his eyes, but when the huge hammer was about to fall on him, Mu Zhiguang suddenly opened his eyes and grabbed toward the direction of the Sea King.

The death halo in the sky slipped down, covering the Sea King, who was still stunned. Then it quickly glided toward the Void Ocean letting the Sea King escape.

Lie Shan was shocked. He tried to stop it, but it was too late.

As he witnessed the disappearance of the death halo, Lie Shan's anger grew. He had failed to fulfill the King of Beiqi's order to kill all invaders.

As he growled furiously, the battle hammer came crashing down!

In his moment of death, Mu Zhiguang's eyes were only filled with relief.

He was exhausted. He had sacrificed everything and given his all for his clan. It was time for a well-deserved break.

Golden lights erupted and everything was torn by a golden glow...

. . .

"You're the only one left from the Mu Te Sea Nation… there's no need to fight anymore, just promise me you'll make it out alive!"

Inside the halo, the Sea King clenched his teeth and listened to Mu Zhiguang's last words for him.

His big brother had once sacrificed his freedom for his clan. This time, he had given his life up for the Sea King. This caused his heart to be filled with hatred and guilt.

"Big brother, I hereby swear to avenge you! May you rest in peace!" the Sea King's eyes glowed with vengeance as he looked at Beigi from afar.

Chapter 205: Vibranium Pirate Ship

North of the Void Ocean.

A black halo traveled speedily from afar before diving straight into the water and swimming downward.

Invading Beiqi cost the Sea King everything. He knew he could no longer regain his position before the incident with his own power.

Such deep vengeance drove the Sea King crazy, so he came up with a maniacal idea. This was also the only way he would be able to earn his revenge.

The death halo kept sinking below the water. 5,000 leagues... 10,000 leagues... 20,000 leagues...

Suddenly, a huge sculpture appeared before his eyes.

Seeing the arrival of the death halo, the huge sculpture turned slowly and looked at the Sea King.

Whoosh!

A current flowed and a gigantic hand suddenly grabbed the Sea King.

"Guardian, I am Mu Hai of the Mu Te Sea Nation!" the Sea King's thoughts condensed into a consciousness, threading straight into the body of the Spirit of Mu Te.

This time, the huge sculpture did not grab him. Instead, it lowered its arm slowly and allowed the Sea King to approach it.

After approaching the Spirit of Mu Te, the Sea King came out from the halo. He scratched his arm to let a few drops of blue blood drip onto the Spirit of Mu Te, which quickly seeped into the sculpture.

Moments later, the voice of the Spirit of Mu Te rang in the Sea King's head.

"Member of the Mu Te royal family, state your business!"

"I want to release the Death Clan and make them invade the Void Ocean!"

"No, sealing this place was an order from the clan's king, Mu Zhiguang. I reject your order!" the Spirit of Mu Te's voice echoed in his head with a buzz.

"Mu Zhiguang is dead. The only way I can take revenge on his passing is to release the Death Clan. I am the only one left in the Mu Te Sea Nation. I am your king now!" the Sea King roared wildly.

"I do not believe you!" the Spirit of Mu Te was so shocked that his body shivered.

The Sea King's face darkened. He immediately delivered Mu Zhiguang's last words to the Spirit of Mu Te.

After a while the Spirit of Mu Te spoke, "He hoped that you would not take revenge but instead survive as the last member of the clan."

"I'd rather die than live on my own in shame. I've made up my mind!" the Sea King said in all seriousness.

"The last King of the Mu Te Sea Nation, I obey your order!"

The Spirit of Mu Te did not say anything else this time. He was created by the Mu Te Clan, so he would follow the orders of the clan's king. Since the Sea King was the only one left in the clan, the Sea King was their last king.

The huge sculpture raised its right leg, revealing a Hexagram Formation, which had deafening sounds emanating out of it as if there were ghosts crying out.

Tentacles reached into the seal and began to grow crookedly.

"Do you need me to open the seal?"

"Wait!" the Sea King said while sweeping toward the seal.

Instantly, black tentacles circled around the Sea King in a craze.

Thud!

The Spirit of Mu Te stomped his foot and all the illusory tentacles were torn by an invisible force.

When the Sea King's feet touched the seal, innumerable sounds rang in his head.

Cunning jeers, husky screams, sad sobs...

"Mu Zhiguang... die... die... die, Mu Zhiguang..."

The Sea King hummed coldly, chasing away all the sounds in his head. He then looked at the Hexagram Seal below him and said, "Do you wish to come out? Ruler of Death!"

When the Sea King's voice died down, all the tentacles which were stretching outward disappeared and a skull face slowly formed at the area around the seal.

"Mu Zhiguang... die!"

"I am not Mu Zhiguang. I was just asking if you want to come out or not. If you don't, I think Mu Zhiguang will keep you guys locked down here for eternity!"

When talking to this demon in the Valley of Death, the Sea King would naturally not say that Mu Zhiguang was dead, or else, it would send the Death Clan into an uproar and they would attack the seal.

Without Mu Zhiguang, the Spirit of Mu Te would not be able to oppress the sudden outburst of the Death Clan once the seal bursts, and the Sea King was well aware of this.

"Who are you... can you let us... out?" beneath the seal, the voices changed abruptly from crying, to anger, then to wailing.

"I can let you out, but what can you give me in return?"

"I can grant you death... let you die... let you embrace the darkness..." piercing laughter came from below, turning the Sea King's complexion ghastly pale.

"Looks like you never want to leave this place!" the Sea King snorted.

"What do you want... you seem to want the power of death... I felt that!"

"That's right. Let me have the power of death. Let me rule your Army of Death! I'll lead them to kill, to swallow every life!"

"It's a good condition... I like it very much... but are you brave enough to do it?"

At the end of the Ruler of Death's sentence, an elixir surrounded by an aura of death slowly appeared above the seal.

"Would you dare? Hehehe... you might really die after drinking this!"

The Sea King looked at the elixir and reached out to take it.

The aura of death surrounded his hand and his arm turned black in seconds. The power of death kept soaking into his body, destroying his bodily functions.

"If this can grant me the strength I want, I'll let all of you out!" after saying this, the Sea King swallowed the elixir with determination.

"Ah!"

In an instant, the aura of death spread through his whole body. His eyes gradually turned black like Mu Zhiguang's. Black currents were flowing in and out of his body and the Sea King began to scream in agony.

"Hahaha... embrace your death... enjoy the last moments of your life..." the voice coming out from below began to laugh madly when it saw the Sea King crying out in pain.

. . .

After the battle, the players learned how really weak they were.

When faced with such disastrous powers, even if they were huge in number and possessed the ability to respawn, they would never be able to balance their forces with true power.

However, this battle also brought princely rewards to the players.

They gained a lot of experience points and soul coins from the massacre.

After the battle, the players wasted a boatload of soul coins to upgrade their abilities, change accessories, and repair their warships. Once again, the strength of the players increased tremendously.

Meanwhile, the person who gained the most was Lu Wu. He could not stop smiling when his number of soul coins exceeded 500,000.

Even the danger of the hidden Beigi forces was taken off of his mind.

After knowing that the white-haired old man was his subordinate, he had no worries at all. The only thing that bothered him to the extent of making him slap the floor every time he thought about it, was about how he was originally a female.

After the battle, Lu Wu used some soul coins and Yin energy to repair the border of the Mansion of the Dead.

After all, this was a place where players must pass by when heading to the Liuli Coast. Now that this area had been severely destroyed by the battle between Lie Shan and Mu Zhiguang, the players might fall into some deep holes while travelling by foot.

Lu Wu did not shed any tears over this expense. He paid without hesitation!

At the same time, there was one important task waiting for Lu Wu to settle.

When he completed most of his miscellaneous work, he condensed his incarnation in the Mansion of the Dead and walked toward Tong Gua's Forge.

. . .

Right now, in Tong Gua's Forge.

Tong Gua, Xiao Tian, the Rock Ghost King who was in his plant form, and the Hydra King who was in the form of a baby snake, looked at each other but nobody talked.

"Tong Gua, I didn't know you've become so weak!" the Rock Ghost King spoke, breaking the awkward silence.

"I say, you look familiar in this state!" Tong Gua did not answer him, instead he looked at the current form of the Rock Ghost King and sank into deep thought.

"Cough..." the Rock Ghost King couldn't help but cough, his face uneasy.

When he snuck into the Mansion of the Dead, he thought Tong Gua was still that terrifying Ghost King Peak Elite, which was why this awkward scenario played out.

"By the way, Tong Gua, since we've already decided to submit to him, why won't he come out and meet us?" the Hydra King asked curiously.

"Be patient, he's the kind of person who will appear at any time. As long as we wait, it'll be fine. However, you must be mentally prepared. Submitting is not as simple as it sounds," Tong Gua couldn't help warning them.

"Do we have to do the Soul Oath to prove our loyalty? When His Majesty was here, I had to do it. Since it's to prove our loyalty, to prevent betrayal, I think it's normal to do this," the Rock Ghost King frowned.

"Then you're too naive! After you board this Vibranium Pirate Ship, they will weld the door shut so you can't leave even if you die," Xiao Tian mentioned quietly from beside.

Although when he said this, Xiao Tian was not even sure what vibranium was, just that it was something incredible based on what the players said.

Hearing this, the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King were both dumbfounded.

Just then, a silhouette appeared in the house. His dark figure was clouded by fog, making his appearance hardly visible.

"Rock Ghost King and Hydra King, I'm here!"

Seeing that somebody was here, they jumped out of their skin. After some pondering, they faced Lu Wu, bowed and yelled, "Greetings, King of Beiqi!"

"Actually, having you guys submit your loyalty to me cost me a lot of resources. But it's okay, since I can also enlarge my force's territory!" as he spoke, Lu Wu shifted his thoughts, and the words regarding their submission of loyalty to the artifact were sent directly to their minds.

"Read it. Then when you're done, we will be family!" Lu Wu said with a smile.

"Your Majesty, why are the words from this Soul Oath different from the original one?" the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King were puzzled as they looked up.

"Don't ask too many questions, just read it. What are you afraid of? Can't you see I read it, too!" Tong Gua coaxed them, but deep down, he was very glad.

After all, he was pulling two more people down with him, so he felt really good.

After the duo exchanged looks, they finally read the words that appeared in their minds.

Meanwhile, the artifact also sensed their souls and sucked them into the channel after they finished reading the Soul Oath which pledged their undying loyalty.

Bei Li, who was already waiting in the artifact, had her mask and white coat on, and was totally prepared for the new brainwashing surgery.

After about an hour, the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King were sent out of the Channel, their faces blank.

"What is this!? Was this the secret weapon Lu Wu made back then?" they both seemed terrified after coming back to their senses.

Especially in the Artifact Channel when they saw the mysterious Bei Li who kept following the previous King of Beigi, it was so unbelievable to them.

"The information is already in your heads," Lu Wu spoke again.

Once they heard this, they sank into their thoughts immediately.

Rows and rows of information about the artifact and players appeared, shocking the ever so knowledgeable duo.

"See, I told you, you can't leave this Vibranium Pirate Ship. Now you can't even die!" Xiao Tian laughed at them from beside.

"Your Majesty, I would like to know your plans!" the Rock Ghost King asked with a straight face.

"To make an army capable of fighting any force... including the world of immortals!"

Although Lu Wu had said that with a stable tone, it still greatly surprised the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King, since they knew how deadly were the forces of the world of immortals.

"Don't be scared, I can do this with the help of the artifact!"

Regarding this point, both of them acknowledged it after understanding the functions of the artifact.

"Now I know why these secret weapons... no, these players, kept annoying my North Rocks region. It was their way to get stronger!"

The Hydra King nodded, too.

"Getting stronger by snatching things, huh? After being digitized by the artifact, their strengths will be infinite, it is indeed the best way of progress!"

"Your Majesty, I know potion making. Shall I provide it to the players and develop this into their character classes?"

Just as Xiao Tian said, since they had already boarded this ship and had made up their mind to follow Lu Wu, he made the initiative to give suggestions in order to assist in the players' growth.

"Go back and keep being the Ghost Kings. The players' strength still has room for improvement, and I'm preparing a new chapter. About the players' invasion, please ignore them. When it's time, I will announce your participation to the players!"

The Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King pulled their faces after listening to this.

They thought after joining this team, they could finally rest, but it turns out they have to serve the players and help them get stronger.

"Yes!"

At last, the duo bowed and agreed.

Seeing that they had agreed, Lu Wu nodded in contentment.

"When the timing is right, send your trusted subordinates here, I'll digitize them, too. The other subordinates who are not involved can keep being the source for the players' growth."

Delight flashed on their faces, because they were worried about this, too. Since their subordinates had followed them for years, if they could only assist the growth of the players, it was rather unfair. Little did they know, before they voiced it out, Lu Wu had already mentioned it.

"Yes!" they bowed again.

"Very good!" after saying that, Lu Wu's figure disappeared.

After Lu Wu left, the four people fell into a baffled silence.

"Don't complain. Once the players get stronger, you'll benefit from it, too. Since we're all one force now, don't stress too much about those insignificant subordinates. Since you guys are not emotionally connected to each other, don't be too bothered by it!" seeing as Lu Wu had left, Tong Gua said from beside.

"Oh right, now you know that the artifact can extract soul power and convert them into soul coins. This is also the only currency shared by us, other NPCs, and the players. The game shop, too, is available for us. We actually have loads of benefits..." while saying this, Tong Gua's eyes glimmered slyly. Then, he walked to the Rock Ghost King's side and hooked his arm around his neck.

"Brother, since we're family now, I... am lacking some funds and I need some assets. I see your North Rocks are filled with spiritual materials. How about you cut down some trees and sell them to the game shop, then lend your brother some money to spend?"

The Rock Ghost King's face changed upon hearing this.

"I don't even have soul coins, and yet you want me to lend some to you? No way!"

"Hey, you're so cruel. Since you have the soul coin function now, I'm certain that you'll secretly cut down some trees for yourself. You think I don't know? What will happen if you lend me some soul coins? I work like a bull all day to get a few hundred soul coins a day, can't you just pity me?" Tong Gua yelled angrily.

Looking at the messy wine bottles on the floor, the Rock Ghost King and the Hydra King looked at each other before rushing away from the scene.

Right now, they didn't have any idea of cutting down trees and selling them. To them, soul coins were the divine items that could help them cultivate the Ghost King Intermediate Realm.

They also had a sudden thought that this Vibranium Pirate Ship was actually quite decent.

Chapter 206: Ghost Commander Trial

After settling the two Ghost Kings, Lu Wu started to think about how he was going to standardize the players' strengths.

At the current stage, the players' strength formed their own system which was completely different from the power system of the Underworld.

To line up these two very different systems, Lu Wu handed this arduous task to Bei Li. Bei Li did not disappoint. She quickly researched the trial for players to line up their battle powers to the Underworld.

When the players logged on, they noticed a new trial system in the game.

[Game renewal, addition of a Trial System]:

Content: After this renewal, every player at Level 100 or higher will be able to register for the Trial Challenge at the chamberlain's area of the Mansion of the Dead. Specific information about the trial are as below:

[One, Ghost Commander Preliminary Trial (at least Level 100)]:

Trial Content: After receiving the task at the Mansion of the Dead's chamberlain's area, enter the scene of the trial and engage in single combat with Beginner Level Ghost Commanders. The trial will be completed upon defeating the creature of the Ghost Commander Level.

Trial Reward: 300 soul coins, a decorative purple title added behind your menu name (Beginner Ghost Commander), and a purple Ghost Commander pendant (the symbol of a trial passer).

[Two, Ghost Commander Intermediate Trial (at least Level 168 and has passed the preliminary trial)]:

Trial Content: After receiving the task at the Mansion of the Dead chamberlain's area, enter the scene of the trial and engage in single combat with Intermediate Level Ghost Commanders. The trial will be completed upon defeating the creature of the Ghost Commander Level.

Trial Reward: 600 soul coins, a decorative purple title added behind your menu name, and a purple Ghost Commander gold ring (the symbol of a trial passer).

[Hidden Trial Bonus: Will be given after the Prestige System is launched!]

. . .

Lu Wu launched three trial system settings at the same time, each referring to the three stages of a Ghost Commander.

The level of the settings was also decided after Bei Li's meticulous consideration.

The launching of these trials was to standardize the players' battle powers. Lu Wu also donated soul coins to be awarded to winning players.

Of course, Bei Li had set Level 100 as the minimum requirement to enter the trial, but they didn't expect a Level 100 player to succeed. A lot of weak players would not be able to pass the preliminary Ghost Commander Trial even if they were at Level 150.

Basically, in Lu Wu's opinion, other than a few superbly gifted players, most of the players at Level 100 would be unable to pass the trial.

Yet Lu Wu would not lower the threshold. It was to be an acid test of the strengths of the players and the Underworld.

Lu Wu also considered how the auxiliary classes would complete the trial at the current stage.

Currently, there were only two auxiliary classes: Sun Qi the dog's White Phantom and the Wood Spiritmaster who had advanced his class from a Mage.

Sun Qi didn't have to worry. Since his attributes were higher than those of the same class, his outputs were not weak. However, what gave him a headache was this Wood Spiritmaster class which controlled and healed but had little output.

Still, Lu Wu would not be biased. He spent nights discussing with Bei Li before launching a new pathway known as the auxiliary trial.

In this trial, the specific mission did not involve engaging the Ghost Commander Elites in single combat.

Rather, it was a trial to refine a player's controlling and healing powers.

This trial would be divided into three stages.

In the healing trial, ten puppets with dropping health would appear in the scenario. The players must ensure that none of them died over a period of ten minutes.

The second trial scenario would be about control. The players' mission would be to confine all the roaming piglets in the scenario to their respective positions within the set time frame.

The third trial would be the most significant combat trial.

However, they didn't have to assist the players to fight. Instead, they have to protect a Level 100 player and ensure that the player survives until the end to kill the Ghost Commander Level monster.

This game update quickly sparked a discussion in the forum.

Crayon_Shinchan: "Ohoo~ I want to ask the officials: are the Ghost Commander Elites in this trial equipped with intelligence? If they are, I choose to commit suicide (laughing emoji)!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "Probably not, since the point of this trial is to test our strength. It's still going to be tough, though, I don't think any of us can single handedly defeat the Ghost Commanders!"

Watermelon_Taro: "Ao Jian might do it, that bastard's incredibly strong. He's totally a bot-like player!"

My_Wife's_The_Cutest_In_The_World: "Can we enter as a couple?"

My_Husband's_The_Coolest_In_The_World: "Yes! Yes! Can two people enter together? If we can't we'll be half as strong!"

Peppa_Boar: "Impossible. If we can enter the trial together, I'll pull one of my guild members into this (laughing emoji)!"

Invincible_Loneliness: "I think that for those who want to enter the trial, advance your character classes first. Don't bother entering if you haven't advanced. Don't waste your 10 soul coins on registration. If not, I reckon your levels will be delayed, but us inherited character classes are excluded (laughing emoji)!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Invincible_Loneliness: "Someone~ Beat this cocky billionaire to death (laughing emoji)!"

A_Large_Wolfdog: "So, should I enter the auxiliary trial or the combat trial? (confused emoji)!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to A_Large_Wolfdog: "Maybe the officials forgot to launch a mount trial for you whereby after you succeed, you'll be awarded the title of 'Excellent Mount' (laughing emoji)!"

. . .

However, Lu Wu underestimated the players' potential.

Within a day after the launch, two players had already completed the trials.

One of them was Ao Jian, who has the highest level among the players, Level 109. He failed on his first attempt and succeeded on the second try.

The second player to finish was Qi Ming. He, too, only succeeded during his second attempt.

The server announcement of the two players' victories spurred everyone's excitement again.

It declared that only the top 100 players would be awarded with a server announcement. Thus, everyone wanted to fight for this chance to show off.

A level-training craze was kickstarted by the content update.

Many players who reached Level 100 began to bombard the Top 100 Trial List, dreaming of owning the Ghost Commander pendant and roaming to other towns to show off.

All the players' progress was heading toward a positive direction.

Just when Lu Wu thought a steady progressive era came, a message posted in the players forum caught his eye.

A player posted a video showing a huge amount of black, octopus-like creatures raging in the Void Ocean, attacking players and other creatures the second they came into their line of sight.

To investigate what happened, Lu Wu used the artifact to move his vision to the Void Ocean. Then, he spotted the horrifying scene occurring up north.

Countless hideous monsters swarmed the waters as more black monsters surfaced. Their enormous population dyed the seawater black, making Lu Wu's head go numb.

Before this, Hu He discovered the Abyss Death Clan's existence when he was at the bottom of the ocean. Witnessing this sight, he knew that the Death Clan had come into being.

As to why the Death Clan would break the seal, Lu Wu suspected that this was all the Sea King's doing. After all, who else would dive several thousand leagues underwater to do such diabolical things?

Of course, Lu Wu automatically filtered the fact that one of his allies, Hu He, could actually do this evil thing.

After pinpointing the root cause, Lu Wu released another server announcement right away to alert the players.

[Server Announcement: There is a deathly natural disaster outbreak in the Void Ocean. Players, please exercise caution when sailing out to sea!]

After releasing the announcement, Lu Wu started to find a solution with Bei Li.

This danger might be hazardous, but it could also be an opportunity.

Now, the players were already lusting for level advancement. This crisis might be the key to boost all the players' levels.

Hence, Lu Wu and Bei Li began to prepare new downloadable content to help the players upgrade their strength for the crisis. They also hinted that cash-purchased weapons would help greatly in their fight.

Chapter 207: Cross-Server Account And IGN Evaluation

While Lu Wu and Bei Li were researching the new upgraded content, something happened in the forum, evoking new discussion amongst the players.

The problem was, a player from the European server who logged into his account in the local server noticed that his character class menu was still on a Beiqi player's menu

after he returned to Europe. His character also remained in Beiqi instead of his normal Land of Cangxu.

Similarly, local players who started playing Battle Online in Europe found their log-in locations still in the Hidden Dragon Village of the European server after they came back. Their character class menus were also unchanged, remaining a dead soul warlock, knight, etc.

Due to a sense of attachment to their original servers, many players hoped the officials could launch a server changing service so they could return to their preferred server.

After some discussion between Lu Wu and Bei Li, they thought this was a great suggestion, so they released an official announcement.

[Cross-Server Account Update Announcement]:

Content: Following the feedback received about the location linked to a player's account, the officials have decided to add a cross-server account function. Each account will be able to change servers once by purchasing a pass at the game shop for 100 soul coins. Once purchased, players need to activate the pass, where they will be given the option to choose their desired servers (currently only available for the local server and European server).

Cross-Server Precaution One: After selecting a server, a player's level, equipment, channel items, and situation will be transferred to the new server without any changes. However, their exclusive title in the previous server will be forfeited.

Cross-Server Precaution Two: Upon logging in to the server for the first time after a server change, players will be given a chance to change their default character classes. After changing their default character class, only a character's level attributes will change. Your character's levels will remain unchanged. However, the player's character class advancement or inherited character class will be forfeited!

Cross-Server Notification (Red): Crossing servers is only allowed once, no multiple crossings allowed!

. . .

The efficiency of the officials won the players' positive reviews.

At the same time, many European server players who had previously logged in to the local server started to spend cash to cross their servers. A few local players on the European server also chose to come back to their original server.

However, not many players changed their default character class when they crossed, since they were familiar with their respective character classes. Several other players chose not to change character classes as they were reluctant to give up their class advancements.

Following this, the officials released another announcement. Even in different servers, their skills in the Cultivation Pavilion were the same. Players could grow and progress in the other server.

With the officials' guarantee, most players just gave up changing. They continued with their original character classes and kept battling in different servers.

. . .

As Battle Online gained fame and became more popular day by day, several foreign professional gaming organizations began to invite Lu Wu for interviews.

Lu Wu did not explicitly turn them down. The timing was certainly not ideal because he was still just a cat.

Even so, the agency with the leading authority on all things gaming, the Imagine Game Network aka IGN, produced a review for Battle Online.

The world-renowned gaming media company had a professional comprehensive rubric by which they assessed games. Expert reviewers would try a game and write their reviews based on this rubric and award a score to the game ranging from 0.0 to 10.0 on the overall game experience.

Each aspect of the game would also be assessed on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0, including performance, graphics, audio, gameplay, and attractiveness. However, the overall score was independently awarded and not calculated by the individual factors.

As Battle Online had not yet been launched in America, where IGN is based, their evaluation was carried out on the European server.

What the reviewers found in their evaluation of Battle Online utterly blew them away.

After obtaining multiple confirmations on their test report, IGN published their review. Their review quickly went viral in the gaming community.

Graphics: 10.0

Evaluation: Completely realistic scenario simulation. One could not tell if they were in the real world or in the game. Every scenario was replicated to the very detail, a falling leaf, a gentle breeze, even the light shadows during the sunrise and sunset were impactful. Could be named as a revolutionary product.

Audio: 10.0

Evaluation: Perfectly synced to the visuals, the audio sounded very realistic and not artificial at all. One could only imagine what kind of monster the audio master was behind the scenes!

Gameplay: 9.8

Evaluation: Super realistic graphics make gameplay very enjoyable. A high level of liberty in the game, air walls are absent, long shots of the graphics were also not two-dimensional. All areas on the map were accessible to players. The progress system was also comprehensive and versatile, with more than one way to fight monsters and level up. A player could be any character class they desired: an explorer, beast trainer, sailor, adventurer, and more. It is to be noted that there are even more gameplay options available on their original server, but we have yet to carry out our evaluation there. Since there still are elements of the game that have yet to be launched on the European server, we can only give a 9. However, once these new features are launched in the future, you can expect to see full marks from us!

Attractiveness: 10.0

Evaluation: The game introduced a very interesting character class development system. While leveling up, the body conditions would upgrade in sync. Each level advancement was extremely rewarding. At the same time, the warship-development mode in the current stage added more pleasure to the game. The game was absolutely enticing. It had a wide, open-world view and a very high power system. Even after reaching the final level in the game, there was still plenty for a player to do as there were many new territories to explore.

Game Performance: 10.0

Evaluation: Battle Online received positive feedback from players on both the original server and European server, and quickly amassed a huge user base. At the same time, it has been constant with its position as the game with the top number of active players among new releases. Moreover, other highly-anticipated games released in the same period were given a cold shoulder, attracting far fewer players.

For one, Star Wars was launched in Europe in the same period as Battle Online. Although having been chosen as one of the top three most-anticipated titles, its release being a day later than Battle Online's launch proved to be detrimental, as it only attracted less than 30,000 players from Battle Online. These players still came back to Battle Online after that. What a dreadful ending.

Overall Review: The game has a grand world view with 100 percent realistic graphics. It has a comprehensive economic system, realistic player killing system, an intuitive interface, and various entertainment elements. The developers have perfectly handled

cheaters and bugs that may ruin the gaming experience. We have become avid fans of this game and we look forward to the launching of an American server! This is a legendary game that must be played!

(Attached is an 80 minute intricate review of the contents of the game.)

...

When IGN published its test report and video reviews, Battle Online became the hot topic in the gaming industry all around the world. It caught the attention of foreign players, lured by the enticing gameplay videos, resulting in the registration of a huge batch of players.

A huge influx of foreign players entered the official Battle Online forum, eagerly posting requests to launch an American server and Asian server as soon as possible so they could have a taste of the latest and greatest game. After all, the review published by IGN spread the word in the gaming community about the amazing gameplay.

At the same time, the players that searched for related contents of the game knew it had a cross-server account function that meant a late start might hugely affect their respective servers.

So the requests of foreign players in the forum got higher and higher.

Lu Wu valued the launching of other servers, too.

He immediately contacted Wu Guoyi, and was told that the other two servers could be launched anytime as long as he had all the preparations done.

Hearing Wu Guoyi's guarantee, Lu Wu wasted no time and got busy again. He sorted out all the game settings himself and left all the research to Bei Li.

Recently, Lu Wu kept on thinking that he had become more useless since he had Bei Li, and for this, he concluded three reasons.

One, if he had any problems, look for Bei Li.

Two, if anything was not understandable, look for Bei Li.

Three, just look for Bei Li.

They say that behind every successful man is a great woman. To Lu Wu it couldn't be any more true.

However, he still felt different. Behind him stood a hungry, adorable, premature little girl with infinite potential.

This weird feeling of dependence made Lu Wu feel very happy indeed!

Chapter 208: No, You Wanted To!

Beiqi, North Rocks.

A sly figure was venturing further in. Behind him, a tall, sluggish silhouette followed.

Hu He had been on edge ever since he entered the deeper region of North Rocks because he was encroaching on the Rock Ghost King's territory. It was not uncommon for players to be viciously attacked by either the Rock Ghost King himself or the ancient tree demon upon entering this area.

However, Hu He was rather surprised. Apart from a few tree demon soldiers, he did not encounter any boss level creatures. Hu He let out a sigh of relief.

After another hour of walking, Hu He's eyes welled up with tears as the border came into sight.

If I can't remain here, I'm sure I can make somewhere else my home! European server, here I come!

He had considered changing servers before, but he still had a strong sense of attachment toward his original server. He decided that for the time being, he would hide in the European server and only return to prove himself after becoming stronger.

Hu He welcomed the warm sun when he walked out from the woods. He walked on with a feeling of ease as he could already feel his new life waving him hello.

After walking for a while, a game notification rang in his head.

[Game notification: You have entered the European server's Land of Cangxu. From now on, you will respawn at the Hidden Dragon Village resurrection point.]

Goodbye justice of backstabbing! Farewell, players who saw me as a malignant player! From now on, I won't lack either <u>friendship or love...</u>

A bright smile lit up Hu He's face as he imagined a perfect future to come.

He sped up and raced toward the purple safe zone shown on the map. He wanted to make some new friends first, since he had always been by himself. Indeed, he was lonely. It was high time for him to put in some effort to chat with other players.

Right then, the compass he was carrying started beeping.

Instinctively, Hu He took the compass out and was surprised to find a high Zombie Energy Value shown on the compass.

But this time, Hu He hesitated. He wondered if he should proceed to dig it up.

His recent grave-digging endeavors left him traumatized. He was afraid of encountering another seal or worse.

He debated with himself for a while before finally deciding to check it out.

He followed the navigation on the compass and marched toward the selected destination.

When he arrived at a hill covered in weeds, Hu He stopped in his tracks, "It's here!"

He took out his spade subconsciously. Just when he was about to dig, his mind tangled up.

"It wouldn't be a seal again, right!?"

No, it can't be. I'm near the newbie village, surely the game developers would've considered this. They wouldn't set such a high difficulty...

After some self-talk, the troublemaker within him woke up and his immorality as a zombie forgemaster erupted again.

I'll just have a light dig. I'll stop if things get fishy! Yes, it'll be like this.

So Hu He took out two spades and handed one over to Cha Na's zombie spirit. Then, they began to dig diligently at the hill.

After nearly half an hour, Hu He plunged his spade hard into the huge hole he made. Suddenly, the earth under his feet loosened and his body fell vertically downward, straight into the hole underneath.

Upon seeing this, Cha Na's zombie spirit jumped in, too.

The grave chamber was pitch black. Hu He stood up immediately, took out the torch he prepared specifically for tomb raiding and began to scan his surroundings.

He instantly found himself in a prison with ten metal-caged cells. It appeared to prevent creatures from escaping.

This relieved Hu He. Perhaps it was not a grave chamber. The bodies of the dead elites could not be a seal, so he should be able to continue digging without any worries.

Hu He walked along the dark tunnel, flashing his torch around the insides of the cells to see what was kept within.

The first cell contained a pile of bones. The bones looked too big to have come from a human-like structure. It was a pity that these bones were too old and severely corroded. He would not be able to forge anything out of them.

Hu He let out a sigh and moved on to the second cell.

It was a similar sight to the first one, a pile of rotten bones with nothing valuable found. When he tried to touch the metal cages, the rusted surface crumbled away into fine powder.

How old is this place? Hu He's eyes were full of shock.

In this world, most of the materials were spiritual. Judging from the Zombie Energy, those who were jailed here must have been elites and these metal cages were not just normal metal either.

Hence, Hu He could not begin to imagine how old this prison had to be in order for such spiritual metal to turn into rust.

As he browsed the cells, Hu He realized that all the creatures here had become rotten bones, so he could not make anything out of them. Hu He was greatly disappointed and thought he would return empty-handed this time.

When he came to the eighth cell, Hu He raised his torch and noticed that this one stood out from the other cells.

This metal cage glowed with a silvery-white light under his torchlight and it had not been corroded by time. It seemed very unusual and must be a valuable metal.

This sparked Hu He's curiosity. He flashed his light inside the cell. When the darkness receded, a scrawny silhouette lying on the floor came into light.

Hu He was excited to find a usable corpse, so he quickly scanned the target with the analysis ability.

[Yuanxu (Level ???)]:

Character Information: Previous ruler of the Land of Yuanxu. After losing a battle to Xian Xu, his title of His Excellency was abdicated. His cultivation was revoked and he was imprisoned here.

Character State: Half-dead.

. . .

This was the first time Hu He had seen a creature with question marks for its strength condition. However, he was not afraid, since it was half-dead and its cultivation had been revoked.

Looking at this person, Hu He contemplated scavenging him.

Since this person was once a ruler, he must be much stronger than an ordinary character. Since he was abdicated from his position, though, he could still be holding a grudge. If released, he'd potentially wreak havoc.

Thinking about this, Hu He shivered and decided against it.

Although his cultivation was revoked, anything was possible in the world of this game. Maybe this old chap had a trick up his sleeve to regain his cultivation so he was able to survive until now. It was best for him not to stir up any trouble.

With this in mind, Hu He decided to retreat as he did not want to have a target on his back the moment he arrived in the European server.

"Quick... help me out..." just then, an old voice could be heard coming from his front, making Hu He tremble vigorously.

"You... can talk?" Hu He flashed the cell with his torch again. He saw that the frail old man had sat up and was staring directly at him with his murky, dented, and hollow eyes.

"Let me out... save me..." Yuanxu's mouth wobbled, speaking with his husky voice.

"What are you going to do if I let you out?" Hu He couldn't help but ask.

"Kill... Cangxu... rebuild my land of Yuanxu!" even through the metal bars, Hu He could feel the piercing sense of hatred.

"Goodbye, old chap, I don't have time for you. I'll patch up the hole I came through on my way up, just stay here for the rest of your life!" Hu He did not dare free him after his intentions became clear, so he instantly turned and walked away.

What a joke, I used to be naive. Once bitten, twice shy. I will never again let a Demon King out into the world, lest it be another Mu Zhiguang!

Seeing Hu He leaving, a light glitched in Yuanxu's foggy eyes in the cell. He pointed in the direction of Hu He.

A green light zapped from Yuanxu's fingertips, blazing toward Hu He. However, a shield of light from the cage blocked the attack, stopping it from shooting outward.

Buzz!

The sound from behind him alarmed Hu He. He turned back and saw a green light clashing with the silvery-white metal cages, almost blindingly bright.

"Trying to run away?" Hu He was startled and he rushed back to the cell.

"Hey you, stop right there!"

Hu He bit his lip, he did not wish to be related to the reveal of this great demon.

Last time, Mu Zhiguang's explanation menu had already brought him enough trouble. He hated the words that he was awakened by himself to be forever added to his analysis menu.

When that happens, he would never be able to explain himself.

"This Silvermoon Metal... is almost... out of spirit... help me!" Yuanxu continued to yell, stuttering.

"No way am I helping you. Stop this right now, I'm warning you! Don't make me hurt you!" Hu He was panicking. He raised his spade to threaten him.

Yuanxu was not shaken by this, he kept mumbling words as the green and silver light continued fighting each other.

"Dammit!" frustrated, Hu He slammed his spade on the silver cage, trying to scare him.

When his spade hit hard, the silvery white light buzzed for a while before dimming, and a crack appeared on the metal bars.

"Shoot!" Hu He's head went numb and he cursed silently. Little did he know that this metal was a lot weaker than it appeared.

"Thank you..." a voice came from within the cell.

Hu He had no tears left to cry. He grabbed the Zombie Poison Powder from his pocket and threw it in an attempt to stop him.

Buzz!

There were sounds of metal corroding away. Before it could enter the cell, the Zombie Poison Powder was stopped by the silvery white light and quickly disintegrated while the silver glow dimmed even more.

"Go to hell!" Hu He held his head and leaned back, fear plastered all over his face.

Crack!

A crisp sound of a silver metal bar snapping rang out.

Just when Hu He thought this was the end for him, the green aura spreading from Yuanxu's body went out with a puff, and only green smoke remained.

Yuanxu went speechless.

Hu He was rendered speechless as well.

"Hahaha, you've used up your health, right? Can't come out? Hahahaha!" Hu He burst into hysterical laughter. He had barely made it out by the skin of his teeth.

At that moment, Yuanxu moved his body slowly, approaching the broken silver bar. He fixed his opaque eyes directly on Hu He.

[Facing soul attack... manipulation through seizure... successfully exempted!]

Hu He was taken aback by the game notification. He then shifted his fearful eyes to Yuanxu.

"You tried to manipulate me just now!"

"Why... is your soul... not... manipulatable?" amazement flashed through Yuanxu's blurry eyes.

Listening to Yuanxu's answer, Hu He's body shivered.

How creepy, if this guy can manipulate souls, he may have other powers. I can't stay here anymore, it's best if I go up and bury him again now.

At this point, Hu He definitely wanted to leave.

However, after a few steps, Hu He felt weird. Cha Na's zombie spirit did not follow him.

Right after, he heard some knocking sounds from his back.

Hu He looked back quickly, only to find that Cha Na's zombie spirit was banging his spade on the cell.

"Holy fuck, you idiot. What are you doing? Are you crazy?" Hu He screamed at the top of his lungs.

He wanted to summon Cha Na's zombie spirit back into the zombie storage bag, but Cha Na's zombie spirit did not respond to any instructions. A game notification appeared.

[Game notification: Your subordinate, Cha Na's zombie spirit, has been manipulated, you no longer have the ability to control it!]

Hu He's heart sank. Looking at the gradually opening cell, he whispered, "Shoot! Shoot! I didn't do it on purpose, I didn't mean to let him out!"

"No, you wanted to!" Cha Na's zombie spirit smiled devilishly at Hu He.

Chapter 209: Beigi Expeditionary Force

Hu He's eyes widened in bewilderment as he fixed his gaze on Cha Na's zombie spirit who was destroying the prison. He ran toward it immediately with the intention of stopping such out-of-control behavior.

Bang!

Cha Na's zombie spirit turned around and gave him a backhanded smack using the shovel, causing Hu He to fly out of the room.

Hu He stood up again as he spoke gravely, "I'll fight with you!"

Bang!

Another loud smack was heard and once again Hu He was thrown across the room.

Lying on the floor, Hu He's face was covered with tears. He was just a Zombie Forgemaster, not a strong fighter. On the other hand, the zombie spirit of Cha Na had been strengthened numerous times and possessed the combat capability of the Ghost Commander Level. He could never beat that strength.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Crack!

As the prison bars broke open, Yuanxu was seen walking slowly out of the cell. He staggered toward Hu He's side before tapping on his shoulder and said, "Thank you!"

"You're welcome!" Hu He grit his teeth and replied bitterly.

Feeling the air of the outside world, Yuanxu's face was filled with an unspeakable sense of enjoyment as he gradually extended both of his arms.

At that moment, there was a gust of wind as masses of the world's pure soul energy poured in and whirled around him. Then, it turned into a soul energy fog and seeped into his body, nourishing his shriveled frame.

Under the horrified gaze of Hu He, Yuanxu's body slowly restored to its original state. His muscles formed and bulged up steadily, while his rough skin gained elasticity under the nourishment of the soul energy.

Not long after, Yuanxu transformed from looking like an old man in his twilight years to a seemingly dignified man in his thirties.

"Land of Cangxu! It's time to change this name!"

Yuanxu's grayish-white hair danced with the wind while his expression was grim. He knew that it was time for him to claim the rightful throne of His Excellency.

While Hu He was praying for a game notification to never come, it finally appeared.

[Server Announcement: In the region of Cangxu, the Great Demon Yuanxu has been released by player Hu He. He will descend in the Land of Cangxu once again to fight for the throne of His Excellency. All players, please be prepared (Note: This demon with extremely formidable strength was previously His Excellency of the Land of Yuanxu!)]

The news came as a shock in the forum.

Crayon_Shinchan: "Congratulations to the brothers in the European server. Happy to announce that there's a disaster maker coming your way. Throws flower petals (laughing emoji)!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "Haha, he has gone to the European server? This is hilarious, it will keep the brothers in the European server busy for a while. Have fun you guys, this is just the beginning (laughing emoji)!"

Watermelon_Taro: "So freaking happy this scourge is finally gone! I was so excited that I instantly bought myself a red outfit (ecstatic emoji~)!"

A_Large_Wolfdog: "I'm on cloud nine~ This is the biggest good news so far. We respectfully escort our Hu He, the Great Demon King, to the European server. Oh and don't even bother coming back (Tong Gua laughing hysterically with arms akimbo.jpg)!"

Star_Universe (European): "Fuck, I've heard so much about this Hu He Demon King. Why would he come to our European server all of a sudden? Please don't!"

Reinhardt (European): "Fuck! Damn you Hu He... We're doomed, this is terrible news! The European server is definitely going to explode soon!"

Mechanic_11 (European): "I'm going to kill him, I'm going to kill him! We're in the middle of planning the Hidden Dragon Ghost General's murder. Now that he's here, everything will turn into disaster mode, fuck him!"

High_Ping_Warrior (European): "We beg the other server to take him back, please!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to High_Ping_Warrior: "You're being too kind. Players in all the servers are a big family, so just take it. Not accepting it means disrespect to the original players (laughing emoji)!"

ZERO (European): "It looks like something big has happened. I just got to the forum, can anyone tell me what's going on? (Confused meme)"

Jason (European): "Boss, we're done for... player Hu He, the Great Demon King, seems to have transferred to our zone. Besides, he has dug up a disaster level existence, an existence who is much more powerful than the Hidden Dragon Ghost General!"

ZERO (European): "WTF! Gather the players, we have to kick him out as soon as possible! Quick!"

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At that moment, players on the local server were bursting with joy whilst players on the European server were in utter misery.

To begin with, the European server was going through a major development stage in an effort to catch up with the others, but now, the presence of Hu He had left them in a complete mess.

A lot of players started running toward the safe zone, waiting for the arrival of a huge calamity.

However, the severity of the situation far exceeded the expectations of the players.

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Yuanxu appeared after Cangxu was dead.

At that time, the main forces of Cangxu had refused to accept one another as everyone wanted to be the new king. Now that the all-powerful Yuanxu had appeared, the initial balance of the situation would likely be disrupted.

After all, those who had no support in the underworld would easily be bullied, just like the time when Beiqi first lost Lu Yan. Thus, they would most probably seek the patronage of Yuanxu.

The players of the European server had gradually grown stronger under the mutual restraint of different forces. However, if Yuanxu was successful in conquering each of the forces, the players would have to face a truly powerful contingent of the Yuanxu Army.

Cangxu was fuming when he received the news. He barely managed to train the players to be stronger, but now that the Land of Cangxu might be unified by Yuanxu, what would become of them?

If Lu Wu was not there to stop him, Cangxu would have ran over to Hu He and strangled him a hundred times.

Even though Lu Wu prevented the violent behavior of Cangxu, he couldn't help but have the urge to choke Hu He to death. This bastard was incredibly dastardly. He was basically the players' number one nemesis.

If only he could, Lu Wu would create a server on Mars and throw him out of Earth, sending him straight toward outer space to let him suffer alone. By that time, it would all be fine even if Hu He decided to blow his new planet up!

Just as Lu Wu and Cangxu had expected, once Yuanxu discovered that Cangxu was dead, he started roaming around to subdue a crowd of Ghost Kings and Ghost Generals in an attempt to obtain the throne.

Moreover, a number of Ghost Generals and Ghost Kings had once again pledged their loyalty to Yuanxu.

In the face of this situation, Cangxu immediately sought the help of Lu Wu.

At this stage, the European server could be said to be his lifeblood, he could not bear to lose it. After all, he can only resurrect his Xian Ke after they become strong.

After much consideration, Lu Wu decided to provide Cangxu with some support. He reacted by launching a new event.

[Cross-Server Event Update: Beigi Expeditionary Force!]:

Event Details: The Land of Cangxu is about to face the invasion of Yuanxu, the Great Demon. Xian Xu, a longtime close friend of the King of Beigi, has requested our help.

Brave warriors, the sound of the horn signals an assembly. Put on your battle armor and sharpen your knife for it will be a bloodbath. Let us fight bravely for the great future of Cangxu!

Event Participation Requirements: Event registration will be held at the Mansion of the Dead. Players will become a part of the Beiqi Expeditionary Force upon successful registration. Once the event officially starts, players will be transported to Cangxu and participate in the fight to defend our home!

A purple title of 'Beiqi Expeditionary Force' will appear above all players on the team once they enter the Land of Cangxu.

Event Reward: Privilege to activate the prestige and rank system in advance. Rewards will be given based on the player's rank in exchange with the prestige earned.

With the start of this event, the local players who were prepared to laugh at the sufferings of the players in Cangxu suddenly had ants in their pants.

All the players got envious, particularly for the early activation of the prestige and rank system reward.

They knew what it meant if the system could be activated in advance. It signified that they would be one step ahead of any others, and that advantage could potentially bring extra rewards.

Not long after the event was opened for registration, the Mansion of the Dead was crowded with people. These players were eager to sign up for the Beiqi Expeditionary Force as they feared that they might not be able to get a place.

Chapter 210: Prestige And Rank

A particularly large number of players had signed up for the new expeditionary force. If Lu Wu had not set the participation limit at five million players, he feared that all players in Beigi would join the expedition and leave their land behind.

After a full battalion of five million players were gathered, Lu Wu took the plunge to start the update.

[Update Content: Prestige and Rank System]:

Prestige System Description: At the current stage, the Prestige System will only be in service for cross-server events. Prestige can be obtained by killing enemy monsters in the cross-server battle mode and Prestige Points will be given based on the strength of the creature killed.

Wandering Souls Level: 1 Prestige Point

Ghosts Level: 3 Prestige Points

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Ghost Commander Level: 10,000 Prestige Points

Ghost General Level: 80,000 Prestige Points

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Prestige points obtained can be traded for special items in the Prestige Shop.

Rank System Description: After earning a sufficient amount of Prestige, players can exchange their points for a corresponding Rank in the Rank System.

Rank Distribution:

Corporal (Level 1 to 10): 100 Prestige Points per exchange (Each level requires 100 Prestige Points)

Attributes: Health +30 (30 health points incremental for each level)

Sergeant (Level 1 to 10): 200 Prestige Points per exchange (Each level requires 200 Prestige Points)

Attributes: Health +40 (40 health points incremental for each level), Endurance +2 (2 points incremental for each level)

Commander (Level 1 to 7): 300 Prestige Points per exchange (Each level requires 300 Prestige Points)

Attributes: Health +50 (50 health points incremental for each level), Endurance +25 (3 points incremental for each level)

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Items available in the Prestige Shop:

Prestige Shop Level One (available for Corporal):

[Surging Blood (Rank Skill)]: 500 Prestige Points

Skill Effect: After casting the skill, the player gains a 1.2x bonus on their main attribute. Lasts for ten minutes and has a cooldown period of two hours.

[Swordsmen Summoning (Rank Skill)]: 800 Prestige Points

Skill Effect: Summon ten swordsmen with strength equivalent to that of Level 30 Berserkers to join the fight (vanishing upon death). Lasts for half an hour and has a cooldown period of five hours.

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Prestige Shop Level Two (available for Sergeant):

[Calvary Summoning (Rank Skill)]: 1500 Prestige Points

Skill Effect: Summon ten warriors with strength equivalent to that of Level 50 Calvary soldiers to join the fight (vanishing upon death). Lasts for half an hour and has a cooldown period of five hours.

[Fiery Elixir (Can only be used once)]: 500 Prestige Points

Item Effect: After drinking the elixir, all skills (including passive attack) will deal fire damage. Lasts for ten minutes.

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Prestige Shop Level Six (available for Lieutenant General):

[Elixir of Resurrection (Can only be used once)]: 5,000 Prestige Points

Item Effect: The effect of the elixir will last for five minutes after consumption. During this period, the player will be resurrected upon death (not available in the Versus Arena or other battlefields).

[War Cry (Rank Skill)]: 5,000 Prestige Points

Skill Effect: The player releases a war halo covering a radius of fifty feet upon letting out a war cry. Allies (including the player) within the range will gain a 1.3x increase on their main attributes. Lasts for ten minutes and has a cooldown period of eight hours.

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At this point, Lu Wu had released ten tiers of ranks and there were hundreds of items available for each rank in the shop, all of which were special items that could not be purchased in the regular game shop.

He was sure to make many Elixirs of Resurrection from Prestige Shop Level Six available. Players who would take this elixir would be as good as souls who returned to

the battlefield after getting their injuries repaired by Lu Wu using some soul coins. This explained why the price was extremely high.

The players of the Beiqi Expeditionary Force were whipped into a frenzy by this wave of updates. They were dazzled by all the skills and growing range items available in the Prestige Shop and their hearts were filled with the desire to own everything.

Moreover, by enabling immediate growth to their attributes and health, the ranks were even more powerful.

This was simply an artifact in the eyes of Mages and Assassins.

Prior to this, their health would not increase much even after each upgrade, but the addition of ranks would turn the situation around.

For instance, when a Mage would upgrade their prestige to Level Five, attributes aside, the health itself would be increased to 3,500, fully transforming them into a human tank. Mages no longer have to hide from the Assassin's attack, they could just stand tough and cast their skills head on.

The introduction of the Prestige System gave many civilian players the hope of a brighter future.

Although soul coins could be purchased by the rich, prestige was not something that could be bought. Only by killing the monsters and demons could one obtain prestige points. As long as the players were diligent enough, they could easily utilize the Prestige System to close the gap between them and the high-end players.

Nevertheless, it was true that these things were difficult to obtain.

Even so, it stirred up the players' hearts. Those who failed to register had no choice but to beat their chests and stomp their feet, lamenting the missed opportunity for them to rise.

The five million players who had activated the Prestige System in advance were on cloud nine. They boasted about their luck and rubbed their fists together, preparing to enter the Land of Cangxu to put up a good fight with the demons.

Now that everything was in place, Lu Wu just had to wait for Cangxu's feedback on the current situation before releasing this large contingent on the warpath.

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Beigi, Cliffs of Desperation.

In the white-haired old man's small cottage situated halfway up the mountain, four figures were seen aside from the white-haired old man.

"Your Majesty!" the four who appeared in the cottage proclaimed as they got down on one knee in front of the white-haired old man.

"Are you all aware of the reason why I commanded the four of you to stay hidden from the world?" the white-haired old man looked at Frozen, Da Huo, Earthbreaker, and Barbarian Bull, his four great subordinates of the Ghost Emperor Level.

Frozen and the rest were puzzled. After all, they had lived in seclusion for hundreds of thousands of years, their patience had definitely worn out. If it was not for the overbearing pressure from North Sea, they would have escaped much earlier. However, at that moment, no one dared utter a word.

"It is coming. The mark on her body shall reappear very soon. As the leader of the Heavenless Alliance, she had no choice but to reincarnate if she didn't wish to expose herself. But this time around, I believe she won't do the same. It is probably time for me to lend her a helping hand..."

"The opportunity for me to attain divinity has finally come!" the white-haired old man said with a smile.

The facial expressions of Frozen and the rest were grave upon listening to his opportunity for divinity.

They knew that the power of North Sea had reached the pinnacle of a Void Deity. To achieve apotheosis, all he needed to do was to fill in his name on the Underworld God List.

At first they were wondering why North Sea had been stalling his apotheosis, but they did not expect their leader to change his mind all of a sudden.

"Your Majesty, are you saying that she is the Old Ancestor?" Frozen lifted up his head and asked.

"Yes! It's time for her to come back. However, those in the world of immortals would never let her get away with it. So do you all know what I'm planning to do next?" North Sea looked at his subordinates and chuckled.

The four of them felt goosebumps and three words appeared in their hearts at the same time, "Going against Heaven?"

"Afraid?"

"No. Since the Old Ancestor had such courage to do so, then it is only natural for me, as a posterity, to display true valor by going against Heaven along with Your Majesty!" replied Frozen, his delicate face filled with perseverance.

"I, Da Huo, pledge to follow Your Majesty until my death. Those arrogant fellows are a real eyesore. If I was crowned King of Beiqi in the past, I, too, would have definitely joined the Heavenless Alliance."

When he finished speaking, the three of them turned their gaze toward Da Huo at the same time.

"Ahem... I'm saying if... in short, I now pledge my allegiance to Your Majesty without a second thought!" Da Huo seemed to have noticed something, hence the swift explanation.

"We pledge to follow Your Majesty until our deaths!" Earthbreaker and Barbarian Bull made a vow resolutely.

"Actually, if any of you are afraid, rest assured that you will not be blamed. Resume your hiding and this battle will certainly not affect you."

"We pledge to follow Your Majesty until our deaths!" the four of them said in unison once again.

"You all are truly contemptible to the bones! Hahaha!" looking at the four of them, North Sea could not help but to let out a loud laugh.

"Now that we are going against Heaven, would Your Majesty like to visit the Great Emperor to accept your amnesty in advance, thereby increasing your strength before the war?" Frozen parted his lips and asked.

"There is no need, my chance of divinity still lies with the deity!"

The four of them were stunned by what they heard. They immediately thought of a special myth about attaining divinity and they mentally gasped it in surprise.

At that moment, they realized that the King of Beiqi whom they had pledged loyalty to for hundreds of thousands of years had not changed a bit. He was still that insanely dauntless man just like he was before!