

The Lord 231

Chapter 231: Gold Token Fighter

Rule The World

Indeed, these were the only two paths that they could take. They could either accept being destroyed by Great Shun in the future, or they could take this opportunity and resist. Even though they would be used by Zhao Fu, by themselves, they had no way of fighting back.

After thinking it through, the six of them could only reluctantly agree.

A trace of a smile appeared on Zhao Fu's face as he lifted his wine goblet and said, "To our partnership!"

The others knew that this matter had been formalized, so they all smiled as they started to discuss the details of this partnership.

An hour or so later, everyone happily left the banquet. The six families were all quite satisfied with the equipment and medicinal pills that Zhao Fu had provided, and they started to carry out the plan.

The six families suddenly allied together and started to show hints of resistance. Normally, they would avoid Great Shun at all costs, but now, they dared to face them straight-on.

It wasn't just the attitude of the six families that changed; the six families started to meddle in the things that Great Shun normally did, and they even started making trouble for them. This caused a lot of conflict.

Great Shun's people couldn't understand what had happened. For the six families to act so unyieldingly and confidently, were they not afraid of revenge from Great Shun? Did they all want to die together?

Within the Great Shun Town, a fair-skinned young man – Great Shun's Legatee, Li Mu – listened to his spies' reports about the mysterious faction that had caused these changes in the six families.

Li Mu immediately felt a sense of danger – these things were already enough to threaten Great Shun. He had no idea why that mysterious faction was so hostile as soon as it had appeared, and now, it had allied the six families together and threatened Great Shun.

After thinking for a moment, Li Mu had no idea what to do. In the end, a figure appeared in his mind, and he immediately returned to the real world and quickly dialed a mysterious phone number with his phone.

"Hello? What is it?" a mild and gentle voice said from the other side of the line.

When he heard this voice, a look of delight appeared on Li Mu's face. He immediately said in a respectful tone, "Mr. Su! I've encountered some problems and want to ask for your advice."

"Oh!" 'Mr Su' sounded quite surprised and listened to Li Mu's explanation. Li Mu told him about the mysterious faction and the six families' strange movements.

Elsewhere, an elegant, incredibly harmless-looking man sat on a bamboo chair. Next to him was a lush bamboo forest, and a light breeze blew. The man seemed incredibly carefree and leisurely.

This man was named Su Yan and was part of the School of Vertical and Horizontal. To be part of this School, he was, without a doubt, an exceptional person.

He didn't like Great Qin, as his ancestor hadn't been treated very well by Great Qin, so he could only go and serve others. Moreover, because the Vertical branch had lost to the Horizontal branch, Great Qin had been able to unify the six other states.

Right now, anyone could tell that Great Qin was the faction with the most potential. Not only was it one of the five Great Dynasties, but it had also gathered most of China's Fate and controlled the Imperial Ruler's Seal.

Great Qin had all sorts of advantages and was destined to be powerful. Its future path was bright and would be incredibly smooth!

However, Su Yan didn't like this. Joining Great Qin and helping it rule the world would be very easy to do, but it wouldn't give him a challenge.

As someone who was a part of the School of Vertical and Horizontal, he didn't want to do such easy and simple things. He suddenly realized that it would be more of an accomplishment to destroy Great Qin than to help Great Qin. Destroying the nation with the most potential in China would be incredibly difficult, but it would also be incredibly satisfying.

In his eyes, the various nations and factions were just chess pieces, and this entire world was a massive game of chess. He had no interest in conquering the world; he was only interested in being a player in this chess game and enjoying the excitement from controlling all of these chess pieces.

More so than anything, he wanted his junior apprentice brother to appear so that he could have a massive battle with him. Would his Horizontal Branch be stronger, or would his junior apprentice brother's Vertical Branch be stronger? This time, he didn't want to lose.

After listening to what Li Mu had to say, Su Yan immediately thought of Great Qin, but he had long since expected this and wasn't too surprised.

This was because there had been a faction gradually expanding behind the scenes, and though it kept a low-profile, Su Yan was an intelligent person. However, the more powerful Great Qin became, the happier Su Yan became, as there was more excitement in destroying a powerful enemy.

As for the things troubling Li Mu, Su Yan lightly laughed and said confidently, "That's not a big deal; we can take care of it easily. As long as you humble your attitude and then..."

After hearing everything Su Yan had to say, Li Mu felt immense joy and exclaimed, "Sir, you're simply an outstanding genius!"

Li Mu hung up, and Su Yan put his phone away as a faint smile appeared on his face. He laid back on his bamboo chair and relaxed.

Li Mu did what Su Yan told him to do and easily neutralized the danger, resolving this crisis.

This made Zhao Fu feel quite annoyed and frustrated because the partnership that they had just formed had been instantly betrayed. The Xia family and Yue family immediately went to join Great Shun.

The reason was because Li Mu had humbled his attitude and promised great benefits, and he expressed his willingness to live amicably with them. He would no longer harass them and would split a portion of Apricot City to these two families to express his sincerity.

This was enough for the Xia family and Yue family to betray the others. They were relatively weaker than the others and didn't have a lot of weight when making decisions, so they would join whoever provided them with the greatest benefits.

Of course, they weren't stupid and didn't believe Li Mu when he said that he wouldn't act against them. However, they understood that Li Mu required them to counter the other four families, so he wouldn't dare to act against them. What's more, Li Mu had given them plenty of benefits, which was why they had decided to join him and betray Zhao Fu.

It wasn't just Zhao Fu; the other four families were completely furious. They cursed at the Xia family and Yue family, saying that they were selfish and stupid. If Li Mu destroyed the other four families, how could he not destroy them as well?

Now, the situation had been turned on its head, and Zhao Fu's side was now at a disadvantage. With the Xia family and Yue family's support, Great Shun would develop even faster than before.

As for the remaining four families, it was impossible for them to join Li Mu, as he would then have the ability to destroy the remaining three families.

If Great Shun destroyed the remaining three families, it wouldn't take long for it to turn to the three that it had allied with. As the Legatee of a Dynasty, Li Mu's goal was to conquer this entire region before expanding outward. When that happened, none of them would be able to resist Li Mu.

In the future, the only conclusion would be to lose and die or to submit at Li Mu's feet – this was why the other four families had cursed at the Xia family and Yue family for being selfish and stupid.

As for Zhao Fu, the four families viewed him as a foreign faction and believed that he definitely wouldn't be as powerful as the local factions. Zhao Fu didn't show himself as a threat either and had provided them with a large amount of equipment and medicinal pills to suppress Great Shun. However, the perfect partnership had been destroyed in an instant.

Chapter 232: Your Majesty, O' Great Qin Legatee

Now that these four families were in a weaker state, they could only put their hopes in Zhao Fu. As such, they all rushed to Zhao Fu to discuss how they could resist Great Shun now.

Zhao Fu had also been thinking about this, and now that Great Shun had allied with two other families and suppressed the others, his plan had completely failed.

He had never thought that two families would betray them right after the partnership was formed. It seemed that there was no absolute loyalty in this world as long as the benefits for betrayal were high enough.

Zhao Fu engraved this matter into his heart. However, he didn't have any solutions, nor could he drag those two families back. As such, he could only think for now.

"Young master Zhu, what do you think we should do?" The four family leaders looked towards Zhao Fu and seemed incredibly troubled. They referred to him as 'Young master Zhu,' as Zhao Fu had made them think that he was Great Ming's Legatee – after all, everyone knew that Great Ming had enmity with Great Shun, so Zhao Fu had told them that he was surnamed Zhu to cover up the truth and increase their trust in him.

Now that they had the Legatee of a Dynasty supporting them, the four families felt much more confident. After all, Great Shun had the Legacy of a Dynasty but only had two families supporting it.

Facing their gazes, Zhao Fu could only take a step back and make some sacrifices – he discussed establishing a player faction in Green Apricot. This faction wasn't for development or to obtain gains but to make trouble for Great Shun and restrict its development. This required the four families to give a lot of assistance, or the pressure on Zhao Fu would be quite great.

The four families were satisfied with what Zhao Fu had suggested, and they smiled and agreed before leaving.

Afterward, Zhao Fu established this faction, and with the support of the four families, they were able to suppress Great Shun's momentum once again.

Zhao Fu didn't bother to choose good people for the faction; most were rogues and hoodlums who used all sorts of shameless methods. The main goal was to make trouble for Great Shun, and their actions restricted Great Shun's growth by about a fifth.

This was all they could do for now, and because Zhao Fu's primary goal was for Great Qin to grow, he couldn't expend too many resources fighting with the School of Vertical and Horizontal standing behind Great Shun. If that happened, Great Qin would be dragged down too much, which simply wasn't worth it.

On the face of it, it seemed like Zhao Fu had won, but in a way, Zhao Fu had lost because his initial plan had failed. However, he had to take a step back out of consideration for the grand scheme of things.

Right now, Great Shun had 30,000 subjects and a player faction with 30,000 players. Only when Zhao Fu had 40,000 soldiers and at least 5,000 Stage 1 soldiers would he be able to devour Great Shun. Great Qin still needed time, or else...

"Hmph!" Whenever Zhao Fu thought about the School of Vertical and Horizontal, he couldn't help but coldly harrumph. Once Great Qin grew, no matter if it was the School of Vertical and Horizontal or the entirety of the Hundred Schools of Thought, anyone who didn't submit would be wiped from history.

That was the end of matters in Green Apricot for now.

After returning to the Great Qin Town, Zhao Fu found that Ge Nia had also returned from Battle City. After coming to Zhao Fu, Zhao Fu immediately saw that Ge Nia's cultivation had broken through to Stage 1.

"Your Majesty, I have something to report."

Zhao Fu was quite surprised and curiously asked, “What is it?”

Following this, Ge Nia reported to Zhao Fu. After listening to everything, Zhao Fu became delighted. Ge Nia had become a Gold token fighter in the Arena, and there weren’t many of them in all of Battle City, only 30 or so. All of them were Stage 2 experts.

It was incredibly rare for anyone to become a Gold token fighter with just a Stage 1 cultivation, so Ge Nia was lauded as the Gold token fighter with the greatest potential. The status of a Gold token fighter was even better than a Baron in Battle City, and anyone with such a status would be respected wherever he or she went. In fact, a Gold token fighter could even apply to be a Battalion Chief and lead 300 Stage 1 soldiers.

Even though 300 Stage 1 soldiers weren’t that attractive to Zhao Fu, any normal player would be desperate for them. Right now, most normal players’ cultivations were at Stage 0-4 or 0-5, and dying would result in their cultivation falling to 0. As such, there were many people only at Stage 0-1 to Stage 0-2.

Right now, anyone who had 300 Stage 1 soldiers could completely bully other normal players and do as he or she wished!

Zhao Fu wasn’t very excited about the 300 Stage 1 soldiers; rather, he was excited that Ge Nia had the opportunity to fight for the position of City Lord!

Battle City’s City Lord was over 60 years old, and he was growing weaker. He had said that he would nurture the next City Lord out of the Gold token fighters.

If Ge Nia could become the City Lord of Battle City, Zhao Fu would essentially obtain a main city for free, which made him ecstatic with joy.

A main city had incredible value, and it was worth it to spend a massive amount of time, money, and effort to obtain this city. If Ge Nia could become a City Lord, he would be able to give Zhao Fu a lot of help; as such, Zhao Fu decided to help Ge Nia establish a faction in Battle City.

This would eliminate any obstructions in the future and help pave the road for Ge Nia to become the City Lord. Moreover, even if Ge Nia was unable to become the City Lord, with Ge Nia inside and Zhao Fu outside, they would be able to conquer Battle City together.

Zhao Fu told Ge Nia his plans, and as for creating the faction, Zhao Fu wouldn’t be managing it. He would only be providing a large sum of money. Of course, they needed some management figures, as Ge Nia wasn’t skilled in such areas. Zhao Fu and Ge Nia went to Battle City and was about to take care of some matters when suddenly a voice said, “Long time no see, Zhao Xin!”

This voice sounded quite familiar, and Zhao Fu turned to see a handsome young man riding a donkey with a smile on his face – it was Zhang Heng!

When he saw Zhang Heng, Zhao Fu was quite wary – it seemed that fate really had brought them together again. However, how was he able to recognize him instantly?

Facing Zhang Heng, Zhao Fu said in an amicable tone, “I’m pleasantly surprised to meet you here.”

Zhang Heng walked right over to Zhao Fu, treating him not as an outsider but as an old friend as he replied, "This proves that we're tied together by fate. Thanks for your directions last time; how about I treat you to some wine as thanks?"

Zhao Fu wanted to refuse because he felt Zhang Heng's dangerous aura and thought that he had ulterior motives. However, at that moment, Zhang Heng suddenly looked over and said, "Ah, brother Sword Demon is here as well; perhaps I have a way to help you with your matter!"

Those words greatly surprised Zhao Fu, and after thinking about it, he decided to agree and see what Zhang Heng wanted.

Following this, Zhao Fu went with Zhang Heng to a restaurant, and Zhang Heng looked quite ravenous as he smiled and said, "Brother Zhao, this restaurant's dishes are superb; I'll treat you to some today."

Zhao Fu lightly laughed and followed Zhang Heng into the restaurant. Just as Zhao Fu walked in, the waitress's movements all paused as they looked at him – after all, this was one of Zhao Fu's restaurants.

Chapter 233: Sword Sect

Following this, a few waitresses walked over excitedly and said, "Boss, how come you're here?"

Zhao Fu lightly laughed as he replied, "Mm, I'm here with a friend. Prepare one of the best rooms and some good food."

"Yes sir!" the waitresses replied and hurried off to prepare everything.

Hearing this exchange, Zhang Heng looked quite awkward. He had never expected that this restaurant would be owned by Zhao Fu, but all he could do was awkwardly smile.

The three of them sat in an elegant room, and Zhang Heng started to eat first while Zhao Fu and Ge Nia sat and watched.

"What, aren't you two going to eat? It's a waste not to eat such good food."

In front of this delicious food, Zhang Heng seemed to become a different person. Gone was the steady and confident person; right now, he only cared about eating and felt quite strange that Zhao Fu and Ge Nia weren't eating.

Zhao Fu smiled and shook his head as he said, "Brother Zhang, take your time; I'm not very hungry."

When he heard this, Zhang Heng didn't say anything. As a person, he wasn't lured by money or beauties, but he couldn't resist the temptation of good food. Perhaps this had to do with his past – if it hadn't been for his master, he most likely would've starved to death.

After eating and drinking his fill, Zhang Heng downed a final cup of Hundred Flower Wine before his attitude became serious again, and he regained his extraordinary bearings.

"Your Majesty, O' Great Qin Legatee, I won't beat around the bush. I came this time to meet with you, the mysterious and terrifying, to see what sort of person you are!" Zhang Heng said with a sharp gaze,

causing Zhao Fu's hairs to stand on end. It was the first time his identity had been exposed so suddenly like this.

However, when he thought that others had most likely guessed his identity and that his identity would become known after growing more and more, he didn't feel as panicked. However, he still had no idea how Zhang Heng had figured out his identity.

Zhao Fu didn't try to hide it, and his gaze became cold as the dignified aura of an Emperor erupted from his body. He said with an imposing might, "Then, what does sir think of me?"

Zhang Heng suddenly laughed, "Overall, you're not bad; you have a good temperament and willpower and will be a powerful King in the future. Right now, I didn't want to concern myself with the matters of the world, and I simply explored around. However, since my senior apprentice brother has made a move against Great Qin, I should help Great Qin in response."

"Your senior apprentice brother?" Zhao Fu was quite confused before his eyes lit up and he asked, "You're from the School of Vertical and Horizontal?"

Zhao Fu couldn't help but feel shocked upon realizing this. This was because the School of Vertical and Horizontal was simply too famous, and he had only just clashed with someone from it and already felt a headache. He was now quite clear about the School of Vertical and Horizontal's strength.

Zhang Heng didn't try to hide it, and he cupped his hands as he once again introduced himself, "This lowly one is Zhang Heng of the Horizontal Branch of the School of Vertical and Horizontal!"

This was the first time that Zhao Fu had personally met someone from the School of Vertical and Horizontal – no wonder he gave off such a dangerous aura. Now that both sides had revealed who they were, Zhao Fu cast aside the worry he had been feeling and smiled, saying, "I've long since admired the great name of the School of Vertical and Horizontal!"

Zhang Heng also smiled as he said, "The people of the world praise our School too much; in actuality, we're just ordinary folk."

"How does brother Zhang plan to help Great Qin?" Zhao Fu believed in the School of Vertical and Horizontal's strength, so he didn't pay much mind to Zhang Heng's words. Zhang Heng had said that he wanted to help Great Qin, so Zhao Fu wanted to know just how he would do this.

Zhang Heng's smile didn't change, and he sat up straight in his chair as he replied, "By now, senior apprentice brother has most likely discovered Great Qin's position, and he is slowly casting out a large net and closing it. He wants to trap Great Qin and kill it off like a trapped beast. Senior apprentice brother feels more excited the greater the challenge is. However, he has underestimated Great Qin's strength, and I'm sure that Your Majesty will be able to break through.

"However, this lowly one still has some suggestions. Right now, Your Majesty can use Seeping River, Valiant Peace, South Leaf, and Open Flask as a foundation in a straight line to split apart the northern side of the Midland Continent. If Your Majesty can do that, Great Qin's rise will be unstoppable.

"Not only will this allow Great Qin to break through senior apprentice brother's encirclement, but it will also smooth the path for Great Qin in the future. However, I'm sure that senior apprentice brother will try to obstruct you as much as possible, so I hope that Your Majesty will be mentally prepared."

Zhao Fu already felt quite troubled about Zhang Heng's senior apprentice brother, and he felt that his life had become incredibly difficult now that he had such an opponent. He was now prepared for anything else that Zhang Heng's senior apprentice brother would throw at him.

After hearing Zhang Heng speak, Zhao Fu realized that his aim had been off. With Seeping River, Valiant Peace, South Leaf, and Open Flask as a foundation, if he steadily expanded, no one would be able to stop him in the north, and he would be able to escape from the interference of Zhang Heng's senior apprentice brother.

Zhao Fu was quite satisfied with this suggestion, and he replied, "Thank you for your guidance, brother Zhang!"

Zhang Heng lightly shook his head and said, "Your Majesty is too courteous. I'm sure Your Majesty can tell that this crude plan is only just the preliminary steps. As for obtaining Battle City, I also have some suggestions. Would you like to hear them?"

"Oh!" Zhao Fu once again felt quite surprised – who would have thought that Zhang Heng would have guessed this as well? He had just been about to start taking care of this matter, so he wondered what Zhang Heng had to say about it. As such, he asked, "What suggestions do you have, brother Zhang?"

"In actuality, Your Majesty doesn't have to do much; brother Sword Demon's fame and talent are already enough to give him a 20% chance of obtaining the position of City Lord, so this lowly one's suggestion is simply akin to pushing a boat along a current.

"First, brother Sword Demon needs to reveal to everyone his true appearance – after all, no one would want a faceless person to become the City Lord. Second, brother Sword Demon needs to officially join Battle City and even temporarily cut off ties with Great Qin to fully devote himself to Battle City for now.

"Third, brother Sword Demon needs to establish his own faction, mainly to display his strength and gain sufficient power. Fourth, he needs to stop acting low-profile and try to make himself as well-known as possible to attract people to him.

"Fifth, brother Sword Demon needs to maintain friendly relations with all factions in Battle City, but he must not try to curry favor with them or drag them to his side – this is a taboo of power struggles. Sixth, and finally, he must not take the initiative to attack any other faction; rather, he must act as humbly as possible.

"If he can do all of these things, there is a 90% chance that brother Sword Demon will be able to become the next City Lord of Battle City. As insurance, Your Majesty can even have the current City Lord assassinated – if that happens, there will be a 100% chance that brother Sword Demon will become the next City Lord, but the risks will be extremely great!"

After listening to Zhang Heng, Zhao Fu's mind became clearer. Zhang Heng's suggestions were simply flawless, and if they followed his advice, it would almost be guaranteed that Ge Nia would become the next City Lord. If Zhao Fu was Battle City's City Lord, he would be inclined to choose Ge Nia.

"Thank you for your advice, brother Zhang!" Zhao Fu couldn't help but laugh in delight before calling out, "Please bring up another table of food and our best Hundred Flower Wine!"

Zhang Heng quickly waved his hands and said, “Your Majesty, there’s no need for that. This lowly one has eaten and drunk his fill. Now that these matters are done, it’s time for me to leave. I hope that I’ll be able to meet Your Majesty again in the future.”

Hearing this, Zhao Fu inwardly sighed. Zhang Heng was a talent among talents, but it was a pity that he didn’t intend to join him. As such, Zhao Fu didn’t try to make things difficult for him.

Under the golden sunset, Zhang Heng rode his donkey and slowly disappeared from Zhao Fu’s vision. This scene seemed quite familiar, and Zhao Fu couldn’t help but think of Gongsun Lin.

It was a pity that he wasn’t able to keep either Gongsun Lin or Zhang Heng, both of whom were top-tier geniuses. Zhao Fu started to wonder if it was because he lacked charisma.

Chapter 234: Allying 100 Families

After returning to the restaurant, Zhao Fu started to act on Zhang Heng’s advice. The suggestions he had given him were already quite comprehensive and well-thought-out, so Zhao Fu didn’t have to make many changes.

Today, he would start with setting up Ge Nia’s faction. The day passed quite quickly, and the next day, Ge Nia was scheduled to have a fight. Upon hearing that the famed Sword Demon was going to fight, many people came to the Arena, filling it to the brim – Ge Nia’s popularity was simply unheard of.

This time, Ge Nia was to fight someone at Stage 1-9 and was only a single step away from breaking through to Stage 2. He had challenged Ge Nia as he couldn’t accept that someone who was at Stage 1-0 could enter the ranks of Gold token fighters. After all, even though he was at Stage 1-9, he was still a Silver token fighter.

The fight soon began!

The challenger wielded a large battleaxe and viciously rushed towards Ge Nia. As soon as he came before Ge Nia, he brought the battleaxe crashing down towards Ge Nia with enough strength to split mountains.

Ge Nia quickly stepped to the side and avoided the battleaxe and flicked upwards with his sword. A sharp arc of light rushed upwards, forcing the challenger back.

The challenger became furious, and he gripped his battleaxe and swung it, bringing with it a massive gust of wind as it rushed towards Ge Nia. Facing this terrifying attack, Ge Nia didn’t try to meet it head-on, as his cultivation was much lower than the challenger’s, and he could only look for an opportunity to kill the challenger in one blow.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The two of them began an intense exchange, and the spectators became incredibly excited. Most of them were yelling out, causing the Arena to seem incredibly raucous and lively.

The challenger suddenly roared loudly, seeming like a ferocious tiger as he leaped into the air and swung his battleaxe ferociously downwards at Ge Nia.

Boom!!

Ge Nia suddenly twisted his body, avoiding the battleaxe as it crashed into the ground and created a three-meter wide crater. At that moment, Ge Nia's sword stabbed upwards, bringing with it an icy gleam as it pierced through the challenger's throat in an instant.

Blood spurted from the challenger's throat, and he gurgled a few times before falling to the ground and dying. The Arena once again burst into roars and cheers as countless people cheered, "Sword Demon! Sword Demon! Sword Demon!"

However, something completely unexpected that made them even more excited happened. Ge Nia stood over the challenger's corpse and slowly took off his black cloak, revealing his cold and handsome face.

The Arena fell silent, and time seemed to pause as everyone stared with wide eyes. No one had expected Ge Nia to reveal his appearance.

Everyone had always been incredibly curious as to what Sword Demon looked like, but their curiosity had never been sated. This came as an incredibly pleasant surprise, and none of them knew how to react.

Right after revealing his appearance, Ge Nia left the Arena. Afterward, this matter became the most hotly-discussed topic in Battle City.

Most people had no idea why Ge Nia had suddenly revealed his appearance.

However, some of the factions realized the intent behind this – to them, it was a declaration that another powerful contender had appeared.

As expected, soon after, Sword Demon created a faction called the Sword Sect!

The Sword Sect was a faction that only recruited elites who used a sword. Anyone who joined the Sword Sect could receive personal guidance in sword skills from Sword Demon himself, which made many people interested. Sword Demon's godly sword techniques had remained fresh in their minds.

Many people who used swords decided to give it a go and went to the recruitment area for the Sword Sect to participate in the trials. If they were chosen and received personal guidance from Sword Demon, their skill with the sword would definitely improve by leaps and bounds.

Anyone, regardless if it was a player or an indigenous resident, who was proficient at using the sword was accepted. Ge Nia wanted his faction to be filled with elites, and there wasn't a single useless person within the Sect.

They only accepted 500 people this time, but their overall battle strength was comparable to that of a faction with 2,000 to 3,000 people.

The Sword Sect would be linked to Ge Nia's ideals and develop according to his will; Zhao Fu wouldn't interfere with any of it. After all, he believed that Ge Nia would be able to bring glory and fame to the Sword Sect.

Zhao Fu also gave Ge Nia a Stage 2 Blood God Pill; this was what he had obtained after refining Xiang Shaotian's corpse. Zhao Fu told Ge Nia about its affects and gave him the discretion as to when he wanted to use it to boost his cultivation.

At the same time, Zhao Fu left Ge Nia with a large amount of money because Zhao Fu had ordered all of Great Qin's Departments to not have any connections with the Sword Sect. This was so that the Sword Sect could properly integrate into Battle City and become part of it.

After taking care of these matters, Zhao Fu was able to rest at ease. He told Ge Nia to stay at Battle City and not to return to the Great Qin Town unless there was anything urgent.

Within the Town Tall, an elderly man with short, silver hair and a masculine, powerful aura listened to the reports from his subordinates and had a mysterious smile on his face.

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After returning to the Great Qin Town, Zhao Fu started to take care of some matters that he had stopped, including setting up a ranch for livestock. He had been stopped by many things in the past, but he finally had some time now.

Zhao Fu rode on Little Black and brought along Little Gray and Little White to spend some time with them as he went to the place that he had decided on.

After arriving at the place, Zhao Fu found that it was incredibly beautiful here. The ground was flat, and the place was filled with lush, green grass. There were also some white flowers and a few small creeks. The sky seemed incredibly blue here, and combined with the grass and the creeks, this seemed like an incredibly good place for a ranch.

After deciding on this place, Zhao Fu asked some Scholars to come over and build a teleportation channel. However, before moving any livestock over, they would have to build wooden fences to prevent the livestock from running off.

As for who would take care of the livestock, Zhao Fu decided on the Xianbei people and Xiongnu people who had surrendered to him. They were originally nomadic tribes who took care of livestock and had a lot of experience in that area, so Zhao Fu decided to give the management of the livestock to them.

Upon hearing about this, they all seemed quite happy, as they enjoyed this sort of lifestyle and were glad that Zhao Fu was treating them as his own.

They could raise a large number of cattle and sheep here, and this livestock would not only feed Great Qin, but the livestock could also be sold. However, Zhao Fu felt that using them to supply his restaurants would provide the greatest profits.

At the same time, Great Qin's business model also went through some changes. Right now, Zhao Fu was doing his best to turn Great Qin into a business nation and earn a large amount of money while they still held many advantages to fuel Great Qin's growth.

After taking care of these matters, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Town and there didn't seem to be anything else requiring his attention, so he started to walk about in the Great Qin Town until he arrived at Rising Qin Academy.

After many renovations, Rising Qin Academy was many times bigger than before, and the conditions within it were much better. There were many more classrooms, and there were also more than 30 teachers now.

These people would all be the pillars of the state in the future. Zhao Fu cared very much for these young men and young women, so he went over to take a look.

Chapter 235: Those Who Stand Against Us

Zhao Fu stealthily went to a classroom by himself without making any noise. Only the teacher was speaking, and the rest of the classroom was quite quiet as all of the students held books and focused on the lesson.

Looking at how earnestly these students were studying, Zhao Fu felt quite satisfied and thought back to when he was a student. This place was for teaching all sorts of subjects to produce Officials and Ministers for Great Qin in the future.

Here, there was no need to worry about corruption and abuse of power, and because Zhao Fu wasn't an incapable ruler, it was unlikely that any of those things would manifest.

Zhao Fu would always maintain complete transparency and fairness, but he only wanted those with true capabilities and talent. As such, he would set many tests and trials to differentiate the talented from the others, but that was all for the future.

Of course, Zhao Fu wouldn't only have them taught about management – that was simply too short-sighted. In order to be a good Official or Minister, they had to learn about history, philosophy, society, and all sorts of other things that couldn't just be learned from books.

That was why Zhao Fu was opposed to the Confucian teachings that reduced students to trash who only knew how to study and read. Zhao Fu didn't want to see the students of Great Qin become scholars who were incapable of anything else.

At that moment, even though Zhao Fu had been very quiet, he was still detected by the teacher. The teacher looked over, and his face froze. He immediately put his book down and was about to pay his respects when Zhao Fu signaled for him to continue with the lesson. However, the teacher's sudden movements caught the students' attention, and they all looked over.

Immediately, all of the students in the classroom stood up with different expressions: happiness, excitement, and admiration. They all paid their respects to Zhao Fu and felt incredibly excited that he came to visit them in the Academy.

This was because Zhao Fu was not only an important figure but also the future Emperor of Great Qin; the greatest existence in Great Qin. As such, they couldn't help but feel incredibly excited. As Great Qin gained more and more people, there were still many who had never seen Zhao Fu before and had only heard of His Majesty's heroism and might.

Zhao Fu felt somewhat awkward – he had only wanted to take a look and had never thought that things would become like this. Facing their tender and pure gazes, Zhao Fu felt a calmness within his heart. He smiled as he gestured for them to continue with the lesson as he left.

Zhao Fu didn't regard men as superior to women, and his ideology was quite modern, allowing both men and women to study in the Academy. In terms of governmental positions, he wouldn't discriminate either. Those with the ability would be able to claim the role that they wanted regardless of their gender.

If this was in ancient times, such a thing would be impossible. However, times had changed, and even though this was the Heaven Awaken World, Zhao Fu refused to comply with such backward thinking.

After visiting the Civil Institution within the Academy, Zhao Fu went to visit the Martial Institution.

Comparatively speaking, the Martial Institution was much more lively than the Civil Institution. On the field, students wielded all sorts of weapons, and to prevent any injuries, these weapons were all made from wood. Because there were many people training at once, it was quite noisy.

The Martial Institution taught one how to fight, the art of war, and some other basic knowledge. It developed national pride and leadership in the students.

Zhao Fu discovered quite a few young seedlings with talent who had decent skills and could defeat many people of the same age as them. Moreover, they seemed to be quite intelligent as well.

Overall, Zhao Fu was quite satisfied with the Academy's Civil Institution and Martial Institution. After returning to the Town Hall, he called Li Si over.

Soon, Li Si walked in and paid his respects as he asked, "Your Majesty, what matters do you have for this subordinate?"

Zhao Fu lightly laughed as he replied, "It's not much; I just went around the Great Qin Town and found that the facilities are simply flawless. You must have spent a great deal of time and effort."

Li Si felt quite grateful within his heart and he smiled as he lowered his head and cupped his hands as he replied, "These are all things that this subordinate should be doing!"

"Alright, no need to be so modest. The Great Qin Town is well-managed and the internal affairs are in good order because of your hard work." Zhao Fu didn't hold back his praise.

Li Si felt incredibly happy but couldn't express it. Because Zhao Fu was his liege, he couldn't break etiquette between liege and subject, so he had to restrain himself.

Afterward, Zhao Fu said, "I want to conduct an examination for Rising Qin Academy. All those who perform well, regardless of age, will have the opportunity to learn from soldiers or Mayors."

Li Si thought about it and smiled as he replied, "Your Majesty is wise; this will not only motivate the students but also give them practical experience. This subordinate will immediately go to prepare!"

After Li Si left, Zhao Fu took out a large map – this was a map of the northern area of the Midland Continent. Afterward, he summoned all of his military commanders and said gravely, "Right now, the

School of Vertical and Horizontal's Vertical Branch has discovered Great Qin's location and is trying to ally many factions to surround Great Qin and kill it like a trapped beast!"

Upon hearing this, all of the military leaders became furious – the School of Vertical and Horizontal thought that Great Qin was a pushover; this person was simply too bold and arrogant.

"What do you all have to say?" Zhao Fu asked as he looked at them.

Bai Qi's gaze became cold, and he gave off a faint killing intent as he replied, "Your Majesty, we won't allow that person to have his way. Right now, the regions are separated, so he will only be able to run some minor interference; he won't be able to cause any great harm to Great Qin for now.

"I believe that right now, Great Qin needs to develop as fast as possible to deal with whatever that person throws at us. If he allies with one family, we'll kill one family; if he allies with ten families, we'll kill ten families; if he allies with 100 families, we'll kill 100 families; if he allies with 10,000 families, we'll leave corpses everywhere and leave not a single blade of grass remaining!"

Bai Qi's cold voice rang in the hall, and it was filled with a dense killing intent that caused everyone to feel a chill.

After Bai Qi spoke, Wang Jian thought for a moment before saying, "Even though Commander Bai's words are true, killing isn't the only solution. Too much fighting will drain Great Qin's resources; rather, I believe that we should keep our friends close and our enemies even closer. We should destroy the 'Vertical Alliance'.

"We can also establish a massive army to deter them with our military might, making them feel that they cannot stand up to us. If that happens, the Vertical Alliance will be destroyed without us having to do anything!"

Wei Liao, who had been staring at the map the entire time, finally said, "Commander Bai and Wang Jian have both spoken well, and I agree with them. However, from the grand scheme of things, I believe that we need to start making preparations to defend against the Vertical Alliance. Everyone, please look at Seeping River..."

Before Wei Liao could finish, Zhao Fu's eyes lit up as he said, "We'll use Seeping River, Valiant Peace, South Leaf, and Open Flask as a foundation to split the northern area of the Midland Continent, preventing the Vertical Alliance from causing any danger to us."

Upon hearing this, Wei Liao and the others all felt incredibly surprised; who would have thought that Zhao Fu would spot the key areas so quickly. Just as they were about to remark at his brilliance and ingenuity, Zhao Fu suddenly smiled and told them about meeting Zhang Heng. After everyone marveled in surprise, Wei Liao smiled and seemed quite interested.

Following this, Wei Liao once again spoke and started to propose a detailed plan, as Zhang Heng's suggestions were only overall plans and still needed to discuss the specifics and details.

Chapter 236: Deathly Aura

“Everyone, please look – Seeping River is the sixth region to the north of Great Qin. With Seeping River, which is 100 kilometers wide, as a barrier, it’s quite difficult to pass. There are many man-eating fish monsters in the water, which can prevent other people from entering.

“Valiant Peace is the fifth region to the south of Great Qin, and it faces the center of the Midland Continent. The northside is quite flat, while the southside has a mountainous region, which also forms a natural barrier that will stop other factions from crossing.

“South Leaf is the seventh region to the east of Great Qin, and it is foggy all year round. It is a swamp area where the ground often collapses, making it difficult to travel through. It is incredibly good for stopping other factions from passing through.

“Open Flask is the sixth region to the west of Great Qin. It is narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, making it look like a flask. As long as we establish a powerful base at the bottleneck, we’ll be able to stop all other factions with that single place. Even if they bring a massive army, there will be nothing for us to fear.

“These four locations can split up the entirety of the northern region of the Midland Continent, destroying the Vertical Alliance. It will also establish our roots for growth and help us devour other countries. They will also form a barrier that will stop all other factions from advancing, and even if Great Qin doesn’t expand outwards, as long as we defend those four key points and devour all regions between them, Great Qin will be able to establish an empire again!”

Wei Liao’s words made everyone else feel incredibly excited; the re-establishment of the Great Qin Empire wasn’t just something that Zhao Fu wanted. All of them wanted it as well. In total, Wei Liao had drawn out 31 regions.

All of the regions in the Heaven Awaken World were bigger than entire Provinces, and 31 regions added together was two times larger than China in the real world. Even though this area wouldn’t be very big considering the size of the northern region of the Midland Continent, it was enough for Great Qin to establish an empire.

Zhao Fu was quite satisfied with this plan, so he smiled and asked, “What does everyone else think?”

Bai Qi immediately replied, “This subordinate is in support of Commander Wei Liao’s plan.”

“I am also in support of Commander Wei Liao’s plan,” Wang Jian said.

Following this, the rest of the leaders also followed, “We are all in support of Commander Wei Liao’s plan.”

“Very well! That will be the path for Great Qin in the future then!” Zhao Fu announced before changing the topic, “Before, we were planning on avoiding the muddied waters of China and using Vietnam as a foundation to retreat out of China. However, trouble has come looking for us, and Great Qin has no way of extricating itself from this. As such, we can only respond to those troublemakers. What does everyone think about our plans regarding Vietnam?”

Hearing this, everyone fell into deep thought. Right now, if they wanted to carry out Wei Liao’s plan, Great Qin’s focus would be on those four regions, and there would be no need for so much setting up in Vietnam.

Right now, the Vietnamese Guard was not only in North Nam but in other regions as well. Its growth was incredibly fast, but it wouldn't have been able to accomplish such a thing without Zhao Fu's support.

At that moment, Bai Qi said, "Your Majesty, this subordinate believes that we can slightly shift the focus back, but Vietnam will attack sooner or later. After Great Qin restores the empire, it will still have to deal with Vietnam. This subordinate suggests that the Vietnamese Guard should continue to infiltrate Vietnam and suppress its overall strength. Those who stand against us must be purged."

After thinking for a moment, Wei Liao said earnestly, "Your Majesty, this subordinate cannot fully agree with Commander Bai's views."

Zhao Fu wasn't too surprised, and he looked at Wei Liao, gesturing for him to continue.

Wei Liao first respectfully saluted Zhao Fu before continuing, "I believe that we should divert most of our attention back from Vietnam and only leave a small portion of our resources there. The Vietnamese Guard can remain as a hidden chess piece buried there, but there will be no need for it to greatly develop. After all, supporting the Vietnamese Guard has cost us greatly in terms of finances and manpower, and infiltrating Vietnam isn't something that can be done in a short period of time.

"Rather than wasting time, effort, and resources on Vietnam, dragging down Great Qin greatly, it will be better to shift the focus back to Great Qin itself to speed along the restoration of the empire.

"There's also the 31 regions; there are many enemies that Great Qin needs to face. On the surface, it's just the other four Legatees of the five Great Dynasties, and who knows if there are more hidden enemies. There are also countless families, and because it will be incredibly difficult to get rid of them, it's best not to disperse our strength too much."

After everyone heard Bai Qi and Wei Liao's suggestions, they once again fell into deep thought because both of them were right in one way or another.

Bai Qi was advocating taking care of external matters first before internal matters, and the focus was more on the outside. This was because the Vietnamese Guard's development had been incredibly smooth, and they would be able to easily infiltrate Vietnam's inner regions. This was a great opportunity that could allow the Vietnamese Guard to rapidly develop and suppress the rest of Vietnam.

In the dark and chaotic future, it was unlikely that such an opportunity would surface again. After all, when that time came, everyone would only care about his or her own life; who would have the time and energy to love his or her own country!

The Vietnamese Guard, which rallied people based on their patriotism, would lose this opportunity.

However, Wei Liao's suggestion of taking care of internal matters first before external matters also made sense. There would be countless obstacles in restoring the Great Qin Empire, and if they wanted to get rid of these obstacles, they would have to put in a lot of effort and concentrate their strength.

In the end, neither plan could be carried out quickly.

Zhao Fu asked the others, causing them to split into two factions that supported either Bai Qi's suggestion or Wei Liao's suggestion. Both sides had good arguments and could provide all sorts of reasons.

“What do you think, Wang Jian?” Zhao Fu’s gaze suddenly fell on Wang Jian, who had yet to say anything. Everyone else paused and turned to look at Wang Jian as well.

Wang Jian stroked his chin and smiled as he said, “This subordinate believes that both Commanders are right in their own regard.” That was all he said.

This was essentially equivalent to not saying anything, and everyone glared at Wang Jian, who only awkwardly smiled.

Zhao Fu felt a headache coming on, and after thinking about it for a while longer, he decided to put 80% of his focus on Great Qin and 20% of it on the Vietnamese Guard.

Thus, this discussion finally concluded. Various new orders were disseminated throughout Great Qin, causing Great Qin’s battle plan to greatly change.

The military leaders all left, leaving Zhao Fu sitting on a chair by himself. His mind felt incredibly weary, and he massaged his temples.

A few beautiful female attendants walked in and came to Zhao Fu’s side, saying gently, “Your Majesty, let us give you a massage.”

When he heard this, Zhao Fu smiled and nodded. The female attendants came to his side, with one person massaging his temples, two people massaging his hands, and two people massaging his legs. Zhao Fu wasn’t used to this sort of service, especially because of how close they were to him and the fragrance he could smell, so he asked them to stop.

At that moment, Li Wen walked in with a serious but faintly excited expression and half-knelt on the ground as he reported, “Your Majesty, we’ve found a large energy stone mine!”

Chapter 237: Warding Power

“A large energy stone mine?” This news completely surprised Zhao Fu, and he sat up as he looked at Li Wen and asked seriously, “Are you sure about this?”

Li Wen understood the importance of this, and he nodded earnestly.

When he saw this, Zhao Fu shot to his feet in joy and excitement. From the very beginning, energy stones had been one of the resources that Great Qin had lacked most. Apart from population and corpses, it was the third most needed resource for Great Qin.

This was because they would refine many high-grade and high-cultivation corpses every day. This required a large number of energy stones, and because they were so expensive, a great portion of Great Qin’s expenses was on energy stones alone. It could be said that energy stones were one of the greatest limiting factors for Great Qin, which Great Qin didn’t have much control over.

Now that Li Wen had reported that they had discovered a large energy stone mine, not just a small or medium-sized one, how could Zhao Fu not feel delighted?

“Hurry and tell me all of the details!” Zhao Fu smiled as he asked somewhat impatiently.

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Following this, Li Wen described to Zhao Fu all that had happened.

Li Wen and his team had opened up a fourth passageway in the underground region, and they found some traces of an energy stone mine at the end. They followed the traces and came to a large energy stone mine, but there were at least 50,000 or so Skeletons around it.

50,000 Skeletons wouldn't be easy to deal with!

Zhao Fu thought for a while before saying, “Li Wen, take me there to look; we'll come up with a detailed plan after.”

Li Wen obeyed and took Zhao Fu down to the passageway.

A while later, two soldiers lit some torches, and Zhao Fu stood between them with Li Wen leading the way. The underground region was still the same, and it was just as dark and terrifying.

Their party walked onwards silently.

Afterward, they came to an intersection and stopped. Zhao Fu found that there were many energy stone shards on the walls. They weren't very big, only as big as fingernails, but there were many of them. They were scattered across the walls and looked quite beautiful.

“Your Majesty, the large energy stone mine is ahead. Please be careful,” Li Wen said.

Zhao Fu nodded, and the party continued onwards.

Finally, they came to the end of the passageway. There was a cliff here, and there was an incredibly large space ahead. Right now, Zhao Fu was at a cave mouth that was ten or so meters high.

The region ahead of them was quite large and surprisingly bright. This was because the walls were essentially covered with energy stones, and all of them gave off a brilliant light, making it seem like day. The sight was both majestic and beautiful; this was an incredibly big energy stone mine!

However, the area below them was like a sea of whiteness with all sorts of Skeletons. They milled around, and they looked like a colony of ants from above. There were too many of them to count, and there were roughly 50,000 of them. This would be quite troublesome.

After observing them for a while, Zhao Fu finally said, “Let's go back! Don't alarm the Skeletons here.”

Following this, the party slowly and quietly withdrew.

After returning to the surface, Zhao Fu once again gathered all of his leaders and discussed this matter. This energy stone mine was incredibly important to Great Qin, and because they couldn't afford to have anything go wrong, they had to be careful.

After some detailed discussion, everyone split up to carry out his or her part in the plan. First, because the passage connected to a cave mouth that was quite high up, they could use this to construct some defenses. Furthermore, because there were 50,000 Skeletons, Zhao Fu would have to deploy all 20,000 of his soldiers. As such, the ten-meter wide passageway definitely wouldn't be enough for them to travel through.

Zhao Fu wanted to dig the sides of this passageway and expand it outwards to allow more soldiers to be able to pass through it. However, they had to be extremely careful and couldn't make too much noise, or they would alarm the Skeletons. If this massive army of Skeletons attacked, things could become disastrous.

As such, the digging would have to go quite slowly. Nevertheless, Zhao Fu believed that waiting a few extra days or weeks was worth it. They also had many talisman papers and other evil-warding items from the Ghost Festival, and after testing them on Skeletons from other passageways, Zhao Fu found that they were effective against Skeletons as well.

However, the effects weren't as good as against Ghosts, and they were roughly half as effective. Regardless, this was still pretty good, as they would have no use otherwise.

Furthermore, the 300 Yin Soldiers, the Black and White Impermanences, and the City God would all greatly help, as they specialized in suppressing and capturing Undead.

Four days later, all preparations were complete. Everyone came to the passageway, which had now been expanded by more than 20 meters to the sides. The sides were covered with thick iron, and the area above, below, and to the sides of the passageway were covered with Evil-Warding Talismans. Zhao Fu stood at the mouth of the passageway and looked down at the countless Skeletons, and he gave the signal to attack.

Swish, swish, swish...

Suddenly, the deathly silent area was filled with the sound of the air being torn as arrows and ballistae bolts shot out.

Normal arrows and ballistae bolts weren't very effective against Skeletons, but arrows and bolts with Ghost-Slaying Talismans on them would be able to reduce some of the deathly aura within the Skeletons' bodies.

Even though the effects weren't very great, they were still useful. For some of the powerful Archers, even without Ghost-Slaying Talismans, if their attacks contained certain attributes, they would be able to reduce a Skeleton into a pile of bones.

The arrows and bolts formed a dense rain that fell towards the countless Skeletons, and the effects could immediately be seen. This was especially for the ballistae bolts that had three Ghost-Slaying Talismans on them. They seemed to contain immense might and blasted through multiple Skeletons' bodies, reducing them to fragmented bones.

This wave of attacks caused Zhao Fu and his soldiers to be completely exposed. Countless Skeletons fearsomely roared as they started to rush towards them, giving off a fearsome aura.

In fact, some people with lower cultivations were a bit dazed after hearing those roars, and the Skeletons rushed towards them like a flood. When he saw this, Zhao Fu once again ordered for his soldiers to shoot again.

Very soon, the Skeletons reached the bottom of the cliff. These Skeletons weren't ordinary Skeletons, and they gripped their weapons with their teeth as their bony hands stabbed into the cliff, quickly climbing upwards.

Ordinary Skeletons wouldn't be able to do such a thing, and they would be left at the bottom of the cliff, attacking the cliff based on their instincts. However, these Skeletons were different, and it was possible that they still had some memories from when they had been alive.

Chapter 238: Black and White Impermanences

The Skeletons held their weapons with their mouths as they climbed up the cliff incredibly quickly. In just a few moments, they had almost reached the top of the cliff, which was ten or so meters high, and a dense sea of Skeletons was quickly forming at the cliff with unstoppable momentum.

When he saw this, Zhao Fu ordered his soldiers to pour buckets of Yang blood. Upon landing on the Skeletons' bodies, the Yang blood's effects were like that of boiling water, causing white smoke to rise from the Skeletons and for them to fall down.

The Yang blood dyed the cliff red, causing the masses of Skeletons to seem somewhat apprehensive. They didn't dare to come close anymore, and it seemed that Zhao Fu would be able to use Yang blood to suppress these Skeletons.

However, the battle wasn't so simple!

Swish, swish, swish...

Suddenly, sharp arrows filled with deathly aura shot up towards Zhao Fu's side from below. It wasn't just Zhao Fu who had Archers – the Skeleton Archers also started to shoot powerful arrows. Immediately, Great Qin soldiers responded by forming shield walls, creating impenetrable walls of iron.

Bang, bang, bang...

The arrows shot up from below like a sea of arrows. Some hit shields, while others hit the cliff, giving off dull thuds.

The Skeletons caught this opportunity to start climbing up the areas where there wasn't any Yang blood. The countless arrows forced Zhao Fu's side to continuously defend, and Zhao Fu's side couldn't do anything about the Skeletons climbing up. Right now, Great Qin's side was being suppressed by Skeletons.

Luckily, the Skeletons didn't have unlimited arrows, and after shooting without stopping for a few minutes, the Skeleton Archers' arrows started to thin out. The Skeletons that had made it to the top didn't dare to come close because there were countless Evil-Warding Talismans all over the place. Because the area here was much smaller than the town walls and Zhao Fu still had a great amount of the talisman papers, he had his people stick three layers of talisman papers around this area. This was especially to the left and right of the passageway, where they had weaker defenses, and there were also two Gold grade Evil-Warding Talismans left over from the Ghost Festival.

Those two Gold grade Evil-Warding Talismans still had roughly one-quarter of their power and were still more effective than normal Silver grade Evil-Warding Talismans.

The Evil-Warding Power formed from so many Evil-Warding Talismans was simply terrifying to the Skeletons. To them, it felt as if there was a raging inferno ahead of them, and going closer made them feel like they were slowly dying.

By now, the Skeleton Archers had started to slow down due to lack of arrows, and Great Qin side took this opportunity to counterattack. They opened up the shield wall, and Archers, who had long since been ready, drew their bows and started to shoot at the Skeletons that had made it to the top but didn't dare to approach.

Arrows containing immense force and Ghost-Slaying Power shot towards the Skeletons, causing them to fall back down.

Bang, bang, bang...

The Skeletons crumbled into fragmented bones after hitting the ground, making it seem as if it was hailing.

Even though the Skeletons continuously fell, the other Skeletons didn't show any fear while climbing up the cliff. However, at the top, because of the powerful Evil-Warding Power, the countless Skeletons couldn't draw near, and they could only vengefully glare at Great Qin's soldiers.

Skeletons continuously plummeted down after being hit by arrows, but more Skeletons continuously climbed up. Great Qin's soldiers didn't dare to relax for even an instant, using all sorts of methods to deal with the Skeletons around them. The battle was incredibly intense, and the ground below was littered with bones.

Even though Great Qin's soldiers were quite tired, at least no one had been injured.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened – a gray blur tore through the air and rushed towards Great Qin's soldiers.

Bang!

A massive explosion sounded out as the gray blur smashed into the wall to the left side of the passageway. The rocks crumbled, causing some soldiers to fall down to their deaths, shocking everyone else.

Zhao Fu's gaze became cold, and he looked at the Skeleton. The Skeleton wore silver-gray armor and held a gray crystal bow, and it stood among the Skeletons. It was a Skeleton General, but its aura was at least four times as powerful as that of a normal Skeleton General.

Not only had the left side of the passageway partially collapsed, but many of the Evil-Warding Talismans had also been destroyed in the process as well.

As soon as the Evil-Warding Power on this side disappeared, a massive number of Skeletons furiously flooded towards them. All of the soldiers there were caught completely unprepared, and it seemed like the situation was going to spiral out of control.

"Bai Qi!" Zhao Fu roared. Bai Qi understood, and he drew his Seven Murders Sword and pointed it upwards as a blood-red aura came out of the soldiers' bodies and gathered above.

Skreeeee!!

A grand bird's cry sounded out as a blood-red eagle rushed towards the countless Skeletons. Each beat of its wings brought with it a blood-red berserk gale, sending the Skeletons flying backward and destroying many of them, defusing the tense situation.

However, in the next moment, countless arrows filled with deathly aura shot towards the massive eagle. The Skeleton Archers had once again attacked with their limited arrows, forcing the blood-red eagle to dodge in between attacking and causing the situation on the left side to become tense again.

Zhao Fu immediately gave out orders, and the Archers and ballistae aimed at the Skeleton Archers and started to shoot. Countless arrows arced through the air towards the Skeleton Archers, forcing them to stop shooting and take cover.

The Skeleton Archers either died or ran from the arrows and bolts, preventing them from shooting anymore, and that relieved the situation for the blood-red eagle, allowing it to fully deal with the Skeletons on the left side.

The Skeleton General below once again drew its gray crystal bow as a large amount of deathly aura flowed out from its body and entered the arrow it had nocked on the bow, causing it to shine with a terrifying gray light.

The Skeleton General was about to unleash the same horrifying attack as last time!

How could Zhao Fu allow it to do as it wished? He coldly harrumphed, brought out the Great Spirit Roc Bow, and instilled it with his King's Power, causing it to glow with a brilliant violet light.

Boom!!

A massive explosion rang out as a gray arrow streaked like a terrifying meteor towards Great Qin's soldiers. At that moment, Zhao Fu released his arrow, causing it to fly out and turn into a large violet roc that shot towards the gray arrow.

Bang!!

The two arrows collided and exploded, causing gray and violet light to shoot in all directions and generating a fierce gale.

At that moment, another powerful aura appeared as another Skeleton General holding a spear and riding a large Skeleton horse appeared.

It turned into a gray blur as it charged over, reaching the cliff in an instant. The Skeleton horse seemed to defy gravity, and it rushed up the cliff on the right side.

This greatly shocked Zhao Fu, and he gave the Great Spirit Roc Bow to Zhang Dahu, whose cultivation was second only to Bai Qi, and told him to use it to suppress the Skeleton Archer General. He also asked Old Logue to support Zhang Dahu.

Zhao Fu went to the right side where the Skeleton Cavalry General was. The Skeleton Cavalry General ignored the Evil-Warding Power and gave off a terrifying aura as it eyed the Great Qin soldiers around it.

Chapter 239: Colored Sky

“All of you, go and support the left side!” Zhao Fu coldly glared at the Skeleton General and gave orders to the soldiers around him. With the Skeleton General’s strength, staying here would be equivalent to committing suicide.

The soldiers obeyed and retreated to the left side. The Skeleton General, riding on its Skeleton horse, had a powerful spirit flame in his head, and it eerily stared at Zhao Fu.

Suddenly, the spear in the Skeleton General’s hand turned into a blur as it stabbed towards Zhao Fu.

Clang!

The sound of metal colliding rang out as sparks burst in the air. The Skeleton General rushed past Zhao Fu, while Zhao Fu stood his ground with a blood-red sword in his hand.

The Skeleton General reached Zhao Fu in an instant and stabbed its spear towards Zhao Fu’s chest. However, Zhao Fu instantly drew the Slaughtering Ghost Sword and chopped out with it, blocking the Skeleton General’s attack. The Slaughtering Ghost Sword’s attributes countered Undead creatures, so it was perfect to use it now.

Seeing that its attack had failed, the Skeleton General turned its Skeleton horse around and raised its spear as it once again rushed at Zhao Fu. This time, the spear shined with an icy light and seemed to contain energy that could pierce through all things as the Skeleton General charged at Zhao Fu.

“Slaughtering Ghost!” Zhao Fu lightly yelled as he used one of the Slaughtering Ghost Sword’s skills. The Slaughtering Ghost Sword seemed to be bathed in a blood-red light as faint ghostly cries sounded out, giving off an eerie and terrifying aura.

Bang!

The Skeleton General arrived before Zhao Fu incredibly quickly, stabbing out with its spear so quickly that the air seemed to explode. Zhao Fu also slashed out with his sword, and the collision resulted in a powerful shockwave.

This time, the Skeleton General had been completely stopped by Zhao Fu’s block. For cavalry to be blocked by someone on foot, that was an extremely great humiliation, and the Skeleton General roared as the spirit flame in its head doubled in size. Immediately after, it once again ferociously charged at Zhao Fu.

Even though the Skeleton General had exploded out with more strength, Zhao Fu didn’t feel much pressure. The Slaughtering Ghost Sword’s attributes countered the Skeleton General’s deathly aura, and every time they clashed, the Skeleton General would suffer a bit. The deathly aura that it took time to condense would be blown away by the Slaughtering Ghost Sword each time.

BOOM!!

Suddenly, a massive explosion rocked the ground beneath them as another powerful aura came from below. It was a Skeleton holding a large shield and a long saber, and the Skeleton had an aura that was even more powerful than the previous two Skeleton Generals.

This Skeleton General's aura was like that of a mountain's. It used its shield to vigorously bash the cliff, causing long cracks to appear. If this continued, the entire cliff would collapse because of the Skeleton General, and Great Qin's soldiers on top would be in grave danger.

Zhao Fu knew that he couldn't continue to be tied up by the Skeleton Cavalry General. He stretched out his hand, and the King's Ring glowed with a golden light as ten Skeleton Cavalrymen riding on Skeleton horses, but with golden flames in their heads, appeared.

They were the King's Undead Cavalry, and Zhao Fu ordered them to keep this Skeleton General under control. The ten King's Undead Cavalrymen rushed over and easily engaged the Skeleton General, even suppressing it. Even though they were individually weaker than the Skeleton General, their overall power wasn't less than the Skeleton General's. Zhao Fu's King's Undead Cavalry were now quite powerful, as they had devoured a lot of deathly aura each time they fought when going out with Zhao Fu's soldiers.

By now, at least 90% of the Skeletons were streaming towards the left side, and all of the soldiers were putting up a bitter resistance. There were less than 3,000 Skeletons left below.

Zhao Fu brought 300 Yin Soldiers, the Black and White Impermanences, Daisy, and a few other leaders to the bottom from another side while Bai Qi and Wang Jian continued to give orders above.

After reaching the bottom, Zhao Fu ordered Doke, Saar, Daisy, and a Goblin Warrior, who wielded a Gold-grade Shield and had been promoted to General, to engage the Skeleton Shieldbearer General.

Nearby, the remaining 3,000 Skeletons on the ground gathered and charged towards them.

At that moment, Zhao Fu's 300 Yin Soldiers sprang into action and rushed to meet the Skeletons. Both sides were incredibly fast, and soon, they were only ten meters apart. In terms of the aura that they gave off, the 3,000 Skeletons seemed to be more powerful, but there was a vast difference in strength between them and the Yin Soldiers.

The two sides soon clashed, and the 3,000 Skeletons raised their weapons and started to attack the Yin Soldiers.

The Yin Soldiers showed no fear at all and vigorously stabbed out with their iron tridents, stabbing into the Skeletons' bodies. They then sent their ghost-suppressing power into the tridents and twisted them, causing the Skeletons' bodies to shatter and fall to the ground as fragmented bones.

This was because the Yin Soldiers' ghost-suppressing power was effective against other Undead as well, and the Yin Soldiers could easily neutralize the Skeletons' deathly aura. Without their deathly aura, the Skeletons were just bones.

Even though there were far less Yin Soldiers than Skeletons, the Yin Soldiers weren't weak at all. The situation was in their favor, and none of the Skeletons could defend against the oxen-faced or horse-faced Yin Soldiers.

On the other side, Daisy and the others started to clash with the Skeleton Shieldbearer General. Saar and Doke faced it with direct blows, the Goblin Warrior with the Gold grade shield was in charge of defense, and Daisy launched long-range magic skills from a distance.

This Skeleton General was powerful, but Daisy and the other Generals had long since broken through to Stage 1, and with their flawless teamwork, they were able to completely suppress the Skeleton General.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Elsewhere, three blood-red fireballs flew towards the Skeleton Archer General and exploded, forcing the Skeleton General to dodge to the side.

At that moment, a violet arrow blasted towards the Skeleton General – Zhang Dahu caught that opportunity to shoot at the Skeleton General while it had dodged to the side, making it extremely difficult for it to dodge.

The Skeleton General could only draw the short sword at its waist and slash out with a powerful sword light, which collided with the violet arrow. The collision resulted in a great explosion and shockwave, causing the Skeleton General to stumble backward.

“Xiaoxi and Xiaojie, go help Zhang Dahu kill that Skeleton Archer General!” Zhao Fu ordered; he wanted to end this battle quickly.

The Black and White Impermanences obeyed and floated towards the Skeleton Archer General using some sort of skill. Each of them held a white and black wooden stick respectively and joined the battle.

With the Black and White Impermanences helping out, the Skeleton General fell into dire straits. This was especially so because of their wooden sticks; if they hit the Skeleton General, its spirit fire would flicker and grow slightly smaller, and its aura would become slightly weaker.

Above the left side, the blood-red eagle, the Archers, and the ballistae rapidly attacked, continuously reducing the number of Skeletons and sending them falling from the cliff.

On the other side, the ten King’s Undead Cavalrymen surrounded the Skeleton Cavalry General, while below, Saar, Daisy, and the others suppressed the Skeleton Shieldbearer General.

Everything seemed to be in Great Qin’s favor, and they were winning on all fronts. However, what Zhao Fu didn’t expect was for a terrifying aura to suddenly appear in the next second, sweeping in all directions like a massive wave.

Chapter 240: Skeleton Commander

At the bottom of the energy stone mine, a Skeleton slowly stood up. The Skeleton held a crystal sword and had a golden spirit flame in its head, and its bones were white and as flawless as jade. Its mighty aura caused those in this region to freeze in shock.

This Skeleton was incredibly powerful, and Zhao Fu stood his ground, clearly detecting this power.

The sword that it held was definitely a Legendary grade weapon. It had been corroded through the passage of time, and since Legendary grade weapons definitely would have become Gold grade weapons, this weapon must have been an Epic grade weapon before.

After standing up, the Skeleton's gaze fell on the Skeleton Archer General, and the Skeleton's body turned into a ray of light as it rushed over.

It seemed that in just a few seconds, this Skeleton would be joining the battle.

However, at that moment, Zhao Fu drew his Slaughtering Ghost Sword and sent his King's Power into it before stabbing it into the ground. A blood-red semicircle immediately expanded outwards and brought the Skeleton into the Slaughterfield Domain.

The Skeleton looked up at the blood-colored sky and looked down at the corpses on the ground before looking over at Zhao Fu.

Shing!

The Skeleton's crystal sword hummed as it shot out a massive amount of sword light. The Skeleton instantly traversed over 100 meters and appeared in front of Zhao Fu as it swung its sword, bringing with it a massive amount of sword qi.

Bang!

Zhao Fu was quite surprised and quickly brought the Slaughtering Ghost Sword up to block the strike. A massive wave of energy passed through his sword, causing his body to slide back ten meters before he could steady himself.

This Skeleton was simply too powerful, and with his current strength, Zhao Fu couldn't defeat it. Out of the 70 or so Sky Ghost Treasure Sacks that they had obtained during the Ghost Festival, they had obtained three Unsealing Stones. As such, Zhao Fu had no choice but to use one of them now. The sealing power within his body disappeared as a feeling of might and power spread throughout his body.

Swish!

The Skeleton appeared above Zhao Fu, and its sword seemed to give off an aura that could split apart all things as it hacked downwards towards Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu's eyes flew open as a black light burst forth from his body, and he gripped his sword as he heavily swung it upwards to defend.

Bang!

The air seemed to explode as the two swords collided, bursting forth with destructive power and causing the ground to crack, creating a 20-meter wide crater.

The Skeleton sinisterly gazed at Zhao Fu, surprised that Zhao Fu could match its strength. It bore down with its sword, forcing Zhao Fu to lean backward. Following this, its body once again disappeared and reappeared at Zhao Fu's side, slashing horizontally.

Clang!

The sound of metal colliding pierced through in a thousand meter radius as Zhao Fu spun, once again blocking the Skeleton's attack with his sword.

However, in the next moment, the Skeleton once again disappeared and attacked from the other side.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Skeleton was incredibly fast, and it continuously disappeared and reappeared, attacking Zhao Fu from all angles. The battle between the two of them caused sword light to shoot everywhere, forming a gigantic gale. The ground over which they fought was left completely decimated, with countless deep sword gashes all over the place.

The Skeleton's attacks were ferocious and extremely fast, not even giving Zhao Fu an opportunity to breathe. Zhao Fu felt incredibly displeased that he was being suppressed by this Skeleton.

Clang!

The Skeleton swung its sword, which brought with it a sharp light, and Zhao Fu circulated all of his King's Power and sent it into the Slaughtering Ghost Sword. The Slaughtering Ghost Sword gave off a terrifying bloody light, and Zhao Fu slashed it furiously, causing it to leave behind a shocking blood-red light. As the swords collided, Zhao Fu finally forced the Skeleton to retreat and stopped its momentum.

However, the Skeleton immediately recovered and sprang towards Zhao Fu. At that moment, Zhao Fu drew the Sky Demon Sword and stabbed it into the ground. A large amount of demonic qi flowed out of the Sky Demon Sword, dyeing the ground black.

Zhao Fu stretched out his hand, and his King's Seal appeared on his palm. When it saw this, the Skeleton, that was now only five meters away, suddenly stopped and retreated.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Countless black spikes stabbed up from the ground, piercing through the Skeleton's body and raising it 20 or so meters into the air.

This attack caused the Skeleton's spirit flame to slightly dwindle – it seemed that it had taken considerable damage from this. The Skeleton raised the crystal sword in its hand, and the sword suddenly gave off strange ripples. Following this, the Skeleton slashed at the black spikes stabbing into its body, causing them to turn into crystals and shatter.

The Skeleton fell from the sky and gave off a tremendous sword aura as it slashed downwards towards Zhao Fu. In response, Zhao Fu pointed at it with the Slaughtering Ghost Sword and lightly cried, "Seal!"

Suddenly, the massive domain shrank and turned into a sealing energy that attached to the Skeleton's body. Because they were both within the Slaughterfield Domain, Zhao Fu could use its power as he wished. This energy caused the falling Skeleton to slightly pause!

At that moment, Zhao Fu brought out an Evil-Crushing Spear and sent his power into it. The Evil-Crushing Spear shined with a silver light, and the runes on it moved and gave off powerful Evil-Crushing Power.

Boom!!

Zhao Fu used all of his strength to throw the Evil-Crushing Spear. The spear shot out a massive amount of silver light, and there was some lightning crackling around it as it pierced through the Skeleton's chest, creating a fist-sized hole and heavily injuring the Skeleton.

"Arghhhh!!!"

Just as Zhao Fu was about to take out another Evil-Crushing Spear and finish off the Skeleton, the Skeleton suddenly roared and exploded out with a terrifying might. It easily broke free of the sealing energy, and its body twisted as it loosed an incredibly powerful strike, causing a 20-meter long sword light to rush down towards Zhao Fu.

Bang!

Zhao Fu was sent flying backward by the attack, and as the sword light hit the ground, it caused the ground to instantly crystallize. Zhao Fu had used his sword to block, but he hadn't been able to fully block the attack, causing the clothes on his right shoulder to turn into crystals. The massive energy also split open Zhao Fu's shoulder, causing blood to flow out from it.

Bang!

After the Skeleton landed, the spirit flame in its head once again dwindled and became smaller by two-thirds. It seemed that it had paid a great price to unleash such a terrifying power.

When he saw this, Zhao Fu let out a sigh of relief. It seemed that this Skeleton was like an arrow that was at the end of its flight. He disregarded the injury on his right shoulder and rushed up with his sword, continuously attacking the Skeleton. The Skeleton was forced to defend with all of its might but continuously retreated.

"Roarr!!!" At that moment, the Skeleton exploded out with the remainder of its strength and was finally able to counterattack again, suddenly stabbing its sword towards Zhao Fu's throat.

Zhao Fu dodged to the side and swept upwards heavily with his sword, hitting the Skeleton and sending it flying up into the air. As soon as he did this, he switched over to the Sky Demon Sword and pointed at the Skeleton with it.

A massive demon's figure shot out from the sword and flew towards the Skeleton with a monstrous demonic aura.

The Skeleton in the air struggled with the last of its strength and once again slashed out a ray of sword light, turning the demon's image into a large crystal that exploded into crystal dust and scattered.

Bang!

At that moment, a silver ray of light, bringing with it massive force, shot up from below and pierced through the Skeleton's chest. The spirit fire in the Skeleton's head once again flickered before disappearing.

The Skeleton's body collapsed in mid-air, and countless bones crashed to the ground. The jade-white bones lost their luster and became a pile of ordinary bones again.

At the same time, the Skeleton dropped four items.

