

The Lord 251

Chapter 251: Heaven's Choice

Zhao Fu softly responded, indicating that he understood that he would create a faction as soon as possible. Afterward, he rode in a car sent by Wu Qingniang to a large house.

There were currently four people standing in front of it: three men and one woman. Behind them were a few bodyguards wearing black suits and sunglasses.

After getting out of the car, Zhao Fu looked at the two men to the left. One was 22 years old, slightly older than Zhao Fu, and the other had just turned 20 years old and still looked a bit immature. They were Zhao Fu's cousins, Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun.

Their faces were slightly bruised as if they had been beaten. However, they looked more or less fine, and the injuries were just skin injuries. The man next to them looked quite noble, while the woman was extremely beautiful.

After getting out of the car, the noble-looking man had an apologetic smile as he said, "Apologies, I'm that bastard's older brother; I'm Ying Ying. It was my little brother's fault for making trouble, and I've already taught him a lesson. This is our compensation for making trouble from before; please excuse us."

After Ying Ying finished speaking, one of the bodyguards brought over a leather suitcase, which was filled with money – there was at least \$2 million inside. Even though money in the real world was losing value quickly, it still had some value.

However, Zhao Fu didn't see much value in this money and refused, saying, "No need!"

Zhao Fu didn't believe his words at all – if it wasn't for the people supporting him, this person wouldn't even bother looking at him. How could his apology actually be sincere?

This was a world where the strong reigned supreme, and that was how things played out in such a world. His gaze fell on Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun and said somewhat coldly, "Let's go."

Seeing how cold Zhao Fu was acting, they felt somewhat dissatisfied.

Ying Ying was from the main branch of the Ying family, yet he was being treated so condescendingly by someone from the collateral branch. However, he didn't display any of his dissatisfaction because Zhao Fu had Ying Xi supporting him – even people from the main branch didn't dare to offend Ying Xi.

Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun also felt a bit dissatisfied, but they couldn't do anything because Zhao Fu had saved them. At the same time, they were somewhat embarrassed that they had to have Zhao Fu save them.

Zhao Fu ignored all of them, and he opened the car door and sat in the passenger seat.

Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun looked at Zhao Fu but didn't say anything – after all, they weren't very close, and it was already good enough that Zhao Fu had come to save them.

Just as they were about to get into the car, Zhao Hong turned to look at the woman and smiled as he said, "Zheng Jiao, do you want to come as well?"

Zheng Jiao was the woman who they had saved. She looked around and didn't dare to stay there, so she could only embarrassingly get in the car and sit with the two brothers in the back.

Zhao Fu didn't mind this. After they had all gotten in, he asked the chauffeur to start driving to his grandparents' residence.

On the trip, Zhao Fu didn't say anything and looked outside while the three people in the back chatted for a bit, feeling happy that they had escaped unscathed from this.

"Cuz, thanks for saving us this time!" Zhao Hong was slightly older than Zhao Fu and had thicker skin than his little brother Zhao Jun, so he laughed and thanked Zhao Fu.

Zheng Jiao and Zhao Jun also said in a small voice, "Thank you!"

Zhao Fu turned and looked at them, and his tone wasn't as cold as he said, "No need to thank me. Just remember what happened this time; saving people is good, but don't do things out of your power."

Those words caused Zheng Jiao to lower her head in shame, and Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun didn't feel very convinced. However, they couldn't say much, and the atmosphere within the car became colder.

"But I felt that I couldn't just watch in that situation. If I saw a girl in danger but didn't help, it would be something that I would regret and feel guilty about for the rest of my life!" Zhao Hong said earnestly.

Zhao Fu looked at him before looking outside. He wanted to tell Zhao Hong to take responsibility for himself and not make someone save him next time, but he held it in. After all, they were family. Zhao Fu couldn't strain his relationship with them too much, or his grandparents would be sad.

Zhao Fu also wasn't adverse to saving people. However, that was if one had enough power. If one didn't have enough power, trying to save someone would not only doom oneself but also drag down the people around that person.

The car drove on, and soon, they reached the district where their grandpa and grandma lived.

At this moment, there were four people already waiting anxiously. There were their grandparents and Zhao Fu's uncle and aunty.

When they saw that Zhao Hong and Zhao Jun had returned safely, they ran over and hugged them, looking incredibly worried. They continuously asked if they were injured or if anything had happened to them.

As for Zhao Fu, he stood some distance away like an outsider, watching that heart-warming scene. After watching for a while, he silently walked away.

By the time they realized it and wanted to thank him and invite him to dinner, they found that he had long since left.

After returning to the Heaven Awaken World, Zhao Fu started to think about creating a faction in the Forest of Horrors. This wasn't to please Wu Qingniang but for his own goals.

First, at some point, he would have to get rid of all of the other factions in the Forest of Horrors; otherwise, how could he restore Great Qin? What's more, the Forest of Horrors was Great Qin's base, so he would have to make it completely his.

Since he had to get rid of the other factions in the Forest of Horrors, he would use this faction instead of Great Qin itself for most matters. He would slowly develop the faction without being detected and use both the faction and Great Qin to wipe out all of the factions when the time was ripe.

Players were a massive resource, and Zhao Fu didn't want to waste this resource. Players would be the base of this faction.

As for the location of the faction, Zhao Fu thought about it, and he summoned Wang Ergou and said, "Wang Ergou, bring me all of the reports on the factions in the Forest of Horrors."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Wang Ergou replied and left. He replied soon carrying a stack of documents.

After looking through some of this information, Zhao Fu felt quite perturbed.

At that moment, Wang Ergou smiled and said, "Your Majesty, this lowly one knows a lot about the factions in the Forest of Horrors. Would you like me to tell you?"

Zhao Fu smiled – he wouldn't be able to read through all of this information in one go, so he decided to listen to Wang Ergou's explanation.

Hearing this, Wang Ergou felt somewhat excited and collected his thoughts before saying, "Your Majesty, right now, apart from the government factions, there are three factions that are on the rise and are quite powerful. They are the Zhou family, the Jiang family, and the Soldier Alliance.

"Within Holy Light City, the competition between the Zhou family and the Jiang family is particularly intense, and the Holy Light Group is being suppressed by the two families, resulting in slow growth. The Zhang family and Cao family in Soldier Forest aren't able to rival the Soldier Alliance's growth, and they are in a weaker state. Finally, Demon Tree City's Yan family and Hua family have decently developed, but the original top faction, the Demon Tree Gang, split up into two factions because of disagreements between the two leaders. They are currently in opposition to each other and can no longer be called the number one faction in Demon Tree City.

"Apart from them, there are three factions that have been rising particularly quickly: they are Assassin Soul, Brothers Band, and the Flying Swallow Sect."

Chapter 252: Historic Day

"Assassin Soul is primarily made up of Assassins. The leader obtained some sort of Assassin Profession Change Stone Stele that can allow many people to become Assassins. The profession is E grade, which is quite good for this stage, so the faction has been growing quickly.

"Brothers Band is mainly made up of soldiers and also some elites. Brothers Band is the main force of the Chinese army in the Forest of Horrors, and it represents the Chinese army within the Forest of Horrors.

“It’s said that the Flying Swallow Sect has a counterpart in the real world. All of them have great skill, but it’s quite difficult to enter the sect.

“Assassin Soul and the Flying Swallow Sect are in Demon Tree City. Right now, there aren’t any particularly powerful factions in Demon Tree City, so it suits the growth of smaller factions. Brothers Band is at Soldier Forest, and it’s said that they treat the more righteous factions quite well.”

Zhao Fu had never paid much attention to the affairs within the Forest of Horrors and didn’t know that there had been so many changes. The entire board had changed – some old factions had disappeared while some new factions had risen. Such was the cruel reality of competition.

After listening to Wang Ergou’s report, Zhao Fu decided to establish his faction in Demon Tree City. There weren’t any powerful factions controlling it, and it was suitable for a growing faction. Zhao Fu had already planned the path for his expansion; after the faction grew, he would devour all of the other factions and become the biggest faction in Demon Tree City.

After making this decision, Zhao Fu took Wang Ergou to Demon Tree City. Zhao Fu’s impression of Demon Tree City from before was quite chaotic.

Back when the Demon Tree Gang ruled this city, the Demon Tree Gang had been a very chaotic faction and quite barbaric in the way it did things. Zhao Fu didn’t know how the Demon Tree Gang had split, but he knew that such a faction couldn’t have much of a future.

After the Demon Tree Gang split, Demon Tree City became a bit better. Zhao Fu first bought some properties and started to recruit people.

He put people in charge of this so that he didn’t have to do it himself. Rather, he stayed inside the building and watched from inside.

The terms that Zhao Fu gave were quite good: ordinary members received 2,000 copper coins per month, which was \$20,000 in the real world; elite members received 5,000 copper coins or \$50,000 in the real world; and core members received 20,000 copper coins or \$200,000 in the real world.

As for the name, Zhao Fu decided on ‘Heaven’s Choice.’

This was a reference to natural selection, as those who survived were chosen by heaven. Zhao Fu wanted this faction to become strong so that it wouldn’t be eliminated by the world.

After they started recruiting, because of the good terms, many people were attracted. However, Zhao Fu found that these people were only so-so, and there weren’t any powerful ones among them. However, it made sense that it would take time to gather powerful individuals.

Right now, what Heaven’s Choice needed the most was fame. With enough fame, they would be able to attract experts. The best way to garner fame was to display his might.

Whether it was interest or attractiveness, a challenge would gather a large crowd, and it would be hotly discussed. This would undoubtedly increase Heaven’s Choice’s fame.

First, he had to do this himself because he was the leader. Only then would he be able to attract people to him.

However, Zhao Fu realized that he was wearing his black cloak and that he had very rarely revealed his appearance in the Forest of Horrors. If he walked out like this, those who knew him would know that he was 'Zhao Xin.'

However, Zhao Xin's identity was already that of a Legatee, and he was incredibly mysterious. Zhao Fu didn't want anyone to link him to Zhao Xin, or his identity would be exposed.

When he thought of that, Zhao Fu hesitated before deciding to reveal his appearance. One reason was to satisfy Wu Qingniang, but it was also to continue hiding his identity as Zhao Xin.

Before, Zhao Fu hid his appearance because he was afraid that his identity would be exposed and that he would be found in the real world. He didn't have any power to protect himself in the real world, and he would be killed easily.

However, revealing his appearance now would protect his identity as Great Qin's Legatee. From now on, he would be that university student, the Zhao Fu, a collateral family member. Even if anyone found him in the real world, they would know that he was just a chess piece of the Ying family, and no one would truly suspect him.

After thinking about it, Zhao Fu finally made his decision and took off his black cloak. His black hair, which reached his waist; his white clothes; and his delicate, handsome face, which gave off a trace of tenderness, were revealed, showing everyone his majesty and dignity. Zhao Fu's current appearance was much more attractive than his appearance in the real world.

"Your Majesty, you..." Seeing Zhao Fu's appearance, Wang Ergou felt quite shocked. He thought that Zhao Fu's cloak had slipped off, and he had wanted to help Zhao Fu put it back on when Zhao Fu smiled and said, "Don't worry; I took it off myself."

When he heard this, Wang Ergou let out a sigh of relief before asking curiously, "Your Majesty, why did you reveal your appearance?"

Zhao Fu didn't explain and only said, "You'll understand in the future!"

"Oh!" Wang Ergou still felt quite confused, but he didn't dare to ask.

Afterward, Zhao Fu put the two swords at his waist into his King's Ring because they were both Epic grade weapons and too eye-catching. He instead equipped an ordinary Gold grade sword and walked out.

Boom!

Just as Zhao Fu stepped out, a monstrous aura suddenly descended and heavily weighed on the countless people outside. The air seemed to freeze, and everyone's body became stiff. They felt as if a heavy rock was weighing down on their bodies, and their legs started to tremble as cold sweat appeared on their faces.

Suddenly, a voice sounded out. This voice wasn't very loud, but everyone could hear it clearly because it was incredibly powerful and penetrating.

“I’m the founder of Heaven’s Choice, and our goal is to continuously become stronger to survive natural selection – to be chosen by heaven. Joining Heaven’s Choice is very simple: all you need to do is withstand my aura for five seconds, and you’ll become a core member!”

Zhao Fu’s words pleasantly surprised everyone – they barely had to do anything to become a core member and obtain \$200,000 per month. How could they not feel happy?

They all thought that they would be able to endure Zhao Fu’s aura for five seconds; all they had to do was grit their teeth and last those five seconds.

The normal people gritted their teeth and used all of their strength, causing their faces to go red as they resisted his terrifying aura.

Those with higher cultivations were better off, and they could look around while bearing this aura. They found that no one had fallen, though there were probably 3,000 or so people around – could it be that they would all become core members of Heaven’s Choice?

That would be too simple!

Everyone thought that to themselves and started to look quite pleased. The founder had spoken big words, saying that anyone who could last five seconds would become a core member. Now that so many people were going to achieve this, wouldn’t it be too humiliating?

However, everything changed in the next second.

Chapter 253: King’s Power

Boom!!!

An aura that was twice as powerful as before descended, and it was powerful to the point that it felt corporeal. The dust and sand in the surroundings were blown into the air, and many of the people who had been bitterly enduring felt their legs crumple as they fell to the ground.

Some people with decent strength were given a big fright and realized that they had underestimated Zhao Fu’s strength. As such, they started to muster all of their strength to withstand Zhao Fu’s aura.

Time seemed to slow down, and five seconds seemed to become extremely long.

The remaining people endured with all of their might, and beads of sweat started to roll down their bodies. Facing Zhao Fu’s current strength, they had felt an enormous strain.

As the aura became even more powerful, many of them were unable to continue standing and fell to the ground, leaving only five people remaining.

These five people all had cultivations above Stage 1, and they were incredibly powerful to normal people. There were four men and one woman, who were all quite young. They were barely able to withstand Zhao Fu’s massive aura.

However, in the next moment, Zhao Fu's aura once again became even more powerful, and it smashed down on their bodies like a massive boulder. Finally, these five people also collapsed to the ground, their clothes completely soaked in sweat.

"Useless! None of you were able to withstand even one-third of my strength!" a cold voice suddenly said.

This made everyone's expressions become unsightly and bitter, causing them to lose their confidence from earlier. Who would have thought that the founder of Heaven's Choice would be so powerful; they couldn't even withstand one-third of his aura. This was simply too shameful.

Zhao Fu withdrew his aura, and everyone climbed up from the ground, looking ashen-faced. Most of them planned to immediately leave and not humiliate themselves further.

However, at that moment, Zhao Fu calmly said, "The second and third groups to fall, I'm willing to accept you. Would you like to join Heaven's Choice?"

Those words caused the disappointed people to immediately react with pleasant surprise. For Heaven's Choice to have such a powerful leader and such good terms, it was a faction with good future prospects, so they all expressed their willingness to join.

In total, Heaven's Choice took in 145 people, and Zhao Fu also decided to give those five people in the third wave the status of core members.

After they all completed their registrations, Wang Ergou came over and smiled as he reported, "Young master, everything is done."

Afterward, Zhao Fu told Wang Ergou to make some preparations. After all, issuing challenges was something that would make quite a big impact, so they would first have to tell the governmental faction about it first.

The response from the governmental faction was that they were allowed to on the condition that they wouldn't harm any indigenous residents or cause great damage. Furthermore, it was best to target some of the more evil factions that the governmental faction couldn't deal with directly. If he did this, he wouldn't be punished by Demon Tree City and may even be rewarded.

"Everyone gather!" Zhao Fu stood at the front and lightly called out, and the 100 or so people immediately gathered around to see what Zhao Fu had in store for them.

"Today is the first day of Heaven's Choice, and it is a historic day. We need to do something to leave our mark in history – I see that Demon Tree City has been quite chaotic for a while, and it deserves some peace. Are you all willing to come with me?"

The new members could tell that Zhao Fu wanted to lead them to fight, and some became excited and wanted to go with him, while others hesitated and felt reluctant. After all, if they made trouble in a main city, they would be disciplined by the governmental faction. They just wanted to receive the great pay without taking any risks.

Zhao Fu could tell, and he loudly said, "I'm going to continuously challenge other factions, and there will be much bloodshed. You might even die, and you will make many enemies. If you want out, now's the time! Heaven's Choice isn't a faction that will idly enjoy peace!"

Those words immediately caused around 40 people to withdraw, and now there were 108 people remaining. However, not a single one of the five core members withdrew, which surprised Zhao Fu.

"Are you sure about this? The path ahead of us is extremely bloody; this is Heaven's Choice's path!" Zhao Fu once again called out – after all, he didn't want to have useless people who just wanted a free meal at Heaven's Choice. Those people were useless to him.

"We're sure!" Some people yelled as they enthusiastically nodded.

Seeing this, Zhao Fu took out 100 or so sets of Blue grade equipment and five sets of Silver grade equipment and handed them out, shocking and delighting the members of Heaven's Choice.

They had never thought that Zhao Fu would suddenly take out so many pieces of good equipment. Now, Zhao Fu became even more mysterious to them, but they could tell from his temperament that he definitely wasn't an ordinary person.

Seeing so many good pieces of equipment, those who had withdrawn felt regret.

Zhao Fu took this group of people and walked with aggressive airs on the streets. Seeing this, everyone in their way hurriedly gave way, feeling that something big was going to happen. Many people wanted to watch the action, so they followed behind Heaven's Choice to see what would happen.

"Ergou, are there any other factions around here?" Zhao Fu asked Wang Ergou as they walked at the front.

Wang Ergou thought for a moment before replying, "Young master, there's a small faction not too far ahead. I'll take you there now."

Zhao Fu nodded and followed Wang Ergou to a large courtyard. There were a few rough-looking youths in front of the gate, and they were talking with crude language about whose wife had a good figure and things about wanting to rape them.

"Young master, this is the Azure Snake Gang. There are roughly 500 of them, and most of them are hoodlums and don't have much strength," Wang Ergou reported to Zhao Fu.

Seeing that Zhao Fu had brought so many people to the Azure Snake Gang, the youths started to feel quite nervous, but they weren't too afraid. After all, there were only 100 or so people, while their Azure Snake Gang had 500 people. Their side had many times more people than the enemy, so there was no need to fear.

"Who are you? Why have you come to the Azure Snake Gang?" One of the people from the Azure Snake Gang walked over, and because he was so used to saying these lines, he had a gangster-like tone.

Zhao Fu didn't like his attitude, so he coldly gazed at this person and waved his hand – a sword light flashed as a long gash appeared on his chest. Blood gushed out, and the youth stared downwards in shock; he had never thought that Zhao Fu would instantly kill him.

The Heaven's Choice members behind Zhao Fu gulped and looked completely shocked. Even though that person's tone was quite annoying, they had never thought that Zhao Fu would kill him so quickly and decisively.

Seeing this, the other youths standing guard also looked quite shocked. Zhao Fu calmly threw out a duel invitation and said coldly, "Call your leader out!"

Chapter 254: Heaven Choice's Name

The youths standing guard became extremely terrified, grabbed the duel invitation, and ran into the courtyard. Soon after, a grim-looking man bringing a large group of people came to the gate and ill-naturedly looked at Zhao Fu as he said, "You're just a brat, yet you dare to come to the Azure Snake Gang and challenge me?"

Zhao Fu calmly looked at this middle-aged man and ignored his words, calmly asking, "Will you submit? Or do you want to be destroyed?"

The middle-aged man's gaze became sinister when he saw that Zhao Fu didn't put him in his eyes at all. He drew his long sword and didn't even bother for the official start. He suddenly stabbed the sword towards Zhao Fu's throat.

The middle-aged man's attack was as fast as lightning, and it came completely out of the blue. By the time everyone realized what was happening, the sword was nearly at Zhao Fu's throat. Those who were here to watch the action all thought to themselves, "What a shameless attack!"

However, Zhao Fu stood his ground and didn't even move as he looked at the middle-aged man. Facing Zhao Fu's gaze, the man felt a chill in his heart, and he felt as if his opponent wasn't even looking at him like a living human being.

The grim-looking middle-aged man sent even more of his strength into his attack when he suddenly saw Zhao Fu move. Zhao Fu seemed to move slowly, using two fingers to catch the sword. This caused the middle-aged man to feel quite surprised, and he tried to draw his sword back.

Clang!

Zhao Fu twisted with his fingers, breaking the middle-aged man's sword before slashing out with the part of the sword he had broken off, drawing a cold light through the air.

Chi!

The middle-aged man's neck was slashed open by the sword, causing blood to spurt out. The man covered his throat with both hands, a look of disbelief on his face. He couldn't understand how Zhao Fu was so strong, and even though he couldn't accept it, he still slowly slipped away.

All of this happened in the span of just a few seconds, and it looked incredibly easy for Zhao Fu to kill that middle-aged man in a single attack.

Everyone in Heaven's Choice was extremely shocked – this grim-looking man's cultivation was slightly higher than the five core members Zhao Fu had accepted, yet he couldn't even resist in front of Zhao Fu. This caused the five core members to feel a chill in their hearts – if Zhao Fu wanted to kill them, it would be as easy as breathing for him.

The spectators stared with wide eyes – anyone who could be the boss of a gang was definitely quite strong. And yet, he had been killed so easily and simply.

“Take revenge for the boss!” the Azure Snake Gang members yelled, raising their weapons when they finally came back to their senses and rushing over.

Zhao Fu's eyes seemed to shine with a cold light as he instilled his King's Power into the sword shard between his fingers, causing it to shine with a black light. Zhao Fu swept out with it, causing the air to be torn as a five-meter-wide arc of light appeared.

Chi! Chi! Chi!

This incredibly sharp light pierced ten or so people's bodies and split them in half, causing their guts and blood to spill out, making the scene incredibly gory.

Zhao Fu unleashed his massive aura, suppressing the entire scene as his eyes sharply fell on the Azure Snake Gang members' bodies and coldly said, “This place now belongs to Heaven's Choice. Scram!”

Under this immense aura, the Azure Snake Gang members realized how powerful Zhao Fu was and didn't dare to retaliate anymore. They didn't want to die and started to scatter like frightened birds and beasts.

The Heaven's Choice members were incredibly excited when they saw just how powerful and domineering their leader was.

The news of the Azure Snake Gang being destroyed quickly spread. Most large factions heard about it but didn't care. After all, the Azure Snake Gang was only a small faction and wasn't worth mentioning.

Zhao Fu left 50 or so people to manage this place and continued on with the rest of his people. If he wanted to become the biggest faction in Demon Tree City, he had to have great fame. As such, even though he normally didn't like to act like this, he had to do it, or he wouldn't be able to increase his fame.

Zhao Fu had high hopes for this faction – in the future, he wanted it to be a top-tier faction even within the entire Heaven Awaken World.

“Ergou, are there any more troublemaking factions nearby?” Zhao Fu asked Wang Ergou as the members following behind him grinned.

Wang Ergou also felt quite excited and happy, and he led Zhao Fu to another courtyard and said, “Young master! This is the territory of the Hundred Thief Society, and they're mostly made up of thieves and bandits. They very rarely show up during the daytime, and there are around 400 of them, a little weaker than the Azure Snake Gang.”

After listening to Wang Ergou's explanation, Zhao Fu walked up to the gate, where there were also a few people standing guard. However, because of their professions, the people here were quite wary, and

when he saw Zhao Fu bring so many people, they nervously asked, "Excuse me, why have you come to the Hundred Thief Society?"

"Just give this to your leader." This time, Zhao Fu didn't kill anyone, and he instead just handed the duel invitation to one of the people. Before, the person from the Azure Snake Gang had died because of his poor attitude.

After receiving the duel invitation, the person looked at Zhao Fu with alarm and immediately ran into the courtyard, following which a vulgar-looking young man and some others walked out.

"You want to duel me? And for the Hundred Thief Society to submit to you?" the vulgar-looking young man coldly harrumphed as he looked at Zhao Fu, and Zhao Fu calmly nodded.

"Don't look down on the Hundred Thief Society so much! Brothers, go! They have far fewer people than us, so let's show them our might!" the vulgar-looking young man angrily shouted.

The Hundred Thief Society members took out their daggers and knives and rushed towards Zhao Fu and his people because it seemed that Zhao Fu had greatly disrespected them.

However, what they didn't know was that compared to the Azure Snake Gang, Zhao Fu had already shown them a lot of respect.

The vulgar-looking young man and his two elites equipped their weapons and rushed at Zhao Fu, wanting to deal with him together.

Zhao Fu stood his ground, and a trace of a cold smile appeared on his face.

The first person rushed at Zhao Fu from the side, his knife dancing with a cold light as it slashed towards the back of Zhao Fu's neck.

Zhao Fu circulated his King's Power and gripped his hands into fists as he punched out, hitting that person in the chest. The sound of bones cracking sounded out as that person coughed up a mouthful of blood and flew backward.

The other person attacked from Zhao Fu's other side, his dagger sweeping towards Zhao Fu's throat. Zhao Fu pivoted and spun, smashing his other fist into the person and blasting him backward.

At that moment, the vulgar-looking young man suddenly appeared in front of Zhao Fu and rapidly attacked with two daggers, waiting for an opportunity to use his lethal skill.

The vulgar-looking young man's body suddenly split into countless clones and started attacking Zhao Fu from all directions. The vulgar-looking young man was quite confident of this skill, and when he saw that his dagger was about to pierce Zhao Fu's chest, he felt pleased.

However, suddenly, his throat was gripped by a pair of steel-like hands, and he looked up and stared at Zhao Fu in shock.

Crunch!

Zhao Fu broke the vulgar-looking young man's neck, causing his head to droop down powerlessly with his eyes wide open. Even when he died, he had no idea what had happened. His skill would've been powerful against normal people, but how could it deal with Zhao Fu?

Chapter 255: Di Renjie

On the other side, the Hundred Thief Society and Heaven's Choice started to fight. At that moment, a powerful aura weighed down on their bodies, causing their bodies to stiffen. They all slowly looked over and saw that terrifying person casually tossing their boss's corpse onto the ground like it was trash.

The entire scene became incredibly quiet, and the sound of the corpse hitting the ground was especially loud. Seeing that cold gaze turn to them, all of their hearts trembled.

"I'll give you three seconds to leave!" When they heard Zhao Fu's cold words, the Hundred Thief Society's people were scared into immediately running for their lives. However, two of them had been quite close to the boss, and they yelled and rushed over to take revenge.

Zhao Fu didn't move and coldly watched them rush over. He waved a finger, and a sword light shot out, lopping off their heads.

The Heaven's Choice members gazed at Zhao Fu in worship and felt incredibly joyful that they had such a powerful leader. News of the Hundred Thief Society being destroyed, combined with the Azure Snake Gang being destroyed, made everyone start to be wary of Heaven's Choice.

Zhao Fu felt that there wasn't much point in bringing so many people with him, so Zhao Fu left 50 or so people here and brought along the five core members to see if there was any value in developing them.

Right now, they were core members because of their cultivations, but Zhao Fu didn't see them as true core members. After all, apart from strength, the most important thing for core members was loyalty.

Zhao Fu hadn't remembered any of their names, and as he led them on, he asked Wang Ergou, "Ergou, are there any more notorious factions nearby?"

Wang Ergou quickly nodded and brought Zhao Fu in front of a wooden building.

"Young master, there's a very ordinary faction here. It's not very special, and it's called Starcliff. It has roughly 200 members."

Zhao Fu brought his people to the front, and against a faction of only 200 people, he didn't even bother handing out a duel invitation. Instead, he simply erupted out with his massive aura, causing people to immediately run out.

Zhao Fu looked at the person who had come out and found that it was someone who he knew. This young man was simple and honest, and he had tanned skin. He was named Niu Gu. Back when Zhao Fu had been studying and working, he had been one of Zhao Fu's colleagues.

"Zhao... Fu?" Niu Gu stared at Zhao Fu in shock. In just a few months, Zhao Fu had seemed to become a different person. He almost couldn't believe this, so he asked in disbelief.

Zhao Fu felt a bit helpless and nodded – this was the problem of revealing his appearance. Those who knew him would recognize him immediately.

Niu Gu awkwardly laughed and looked at the people around him as he waved his hands, loudly saying, “Don’t worry; we’re all friends here. This is Zhao Fu, my friend.”

Zhao Fu withdrew his aura, and Niu Gu walked up and cordially put his arm around Zhao Fu’s shoulders as he said, “Long time no see, Zhao Fu. You seem to be doing quite well. When you didn’t come back to work one day, I thought you disappeared.”

When he saw Niu Gu put his arm around Zhao Fu, Wang Ergou was completely startled, as he had never seen someone so daring as to do this before. If it was any normal person, that person would have long since died. However, since Zhao Fu didn’t say or do anything, Wang Ergou didn’t either, and he waited for instructions.

Listening to Niu Gu, Zhao Fu nodded and replied, “Yes, some things happened,” before turning to the people from Starcliff and asking, “What’s with this faction?”

Niu Gu said with an embarrassed expression on his face, “This is the faction that a few friends and I created. We didn’t have any strength or money, so our development hasn’t been too great.”

Zhao Fu looked around at the people from Starcliff before asking them to join Heaven’s Choice. Of course, they would only be ordinary members.

Niu Gu and the others were only too happy to agree. After all, Zhao Fu’s terms were quite good, and after seeing how well Zhao Fu was doing, Niu Gu was quite shocked and repeatedly proclaimed that he wanted to get rich with him.

Zhao Fu was speechless, but he still decided to bring them around to clear out the area around Heaven’s Choice’s territory. In total, they destroyed eight factions. These were all small factions without much strength, as most of the decent factions already had their own villages and didn’t need to rely on main cities.

Destroying eight factions in such a short span of time gave all of the factions within Demon Tree City a big fright, making them incredibly wary. Heaven’s Choice was rising with great power and couldn’t be underestimated.

Right now, within Demon Tree City, the most commonly talked about faction was Heaven’s Choice. Many people came to watch as spectators and told others stories, which were often embellished, about how domineering Zhao Fu had been when he singlehandedly crushed those factions. Countless people were awed, causing Heaven’s Choice’s name to resound within Demon Tree City.

As Heaven’s Choice became more and more famous, many talents also joined, and all of a sudden, its numbers swelled to 5,000 people. In just a single day, Heaven’s Choice had become a mid-tier faction, and its growth completely stunned others.

Even the powerful factions within Holy Light City and Soldier Forest heard about Heaven’s Choice’s rise, and they became curious about Zhao Fu’s identity. They decided to investigate his background – why did this powerful person suddenly appear, and how did he have so much money?

Most of the factions were able to quickly find information on Zhao Fu, and they couldn't help but admire the faction he belonged to. When they found that Zhao Fu was from the Ying family, all of the factions became serious, and some even felt fear.

They weren't afraid of the Ying family stretching their hands here; rather, they were afraid of Great Qin's Legatee. It was said that Great Qin's Legatee was in East Green, which was right next to the Forest of Horrors, so could it be that Zhao Fu was making the way for Great Qin's Legatee?

Right now, whenever they thought about Great Qin's Legatee, even the Legatees of nations would feel terrified, and this was even more so for the normal factions and families.

"What do we do? What do we do?" The threat of Great Qin's Legatee made them feel incredibly worried, and in the end, they couldn't think of anything. In front of Great Qin's Legatee, it seemed that nothing would work, and unless they had a Nation Armament, they wouldn't be able to resist him.

As such, they could only take each day as it came.

At the same time, they realized why Zhao Fu was so powerful and why he had so much money – he was supported by the Ying family, so this wasn't too strange.

Many factions expressed positive attitudes towards Heaven's Choice. From how they saw things, after Great Qin's Legatee took over East Green, he would lay his hands on the Forest of Horrors. Since they couldn't resist him, they could only submit to him.

Because of that, Zhao Fu was extremely important. After all, Zhao Fu was part of the Ying family and making the way for Great Qin's Legatee. Because of this, it was likely that Zhao Fu was working under Great Qin's Legatee. Who knew? Perhaps if Zhao Fu said some good words on their behalfs, they would be able to benefit from this.

In fact, sucking up to Zhao Fu might even save their lives. They had heard that Great Qin's Legatee was quite bloodthirsty, and if he was angered, he might even slaughter them all. When that time came, they would have to rely on Zhao Fu to keep their lives.

Their ideas were good and all, but they would never have expected that the mysterious and powerful Legatee was Zhao Fu himself.

Chapter 256: Region of Bones

Wu Qingniang also heard the news, and when she saw how powerful Heaven's Choice had become in just a single day, she laughed happily – it seemed that she had judged correctly.

Wu Qingniang didn't pay too much attention to Zhao Fu's strength or his massive amount of money because she knew that Zhao Fu had his own little secrets. She wouldn't ask about them because it might provoke a negative reaction from Zhao Fu.

With Zhao Fu's current strength, he would be a great help to her in the future. The only thing that she was worried about was Great Qin's Legatee – if Great Qin's Legatee, who was in East Green, revealed himself, everyone in the surrounding regions would be in grave danger.

Right now, what she wanted the most was for the barriers around the regions to disappear, allowing people to move between regions through main cities, so that Zhao Fu could move his faction to where she was. Only then would he be able to help her restore the Wu Zhou empire.

Now, Wu Qingniang's desire to conquer Zhao Fu became even stronger, and she wanted to grasp him in her hands.

"Your Majesty, there's something that needs your attention!" At that moment, a slightly skinny youth with eyes filled with wisdom walked in and paid his respects – he Di Renjie, a famous detective and chancellor.

.....

Within the Great Tang's Li residence, the old patriarch listened to the manager report about Zhao Fu, and a dark look came over his face as he coldly harrumphed, "Who would have thought that the Ying family would support him like this? I underestimated that little bastard's power; he seems to enjoy being a dog of the Ying family."

The Li family's old patriarch had always felt threatened by Zhao Fu. And now, his eyes became incredibly cold, and they gave off dense killing intent.

Seeing this, the manager bowed as he asked, "Sir, do you want to send people to get rid of him?"

The old patriarch wanted to kill Zhao Fu, but after thinking about it, he said, "Don't do anything for now. The Ying family's Legatee is too powerful, so we shouldn't do anything to offend the Ying family right now. Collect as much information about him as you can. Once there's a good opportunity, kill him immediately."

The manager nodded and left.

In another room, Li Baiqing sat in an office chair and looked at the information that his subordinates had handed him about Zhao Fu. He lightly laughed with a trace of coldness as he muttered, "Since you want to die, don't blame me!"

.....

Within the Ying family's residence, Ying Xi had also heard the news about Zhao Fu and felt quite surprised. She had never thought that Zhao Fu would have hidden his strength so well and that she would have completely underestimated him. Back then, when Wu Qingniang had said that she couldn't control him, Ying Xi hadn't believed her, but she did now. It was a pity that she had already given him over to Wu Qingniang, or else he would have been a great source of support for her.

.....

After establishing Heaven's Choice, Zhao Fu expanded it to 5,000 or so people and started to tidy it up. It had developed incredibly quickly, and its foundation wasn't stable yet. As such, Zhao Fu had to consolidate Heaven's Choice's foundation first before he could continue expanding it, and he looked at the seven people in front of him.

There were the five core members Zhao Fu had initially accepted, and after putting them in a few battles, he found that they had good aptitude and decided to nurture them.

Of the four men of the original five core members, there was the sunny Bai Yang, the cold Qin Kongming, the savage-looking Guo Shan, and the fair-skinned Cheng Chunchi.

The woman of the original five core members was called Wei Xia, and she had ordinary looks. She had the straightforward and heroic airs of a northeasterner.

The other two people were Niu Gu and a foxy-looking woman called Xiao Yaya. She was the leader of a small faction and went to find Zhao Fu. She wanted to join Heaven's Choice without any conditions, and after thinking about it, he allowed them to join.

Of course, Zhao Fu couldn't fully trust everyone, so he had to take time to fully understand it and develop it into a true faction.

"I want to talk to all of you about something – the real world is no longer safe, and the Heaven Awaken World will devour the real world at some unknown time in the future. You should all be careful and prepare for that," Zhao Fu said seriously.

This wasn't big news – most big families and factions already knew about this. However, most of the people in the lower rungs of society had no idea, so they were quite shocked.

Bai Yang asked somewhat in disbelief, "Chief, I've seen some rumors on the internet about the apocalypse, but experts all say that they're false and that we shouldn't believe them. Even many countries have made official statements that this is impossible."

The others also nodded and looked at Zhao Fu together.

Zhao Fu couldn't help but laugh, "Can you still not see the truth behind this world? All of those things were to stabilize the real world so that it doesn't descend into chaos. Countless families and factions already know about this, and even now, you're blind."

After these seven people heard Zhao Fu's words and thought about it, they realized what he said made sense – the changes in the real world, the devaluation of money in the real world, and large corporations desperately trying to get rid of their inventory in order to purchase things in the Heaven Awaken World all pointed to this. They weren't stupid, and they all felt quite wary about these changes. After listening to Zhao Fu, they all came to a realization.

"Damnit! They actually lied to us about such an important matter!" Niu Gu angrily yelled.

Everyone else felt the same, as this concerned their lives. If the Heaven Awaken World devoured the real world and they dumbly sat by without making any preparations, they wouldn't even know how they had died. How could they not be angry?

"I'm from the Ying family and have the Ying family's support, so Heaven's Choice will be able to develop quite quickly. You most likely don't have any way of protecting yourselves in the real world, so you all should come to the Ying family's territory. You'll be protected by the Ying family!" Zhao Fu said, revealing this big piece of news to them.

"What? Chief, you're from the Ying family?" Everyone looked completely dumbfounded. None of them dared to even think about a superpower like the Ying family. At the same time, they realized why Zhao

Fu was so powerful and why he had so much money. No wonder he had seemed so mysterious – he was from the Ying family.

“Chief, have you met Great Qin’s Legatee then?” Wei Xia suddenly asked excitedly, and everyone else looked at Zhao Fu curiously.

Great Qin’s Legatee was the most famous name in the entire world at the moment, and there was no one who hadn’t heard of him. Everyone would be curious of such a thing.

Hearing this, Zhao Fu suppressed a laugh and knew what they meant – they were asking if he had met that fake before. Zhao Fu thought about it and decided to nod.

The others immediately exploded with questions. Zhao Fu gave some simple replies, and some satisfied expressions appeared on the people’s faces. Wei Xia sighed and said, “I want to meet him face to face as well; he’s my ideal man!”

This caused everyone else to look at Wei Xia in shock, who didn’t care as she retorted, “What are you all looking at? What woman doesn’t want a domineering and powerful man?”

Hearing this, Zhao Fu could only bitterly smile and shake his head, and he once again asked them if they wanted to move to the Ying family’s territory.

All of them expressed that they were willing – the Ying family’s protection was something that they greatly desired, so how could they refuse?

As for Zhao Fu, he had no way of protecting them, so he could only ask Wu Qingniang. There were two other reasons for asking these people to move to the Ying family’s territory.

Chapter 257: Catfolk

First, Zhao Fu wanted to protect them – no matter how strong he was in the Heaven Awaken World, after he returned to the real world, he would just be an ordinary person, and he could be easily killed by others. This was especially so in a world filled with large and powerful families. Normal people and families were unable to compete with them at all, and if they hindered their interests, the powerful families would easily kill them.

This wasn’t very fair, but that was reality. After all, the law of the jungle cared nothing about fairness.

Right now, the world belonged to the large and powerful families, and only perhaps after the Heaven Awaken World devoured the real world would ordinary people be free from this and start to resist those families.

In addition to this, Zhao Fu also wanted to control them. By bringing them here, if they dared to betray him, he would be able to kill them immediately.

After his past experiences, it was very hard for Zhao Fu to trust anyone.

After taking care of the things for Heaven’s Choice, Zhao Fu returned to the Great Qin Town. Today was the day he had arranged to trade with the Orc City again.

This was already the fourth time they had made this transaction. During the first three times, Zhao Fu had used a lot of equipment and medicinal pills to exchange for 3,000 or so people. Each time, Gunador would gift Zhao Fu some Giant Wolves. However, Zhao Fu's Orcs found that there was a portion of the Giant Wolves that were completely controlled by the Orc City, and they could lead to disasters in the future.

Zhao Fu directly killed those controlled Giant Wolves. After all, he had the Black Forest Horses, so Great Qin didn't lack mounts. He also used the Horse Jade Soul he had obtained from the region of bones, so now, every horse's stats were around Stage 0-6.

However, the Giant Wolves also had their benefits – they could be used as mounts and battle beasts, using their sharp teeth to tear at enemies.

This time, Zhao Fu once again used the teleportation channel to go to the Orc City. By now, the Orc soldiers standing guard were already very familiar with Zhao Fu, and they felt quite happy about the things Zhao Fu would bring them each time. He had now won a trace of their respect, and they no longer treated him as disdainfully.

“Guest, you've come! I'll take you to see the Vice-Lord,” one of the Orc guards said loudly as he smiled.

Zhao Fu also smiled and took out a bottle of Little Spirit Pills before handing it to him. The Orc guard didn't refuse and immediately took it, putting it into his pocket before taking Zhao Fu to a large tent.

What surprised Zhao Fu was that Gunador was already talking to someone. This person was also wearing a cloak, so he couldn't see his appearance. However, Zhao Fu could tell from his voice that it was someone he knew – it was the Zhou family's Zhou Ming!

Why would he be here? It seemed that it wasn't just Zhao Fu who wanted to collaborate with the Orcs. Now that the Zhou family had received Great Ming's support, they had developed the confidence to run over here to make deals.

At that moment, Gunador discovered that Zhao Fu had come in and smiled as he said, “Esteemed guest, why are you standing at the entrance? Are you dissatisfied with Kaki City's hospitality?”

Zhao Fu found an excuse and quickly said, “I saw that Vice-Lord was discussing matters with someone else. I didn't want to disrupt you, so I decided to wait at the entrance.”

When he heard this voice, Zhou Ming turned and looked, and he immediately recognized Zhao Fu, though he knew Zhao Fu as 'Zhao Xin.' From the words they exchanged, it seemed that they had known each other for a long time and were already working together. Zhao Fu's sudden appearance had completely ruined his plans.

Ever since they had received Great Ming's support, the Zhou family had been developing incredibly quickly, but they had always been at odds with the Jiang family. Ever since last time, the relations between both families had completely broken down and become antagonistic, resulting in intense competition.

Zhou Ming expected Jiang Feng to have received great benefits from 'Zhao Xin' as a result of sacrificing his little sister. Adding on the things that had happened between Zhao Fu and the Zhou family, Zhou Ming hated Zhao Fu greatly and wished him an ill death.

The Zhou family was now receiving great support, and it was becoming harder for them to obtain great benefits in Holy Light City. Therefore, Zhou Ming suddenly thought about the Orc City that everyone else had overlooked.

The Orc City wasn't a system main city, so it lacked many things. If they could work together, they would be able to obtain massive gains, and the Zhou family's strength would definitely surpass the Jiang family's. However, this plan had been completely disrupted by Zhao Xin!

Zhou Ming glared at Zhao Fu venomously and called out coldly, "Zhao Xin!"

Zhao Fu could detect Zhou Ming's enmity, and he inwardly coldly harrumphed. If it wasn't for the fact that it wasn't time yet, he would have destroyed the Zhou family.

However, Zhao Fu decided to act courteously and asked, "Young master Zhou, long time no see!"

Gunador could sense the hostility. He found out that the two of them knew each other as well, so he smiled and welcomed Zhao Fu in.

Hearing Zhao Fu's words, Zhou Ming turned his head away and ignored him.

Zhao Fu didn't pay much attention to Zhou Ming either, and he directly said to Gunador, "Vice-Lord, I'm here to trade for people again!"

When he heard this, Gunador smiled as he said, "I'll bring you over now then. We caught quite a few slaves this time."

Upon hearing this, Zhou Ming felt incredibly shocked. He had never thought that Zhao Fu would be buying people – did he really have that much money?

At that moment, Gunador turned and apologized, and he asked Zhou Ming to wait for a moment.

Of course, Zhou Ming wanted to take a look, as he was lacking people and wanted to buy some as well. He also wanted to find out Zhao Fu's true strength, so he smiled as he said, "Vice-Lord, I'd like to take a look as well."

Gunador didn't mind, and just when he was about to agree, Zhao Fu said, "Vice-Lord, let's keep these transactions a secret; I don't want anyone else knowing about them. I've bought many people from you and given the Orc City many benefits."

Since Zhou Ming wasn't giving him face, Zhao Fu didn't bother giving Zhou Ming face.

Gunador felt a bit awkward, but given that Zhao Fu was the person who could bring them the most benefits, he could only apologize to Zhou Ming.

This caused Zhou Ming to feel incredibly infuriated, and his expression became unsightly.

Afterward, Gunador brought Zhao Fu to where the people were. There were roughly 1,700 people in wooden cages, and even though their grades were quite low, Zhao Fu was still satisfied.

This time, Zhao Fu took out twice as much equipment and medicinal pills as before, shocking Gunador.

Zhao Fu said seriously, "Vice-Lord, there is enmity between that person and myself, and I don't want to give him a chance to develop. As such, I hope that your city won't cooperate with him. In order to make up for your losses, I'm willing to double the price that I pay for these people."

After thinking about it, Gunador smiled and agreed. Zhao Fu also smiled and started transporting these people back.

However, a few hours later, Gunador and Zhou Ming both smiled as they came to an agreement – indeed, Gunador had betrayed Zhao Fu in an instant. What's more, he even told Zhou Ming what Zhao Fu had said and warned Zhou Ming to be secretive when trading with the Orc City in the future.

Zhou Ming loudly laughed and thought to himself, "That damned Zhao Xin wants to restrict the Zhou family's development? I'll bet you never expected the Orc City to work with me. I'll have to act secretly so that Zhao Xin doesn't find out about this!"

To the Orcs, profit was everything. Whether it was Zhao Fu or Zhou Ming, Gunador had never seen them as friends, as the Orc army would one day trample over their bodies.

In the distance, Zhao Fu was hiding and saw all of this, and he couldn't help but coldly laugh.

Chapter 258: Great Qin's Restoration

Ever since Gunador had gifted those Giant Wolves to Zhao Fu, he no longer had even a trace of trust remaining towards the Orc City. But then again, he had never completely trusted them, which was why he had been on his guard against the Giant Wolves from the beginning. Of course, he had also checked the slaves that he had bought as well.

Zhao Fu didn't immediately enlist those people into the army; rather, he placed them on support jobs and had people secretly monitor them to prevent them from revealing anything about Great Qin.

Zhao Fu knew that Gunador would work with Zhou Ming because apart from equipment, the Orcs also lacked many other ordinary things, such as food, materials, skills, spices, medicine, etc.

The Orc City wasn't a system main city, so it wasn't as well-equipped as the system main cities. As such, they had to purchase or take things from others.

Zhao Fu had considered these things a long time ago, and he knew that there were great benefits to be reaped. However, Zhao Fu didn't trade these things because he didn't lack money or want to truly help the Orcs develop.

Since Zhao Fu didn't want to help the Orcs develop, doubling the price for the people was, of course, for another purpose. This was because he wanted to give as much of the Shattersteel equipment and poisonous pills to the Orcs as possible without arousing their suspicions.

Most of the medicinal pills that Zhao Fu gave them had an undetectable, slow-acting poison, and it would kill many Orcs.

After the Orcs started to use Zhao Fu's equipment and enough time had passed for the poison to take effect, that would be when Zhao Fu would take down the Orc City.

At first, he had wanted to offer ten times extra for Gunador not to cooperate with Zhou Ming, but he felt that Gunador was quite cunning and sly himself. As such, he only offered two times extra because that was already quite a lot. He would find more opportunities to give them more equipment and medicinal pills in the future.

As for the Zhou family, Zhao Fu didn't place them in his eyes at all.

After experiencing so much, Zhao Fu felt that he was becoming more and more cunning. However, he had no choice, as those who were simple-minded wouldn't be able to live in this world for long. If Zhao Fu wanted to survive, he had to continuously become stronger.

What was now at the forefront of Zhao Fu's mind was the Heaven Domain Boundary's first layer being unlocked and the 'Legacy Land' mentioned by the Yin Soldiers during the Ghost Festival. He felt that there was some sort of lurking danger.

After returning to the Great Qin Town, Zhao Fu received a system announcement that Liu Subai had become a Third-Ranked Baron – now, he was another step closer to leveling up to a City. Zhao Fu smiled and thought about who to give Achievement Points to next.

After thinking for a while, he decided to give them to Zhang Dahu. Back when Zhao Fu had taken in Zhang Dahu, he had been a Village Chief and already had some Achievement Points. Now that he had been with Great Qin for so long, he already had 500 Achievement Points, so choosing him would allow Zhao Fu to produce another Third-Ranked Baron as soon as possible.

"Your Majesty, this subordinate has just conquered an ordinary Village and discovered a new type of Outlander. I've brought two of them; would Your Majesty care to take a look?" After Zhao Fu diverted his Achievement Points to Zhang Dahu, Doke walked in with a big smile and paid his respects to Zhao Fu.

"A new type of Outlander?" Zhao Fu felt quite curious. Most of these Outlanders were races from western myths and legends, and they couldn't be found in the real world. Zhao Fu couldn't help but wonder when he would find some of the eastern prehistoric races.

"Bring them over!" Zhao Fu ordered.

Doke obeyed and ordered two soldiers to bring in the two Outlanders. These two Outlanders were both girls around 15 or 16 years old. They had delicate faces, snow-white skin, and looked quite cute. What was different about them from normal people was that they had a pair of cat ears on their heads, and they also had tails.

It seemed that they were Catfolk. The two girls looked quite similar, and they were most likely twins. They were huddled together, and their large eyes nervously looked around, making those who saw them want to protect them.

"Your Majesty, are you satisfied with them? I heard that in your world, your people are especially interested in cat girls, rabbit girls, and fox girls," Doke said as he grinned.

Zhao Fu also smiled. Cat girls, rabbit girls, and fox girls were indeed quite popular in the real world, and they were especially attractive to otakus.

"Not bad!" Zhao Fu replied as he looked at the Catfolk.

When he heard this, Doke felt quite pleased and laughed out loud, causing the two Catfolk girls to tremble. It was this terrifying Kobold who had conquered their village.

Zhao Fu looked at their grades and found that they were both A grade, and he thought about how agile cats were – perhaps they would be quite agile as well.

Suddenly, he thought of something and took them to an empty plot of land. He tossed two daggers to them and said, “If you can hit me, not only will I release both of you, but I’ll also release your entire village.”

Even though the two Catfolk girls couldn’t understand Zhao Fu, through the Lord’s translation, they were able to understand his intent. They looked at each other but were so scared that they were unable to make a move.

As such, Zhao Fu could only act as evilly as possible, coldly saying, “If you don’t make a move, I’ll give the order to kill you and your entire village!”

When they heard Zhao Fu’s terrifying words, the two Catfolk girls almost started crying, looking incredibly pitiful.

“What, you want to die?” Zhao Fu said with a severe glare.

This caused the two Catfolk girls to pick up the daggers on the ground. Their bodies quivered, but they didn’t dare to attack – after all, if they hit this person, they might die for it. However, if they didn’t attack, they would still die. In the end, they could only stare at Zhao Fu.

“Hurry up!” Zhao Fu said as he frowned.

Finally, the two Catfolk girls chose to act. One moved towards the left as the other moved towards the right, and they circled towards Zhao Fu. Just as Zhao Fu expected, they were incredibly fast, and their footsteps were incredibly light, being barely audible.

Very soon, one Catfolk girl appeared to Zhao Fu’s right, but just as she was about to attack, Zhao Fu’s hand streaked out and clamped onto her throat, lifting her up.

“Big sis!” the other Catfolk girl cried out and rushed towards Zhao Fu. However, just as she came close, Zhao Fu’s left hand shot out with a blur and grabbed onto her throat, lifting her up.

Doke had been watching by the side, feeling completely relaxed. This was exactly how he had expected things to play out.

Zhao Fu looked at the two Catfolk girls and felt quite satisfied. However, the two girls thought that Zhao Fu was going to kill them, and tears started to flow out of their eyes.

“You pass!” At that moment, Zhao Fu put down the two girls with a warm smile on his face.

The two Catfolk girls’ faces were covered with tears, and they didn’t understand what was happening. However, Zhao Fu took out the Battle Equipment Set and War Equipment Set. They seemed to be twin sets, so they were suited to be wielded by twins. This was what Zhao Fu had been thinking of earlier, and after seeing that they had good aptitude, he decided to give these equipment sets to them.

Chapter 259: Great Qin's Anger

Only after Zhao Fu explained his intentions did the two Catfolk girls realize what was happening, and they accepted the equipment sets. Afterward, Zhao Fu took them to the Assassin Historical Remnants and told them to place their hands on the Profession Change Stone Stele. Just as expected, they were able to become Assassins.

With regards to this Assassin Historical Remnant, Zhao Fu had only passed the second and third layers, unlocking the A grade Assassin Profession and S grade Assassin Profession, but he still hadn't unlocked the entire thing.

Right now, most of Zhao Fu's Assassins had B grade professions, 20 or so had A grade professions, and only two had S grade professions – Little Sha and Tuoba Qing.

They obtained the full legacies from their equipment sets and could transform their equipment sets, while everyone had to put more work in to reach that level.

Suddenly, Zhao Fu realized that he didn't know their names, so he asked, "What are your names?"

The slightly older Catfolk girl replied somewhat nervously, "I'm called Lasi," before pointing at the other scared-looking girl and saying, "She's my little sister, Lam."

Zhao Fu nodded as he looked at them. Right now, they were too weak, so they could only obtain the B grade Assassin profession. As such, he asked his people to take them back, give them training, and give them two S grade Orbs.

As for Zhao Fu, he went to the fourth trial. Just like the other trials, there were a set of large doors. Zhao Fu pushed them open and walked in. It was completely dark ahead as well as utterly silent, making it seem even more terrifying than the previous trials.

Zhao Fu stepped forwards, making him feel as if he had passed through some sort of barrier. His surroundings suddenly changed, and he appeared on a large street. There were many pointed western-style buildings that looked somewhat fantasy-like.

There were many people on the street, both Humans and Outlanders, and he was completely surrounded. Chaotic voices could be heard all around him, and it all felt as if he had actually entered a fantasy city.

Zhao Fu knew that he was inside some sort of illusion, and he looked around curiously.

.....

One day later, Zhao Fu staggered out of the historical remnant looking quite wretched. Within that illusion, all of his equipment, skills, and powers were useless. What's more, he had been hunted down by various factions. The illusion was set in the end-times of an age, and not only was Zhao Fu required to kill people, but he also had to save people. Most importantly, he had to help a new age rise up, but he failed and didn't pass the trial.

This caused Zhao Fu to sigh, and he could only choose to leave the Assassin Historical Remnant and return to the Great Qin Town.

.....

Time passed quickly, and soon, 20 days had passed. The temperature was becoming colder and colder, and tree leaves were becoming yellow – autumn had arrived in the Heaven Awaken World.

Over the 20 days, Great Qin had now opened up 30 regions in total, and they included the regions that were necessary for Great Qin’s restoration. Now, only one place remained.

The 31 regions between Seeping River, Valiant Peace, South Leaf, and Open Flask were places that Great Qin had to conquer, but one could only imagine how difficult it would be to conquer such a large area. As such, they had to make sufficient preparations to successfully conquer these cities.

Within these regions, Zhao Fu discovered five Legatees. There were four of the States that were opposed to Great Qin – the State of Wei of the Warring States Period, the Kingdom of Qi from the Sixteen Kingdoms, Later Zhou from the Five Dynasties, and Ten Kingdoms and Great Shun, established by Li Zicheng at the end of the Ming Dynasty.

The fifth was the State of Zheng established by Wang Shichong at the end of the Sui Dynasty.

Wang Shichong, a General, was quite an influential figure in the late Sui Dynasty. He established a high position for himself during the Sui Dynasty by pacifying the rebellion led by General Yang Xuangan and performed other meritorious deeds. After Emperor Yang was killed, he, with Yuan Wendu, Lu Chu, and others, declared Yang Tong, the Prince of Yue and Emperor Yang’s grandson, the new Emperor. Wang Shichong took down Li Mi, the rebel leader, and convinced many of the Wagang Army’s Generals to join his side.

Later on, Wang Shichong turned Yang Tong into a puppet and declared himself Emperor, with his state being called Zheng. However, it was eventually destroyed by Great Tang’s Li Shimin.

If Zhao Fu didn’t have his Nation Armament and the system main cities’ armies attacked him, he wouldn’t be able to resist at all and would lose without a doubt.

These five Legatees hadn’t developed yet, so their strength was much inferior to that of the system main cities’. However, once they developed, they would become many times stronger than system main cities, and when that time came, it would be too late for Zhao Fu to deal with them.

Right now, Great Qin was in the northern region of the Midland Continent, Great Han was in the southern region of the Midland Continent, Great Shang was in the western region of the Midland Continent, Great Zhou was in the eastern region of the Midland Continent, and Great Xia was in the center of the Midland Continent.

The five Great Dynasties were scattered across the Midland Continent with the other Dynasties scattered between them.

It seemed as if the system had carefully planned who would be where so as not to have any of the Great Dynasties facing off against each other in the very beginning. Only in later stages would they clash.

As for Great Qin, because of their conquering and purchasing of people, they now had a population of 230,000, with 40,000 soldiers.

Out of these 40,000 soldiers, because most of the soldiers who had been following Zhao Fu from the beginning had all reached Stage 0-8 or Stage 0-9, with the help of Hundred Origin Pills and Blood God Pills, Great Qin now had roughly 1,500 Stage 1 soldiers.

What's more, they were rapidly gaining more and more Stage 1 soldiers – roughly 80 per day. Most of them were the soldiers who had been with Zhao Fu from early on.

Most of the newer soldiers' cultivations were quite low, being only around Stage 0-4 to Stage 0-5. It would take them a long time to reach Stage 1 unless they received a large number of Blood God Pills.

The Chaotic World Stone Stele had also risen to Level 1 because of their conquering, and they could now exchange for Blue grade items. Upgrading from a Level 1 to Level 2 Stone Stele required 100 War Points.

In terms of economy, the Drizzle Merchant Alliance had already entered all 30 regions and was rapidly developing, reselling all sorts of items from different regions. They had also established a farm specifically for livestock, eliminating some of the costs for some of the goods they sold. All of this brought in a massive amount of money for Great Qin.

The Great Qin Town had also started to expand outwards to accommodate even more people. Rising Qin Academy was also being made bigger to teach more children and develop more talents.

A true nation wasn't simply a large faction that controlled a large piece of land – if the nation wanted its foundation to be firm and deep, it had to develop its own culture.

In terms of production, because of the bonus stats, the crops only took up 30% of Great Qin's labor force. Most people were occupied with all sorts of manufacturing and production related tasks, and others took up trade-related professions.

Chapter 260: Great Qin's Might

As for Great Shun, it had developed fairly quickly during that period as well. This was because of Su Yan's advice, and now, Great Shun's population had reached 80,000. There were 40,000 indigenous residents and 40,000 players – this massive force was enough to become the number one player faction in Green Apricot.

However, they were pestered and thwarted by a faction called Evil Fang in all sorts of areas, causing Li Mu and the rest of Great Shun to greatly despise this faction.

Evil Fang was the faction that Zhao Fu had created, and he had mainly built it up from hooligans and thugs. Its main job was just to make trouble for Great Shun.

Within Great Shun's restaurant, a few people who had been eating suddenly flipped the table and loudly cursed, "This food is so goddamn bad!"

After yelling, these people wanted to go around the restaurant and make trouble, but they were quickly stopped by a few of Great Shun's guards. A fight broke out, and the troublemakers were quickly killed without harming a single person from Great Shun.

In actuality, the food was quite good, but Evil Fang's people used these sorts of despicable methods to interfere with Great Shun's businesses. Those who died were all players who were given a large amount of money – after all, they wouldn't die a true death. This had already happened a few times, and Great Shun was now on its guard. However, the effects of what had just happened were quite great – seeing the corpses and blood on the ground, how could anyone continue eating? The other patrons all quickly paid and left, and most probably wouldn't return.

In one of Great Shun's dessert shops, a person walked out, ate one of his desserts, suddenly started foaming at the mouth, collapsed on the ground, and started to spasm.

"Great Shun's desserts are poisoned! Don't eat them, everyone! Look, this person died after eating their desserts!" someone immediately yelled.

This yell immediately drew the attention of countless other people. Seeing this scene, all of them resolved to never buy desserts from this shop. The beautiful boss of the shop walked out and angrily looked at the scene in front of her, and she prepared to order some people to grab the person faking his death on the ground.

The person on the ground realized this and immediately ran off, and a few guards went to chase after him. The beautiful boss immediately explained to the crowd what was happening to regain some of the shop's reputation, but this sort of thing had already happened many times.

At Great Shun's equipment store, Great Shun sold some ordinary equipment and bought good materials.

Suddenly, a few people marched onto the street while beating a gong and drums and yelling, "Great Shun's equipment is complete garbage, and all of their equipment is defective. Don't be tricked, everyone!"

A few guards immediately rushed out, wanting to catch these people, but the troublemakers immediately turned tail and ran. The guards could only angrily curse, and the boss came out to explain to the crowd what was happening.

Of course, the people who were trying to interfere with Great Shun's businesses were from Evil Fang. Great Shun did all it could to prevent these things, such as sacrificing some profits to only do business with indigenous residents. However, Evil Fang started recruiting thugs and hooligans from indigenous residents, and it used all sorts of despicable methods to hinder Great Shun's development.

Great Shun wanted to retaliate by using similar despicable methods to deal with the faction behind Evil Fang, but they didn't discover any of Evil Fang's shops.

Zhao Fu had long since expected this, so he had made it almost impossible to discover any links between Evil Fang and his shops. He had even given up on some of his businesses in Green Apricot.

The other families didn't actually provide much help, as they didn't want to make great sacrifices by directly fighting against Great Shun. However, they were still able to somewhat restrict Great Shun.

They understood that they couldn't allow Great Shun to develop too quickly, or they would be destroyed. At the same time, they had received some support in terms of items from Zhao Fu, so they had to help suppress Great Shun somewhat.

Today, Li Mu was finally able to buy out a few of Evil Fang's people and discover their meeting location. He personally brought some people over and kicked open the door of the meeting place. Seeing the people inside and thinking about the things that they had done to Great Shun, Li Mu decided to release all of his pent-up rage.

"Kill all of them; spare no one!" Li Mu roared murderously with a savage expression.

There were roughly 500 to 600 Evil Fang members within the building, and their cultivations weren't very high. They were only some thugs and hooligans, so they couldn't have very high cultivations, while Li Mu had brought Great Shun's elites, 1,000 soldiers who had roughly Stage 0-6 to Stage 0-7 cultivation.

When they heard Li Mu's command, Great Shun's soldiers charged in, while Evil Fang's people became terrified and tried to flee.

After this massacre concluded, all of Evil Fang's people were killed, while only 30 or so people from Great Shun were injured. Great Shun suffered no casualties.

Seeing the corpses on the ground, Li Mu's anger still wasn't relieved. He gave the order for these corpses to be hung on trees outside the city and announced, "This is the result of anyone who dares to offend Great Shun!"

The soldiers obeyed and hung the 500 to 600 corpses within a forest outside the city.

The corpses were bound to trees with ropes and covered with wounds and blood. Adding on their tortured expressions from before they died and the crows and eagles that feasted on their corpses, most people didn't dare to go near that terrifying place.

This incident shocked everyone in Green Apricot, and many families no longer dared to act against Great Shun any longer. All of the factions fell silent and didn't dare to make a single sound.

After Li Mu's display of might, no one dared to join Evil Fang anymore, and those who were lucky to escape that disaster all left Evil Fang and didn't dare to act against Great Shun any longer. Just like that, Evil Fang fell apart.

Now, within Green Apricot, Great Shun's prestige rocketed to a new point, and no one dared to oppose them. Anyone who ran into people from Great Shun would lower their heads, and with their 80,000 people, Great Shun had become the official number one faction in Green Apricot.

Li Mu quickly released another statement – those who were cooperating with that mysterious faction and had anything to do with that faction would be opposing Great Shun, and Great Shun would annihilate their entire families. Anyone who didn't want to die should cease all cooperation with that faction.

Those murderous words caused all of the smaller factions working with Zhao Fu to cut off all relations with him in terror, and the large families all became incredibly uncertain. The large families decided to talk together.

“What do you all think? I think we shouldn’t cooperate with that person anymore. After all, he’s just using us to fight against Great Shun, and this isn’t good for us at all. We’ll just defend our main cities and cede Apricot City to Great Shun. If they have enmity between them, let them resolve it themselves,” one of the family leaders said earnestly to the others.

The other family leaders also felt that they couldn’t fight against Great Shun directly -this was extremely detrimental to them, and even if that mysterious person was Great Ming’s Legatee, their greatest problem right now was Great Shun. They could no longer do anything to Great Shun, much less directly oppose it, so the other family leaders all agreed.

When this news reached Great Qin, it caused Great Qin to erupt with anger!