

The Lord 1071

Chapter 1071: Ten Thousand Dragon Destruction

Boom!

A massive, shocking explosion sounded out. Zhao Fu stepped forwards, his enormous Emperor's aura heavily weighing down on the 10,000 dragons with heavenly might.

“Roar, roar, roar...” That terrifying power caused the 10,000 dragons to look quite afraid, and even their bodies slightly trembled. They gave off unreconciled roars, causing the heavens and earth to tremble. However, they could not stop Zhao Fu at all.

Zhao Fu walked forwards step by step until he reached the final step again, and at that moment, the 10,000 dragons launched ferocious attacks towards him.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The dragons gave off terrifying power, seeming to split the heavens apart before simultaneously attacking. They all rushed towards Zhao Fu like a massive flood, sweeping across everything.

With his five aura flames around him, Zhao Fu's expression did not change at all. He lifted one foot and brought it onto the final step.

Boom!

In that moment, the heavens and earth seemed to collapse as an unimaginable might heavily weighed down on the 10,000 dragons' bodies. They gave pained howls, and under that might, their bodies exploded.

This happened in just an instant, and after exploding, the 10,000 dragons turned into motes of light that drifted down, creating a beautiful scene.

This signified that the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage's eighth Danger Zone had been broken through!

Zhao Fu now stood on top of the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, and the aura flames and might around him disappeared, causing him to seem like an ordinary person.

The scene was now completely silent, and most people were still kneeling on the ground, looking up at the person on the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage in shock. Even though he did not give off an aura anymore, they could still feel a formless pressure. That supreme Emperor's image could not be dispelled from their hearts.

They were also dumbfounded about that person's status and the fact that he had broken through the eighth Disaster Zone. It was not something they could endure.

Since the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage had been built, a long time had passed, and someone had now finally broken through, destroying the legend that it could not be conquered.

However, only this person could do such a thing; no one else in the Ancient Stem Domain could. A small Domain like the Ancient Stem Domain did not have any Empires, and neither did the surrounding Domains. This meant that Zhao Fu came from some other place.

The Ancient Stem Rankings did not change; the first-ranked person was still first, and the second-ranked person was still second. Zhao Fu was not added, not because he did not deserve to be on it, but because the Ancient Stem Rankings did not deserve to have him on it.

Royal Kingdoms were already existences that reigned supreme, and Empires reigned far above Royal Kingdoms. They could not imagine just how terrifying they were, and countless proud people would willingly kneel down to true Emperors.

Bing Qixue looked incredibly shocked, and his heart still had not recovered from the waves that Zhao Fu had caused in his heart. He completely accepted his loss; Zhao Fu's identity was much more prestigious than his, and he was much more powerful as well.

Now, Bing Qixue understood the situation much better and understood that he did not have the qualifications to befriend Zhao Fu. He decided not to bother Zhao Fu anymore.

The woman in black now looked quite afraid. Thinking about how she had treated Zhao Fu, she realized that she may have stirred up big trouble. She had thought that Zhao Fu just had good talent but could not compare to her Young Master in terms of bloodline.

She was not wrong – the Ancient Stem Domain only had a few Royal Kingdoms, so at most, people would be equal with her Young Master; there was no one who could surpass him.

However, this Emperor had suddenly appeared, which was too scary. With this sort of identity, even in the entire Heaven Awaken World, his status would be quite revered. He was much more powerful than her Young Master, and she felt like she had taken a big slap to the face.

The cold-looking young man looked at Ge Nia and could not help but sigh. No wonder why he was just a bodyguard despite being so powerful in the way of the sword; his master was too terrifying.

Long Yang and the seven beauties had long since left before anyone else could recover. It was best to leave as soon as possible, as if Zhao Fu came to find them after, they would be doomed.

Zhao Fu's performance had completely surpassed anything Long Yang could have expected, and he had then revealed such a terrifying identity. This had completely terrified him, so he quickly snuck away with his women.

The manager also looked incredibly dumbfounded; he had never thought that Zhao Fu would be so powerful and have such a prestigious identity. He had even broken through the eighth Danger Zone; the Ancient Stem Rankings could not contain a grand figure like him.

The ten or so higher-ups of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group were also incredibly shocked, unable to calm themselves down. Someone had finally conquered the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, and that prophecy was going to be fulfilled. Moreover, they could not help but feel awe towards Zhao Fu's identity.

On top of the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, Zhao Fu looked at the countless treasures around him, making him feel incredibly moved. All of those intense treasure lights made Zhao Fu feel quite bewildered.

Zhao Fu looked around him and saw all sorts of Legendary grade equipment, Epic grade equipment, and even some Saint Armaments. There were all sorts of spirit medicines, other treasures, and items.

The total value of the items here would be at least six or seven billion gold coins, and it now all belonged to him? Zhao Fu was ecstatic with joy and could not believe it was true.

However, there was no need to doubt it – with so many treasures in front of him, if he did not take them, he would be an idiot. He disregarded his image as he started to madly collect all of them.

Large swathes of treasures started to vanish from the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, all of them collected into Zhao Fu's spatial ring. Even though Zhao Fu was going incredibly quickly, it took him more than half an hour to collect the countless treasures.

Right now, Zhao Fu wanted to madly laugh; the benefits were simply too great. After stepping onto the stage, he had obtained a treasure trove; were there more of these opportunities? Zhao Fu would do it as many times as he could.

Right now, no one spoke. Everyone silently watched Zhao Fu collect the countless treasures, and the higher-ups of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group silently waited. After all, these treasures belonged to anyone who could clear the eighth Danger Zone.

Back then, they had followed orders from the previous generations to put various treasures on top of the stage in order to attract people to challenge it. That was why the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage was quite famous within the inner regions of the Ancient Stem Domain.

After collecting the countless treasures, Zhao Fu walked to the center of the stage. There was a fist-sized silver dragon pearl floating there, which was most likely the core of the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage.

Zhao Fu had not wanted to go over; after all, if he took all of the treasures and then destroyed their stage, wouldn't that be going too far?

However, despite the fact that Zhao Fu did not want to, the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage seemed to have its own consciousness, telling Zhao Fu to go over. Zhao Fu thought about it before deciding to go over, and he placed his hand on the dragon pearl.

“Roar!!” A dragon's roar sounded throughout the sky, and the silver dragon pearl gave off a large amount of silver light. The entire Ten Thousand Dragon Stage violently shook and gave off a terrifying aura as massive gales erupted out.

Chapter 1072: Ten Thousand Devil Pearl

“Roar, roar, roar...” More dragon’s roars sounded out from the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage’s dragon pillars. The dragon pillars violently trembled before falling apart, turning into shattered stones as dragon images flew out towards the top of the stage.

The dragon pearl gave off an intense silver light, shining in all directions. Countless illusory dragons spiraled in the sky, once again creating the scene of 10,000 dragons in the air. Their aura was just as terrifying, causing people’s bodies to stiffen.

Suddenly, the silver dragon pearl broke free of Zhao Fu’s grasp and quickly entered Zhao Fu’s body, causing Zhao Fu to feel quite startled, but he did not do anything.

The countless dragons spiralling in the air and giving off terrifying auras rushed down and also entered Zhao Fu’s body, and Zhao Fu felt an immense wave of dragon’s might enter his body.

This process was quite quick, and it lasted just a few moments. After everything settled, a silver dragon mark appeared on Zhao Fu’s chest, and there were not any other changes.

The Ten Thousand Dragon Stage lost all of its power and became an ordinary stage, and the legend within the inner regions of the Ancient Stem Domain disappeared.

At that moment, the people from the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group walked over with respectful looks on their faces. They first bowed to Zhao Fu, as Zhao Fu had broken through the eighth Danger Zone and obtained the Ten Thousand Dragon Devil Pearl, but they also bowed because of his prestigious identity. As such, they had to bow – the might of an Empire was not something that they could resist.

However, how could they know that Zhao Fu was not the Emperor of an Empire but a mere King of a Marquisate Kingdom? It was just that his bloodline was superior to theirs.

This was all thanks to Zhao Fu’s bloodline, scaring a whole bunch of people. Because of how terrifying his bloodline was, everyone fully believed that he was a true Emperor.

Facing these people, Zhao Fu felt quite wary. Their auras were all quite powerful, and they were not people who should be offended. Only after they bowed did Zhao Fu inwardly let out a sigh of relief; there most likely would not be any fighting.

“I am the President of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group; it is my honor to meet Your Majesty,” the elegant-looking middle-aged man at the lead said as he faintly smiled.

Zhao Fu nodded, and thinking about the dragon pearl and countless treasures, he asked somewhat guiltily, “Those treasures belong to anyone who can step onto the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, right?”

The middle-aged man smiled as he said, “They indeed belong to Your Majesty. I have a request for Your Majesty, which is to become an Elder of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group. This is one of the benefits of reaching the top of the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage.”

If it was any ordinary person, they would feel incredibly joyful towards becoming an Elder, as they would receive unimaginable benefits. The Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group was one of the largest financial groups in the Ancient Stem Domain, and its power was immense.

However, the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group’s higher-ups believed Zhao Fu to be an Emperor, so he naturally would look down on their Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group. As such, they could only phrase it as a request.

Because Zhao Fu had obtained the Ten Thousand Dragon Devil Pearl, there was now a great connection between him and the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group, so they wanted to strengthen their relationship.

At that moment, Zhao Fu inwardly laughed; he had never thought there would be such great benefits. If he could become an Elder, he would be able to use the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group’s power to obtain a large number of corpses, allowing Great Qin to develop even quicker.

Facing such great benefits, of course Zhao Fu would agree. However, on the surface, Zhao Fu merely calmly nodded.

This caused all of the people from the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group to give big smiles. They were ecstatic that Zhao Fu would become an Elder of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group because they were now connected, but they were also happy about it because of Zhao Fu’s prestigious identity.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, the elegant-looking middle-aged man took out a silver dragon medallion and gave it to Zhao Fu, saying that it was a token of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group and could serve to show his identity.

Zhao Fu took it. The middle-aged man wanted to entertain him, but Zhao Fu politely refused; he did not like such social niceties.

Everyone looked up in awe as Zhao Fu descended from the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage, and Ge Nia returned to Zhao Fu's side, continuing to act as his bodyguard.

Everyone automatically made way for Zhao Fu, not daring to obstruct him. Everyone's eyes were filled with respect and admiration; this was a legendary Emperor. Bing Qixue tactfully retreated to the side with his people as well, not intending to stand in Zhao Fu's way.

However, Zhao Fu walked over to him and smiled as he said, "Apologies for before. Brother Bing has good character and is someone I would like to befriend."

Before, Zhao Fu did not want to make trouble, but he had still drawn so much attention to himself. He felt that Bing Qixue was quite a good person, and he was the Crown Prince of a Royal Kingdom. Perhaps when Great Qin entered the inner regions of the Ancient Stem Domain he would be of help. As such, it would be good to develop their friendship.

Bing Qixue now felt quite dismayed; he had never thought that Zhao Fu, who had shown no interest, would completely change his attitude and take the initiative to befriend him.

Bing Qixue smiled and expressed his understanding. The woman in black beside him did not dare to say anything and obediently lowered her head, and the cold-looking young man did the same.

Following this, the two parties returned to the hotel to continue to chat and learn more about each other.

Zhao Fu had the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group continue to help him collect corpses, and the price was incredibly cheap, essentially just covering the costs. After dealing with these matters, Zhao Fu took the countless treasures and corpses back to Great Qin.

At the same time, news of what had happened here quickly spread throughout the Ancient Stem Domain, shaking everyone.

“What? Not only did someone break through the seventh Danger Zone, but he even cleared the unclearable eighth Danger Zone? How is this possible? Can a person even do that?”

After all, the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage was quite an interesting matter within the Ancient Stem Domain, and many people knew about it and had tried it before. Most people knew just how terrifying the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage was.

Now that someone had fully cleared it, just how terrifying was that person?

Many geniuses who had tried and failed before no longer felt as proud, and their expressions fell. How could that person break through the last Danger Zone; with their talent, it was impossible, so how could that person do it?

Most geniuses could not believe this and felt that it was a rumor started by troublemakers. However, after sending people to investigate, they found out that this matter was true.

Moreover, what shocked them even more was that that person was the Emperor of an Empire. Why had a person with such a prestigious identity come to a boundary Domain like theirs? No one could understand.

However, this made it so that the geniuses could fully accept their loss. After all, that person was an Emperor and had an Emperor’s bloodline, so it was only natural that he would be superior to Kings like them.

Many people paid a great deal of attention to this, sending people to fully investigate this matter and collect all relevant information.

After hearing that that terrifying Emperor had become an Elder of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group, everyone felt envious of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group’s good fortune.

Chapter 1073: Private Godly Spirit

Now, everyone felt quite curious towards the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage; why had the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group constructed it? There was definitely a great secret behind it, or

the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group would not have placed such importance on it. It was one of the tightest secrets of the Ten Thousand Dragon Financial Group, and no one knew.

After the Ice Origin Royal Kingdom's higher-ups heard about this matter, they hurriedly recalled Bing Qixue and asked him about it. They took this matter very seriously and also greatly rewarded him for being able to befriend that person.

The opposite happened at the Eight Dragons Essence Sect. When they found out that their Young Sect Master had dared to humiliate that Emperor, they were scared out of their wits and immediately recalled him to punish him, forbidding him to leave the Sect for a year.

He had caused big trouble this time, and even Royal Kingdoms were incredibly servile in front of Empires. The Eight Dragons Essence Sect did not even have the strength of a Royal Kingdom.

Now, the entire Eight Dragons Essence Sect felt quite fearful that that Emperor would descend on the Eight Dragons Essence Sect and cause big trouble.

Countless people were incredibly shocked about this matter, causing it to become a hot discussion topic. The recent years had been too peaceful, and now that such a big matter had happened, everyone was extremely excited.

Zhao Fu did not know about any of this. After returning to Great Qin, he had a big smile as he started to go through his gains from the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage.

The treasures piled into small mountains, and it was impossible for Zhao Fu to go through all of them himself, so he could only call others to help.

Everyone looked incredibly shocked, unable to imagine how their Majesty had obtained such a treasure trove.

One of the items was the Cosmos Medallion, which Zhao Fu picked up first. In two years, he would be able to enter the Cosmos Historical Remnant; perhaps he would be able to make some gains there. That had been the original goal of challenging the Ten Thousand Dragon Stage.

A few hours later, they finally finished making inventory of the countless treasures. They were worth eight billion gold coins in total, which exceeded what Zhao Fu had expected. This was simply too shocking; this amount of money was quite a lot, even to Great Qin.

Within the mountains of treasures, Zhao Fu found a few interesting things.

The first was a blueprint, which was the blueprint for creating Dragon-Slaying Ballistae. With high-grade talisman bolts, Dragon-Slaying Ballistae could instantly kill City Lords. Great Qin only had 100 of them, and after their previous big battles, they had damaged ten or so of them.

Great Qin had previously been unable to construct them and had only obtained them from Region Treasure Boxes. It had once been on the Chaotic World Stone Stele, but Zhao Fu had not been able to exchange for it.

With this blueprint, Great Qin could now manufacture its own Dragon-Slaying Ballistae, giving Great Qin another powerful card to play.

The second item of interest was a pearl condensed from powder. It was as big as a longan fruit and gave off a strange fragrance. It was called the Flower Spirit Pearl and could help flowers grow. This could be used on the World Flower.

Zhao Fu had been doing his best to nurture the World Flower this entire time, but it still had not bloomed, and Zhao Fu had no idea what to do. This Flower Spirit Pearl was many times better than the Thousand Flower Liquid, so perhaps it would be effective on the World Flower and cause it to bloom earlier.

The third item was a white dragon-shaped jade. It was as big as palm and gave off a faint dragon's might. It looked like there really was a dragon inside.

This was called the Dragon Soul Jade, and legends said that it was a jade condensed after a dragon died. It contained powerful dragon's power, and Zhao Fu planned to use it on the Wyvern Den. It would have powerful effects there.

After all, the Dragon Soul Jade was quite powerful itself, and it had affinity with the Wyvern Den's attributes. If it fused into the Wyvern Den, it would be able to increase the power of the Wyverns and perhaps increase the spawn rate.

Great Qin had already used Wyverns on the battlefield, and their effects were incredibly monstrous. They had a great advantage in the air and made things much easier to deal with. They were almost representative of Great Qin, and Great Qin had to continue nurturing them for sure.

Another item was a horn that was two meters long and looked quite crude. It seemed like the horn of a beast and gave off a faint battle intent.

This was the horn of a Berserk Battle Beast, and it was a war treasure item. It could greatly raise morale during battles and allow soldiers to fight without fear of death.

Finally, there was also a white crystal that was as big as a grain of rice. Even though it was quite small and did not seem like a treasure, just a normal item, it was actually one of the most treasures among them all.

Zhao Fu realized that this rice grain-sized crystal was actually a Divinity Shard and gave off a dense aura of a godly spirit. Even though its power was quite weak, it gave off a heart-warming feeling, and it was most likely a Holy Light attributed Divinity.

Because Zhao Fu had the God-Killer Profession, he was quite sensitive to the auras of godly spirits. He found that there was still a trace of consciousness within this shard.

The golden dragon suddenly said, “Zhao Fu, you can nurture this godly spirit and help it recover using sacrifices of incense and faith. It can become Great Qin’s private godly spirit, and you should know the benefits of a godly spirit. For example, that Water God you have has given all sorts of blessings. Moreover, the Water God Corps will become more powerful as she becomes stronger. One day, it will definitely become a top-tier Corps.”

“Nurture it into a private godly spirit of Great Qin?” Zhao Fu smiled and felt quite interested, so he decided to try it out.

Zhao Fu first gave the Dragon-Slaying Ballistae Blueprint to Bai Shan and had them fully research it and manufacture the Dragon-Slaying Ballistae. Great Qin would give them its full support.

Following this, Zhao Fu used the Flower Spirit Pearl on the World Flower, causing it to grow by another 100 or so meters. The flower bud became even larger and greener, and it seemed like it was only a single step away from blooming.

However, the World Flower was incredibly difficult to nurture. Zhao Fu had already spent so much effort on it, and he had even built a Fountain of Life around it to provide it with life energy. However, it still was not enough.

Afterwards, Zhao Fu fused the Dragon Soul Jade into the Wyvern Den. Apart from strengthening the Wyverns, it increased the spawn rate by two per day, which was quite good.

Finally, Zhao Fu used the method provided by the golden dragon to nurture the Divinity Shard. He first had people construct a temple before preparing a Light Crystal that was two meters tall. This Light Crystal contained a massive amount of Holy Light power, and such a large piece was incredibly rare.

Zhao Fu carefully fused the Divinity Shard into the Light Crystal, causing the massive Light Crystal to immediately show changes. It gave off a faint white light and a holy, pure aura.

The Light Crystal started to go through changes, and Zhao Fu wondered what sort of god it would produce. After all, the Divinity needed to reshape itself.

Now, they had to provide it with sacrifices of incense and faith. Great Qin had billions of people, so the amount of incense and faith it could provide was massive. As long as they focused on it, it would develop incredibly quickly.

After taking care of all of this, Zhao Fu gave a satisfied smile. He went outside the palace to look at the snow dancing in the air and welcomed the cold wind. In a few days, it would be New Years, after which Great Qin would enter its sixth year in the Heaven Awaken World.

Chapter 1074: New Years Banquet

As the snow danced in the air, the Great Qin City seemed to be covered by a layer of white. Celebratory red lanterns hung throughout streets, and every house had New Year couplets stuck on either side of the doors. People walked about on the streets with big smiles on their faces.

Zhao Fu stood on the top level of a tall building, looking at the majestic scene of the Great Qin City, feeling quite awed. Seeing the many families getting together, Zhao Fu could not help but feel a bit lonely.

It was New Years, and on this day, Great Qin ceased all operations. New Years was one of the most important festivals to Great Qin, as it followed Chinese traditions.

Great Qin had unified China and integrated the surrounding countries as well. Of course, some people had escaped to other Continents.

It could be said that since ancient times to now, no one had been able to complete this monumental task. If there were not other worlds outside the Legacy Lands, Great Qin would be more or less completed already.

Great Qin still had not finished clearing out regions, but once this was done, Great Qin would launch the final attack to unify the world. In the future, the world would be at peace and the human world would no longer have any fighting.

“Your Majesty! Hug!” Little Nine wore a snow-white cotton-padded jacket and led Little Rose to the top of the building. She held a drum-shaped rattle and leapt towards Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu lightly laughed as he hugged her and Little Rose, and the two of them started to play about within Zhao Fu’s embrace. Zhao Fu felt as if he had gained two little sisters, which dissipated a bit of the loneliness in Zhao Fu’s heart.

“Your Majesty, we’ve completed the preparations for the New Years banquet. The various Generals and Ministers have all arrived; please return to the palace,” Li Si said as he bowed.

Zhao Fu nodded before suddenly asking, “How are Our grandparents?”

Li Si smiled as he replied, “The two elders are quite healthy. This Minister has been taking care of them. Please rest assured, Your Majesty.”

Zhao Fu lightly nodded and said, “Invite them to the palace to celebrate New Years together!”

Li Si smiled as he cupped his hands, saying, “Yes, Your Majesty! This Minister will immediately go to invite them.”

In actuality, Li Si had long since expected that Zhao Fu would do this. Even though Zhao Fu had said that he was cutting off ties with his family, because of their familial connection, even though he hated his uncle’s family and did not pay much attention to his grandparents, Li Si had been secretly taking care of the two elders this entire time.

During this special celebration, Li Si understood that Zhao Fu would feel lonely, and he could not make up for this, nor could anyone else. After all, they were not Zhao Fu's relatives.

People in the outside world said that their Majesty was cold-blooded and bloodthirsty, and sometimes he was indeed like this. To Great Qin's enemies, he was incredibly ruthless, but to those part of Great Qin, he was quite soft.

Following this, Zhao Fu returned to the palace and celebrated the New Years with his Generals, Ministers, and grandparents, and he almost became drunk.

Four days later, Zhao Fu put his emotions back in order and headed to the Fish Scale world. Great Qin had signed a Contract with the Fish Scale world, promising not to attack for three years. It was now the sixth year in the Heaven Awaken World, and the Contract would expire next year.

Zhao Fu's focus this time was the Darkwater Continent. Zhao Fu now had 4,200 City Lords in the Darkwater Continent, and he controlled 3,200 of them with brain bugs. There were still 1,000 who were not controlled.

The Darkwater Continent had 6,000 regions and 19,000 or so City Lords. Zhao Fu's 4,200 City Lords were about a quarter of the total City Lords, and they had 2,000 or so regions.

Zhao Fu felt that he could start up a battle within the Darkwater Continent. After all, this would be a battle within the Fish Scale world, so it would not have as much of an impact as a war between worlds, and the factions from other Continents most likely would not interfere.

This undoubtedly reduced the difficulty of Zhao Fu unifying the Darkwater Continent. Because of the Contract, Great Qin's soldiers could not enter the Fish Scale world, so Great Qin would not be able to help at all. They could only rely on their forces in the Darkwater Continent.

Currently, almost 80% of system City Lords in the Darkwater Continent had joined the system faction controlled by Great Qin.

Because of their identity as City Lords, they had quite an advantage because the world was essentially split into two sides, one being the player side and the other being the system side.

By now, it was mostly players starting to gain the upper hand, and they continuously conquered system main cities. If system main cities wanted to stay safe and not be destroyed by players, they had to gather together. That was why Great Qin's faction in the Darkwater Continent had grown so quickly.

Moreover, this was growth that did not cost them anything, and it allowed them to completely absorb the forces of those who were joining. The City Lords were also quite loyal.

However, the fact that there were still 1,000 City Lords who were not controlled was a risk, but Zhao Fu could not do anything about it. He lacked brain bugs, and most trades in the Heaven Spirit Stele were conducted through bartering; gold coins were not of much value in the Heaven Spirit Stele, and their only use was to pay for fees.

Zhao Fu did not want to continue pretending to be a higher-being in the Heaven Spirit Stele, because without actual cultivation, he could be exposed quite easily. He absolutely did not want to catch the attention of a true higher-being.

He had made friends with a higher-being, but Zhao Fu did not dare to disturb him or her, only collecting books for that higher-being.

At first, Zhao Fu only provided books that could help with comprehension, such as scriptures. Later, Zhao Fu found that the higher-being loved all kinds of books, so he sent over China's four great classics, which were the Romance of the Three Kingdoms, Journey to the West, Water Margin, and Dream of the Red Chamber.

He had never expected the higher-being to like Journey to the West the most, and the higher-being even asked Zhao Fu who wrote it and wanted to meet that person.

Zhao Fu could not do anything to help – the person who wrote Journey to the West was from the Ming Dynasty; how could Zhao Fu go and find him?

However, it was not surprising that the Journey to the West was the most liked one; it was the most widely read classic out of the four great classics, and it had its own charm.

Now that Zhao Fu could not use the same methods to obtain brain bugs, he could only use other things to trade them. With Great Qin's fortune, this was no problem.

Following this, Zhao Fu spent a great deal of effort to obtain 1,000 brain bugs to control the remaining 1,000 system City Lords. Now, this system faction once again fully belonged to Great Qin.

The system faction had a force of 4,200 City Lords and 400 million Stage 1 soldiers; just thinking about it, anyone would feel excited.

With this sort of strength, unifying the Darkwater Continent would not be too difficult. Even though their forces only made up one quarter of the total forces in the Darkwater Continent, they were one collective force while the others were a pile of loose sand. Some would not even help and would just sit by and watch.

However, Zhao Fu thought about it and decided to play things safe. He decided to slow down the unification of the Darkwater Continent because he was still somewhat worried about the other Continents.

After all, even if Great Qin's faction could take over the Darkwater Continent, with its strength, it might not be able to defend it and scare others into not attacking.

Right now, the most important thing was to gather more City Lords from other Continents. With how big Great Qin's faction was, it would attract more people because the more powerful a faction was, the safer it would be.

Chapter 1075: Putting on an Act

Zhao Fu thought about it and felt that he needed a more detailed plan. As such, Zhao Fu returned to Great Qin and met with his Generals to discuss this before going to the Fish Scale world again.

Zhao Fu first sent people to the various Continents to give letters to system City Lords. Of course, the contents of the letters were about how good Zhao Fu's faction was and how evil player factions were, hoping that they could band together.

Not many people responded to this, as most of them did not want to leave their own Continent. However, at least now everyone knew about this faction.

None of them expected the system faction in the Darkwater Continent to become so powerful. It was simply too shocking, and no one knew how they had done it.

Zhao Fu expected the outcome to be like this. Despite sending out countless letters, only 20 or so Cities had been willing to join Zhao Fu's faction, which was a small but pleasant surprise.

The reason they joined was because the places they had been at before could not be stayed in anymore. Some places had already been taken over by players, so these system factions could only run or else submit.

Some places were not very peaceful anymore, and because they were worried about their safety, they left ahead of time and did not want to stay anymore.

What Zhao Fu wanted was for system factions to have his faction in mind if they ever decided to leave where they were.

As for how to make them leave, Zhao Fu already had a plan, which was to put on an act of players attacking the system main cities. By scaring these system City Lords, they would naturally obediently come and join Great Qin's faction.

However, this would cost quite a bit of money, as they had to hire a large number of players. Great Qin had a large number of Fish Scale players, who were those four billion Fish Scale players they had captured when they had taken back the Southern Continent. With so many players, they would definitely be able to shake the Fish Scale world, and Zhao Fu's plan would have massive effects.

However, these people belonged to Great Qin, and if they were used, people would naturally know that Great Qin was behind this.

Moreover, there was the issue of the Contract. These Fish Scale players were now subjects of Great Qin, so they could not go to other Continents, but neither could the rest of the Fish Scale world come to the Netherwater Continent.

By now, Great Qin had cleared out 80% of the Netherwater Continent. This took quite a long time, as it was quite inconvenient for humans to move about underwater, so many things were done by Fish Scale people.

Because there was already a rift, the Fate of the two worlds did not dissolve the Heavenly Domain Boundary again this time. However, the Fish Scale world's Fate was silently being stolen away by Great Qin.

This time, Zhao Fu brought over one billion gold coins to recruit enough players. One gold coin was worth 10,000 copper coins, so hiring one player for one gold coin was quite attractive. Moreover, Zhao Fu did not need them to actually do anything, so it was quite easy to hire people.

There was a small system faction of ten or so system main cities peacefully going about its business, not wanting to get involved in any fighting.

However, on that day, battle sounds rang out in the surrounding ten or so kilometers and a massive aura rushed at them, shocking all creatures nearby and causing them to run for their lives.

“Things are bad! There are a few million players attacking!” a soldier standing guard cried out with a pale face after seeing the dark mass of Fish Scale players charging over

Everyone else was also terrified. Their ten or so Cities only had a combined force of one million or so soldiers. Even though they had an advantage in terms of cultivation, facing millions of people, it would be quite difficult to win. Even if they won, it would most likely be a pyrrhic victory.

This immediately caused all of the Cities to go into lockdown, and the soldiers hurried to the City Walls, looking at the dark mass of Fish Scale players gravely. The City Lords also hurried over, and the residents could not help but feel worried.

“What's going on? Why are there so many players attacking? We've moved to such a remote place, yet these players still want to attack us; they're going too far!” a bearded City Lord said angrily.

Another City Lord sighed, saying, “No matter which Continent or which world it is, this is the trajectory that everyone is going in. In the end, the players will unify everything. After all, they have a massive amount of Fate, and they are the main characters of this world.”

A Fish Scale woman had a cold expression on her face as she said, “Are we really going to be destroyed by players? I can't accept it; even if we're destroyed, we have to drag them down with us.”

An elder also sighed and said, “So what if we can’t accept it? In front of such a massive force, all resistance is futile. Let’s think about how to face these millions of players!”

Hearing this, everyone nodded; this was not the time to be lamenting about such things.

The soldiers on the City Walls solemnly prepared for a tough battle, but what happened next completely shocked them – after charging halfway, that ferocious army suddenly retreated, causing the City Lords to feel incredibly confused.

What was going on? Why had this army suddenly retreated? Everyone looked at each other and could not understand what was happening. However, they felt that it was possible that it was a trap, so they did not leave their Cities.

However, after a while, there was still no response from that player army, so everyone let out a sigh of relief. It seemed that they had really left. Even though they did not know why, seeing that they had won without fighting or suffering any losses, everyone looked quite happy.

Nevertheless, just as they were about to go back to their own lives again, that massive army once again ferociously charged over, loudly shouting and giving off a shocking aura.

This forced the countless soldiers to once again return to the City Walls, gravely waiting for the enemy army to arrive. The ten City Lords also became wary, staring at the player army to react to whatever they did.

However, in the next moment, the army once again retreated, causing the system faction’s people to frown. They could not understand the player army’s goal.

No matter what, the system side would not take the initiative to rush out, as they held the advantage when defending their Cities. If they rushed out, they would not have this advantage and would instead be ambushed.

This time, they waited a bit longer, and after confirming that the player army would not attack, they prepared to withdraw their troops.

“Kill!!” A terrifying aura once again flooded out, and the system soldiers once again returned to the City Walls, seriously preparing for battle. However, by now, they felt somewhat angry.

“These people are so annoying!” The ten City Lords were quite annoyed. After being continuously harassed like this, no one would be happy.

Once again, the player army retreated halfway, and the ten City Lords could not take it anymore. They flew out of their Cities to check just what was going on. However, before they could get close, 20 or so terrifying auras exploded out.

The system City Lords realized that there was an ambush, so they quickly ran back. Following this, the player army once again charged and retreated, almost angering the system side to death.

Those hired by Great Qin did not actually have to fight; all they had to do was charge and yell a bit. After retreating, they could do whatever they wanted; some lay down to sleep, others ate, and others chatted.

Chapter 1076: Villain and Hero

After a while, someone called out that it was time, and the players once again gathered together and roared as they charged at the City Walls.

This time, the system side was already prepared. They did not leave the City Walls and continued to defend. Some soldiers had left, as they could not continue to keep all of the soldiers on the City Walls. Many of them had not eaten because the player army had wasted almost an entire day of their time.

They felt that this army was just a fake army that did not dare to actually attack; they were just here to harass them.

Seeing that the City Lords had not responded after they had charged halfway, the person commanding the player army shouted, “Charge closer! Anyone who charges near the City Walls before retreating will be rewarded ten silver coins!”

“Kill!!” Hearing that there was a bonus reward, everyone felt incredibly excited and charged forwards with an even more ferocious aura.

This gave the system side a big fright, and all of the soldiers immediately gathered on the City walls, ready for a big fight. However, the players once again retreated.

“I’m so angry! How about we just charge out and fight them! Kill all of these damn players!” a City Lord said angrily. He had had enough of this repetitive harassment and humiliation.

The elder immediately said, “We can’t! There were 20 or so City Lords hidden within that army, and this is clearly a trap. If we charge out, we’ll definitely fall into their trap and suffer heavy losses.”

When they thought about that, everyone could only hold in their anger. If they just endured it a bit more, it would be over.

However, what they did not expect was that the next few days would nearly anger them to death.

During those days, the army continuously harassed them and even issued challenges, calling everyone in the Cities cowardly turtles who could only hide. They said that the Cities did not dare to fight and were trash.

This made the City Lords feel incredibly angry, and they were now even more certain that this was a trap and that they could not go out.

These people were like a group of flies, continuously annoying and harassing them. These City Lords had suffered for many days, and they felt that their heads were going to explode.

What they didn’t know was that if they rushed out, Zhao Fu’s fake army would immediately scatter. They were all here for money, and it was easy money without fighting. If there was any danger to their lives, they would immediately run.

However, Zhao Fu had also prepared other plans. If these people charged out, Zhao Fu would attack the City.

Zhao Fu was using his faction from the Darkwater Continent, so this would not be a violation of the Contract. As such, there would be no problem.

“Is there anything we can do about these despicable players? I can’t take it anymore. I want to rush out and kill them all. I’m going to die of anger!” a City Lord yelled angrily.

The other City Lords also looked quite furious; they desperately wished to go out and slaughter that player army, but it was extremely dangerous outside. If they went out, they would be finished.

Just as the City Lords were suffering, a letter filled with a gentle light was delivered to them.

This was naturally from the Darkwater Continent, and reading that letter, they felt quite moved.

A young man smiled as he said, “What do you all think about going to the Darkwater Continent? System City Lords are in charge over there and are madly suppressing players. If we go, we won’t be harassed by players anymore, and it’ll be us suppressing players instead.”

Another City Lord nodded in agreement, saying, “I think we should. Over there, the world belongs to system factions like ours, and it should be a good place to stay. Didn’t we originally gather together for safety? Now that this place isn’t safe anymore, we should move to the Darkwater Continent.”

“Yes, yes! This is the best plan. We can’t afford to fight those players outside, so we can only hide. I agree to go to the Darkwater Continent,” another City Lord said.

After discussing, the City Lords decided to relocate to the Darkwater Continent together.

However, with so many players outside, it was difficult for them to do anything. Worst came to worst, they might be attacked while relocating.

They felt quite insecure, and someone suggested, “Since we’ve decided to join the Darkwater Continent’s faction, we’ll be part of them in the future. How about we ask them for help? From this, we’ll be able to see their attitude towards us. If it’s good, going there will definitely be better than staying here. However, if their attitude isn’t so good, we’ll think of another way and not go to the Darkwater Continent.”

Everyone else nodded, feeling that this was quite a good plan.

Following this, they sent a reply letter, and the Darkwater Continent's faction immediately responded. The next day, they sent people over, shocking the City Lords; they had never thought that the Darkwater Continent's faction would value them so highly.

Moreover, those people were incredibly passionate and made all sorts of promises as if they were the hosts here and the City Lords here were the guests.

Seeing that the other side valued them so much, the ten City Lords were naturally quite happy and reassured, and they felt that they had made the right decision in joining the Darkwater Continent's faction. What they did not know was that Great Qin was the mastermind behind all of this.

With the Darkwater Continent's people here to cover them, they did not have to worry about the players, and they were able to peacefully relocate.

Following this, even more people from the Darkwater Continent arrived to help them with their relocation.

The player army once again pretended to charge a few times, but they were scared back by the Darkwater Continent's people. This allowed everyone to feel incredibly safe, and they no longer worried about anything.

After coming to the Darkwater Continent and seeing how everyone lived in harmony and unity, the ten City Lords were even happier. They had never thought that things would be so good, and they regretted not coming earlier. However, they did not know what they would face in the future.

This was all part of Zhao Fu's plan, playing both the villain and the hero, using those harassment methods to force those City Lords to hand themselves over to Great Qin.

Of course, Zhao Fu didn't spend one billion gold coins to hire just those people. He did the same thing in many different places, continuously harassing the system main cities.

As for the larger system factions, Zhao Fu did not dare to go and do the same to them because they had great strength, it was possible for him to lose control over the situation. Therefore, Zhao Fu mainly focused on some smaller factions in remote areas.

It was easier to make a move against such factions, as they were smaller and had no support. When faced with situations like this, they had no way to deal with it.

When the Darkwater Continent threw out an olive branch, most of them quickly agreed to join, causing the Darkwater Continent's system faction to grow bigger and bigger.

Chapter 1077: Eastern Side

Seeing that Great Qin's faction was becoming stronger and stronger, the other people in the Darkwater Continent became more and more unsettled. The next day, they planned to make the first move and ally together to attack.

After all, if this faction continued to grow at this speed, it would destroy them sooner or later. As such, they had to act first, or else it would be too late.

The remaining forces in the Darkwater Continent gathered together and discussed how to destroy Great Qin's faction.

Great Qin's faction took up one side of the Darkwater Continent, and the remaining factions could group into three armies to simultaneously attack.

There were 10,000 or so City Lords and eight billion soldiers gathered, which was quite a mighty force.

Everyone felt quite confident and started to make detailed plans as to how to attack.

"Things are bad! The system army struck first and is attacking the eastern side of the Darkwater Continent!" a soldier hurriedly ran in and reported while the main leaders were discussing amongst themselves.

"What?" Everyone was greatly shocked and had never expected the system faction to act first.

They had gathered people to destroy Great Qin's faction, and with such a big ruckus, of course Zhao Fu knew what was going on. He knew that he could not continue to wait and decided to attack first.

The other factions' City Lords were still discussing this matter, so their Cities did not have City Lords protecting them. This made them feel quite panicked, and this was especially so for the eastern side. After hearing about this, the City Lords quickly returned.

The other factions also returned and gathered their armies to head towards the eastern side. There, they could destroy Great Qin's faction in one fell swoop.

However, when they tried to return to their own Cities, they found that there were a large number of isolation barriers set up in many places, making it impossible to use teleportation channels to return to their Cities; they could only rely on flying to return.

Zhao Fu coldly smiled in the eastern side. That's right, ally together all you want and discuss all you want. Great Qin had been allied against many times, and he now knew how to deal with this. Great Qin had the strength to set up a large number of isolation barriers.

This was a great opportunity because most of the City Lords had not returned and only a small portion of the City Lords had remained behind.

With their central figures missing, morale would not be very high, and they had not yet gathered into one unified force yet. If Zhao Fu did not take such an opportunity to attack, it would be too much of a pity.

Zhao Fu brought 4,000 City Lords and 400 million soldiers. 80% of his forces were gathered at the eastern side, planning to take down the eastern side as quickly as possible. If they could do this, the pressure they faced would drastically decrease.

There were about 2,000 or so City Lords left defending, and 1,000 City Lords were able to quickly make it over, bringing only 100 million soldiers.

Time was tight, so Zhao Fu did not hesitate. He gave the order to attack, and because Zhao Fu himself was bound by the Contract and could not personally attack, he brought 80 Dragon-Slaying Ballistae.

Great Qin was hastily manufacturing Dragon-Slaying Ballistae, but it was not something that could be manufactured in a short period of time. These 80 Dragon-Slaying Ballistae were all from before.

Apart from the Dragon-Slaying Ballistae, Zhao Fu also brought 120 or so Destruction Crystals.

“Kill!” After receiving Zhao Fu’s order, the City Lords gave off terrifying auras and rushed forwards, and the countless soldiers below also roared as they flooded forwards with monstrous momentum.

The defending soldiers and City Lords in the air were incredibly serious, as the enemy had many times their forces. They could only desperately stall for time and hope reinforcements came quickly. Once reinforcements came, victory would be theirs.

Boom! Boom! Boom...

Massive golden rays of light containing immense power tore through the sky incredibly quickly, flashing past in the blink of an eye and leaving traces through the air.

Chi, chi, chi...

Ninety or so City Lords’ chests were pierced before they could even react, and most bolts pierced through at least two City Lords, nailing them to the ground kilometers away.

The remaining City Lords looked incredibly shocked and had no idea what had happened. However, in the next moment, something that greatly shocked them happened.

Bang, bang, bang...

Massive explosions sounded out as colorful crystals smashed against the defensive walls, resulting in enormous eruptions. Terrifying shockwaves blasted out, destroying everything in their way.

In just an instant, the grand defensive wall had completely crumbled, and all of the soldiers on them were either dead or gravely wounded. Blood stained the bodies of water around this area, creating a chilling scene.

“Charge!!” Great Qin’s faction gave off an unstoppable momentum as they charged at the enemy. The eastern side had suffered massive blows and lost their defensive wall; they essentially had no strength to resist anymore.

Zhao Fu's City Lords encircled the enemy City Lords, and they also used the Dragon-Slaying Ballistae to continuously shoot out terrifying bolts, giving off dangerous auras. Because both sides were fighting closely, they could only attack isolated enemy City Lords and could not continuously attack in order to avoid any friendly fire.

The soldiers below started to fight with the surviving enemy soldiers. The enemy side no longer put up much of a resistance because they had already lost most of their forces, and Zhao Fu's side already held a numerical advantage.

The casualties on the eastern side increased more and more, and finally, morale collapsed and the soldiers started to run for their lives.

Zhao Fu's faction chased after them, not letting any of them off. After these forces were destroyed, the remaining Cities and regions naturally could not resist at all.

Region after region was easily taken down by Zhao Fu's faction. After hearing that the frontlines had collapsed, those who had been planning to return to reinforce the eastern side quickly ran back. The eastern side had fallen, so they could only run to other places. Some even escaped to other Continents.

There were many City Lords who decided to surrender. After all, Zhao Fu's faction was a system faction, so it was most likely more reliable than player factions. Most who surrendered were system City Lords as well.

A bit more than a day later, Zhao Fu's system faction had completely taken over the eastern side. By now, City Lords from the other directions had finally broken through the isolation barriers, but it was too late.

The other side had 8,000 or so City Lords and around 600 million soldiers. However, Zhao Fu's faction had quickly devoured the regions they had taken over, and many of the surrendered forces had been absorbed into the army. The remaining City Lords and soldiers who had stayed at the headquarters had also come.

Their overall force was a bit stronger than the other side, having around 9,000 City Lords and 600 million soldiers. Seeing that the system army was already prepared, the various factions did not feel much confidence.

If they fought, their side would not have any advantage, and they would instead be at a disadvantage.

The system side held an obvious advantage: They had greater strength and also had the geographical advantage. Moreover, most of them were system City Lords, making them a bit stronger than player City Lords; it would be quite difficult for them to win.

Chapter 1078: Terrifying Great Qin

The armies of the two sides faced off against each other. Zhao Fu had not revealed himself this entire time, simply controlling things from the shadows. The one commanding the army was a valiant-looking Fish Scale City Lord. He was the temporary Commander of the system faction.

His name was Liu Li, and of course, it was because he had long since been controlled by a brain bug for a long time that he had been chosen.

Liu Li stood in the sky and gave off a powerful aura as he looked at the enemy army in front of him. He gave a confident smile as he said loudly, “The Darkwater Continent will belong to us system City Lords sooner or later; you players should hurry up and piss off!

“Also, you system City Lords on the other side; could it be that you’re willing to follow the bad example of the players? How about you join us? We system City Lords are your true friends; leave those players and join us!”

One of the players, a big man giving off a mighty aura coldly harrumphed as he said, “Stop trying to sow discord! Right now, it’s your side that’s in danger. This world belongs to players, and system factions like yours should submit to players instead of acting like this.”

Liu Li loudly laughed, “The strong devour the weak. Who cares about what the trend is? Right now, it’s our system faction conquering you players.”

The big man felt quite furious. If they had a big enough advantage, they would have started fighting already. However, they had no confidence, so they could only face off like this.

Both sides had a similar number of soldiers, so neither side could do much to the other side. Zhao Fu's side held the geographical advantage, so they naturally would not lose their advantage to attack. They understood that if they started fighting, they would suffer heavy losses.

Because of the Contract, Zhao Fu could not do anything, and he was unable to affect the battle.

Both sides continued to face off like this, and the atmosphere cooled. Neither side seemed willing to advance.

A white-haired elder stood out and tried to be the peacemaker, saying, "Alright, we're all Fish Scale people; we shouldn't be fighting among ourselves like this and causing unnecessary losses. Don't you remember who the owner of the neighboring Netherwater Continent is?"

After hearing this, everyone fell silent and looked quite serious with a trace of fear in their eyes. The owner of the Netherwater Continent was Great Qin, that overpowered Kingdom that had caused the entire Fish Scale world to fall into crisis.

The Netherwater Continent had been given to Great Qin due to that unfair Contract, and it was a great humiliation to the Fish Scale world. However, no one dared to say anything because Great Qin's power made them all feel immense fear.

Great Qin could be said to be the Fish Scale world's greatest threat, and nothing could compare to it; this was acknowledged by everyone.

This was why everyone reacted in that way after hearing that.

Next to them was Great Qin, and even though they had signed a Contract that prohibited fighting for three years, that would expire next year. The Darkwater Continent was right next to Great Qin, and thinking about how terrifying Great Qin was, everyone felt quite afraid.

Seeing that everyone had fallen silent, the elder continued to say seriously, "That's right, it's Great Qin, the human world's Great Qin. With a terrifying monster right there, we're still fighting amongst ourselves. If Great Qin attacks, how will we defend?"

A green-clothed middle-aged man stood out and said, "That's right, Great Qin is right next to us, and next year, the three year Contract will be over. What will we do when that time comes? Under

Great Qin's ferocious might, they might conquer the entire Darkwater Continent; when that time comes, no one will be able to escape.

"Do you all want to see us die together or become Great Qin's dogs or slaves?"

These words caused an uproar among the others; no one wanted such a thing to happen to them.

"They're right, our true enemy is the human world's Great Qin. With how terrifying Great Qin is, it'll be quite difficult to stop them with our power. We should be united instead of fighting amongst ourselves."

"I agree, let's not fight. The human world's Great Qin caused the Fish Scale world to suffer such great humiliation; we should be resisting them instead."

"We should be united against outsiders and not fighting amongst ourselves. If we don't unite, under Great Qin's threat, we might all die. When that time comes, we'll be sinners of the Fish Scale world."

"That's right, let's be unified against outsiders. We can't afford to continue fighting amongst ourselves. Great Qin is too terrifying, and we aren't a match for it at all. Thinking about how it took down billions of us in the Southern Continent in the human world, I still feel afraid."

The scene became quite raucous, and many people could not help but speak up. They were all afraid of Great Qin's threat while the ruler of Great Qin awkwardly stood in the crowd.

In actuality, neither faction wanted to fight. The other side did not dare to attack as they were at a slight disadvantage, and Zhao Fu did not want to attack either because he would suffer disastrous losses.

Zhao Fu wanted to keep waiting because there were still many system main cities relocating to the Darkwater Continent from other Continents. His strength would become stronger, and at the same time, he could try to convince the remaining system factions in the Darkwater Continent to join him, causing the other side's strength to decrease.

When that time came, it would be quite easy for Zhao Fu to destroy them, and he would not have to pay such a great price.

Zhao Fu knew that they most likely would not fight, but he had never expected things to conclude like this. After hearing everyone talk about Great Qin like this, as the ruler of Great Qin, Zhao Fu felt quite awkward.

Liu Li, the City Lord acting as Commander, coldly harrumphed, “For the future of the Fish Scale world and for all Fish Scale people, we can refrain from attacking for now. However, that’s on the condition that others don’t attack us.”

Zhao Fu had Liu Li officially speak first so that he could stand on the side of justice and integrity.

This made the players secretly curse at him for being shameless. They had been about to give an official statement too, but now that Liu Li had spoken first, it seemed like they were the ‘good’ side, taking a step back for the sake of the Fish Scale world.

The one who said this first would obviously seem like the nobler side, while the other side naturally would not be able to achieve the same effect even if they said the same words. Moreover, if they rebutted this, they would be condemned by all others, saying that they were foolish, selfish, and vile people.

The players could only agree and thank the system side. They did not want to fight either, so they could only do their best to maintain some dignity.

Both sides did not continue talking and drew the line here. Neither side would attack the other in the future, after which both sides left.

Even though everyone said they would mind their own business, after returning, both sides continued to develop their strength.

Zhao Fu was definitely going to unify the Darkwater Continent, while the player side would definitely retaliate. They did not want to be destroyed, so they also had to become stronger.

Chapter 1079: Citizenship System

Zhao Fu sent a large number of soldiers to defend the boundary between the two sides and did not give this matter anymore attention. He knew that the other side would not dare to attack for now, so it was time to focus on expanding his own faction.

Zhao Fu continued to use his shameless 'recruitment' tactics, which were quite effective. Every day, over 100 City Lords joined them.

Even though the other side was desperately trying to expand their faction, how could their speed compare to Zhao Fu's. Zhao Fu's faction grew much faster than theirs, and unifying the Darkwater Continent was just a matter of time. There was nothing to worry about.

Zhao Fu stayed here for a few more days, and after seeing that the situation had settled, he returned to Great Qin.

Great Qin had finished its New Years celebrations and had gone back to its normal course of business. Soldiers once again started to clear out regions, and the various Departments diligently completed their tasks. There was not much to do, so Zhao Fu set his mind to internal matters.

He read through the documents that had stacked up and found that a few Ministers were suggesting changes to the citizenship system, because although the system punished those who had resisted Great Qin, it did not benefit the unity of the Kingdom.

Moreover, there were many holes in upgrading from a Criminal to a Citizen, and there was no proper supervision. Some people had taken advantage of this, resulting in discontentment. If this went on, there could be trouble in the future, so they requested Zhao Fu to think about changing the citizenship system.

After reading through these documents, Zhao Fu frowned. Even though the documents were suggesting changes to the citizenship system, their actual intention was to get rid of the current citizenship system, and they were using a soft way of doing it.

In that case, should he get rid of the current citizenship system? Zhao Fu sank into his thoughts and felt quite hesitant.

When Zhao Fu established the current citizenship system, it was primarily to punish the resist factions. Since they had caused Great Qin great losses, not killing them was already merciful.

As such, they had to be properly punished or else Great Qin's soldiers' blood would have been shed for nothing. Zhao Fu naturally felt quite angry towards those who resisted greatly.

However, from the descriptions in the documents, it indeed seemed like there were some problems and hidden troubles.

Most of the Ministers were Civil Officials as Generals were responsible for fighting on the frontlines. Most Ministers were split into two factions, and the one that supported Zhao Fu's system was made up of mostly Outlanders and was led by a person called Guli.

Guli was a Catfolk elder who had originally been the City Lord of a Basic City that had been conquered by Great Qin. He had served Great Qin well and been promoted, and he had become an important Minister to Great Qin.

They believed that the Criminals deserved their treatment, as they had resisted Great Qin and made Great Qin spend extra effort to conquer them. As such, they deserved this kind of punishment.

He believed that not making them slaves and giving them the opportunity to advance their citizenship status was already incredibly merciful. To them, those people should forever be Criminals, and their children should also be Criminals. The weak should submit to the strong.

Moreover, those who did not resist could be given Citizen status, but if those who resisted greatly were given the same treatment, it was possible that those who did not resist would be dissatisfied.

This would also create more resistance for Great Qin in the future. Now that most people knew that those who resisted intensely would be made Criminals, most people obediently submitted. However, if people knew that they would still receive the same treatment even if they resisted, they would definitely try to resist first.

As such, these Ministers recommended for the Citizenship system not to be abolished and even suggested adopting slavery. After all, it was quite common in the Heaven Awaken World.

Hearing this, Zhao Fu nodded as this was what he was thinking about as well. However, slavery was against Zhao Fu's ideals, and he would not accept it. Zhao Fu had his own bottom line.

Seeing that Zhao Fu did not support abolishing the current Citizenship system, those who supported abolishing it were greatly worried and immediately came forward to express their opinion.

These Ministers were mostly Chinese, and they came from various Schools and Sects. Because Zhao Fu had stopped sanctioning the School of Confucianism, School of Mohism, and Buddhist Sect, many of their key figures had returned to China and served Great Qin.

Their opinion was that Zhao Fu was an enlightened liege and that only uncivilized and barbaric societies used slavery, after which feudalism was established.

The reason why slavery was replaced by feudalism was because slavery could cause a lot of unrest in a nation and result in all sorts of conflict, and it could even lead to the demise of a nation.

These Ministers said that even though the current Citizenship system was not slavery, it could cause a lot of conflict and would not make the subjects of Great Qin completely loyal. It would be difficult to fully unite the Kingdom, as those who belonged to Great Qin should be treated the same.

Those Ministers believed that the current Citizenship system should be abolished, as it would cause hidden problems for Great Qin and there were definitely better ways to go about this.

After hearing from these Ministers, Zhao Fu felt that they were right as well.

Both sides made sense, so which side should he listen to? Zhao Fu felt quite troubled, and he could not help but look towards Li Si beside him, Great Qin's Prime Minister.

Li Si calmly smiled and cupped his hands as he said, "Everything is in Your Majesty's hands!"

Li Si had passed the buck back to Zhao Fu, causing Zhao Fu to glare at him.

At that moment, Li Muqing stood out and said, "Your Majesty, this Minister beseeches you to leave the throne and go to the common people to look at the conditions of those Criminals. I'm sure that will help you make a decision instead of just staying here and thinking about it."

"Preposterous! With how grand our Majesty's status is, how could he go to those Criminals? Minister Li dares to blaspheme against his Majesty and should be punished!" Another Minister chided and said, "This is not a democratic Kingdom like your real world; this is his Majesty's Empire. Everything revolves around his Majesty, and the commoners are of secondary importance. Minister Li, doing such a thing is against the spirit of Great Qin!"

This caused the player Ministers to look quite serious; this was a grave accusation. They indeed wanted to do things in a democratic way, and it was indeed quite inappropriate.

The expressions of Li Muqing and the other player Ministers fell, and the indigenous resident Ministers glared at them.

Zhao Fu felt quite startled and swept his gaze across everyone present. He found that without him noticing, different factions had developed.

Now, because of that Minister's words, the hall had fallen completely silent, and the atmosphere was quite tense.

Zhao Fu thought about it before saying in a dignified tone, "Enough, We have Our own plans. We think that Minister Li is correct; We will go and take a look personally to see the true situation in Great Qin."

Chapter 1080: One Gold Coin

Now that Zhao Fu had spoken, no one dared to voice any objections, and everyone was obedient to Zhao Fu's will.

Li Muqing and the other player Ministers inwardly let out sighs of relief. Luckily, Zhao Fu was not a person from a large family or an indigenous resident, or else his attitude towards this would be different.

Following this, Zhao Fu put on some simple clothes and left the palace with Li Muqing.

At the construction site of a canal, Zhao Fu watched big men covered in sweat digging the canal and moving rocks and mud. With spatial rings, the process was much easier.

After dislodging the rocks and mud, they could be put into spatial rings for easy transportation. The materials for constructing the canal were placed on the side, allowing the speed of construction to progress incredibly quickly.

With Great Qin's current Citizenship status, Criminals could improve their status by serving Great Qin. This included participating in construction activities, which gave them points, and with enough points, they could increase their status.

The people here were all Criminals, and they wanted to earn points by building this canal. Of course, Great Qin's government also gave an appropriate wage as well.

Suddenly, a big man carrying a large pole accidentally bumped into Zhao Fu, causing a bit of mud to fall onto Zhao Fu.

The big man's face paled, and he immediately apologized, "I'm so sorry Young Sir, it wasn't on purpose. I'll immediately clean it off for you."

"Hmph! How dare a Criminal like you touch this Young Sir's clothes," a foreman walked over and coldly harrumphed. Even though Zhao Fu felt that his clothes were quite plain, to others, they could still tell that he had an extraordinary aura and was definitely no ordinary person.

The big man had never thought that the foreman would come over, and his face became even paler. He wanted to explain, saying that it was by accident.

However, the foreman cut him off and said, "You know that this Young Sir is definitely part of Great Qin's nobility. With your status as a Criminal, why are you not kneeling to apologize yet? Do you want me to make things difficult for you?"

Hearing this, the big man looked at Zhao Fu's clothes and immediately knelt and kowtowed as he said, "I'm sorry, Young Sir. I'm truly sorry. Please forgive this lowly one."

The foreman apologetically smiled, saying, "Young Sir, do you think you could spare him just this once? This lowly one will clean the mud off your clothes for you."

Zhao Fu felt quite surprised; this foreman looked quite savage, but he was actually helping that big man.

"No matter, it's not a big deal and I don't mind much. Also, why are you so afraid?" Zhao Fu felt quite confused. This was just a small matter, but the other person was simply too afraid as if he was desperately scared of something.

The foreman did not know how to reply. From a glance, he could tell that Zhao Fu was from a rich and powerful family, and he could also tell that he was quite inexperienced and naïve, not understanding the situation in Great Qin. However, seeing that Zhao Fu's attitude was quite good, he breathed out; it seemed like he would not make things difficult.

Standing beside Zhao Fu, Li Muqing explained, "For Criminals like him, making trouble will add to his crimes, and he might be put on the blacklist, preventing him from earning more points. That would mean he will be a Criminal for the rest of his life. That's why he's so afraid, especially so because you're dressed like nobility; people like him can't afford to offend people like you."

The foreman smiled as he said, "This beautiful Young Miss is quite knowledgeable. Back then, it took me a lot of effort to go from a Criminal to a Citizen; if I make any trouble, all of that will be for nothing. In Great Qin, it's like there are tags on us, and if we make any mistakes, the consequences will be severe."

Zhao Fu nodded in understanding; back then, he had indeed ordered for them to be punished severely so that they would be afraid and obedient.

Since they had resisted so intensely back then, Zhao Fu had of course used all sorts of methods to subdue them.

The foreman then said again, "Young Sir, Young Miss, why have you come to a place like this? With your statuses, coming to a place like this will make others laugh at you."

Zhao Fu felt quite startled and asked, "Why do you say that? What's wrong with coming here?"

The foreman felt quite surprised and had never thought that Zhao Fu would ask such a thing. Inwardly, he felt that Zhao Fu really was an ignorant little prince who didn't know anything. He smiled as he replied, "This is a place where Criminals are gathered; nobles like you coming here will ruin your image."

Zhao Fu frowned and looked to Li Muqing and asked, "Why has Great Qin's Citizenship system become so strict and severe? Those who are above will always be above, and those who are below will always be below."

Zhao Fu had never expected this at all; this was not his goal. Zhao Fu would treat anyone who became a Citizen with kindness. Zhao Fu had just wanted to punish these Criminals before they became Citizens; as long as they were loyal to Great Qin, Zhao Fu would treat them properly.

However, the current state of Great Qin had become like this, like the outside world. Zhao Fu did not want to see Great Qin like this.

Thinking about that, Zhao Fu's expression became quite unsightly as he said, "Can you take me to look around more? I want to understand this place more."

The foreman felt quite surprised and smiled as he replied, "Young Sir, you're quite interesting. Why do you want to understand Criminals?"

Zhao Fu nodded and said, "I just feel like it. Afterwards, I'll properly reward you."

Hearing this, the foreman agreed without thinking, "Alright then Young Sir, I'll take you around."

Following this, the foreman brought Zhao Fu around the construction site. Zhao Fu looked over and saw that on an empty space, there were a few children playing. They were mostly dressed in coarse cloth, and only one of them was dressed in ordinary cloth clothing.

At that moment, a woman dragged the child wearing coarse clothes away, while that child threw a tantrum, not wanting to leave.

The children wearing coarse cloth innocently looked at the scene in front of them. They could not understand why the woman was dragging that child away when they had been playing so happily before.

The woman angrily raised a hand and said, "If you keep crying, I'll hit you. They're the children of Criminals and are also Criminals. If you play with them, you might turn out like them in the future. Our Majesty doesn't like those people, so do you want to be like them? Don't you want to be a Minister in the future?"

Hearing this, the little boy stopped crying. He did not understand what a Criminal was, but he did not want to be someone who his Majesty did not like, so he could only reluctantly leave.

The children in coarse clothes had been quite happy before, but sensing the strange gazes around them, they lowered their heads and started to cry.

Zhao Fu could not help but walk over, and he handed the children a gold coin, smiling as he said, “Good kids, be strong. Go and buy some yummy food with this.”

Seeing that Zhao Fu had taken out a gold coin, the foreman could not help but conclude that Zhao Fu really was a Young Sir from a rich family. He did not know Zhao Fu’s true identity, and that to Zhao Fu, one gold coin was just like a rock on the ground.