

Unfathomable 371

Chapter 371

“Massive milkers?”

Asked Feng Liena as the man was pointing at her. She started looking at her peers that were to the sides. Huo Qiang followed this pointing finger as well and Liena could see his gaze stop at her chest area.

She immediately put her hands to cover up as she realized what the younger man was shouting. Her robe might not have been one of the more revealing ones but her figure was hard to miss.

“What is the meaning of this Soaring Dragon Sect, is this the way you treat other elders?”

While the strongest cultivator by the name of Tong was showing a tired expression. The young man that referred to Zhang Liena’s breasts with milkers started grinning.

“Try as you might, we all know that they are too big to be hidden away!”

“Well, he isn’t wrong...”

“Will you shut up you idiot!”

Huo Qiang shrugged while going back to looking at the enemies that they were standing against. He was a well-trained warrior that was just itching for a fight. Even now he was trying to measure his strength against the other nascent soul cultivators here.

The nascent soul masters that the United Element sect had were slightly different than the ones that came from other factions. For one thing, they were much stronger than their older counterparts.

This was mostly due to how much better their cultivation manuals were which allowed them to jump at least one smaller realm. Then some could further enhance their powers through some skills which could put them at or over the strength of people two small levels above them.

While normally it might have looked bleak from an outsider’s perspective. It wasn’t quite as bad, even now defeat wasn’t assured even when they were against a large number of nascent soul elders in the late stage and even one at the great circle level.

“You’ll have to excuse young master Long but if you accept our terms we will quickly leave this place.”

“Old Tong, why are you trying to ruin the fun? It’s not fun if they don’t resist and how many spirit points do you think will be wasted here?”

The elders from the United Element Sect side looked in confusion at the back and forth between the elder and young man. The youngster was a nascent soul cultivator as well but he was not as strong as the old man.

It was clear that the only reason that this man was not acting was that this young man was related to the current patriarch. While the elder wanted to strike the deal it seemed that the man named Long was trying to cut to the chase and just attack them.

Everyone here thought that the young man was quite brazen. They could not get a feeling of his cultivation. Sometimes it was low while other times it raised above what the limit of his abilities seemed. It was clear that he was dangerous and that fighting it out would be the last resort.

“Young master please, I will have to report this to the patriarch if you force us into an unnecessary confrontation with this sect.”

“You’ll tell it to gramps? Fine but make it quick!”

Finally, the elder floated forward while the young man retreated a few meters behind him. Even now he was looking at the sect Matriarch with lustful eyes which gave the mother of two to shudder in disgust.

“I will make it quick, give up that woman there and we will leave. She had been chosen to be the concubine for our young master. This is a great honor, she might even be able to foster the next Patriarch’s son!”

“Have you lost your mind? You wish me to become that bastard’s whore? I already have a husband and children, have you no shame or reason?”

Zhang Liena exploded almost instantly, the elders next to her were taken aback by the revelation. Everyone here had known that the man was here to take away one or more of their women. None of them could have known that this woman would be their matriarch.

This posed a certain problem for the sect. It was fine to give up a disciple that was below the nascent soul level or even an elder but it was different when it came to their backbone.

They would look weak if they just gave her up without getting anything in return. Even then they would be considered a laughing stock by the other sects which might see this as a chance to get something out of it.

“Senior, do you expect us to relinquish our honored matriarch to your sect? Don’t you think that you are being unjust?”

“I am well aware of everything, this does not matter to the Soaring Dragon Sect. The young master desires your matriarch and she will come with us.”

“Hah, you tell them old Tong!”

The old man started changing his tune soon. It was clear that even if this man knew that what he was doing was wrong he could not go against the young master’s wishes. The other elders and the ships started spreading out and even more cultivators appeared as they were clearly ready to act.

“We will of course reimburse you for your loss with high quality spirit stones.”

Elder Tong commented while clearly getting ready for a fight.

“Please give us some time to consider...”

“You have ten minutes and not a second more!”

The young master replied while laughing and then slowly made his way back to the large ship. He was greeted there by a group of scantily clad women, it seemed that even now he was a slave to his lust.

“What do you think of our chances?”

Zhang Liena and the other elders huddled up, their conversations hidden away by the grand formation that was protecting them.

“The barrier should be able to last for a while but without the Patriarch here we can’t activate the grand formation fully... the elders even to this day have not been able to unearth all of the secrets...”

Zhang Dong fashioned this whole sect with the help of his system. It was a fortress that was built to last an extensive attack from all sides but there was a limit. One was the power sources that would be used up and the other were the functions that were locked to his system.

In his absence, his wife had the moderator privileges to the sect grounds, then came his grandfather and disciples. They would be able to activate the basic functions but would not be able to boost them with their lack of cultivation.

Similar to the Thunder tower that belonged to the Thunderball Sect. Only Zhang Dong knew how to fully operate it, without him victory was shaky.

“We stand a fighting chance, the biggest problem is that Tong...”

“Leave him to me!”

Huo Qiang smacked his fists together while getting pumped up. Just like Zhang Dong before him, he also knew a couple of ways to raise his cultivation strength. His cultivation level was the same as the Patriarch so some have hope that he was of similar strength.

“Wait Qiang...”

Feng Liena looked at the red-haired man and then turned around. She looked out into the distance where the city and sect were visible. Her eyes looked up to that large floating castle where she recalled her short blissful life with her husband and family.

She could remember like it was yesterday. His warm touch and the awkward smile that with time turned more genuine. His panicked expression when he realized that the first child was on the way. Then that happiness when her daughter was born and the pampering she received soon after.

She smiled for a moment but then she recalled when the second child was born. The good days were halted and nothing but sadness remained. He was not there anymore to see his son start crawling and utter his first words.

Was he really gone? Would he ever come back? These were the questions that she has been asking herself for a long time. If he was truly dead then it was up to her to pave a path for her children’s survival.

“Liena, what are you planning? You aren’t seriously thinking about giving yourself up to that bastard?”

Huo Qiang’s eyebrows furrowed as he seemed maddened by the fact that Liena was even thinking about taking the Soaring Dragon Sect up on their offer.

“Can you beat him?”

She asked and he quickly replied.

"I can!"

"Then what?"

"Huh?"

"I asked you what will you do, what will we do after we kill them all? Can you say with honesty that we can defend ourselves against the Soaring Dragon Sect? If we manage to push them back they will only return in more numbers and crush everyone till no one is left alive!"

Huo Qiang went silent while the other elders knew the truth to these words. The force that they were against was not that they were afraid of. It was what would come after if they killed them off or managed to somehow outlast their attack.

While all other middle-sized sects would have no way of protecting themselves against something like the Soaring Dragon Sect, this wasn't the same for them. The whole ground was a massive formation and the buildings were built to last and power it more.

Even without the patriarch the shield that they had here would probably not fall that soon. But it would fall, sooner or later they would run out of options while the other sect could just swarm them with more nascent soul cultivators.

If they wanted the Soaring Dragon Sect could order cultivators from other middle sized sects to aid them. Each of the three large powers had a section of the empire to command and the United Element Sect was under their jurisdiction.

They could do whatever they wished with them and no one would come to their aid. Then if they managed to somehow escape and survive they would not find any shelter. Their faces would be on wanted posters and the only thing they could do is seek shelter in other fringe parts of the empire.

"Even if we win this battle we will still lose the war..."

Zhang Liena commented while turning back to the foe they were facing.

"Damn, if only he was here..."

Huo Qiang shouted out in indignation at the lack of power. He knew that even if he could take care of a couple of the enemies more would just come. He also had a large family and many children. If there was a possibility to just offer up one person to save the rest it was the better option.

"Ten minutes is up, now decide mega milk? I like ya and I want ya, now we can do this the easy way or the hard way, the choice is yours! What will it be?"

The young master shouted out from the large ship that he soon left. The whole sect was already surrounded and it was clear that if she gave the wrong answer all hell would break loose.

Chapter 372

"That didn't give me as much time as I hoped for... how many are there, Bob?"

“There are four large energy sources approaching from behind. There are also another five from the north and three from the south.”

Zhang Dong looked at his minimap and he could see many small dots there that were following after him. After giving the bogus cultivation technique to the four people that confronted him, he made his escape.

Regretfully the old fogies were craftier than he anticipated. They alerted some of their allies that cut his escape route. Even though he went through a face swap it was hard to talk his way out of this predicament.

The next group that he passed started following him as well and now he had over ten powerful cultivators following him. They were mostly from places that he had robbed of spirit stones and other cultivation resources.

‘Why does it always have to be like this...’

There he was, close to the border between the two empires. He had to make a lot of stops and zig-zag around the area as there were many lookouts posted to welcome him. The route that he planned to use had been denied as many old fogies blocked all the best exits. Thus he found himself having to use the scenic route.

‘There is always a place like this isn’t there?’

What he was now looking at was a wall of wind and death energies. The wall between these empires was not an actual wall, it was some kind of old barrier formation that shredded anyone that wanted to pass through it.

He had gained some information from the cities that were closer to the borders. No one really could give him a clear answer but this strange ‘barrier’ between the two empires had been there since time immemorial.

This strange construct created a large wall of deathly elemental energies between these two empires. There were a couple of ‘tunnels’ that allowed passage but they were all controlled by the strongest forces in each empire.

There was some information about these passages not being open at the time being. A limited timeframe for the passages being open would explain the lack of wars between the powers.

It would take time and resources to conquer. If the aggressors could not invade and set up a stronghold for their forces it was a fool’s errand. Even when they placed some of their forces there if they could not return home to get more troops and resources they would be eradicated.

This also brought up another problem, which was teleportation. If they could not make strongholds that linked them back to the original empire this also meant that teleportation gates were limited.

This caused Zhang Dong to worry even more. It was possible for his teleportation feature not to work even when he arrived in the right spot.

‘Not like I have the choice to test things out though...’

He glanced behind and saw a swarm of beasts and cultivators following him from all sides. They all clumped up into a large force that was slowly catching up to him.

“Stop this instance, there is no place to run!”

Some of them shouted at him but he ignored them. What he was looking at was the great unknown bundle of energies in front of him. The ‘wall’ spread all up into the heavens and was pushing the clouds away.

The ground was devoid of any life and looked like a desert. Elemental storms, rain, and hurricane-like winds along with twisters were everywhere. While he was not affected by the lightning energies here, there were far more elemental powers at work at this location.

Even with his current cultivation level, it was debatable if his body would not just burst into chunks when he entered this chaotic stream of energy.

“I don’t think that’s such a good idea!”

He burst forth with energy and headed towards the dead zone between the chaotic energies and the borderline. When he entered it he could feel his face and lip being cut by something. Even with his current cultivation, he was receiving damage for even being in close proximity to the elemental energies.

While he propelled himself forward the people that were following him stopped in their tracks. Some of the beast tamers were not able to halt their less intelligent familiars. The moment they entered the zones their bodies contorted in strange ways and they started exploding.

Thanks to Zhang Dong’s improved golden body that also reached the great circle stage he was somewhat able to resist the initial phase. But, even now he could feel that his body would be torn apart if he ventured in too close to the deathly black wall composed of strange energies.

‘How does it look, can I teleport yet?’

He glanced at his system screen and at his faction section. There he was trying to see if he could fast travel to his home point which was his sect.

‘The user is still out of range, the user must move a hundred meters closer.’

A hundred meters might have seemed like nothing at all but in this place, it could mean death. Behind him was a group of cultivators that was on par with nascent soul masters. In front of him was a torrent of energies that would rip any regular nascent soul master to shreds.

His body was reinforced and covered with a layer of golden glow. This was enough to keep him from exploding for now but if he ventured forward he was not sure about his survival.

There was a choice to make, should he turn back and try to fight the large group of foes? Or should he fly towards the unknown without even knowing if the teleportation option would work? One thing was clear, the longer it took him to make a decision the meeker his chances of surviving got.

‘I feel like going into this storm is certain death... but...’

Zhang Dong could not shake this strange foreboding feeling. This feeling was part of the reason for him being sloppy while returning home. If he was more careful it would have taken him longer to get here but he would have probably been able to cover his tracks.

Thus he took a step forward. It was a large stride that took him closer to the barrier and even this caused his clothes to be shredded by some incoming wind.

“What is that madman doing? Does he intend to go into the vicious elemental storm?”

The cultivators that were following him cried out in astonishment as they watched the man in the white robe stride forward. They were already astonished that he made it halfway in without dying.

He advanced forward without looking back. Soon he was unable to keep himself up in the air and had to descend onto the sandy ground. The earth was devoid of any life, when he landed his feet caused the ground to crack.

Even though the ground looked like a desert it was far from soft. He noticed a strange increase in gravity the further he went which made his feet sink into the hard compressed sand.

Ninety meters, seventy meters, fifty meters, he traded on and the further he got the slower he became. His form became one with the storm as the cultivators that were following him could not see or feel his presence anymore.

To them, he was already a lost cause. His remains would be eradicated by the elemental energies and scattered in this zone that was devoid of life. But, he kept on pushing. The memories of his children and wife keeping his spirit afloat allowed him to move through the pain.

Forty, thirty, twenty, and ten. He was close yet also quite far as his body was pushed into the ground below him.

‘Not yet, I’m not done yet...’

He pushed his body to the very limit as he crawled. It felt like he was being weighed down by a mountain and going against the stream. Still, he didn’t falter and continued, one meter at a time he pushed forward, and then when all seemed lost and his vision started getting blurry he noticed something.

Faction in range, teleport to the registered home point? Y/N

With a shaky hand, he reached out to select one of the prompts. His vision blurred and he felt like his body was about to be torn apart. Then suddenly he felt his face landing on something soft and squishy.

“Huh?”

The feeling was reminiscent of something and when he opened his eyes he realized.

“Wait, isn’t this?”

He rolled over and could see a familiar-looking ceiling and the soft thing he landed in was a bed that he created himself.

“Am I back?”

“Affirmative, the user has returned to his faction’s home point.”

Bob’s robotic voice echoed in his head. He wanted to do nothing more than to jump up in a show of happiness but then he noticed that his body was in no condition to do this. He was naked, his body looked like it went through a shredder as he was covered in wounds and bleeding all over the place.

The room that he appeared in was his secret man cave. It was something that he made as an excuse for secluded cultivation. In reality he used it to wind down and relax. This room was secretly placed deep underground, the walls were blocking spiritual senses so no one would be able to tell that he had returned.

“Ugh... it should be somewhere here...”

This room was somewhat similar to his old room where he used to live. It wasn’t very spacious and besides the large bed, there were some monitors, a desk, and a gamer chair in the corner.

There was also a side room where he kept some of the items that he made. This was the room that he was slowly forcing himself to crawl to. In it, he was able to find some healing pills which he instantly popped into his mouth before passing out on the floor.

When his eyes opened again he felt refreshed. Through the dried-up blood that covered his body, he could tell that he had passed out for some time. This was no time to rest as he jumped up to his feet and quickly returned to the main room.

“What is that?”

With a flick of a switch, all of the monitors here turned on. On them, he could see what the sect looked like on the outside. The first thing that he noticed was that the defensive formation was turned on and that his wife was floating up to receive some unwanted visitors. This was quickly followed by a glaring alarm that was coming from deep within his own head.

“Other system holder detected in close proximity to the user, caution is advised!”

Chapter 373

“I’m getting tired of this, Tong let us just do the usual, it won’t take that long.”

“But young master, if we escalate the problem it will take valuable time. I must remind you that the Patriarch ordered us to take care of this swiftly, there is much at stake here.”

At this moment the old elder from the Soaring Dragon Sect was talking with the young master. They were both floating in front of their flagship and their conversation was private. The young master started chuckling as he replied.

“You worry too much, how long could this take? They don’t even have as many nascent soul mobs as we do?”

“I worry about their barrier, it won’t be easy to get past it, It’s not something that I expected to see from such a small sect...”

The old man narrowed his eyes as the barrier was large enough to encompass the whole city. Most of the sects would not make protective barriers this big and focus on protecting the main inner sect. This left the outer sects and cities around them mostly unprotected from actual strong opponents.

From Tong's perspective, the large barrier that was here wasn't far behind their own. It would take a prolonged assault to crack this large nut. They might have to use the middle sized sects and ask them for reinforcements.

This was of course something that he wished to avoid. He knew that the middle sized sects would probably stall for time and would put in the minimal effort. There was also the problem of the Azure Emperor and the other sect that they had a shaky agreement with.

If they took too long here they would be showing weakness. This could be put up to debate if their next plan would go into fruition.

"You're worried about that?"

Tong nodded while looking at the young master who was grinding.

"Damn, it really is a powerful one... this will cost me a big chunk of my points..."

The young man started mumbling to himself about some points. The old man had witnessed the strange behaviours of this young man a long time ago. At first young master Wang hid this quirky nature away but the more power he gained the more relaxed around others he became.

It was clear that he tossed all pretense to the side and let his true nature emerge. The old man figured out some terms like 'NPC' to which the young master referred. It was not a gentle term that mostly stripped anyone of their humanity whenever he called them as such.

"But not like I can't farm these points right back, I bet this sect has some fat spirit stones that I can collect and there are enough nascent soul mobs to get everything back and more!"

Tong looked at the young man wiggle his index finger in front of his own face. This was something he did from time to time as well. Most of the time nothing happened but sometimes strange things would appear out of thin air or other bizarre effects.

"Ten minutes is up, now decide mega milk? I like ya and I want ya, now we can do this the easy way or the hard way, the choice is yours! What will it be? Let me help you make the right decision!"

Suddenly the large barrier that was surrounding the whole Spirit Spring City and the sect started to rumble. Like glass, it shattered into many tiny pieces and the people that were beneath were revealed.

Tong was astonished by the craftiness of this young man. He knew that if the youth was not so enthralled by the female form he would make a great patriarch. It was clear that he had the talent and had some kind of fortunate encounter.

It took him a couple of years to achieve what took half a lifetime to lesser men. His rise to power was like a meteor that could not be stopped. Like a proper cultivator, his path was paved with the corpses of his predecessors. No one on his level remained and now he was next in line for the throne.

"How could this be, how could they disable our grand barrier? Do we have a traitor in our midst?"

The United Element Sect was in chaos, their cannons that were manned by the lesser cultivators turned aim and every battle-hardened veteran was ready to strike.

The ten nascent soul elders from the Soaring Dragon Sect pushed their palms forward and caused a massive amount of pressure to fall on the entire city. Through this, anyone below the nascent soul felt like they were at the bottom of the sea.

Some of the elders that were able to resist from the United Element side countered this effect with their own cultivation but it wasn't enough. The Soaring Dragon Sect came prepared with many masters in the late stage.

Any of these men and women that were here could become a Patriarch of their own sect if they wanted. They still chose to remain in the middle reaches of the empire. That was the best spot for cultivation and far more enticing than a big fish in a small pond scenario.

One particular man with red hair charged out in front of the others. He was radiating a massive amount of energy. From Tong's perspective, he was still only a middle stage nascent soul cultivator.

There was something strange about him though. The red energy surrounding his body that looked like a coat of flames felt somewhat off. Even though he was someone at the pinnacle of the nascent soul he felt like he would not come out unscathed if he touched that energy.

Thus he moved to intercept this man, it was clear that he was dangerous. Before the battle could start, they were interrupted by a booming voice of the woman that they came here for.

"Please stop! No one has to die today, I will come with you!"

Both sides stopped whatever they were doing and looked to Zhang Liena who flew forward and placed herself in front of Huo Qiang.

"Are you sure you want to do this? I say we fight... how do you expect me to face him if I just let them take you like this?"

"I know, but the lives of our people and family members are more important. Even if we win today, there is nowhere that we can hide..."

"Good, you came to a decision, let us depart then."

Tong hovered down before the man covered in crimson flames. He still was ready for a fight, his hand clenched on his sword and weary of standing so close to two nascent soul masters.

"Don't worry, the rumors about the young master are over-exaggerated. Your matriarch will be well cared for and any offspring will become part of the Soaring Dragon Sect."

Tong put on a stone-cold face while talking as he knew that this was total horseshit. The woman that they would be taking with them will be lucky if she came out alive after everything was over.

Most of the women end up dried up husks of their former selves. Then if they survived they were tossed out of the young master's peak to fend for themselves. Some remained in the sect out of necessity while others took their own lives as they were unable to cope with what had happened.

“Do you really want us to believe that?”

Huo Qiang snorted while backing off, he looked to the young master in question that was in the process of licking his lips. Soon he stood before his prize, Zhang Liena, the late Patriarch’s wife.

Tong was close by and ready, if anyone tried to pull something he would need to act. He did not like this grandson of the Patriarch but if something happened to him, then his head could roll.

Even his status might not be able to shield him from the Patriarch’s rage and he knew that the old man doted on this young master here. He was convinced that the young man was the future and if the future was gone then he feared that the Patriarch could do something drastic.

Luckily it didn’t seem that anything out of the ordinary would be happening. While the man with red hair moved slowly back the woman begrudgingly approached them. The young master Wang didn’t hide his lustful gaze. It was clear that it was fixated on the woman’s rather large chest which put most of the other concubines to shame.

Just as with any other concubine, Tong knew that the young master would not be able to show restraint. It didn’t matter that they were in public and that everyone from the United Element Sect was staring daggers at them. They could only watch as their Matriarch got harassed.

But just before the man could grasp that chest, Tong felt an attack coming from the side. It was strange as it was easy to read, he didn’t even have to move as it fizzled away into nothingness just from getting close to his nascent soul aura.

The attack was followed by an angry-looking girl. Just from the face, he could tell that the person was related to this matriarch and the chest size was quite similar. The biggest difference was the height as this girl was about a head shorter.

“Leave my sister alone!”

“Oh? Isn’t that a feisty one! They are sisters? Even better!”

Tong wanted to sigh as he saw his young master’s eyes glitter. He instantly knew that the girl that just attacked would be taken as well. Even though the girl charged forward she was restrained by the people from the United Element Sect.

It was clear that they wanted to remove her from the situation. Alas, it was too late, the young master had made his decision so he needed to follow up on it.

“Release the girl, she will also come with us.”

The young master nodded and moved his attention to the United Sect Matriarch. His hand reached out but before the fingers could sink into the goods another event interrupted them. Tong could hear a strange buzzing sound and instead of soft flesh, the grasping hand collided with something.

“What? But I used the spirit points... how could this barrier go against the system?”

It was the defensive barrier that was once again operating. Tong did not know how his master removed it in the first place but it seemed that he didn’t know why it was running either.

The barrier wasn't the only problem as the whole city began to rumble. The floating castle in the background began to glow in a golden light and Tong could see that it started moving towards them.

"How could this be? The Patriarch's citadel is unable to function without his presence... could this mean?"

The people from the United Element's Sect looked to the glowing castle with wide eyes with one person in particular looking with quite the zeal.

Chapter 374

There he was, naked and woozy down on the ground. He felt like he was run over by a car which then turned around and hit him once again. Luckily for him, there were some healing pills in the room that he crawled into.

"I'm back..."

While slowly standing up he pumped his fist in the air which caused some of the wounds to sting. This he didn't care much about as he was visibly pleased by having his long journey be at an end.

It all started on that fateful day where he fought off the third iteration of the monster. Then he was tossed into the void between worlds. This taught him secrets that he was not meant to know.

The person behind the creation of these separate dimensions was still unknown to him. It did give him valuable information about how his own world worked. The existence of higher beings that watched over these worlds became known to him. For him to not suffer an untimely death he would need to avoid them at all cost.

This was not a problem that he would need to handle yet, now he needed to rejoin his family. The simple fact that this room was in place meant that things looked well. With heavy steps he traded out of the side room, his vision was blurry but this didn't keep him from seeing the bright monitors.

His vision focused and he could see the familiar scenery that he remembered well. The sect buildings were there, he was back home. The monitors in this room were fashioned by him and he had his own version of cameras placed around some key locations.

The first thing he noticed was the lack of people. Out in the yard at his home there was no one, he hoped to see his children playing with their mother but there was no one there. No people in the streets either, it looked like a ghost town.

His attention was drawn to a certain monitor, on it he could see movement. There he finally saw her, his beautiful wife. At the moment he was drawn into her face but soon he noticed that something was off. She looked rather perturbed and the reason behind this became apparent.

"What?"

This realization was soon followed by his AI giving him an alarm.

"Other system holder detected in close proximity to the user, caution is advised!"

"How could that be possible?"

From what he could tell there would be one person with a system summoned. Even back in the other world, Takeshi was the main system holder. All the girls that came with him were only borrowing some of its functions.

Was this person related to him? Could he have been summoned at the same time and possessed some off-shot system?

“Calculating... answer available. The possibility of a new system holder being summoned after the perceived disconnection from the source by the user is 99.99%”

“The source?”

Zhang Dong thought back to the time when his system started acting strange. It was back when he was forced down into the expedition along with his clansmen. There he suffered a near-death experience after using up all of his spiritual energy.

“Are you telling me, that this world’s overseer thinks that I’m dead and so he summoned another person to replace me?”

“Affirmative.”

“Could you explain yourself, you’re not really helping much...”

“Attempting to access the database to answer the quarry... error... error...”

“Figures...”

His little AI helped appear after he got thrown into the void. It was unknown to him how Bob really worked and if he could actually fully trust him yet. All the questions that he posed towards the people that were working in the background were met with errors.

Bob did assure him that if he reached a higher state of being that some of this information would be revealed to him. This AI was probably something that was left behind when he absorbed that first cube during the expedition.

The initial absorption cut him away from the source and altered his old system. Then when he was thrown into the gap between worlds Bob was activated. Perhaps this thing needed certain requirements to unlock its secrets.

One of these requirements was gathering more cubes and gaining more power. If there was another person with a system that was summoned to this empire. This meant that there was another cube powering a different teleportation formation as the one that brought him here.

“Wait, did this person come from my world? Why is he here then?”

It didn’t seem that a battle had broken out just yet so Zhang Dong decided to wait. He needed more information, if he bolted outside he might have just escalated everything.

“I don’t like this but maybe they can talk it out...”

The barrier was surrounding the whole area and the civilians had been evacuated. It seemed that the construction of this base had been finished and they were following his old instructions.

He never liked that other sects that used large cities as their base of operations never cared about the populace. They would mostly bunker up in their own buildings while the civilians were left to their own devices. They could just run during an attack and the outer walls were loosely protected but mostly against weaker foes.

While the situation looked to be sketchy he did have a smile on his face. It took a bit of time to move his gaze away from his wife. All the people he knew were there, Huo Qiang, Zhang Jin, and even Zhang Zhi. He did not see many people of the younger generation like Feng Nuana or his two disciples for some reason.

With a wave of his hand, he activated the monitors to search for them. He did not want to activate his spiritual sense as that could cause him to be discovered. The monitors tapped into some hidden cameras that were spread out like a net through the whole sect and city. In a few seconds, he managed to find both of his disciples.

“Wha...”

They weren't alone though, with them there was Feng Nuana that was visibly angered at something. She was pacing back and forth while fuming and talking fast. This was not what drew in his gaze, no what he was looking at was a child that was sitting in Zhang Xue's lap.

‘Wait is that... no...’

He took a step back as he realized that this was his son, Zhang Jun. The thing that took him aback was his size, for him not more than five to six months had passed but the child that he was looking at was far above that age.

Next to the boy he also noticed another child that was slightly bigger. This was clearly his daughter Zhang Xiu. While the boy wasn't doing much the girl had a rather grumpy expression.

Zhang Dong quickly brought up his faction interface. He did not have time to check yet but now would be the perfect time. He zoomed on his wife and also found his children there. His eyes moved towards the age indication and his mouth opened wide.

“Five years... I was gone for five years?”

He staggered backward and onto a replica gaming chair that he had created. Five years he was gone, five years his children did not see him. While he was able to interact with his daughter this could not be said for the youngest. For all intents and purposes, he would be a stranger to the boy while the oldest might recall him existing.

‘No, what matters is that they are both fine and healthy.’

This was no time for spacing out, while his children might not recall their father it was enough for them to be alive. His wife was out there and danger loomed over the sect, this was no time for this.

The person that replaced him came into view. Right from the start, Zhang Dong could tell that something was off. When he left the ship that he was on he was surrounded by scantily clad women. It was clear from the start that this man was living the bachelor's life.

His looks were also somewhat peculiar. He clearly picked a good-looking avatar but while Matt chose to go with a more muscular version this person went with a slimmer variant. The face was of a pretty boy that would give women a run for their money.

“Wait... what did he say? Milkers?”

He thought that he might have misheard it but when he turned up the sound he could tell that this person was a bottom feeder. The more he heard him talking the more he wanted to just fly out and punch him in the face. There was far too much at stake here though and he managed to keep it cool.

Everything became apparent rather quickly, it was clear that this man wanted to violate his wife. It didn't seem that he had many character-building encounters and was consumed by this world's more sinful characteristics.

“Soaring Dragon Sect... I guess he went with the young master option...”

He recalled his life as Matt and how he received that strange e-mail. One of the options he could have chosen then was to become a young youth and be part of a prominent sect. This person here hit the jackpot and was now part of the big three that ruled the whole empire and it seemed that he had built himself up into a good position.

It didn't seem that this person had the morals that he had. With so many women by his side, it felt like he should have been satisfied. There was no real reason to go to other sects and capture the wives of sect leaders. It was clear to him that this person had a screw loose.

“Or he could think that this is some kind of game...”

There was a system that allowed him to see stats. Spirit points could be gained, it worked like any role-playing game. Killing enemies gained a person more points that made them stronger. Some might lose themselves in this world, run on power, and unleash their deepest desires. This person was apparently a sexual deviant and the more he looked at him, the more this became apparent.

“If he thinks that he will get away with this, then he has another thing coming...”

Zhang Dong snapped his fingers and a wall opened up. While the elders from his sect consulted with each other he needed to prepare his counterattack.

When he entered this closer room he was greeted by glittering lights. His stack of spirit stones and other valuable resources greeted him. Weapons, armor, and untested treasures were all here.

He leaned down and picked up a handful of spirit stones. Quickly they turned to dust which fell down to his feet.

“Come to my home and try to take my wife, don't think you can leave with your balls intact!”

Chapter 375

‘I need more time...’

There he was, sitting on the ground and hastily absorbing holy energies from some previously created pills. All of the spirit stones that he had stashed away were now gone.

The weapons that could boost his body refinement up to the great circle of core formation were now gone. All of the treasures possessing electrical energies had also been consumed in a hasty fashion that was causing him pain.

He knew that one lapse of judgment could cause him to suffer but he didn't care. With the help of Bob and his system, he would be able to work through failures in his cultivation process.

Soon his body started exuding a new power yet he was unable to push his regular cultivation through the next step. His new tetra core cultivation method was very demanding, even more, when he tried to push it towards the great circle level.

The materials that he had stored away in this small man cave he made was also very limited. There was just not enough energy to go around. Just like before it was not equal, he needed to absorb a bit more but for this, he needed more time.

"Ten minutes is up..."

He could hear the sound coming from the other room. Most of the cameras were focused on the Soaring Dragon Sect's flagship while the others were peeking at the room that his children were in.

From what he could tell this room was one of the safety bunkers that was deep underground. It was a specially made escape pod that could be activated and would send the people inside of it into a distant part of the forest. It was lined with special aura blocking materials so no one would be able to tell that someone was escaping.

There were a few other pods like these and he fashioned them for a limited number of people. It was supposed to carry his disciples, family, and closest friends to safety. When he returned though one person that had been there previously was missing for some reason.

He must have missed it while he was making his preparations but his disciple Zhang Liu was sprawled down on the ground. It was clear that he was still alive and just sleeping but Feng Nuana was the person that was not there anymore.

Zhang Xue on the other hand was holding both of his kids by the hands while looking at her passed-out brother. He concluded that somehow Nuana had to have put Liu to sleep for some reason while also leaving the escape pod behind.

Soon the reason became obvious as he could see her running outside. He wasn't sure but he had a suspicion of why she was doing this.

The escape pod that they were in had similar monitors that could show the outside to them. It was clear that they had heard that sexual deviant pronounce his intentions towards his wife. While his disciples were there to keep his children, Nuana was probably more emotional towards her own sister.

'She must have taken Liu out and made a run towards Liena...'

He wanted to smack the little sister on the head as he knew that she could not do anything worthwhile. She was only an early core formation practitioner with no way of helping out. Zhang Dong even feared that if that pervert noticed her that he would decide to take her with him as well.

Suddenly something happened that he didn't expect. The monitors started turning red and he could feel that the large protective barrier that should have been able to last for multiple days had just turned off.

'What the hell...?'

This barrier was made with utmost diligence and with the best materials that he could get his hands on. It should be able to resist anything that this world had to offer and the off switch was deep inside the middle of the sect. Unless someone turned it off from the inside it should not be possible.

'The use of spirit points has been detected.'

The system gave him the answer itself. It was the young man with his own system, with its help he was able to make months of designing and years of work just vanish with a snap of the finger.

Zhang Dong now realized how people felt whenever he used his system against them. Years of hard work and planning went down the drain and the other person didn't even need much to do it.

With even less time on his hands and more people to save he reached out with his hand towards the monitors. With a jolt from his cultivation aura, the alarms were turned off as he activated another function that was embedded into this chamber.

Through a previously set up short teleportation array, he was teleported up into his home. The gaudy castle that he was forced to live on was somewhat an eyesore. It was huge and there was far too much space in it for a small family like him to live there.

The place he appeared was right in the inner courtyard. There was a large fountain in the center that had somewhat changed in appearance. Previously it showcased a random angel with wings but now he could see that someone changed it into a statue with his appearance.

'I guess they wanted to honor their late missing Patriarch...'

He glanced at the white statue that presented him there with a sword in hand. He moved over to it and with one swift kick the statue was sent flying to the side. Then after bending over he moved the slab of hard rock out of the way that was the base of this fountain.

While he was a bit sorry for destroying this piece of art, he needed to get to the room that was right under this statute. With the previous one removed, it didn't seem like the opening mechanism was in place either.

It was a blunder on his part as he did not explain the full function of this system-run fortress. It was impossible to untangle some of the functions that it had from his own system. It was connected to his faction system and not one would really be able to make sense of the construction without its help.

With the fountain being thrown to the side a strange wall of metal appeared. It had various runic symbols on it that soon lit up brightly as he stood on top of it. The structure activated as a circle of about two meters in diameter around him appeared.

Soon Zhang Dong found himself moving down on this circular elevator that brought him to the insides of this large castle. While on the outside it looked like a structure fit for a king, its true functions were hidden away.

This was something that he used his years of crafting knowledge for. After absorbing all sorts of books about making treasures and upgrading them through the system he could put himself in the top five of best craftsmen that this empire had to offer.

While other masters mostly focused their skills on smaller items like weapons and pills, he had a tendency to build big. His first real step in this direction was the huge battleship that he had helped create.

The same battleship and a few other smaller similar ones were now ready and floating above the city. He could feel them activating their generators and getting ready to fire as soon as the barrier was turned off.

‘Well then, I hope this thing doesn’t just blow up on me...’

Zhang Dong found himself in some strange liquid then suddenly the light went on and he could see everything that was on the outside. He felt as if he was sitting in a pool filled with clear water but while being able to breathe.

With his eyes, he could see indicators of his troops that were part of his faction. The system was integrated into this strange room that only he would be able to operate.

During his exit from the lower room, he had also switched his clothes. He was wearing a skin-tight body suit that was similar to a wet suit. It had added armored parts on his chest and shoulders which had now cables sticking out of them that connected to the strange control room that he was in.

‘Biometric signature has been scanned, welcome administrator, would you like to activate the fortress 1?’

‘I guess it’s time to make myself known...’

“Activate all systems, activate the engines! Reactivate the shields at my command!”

While the grand formation barrier was canceled there was a way to restart it. By using up some of the stored power he could activate the reserve generators that were only accessible through his administrative privileges.

With the orders given many popup screens and loading screens turned up. The inside of the castle started to rumble as it activated as well. The outside structures started cracking as the floating fortress moved forward.

While he was saddened by the fact that he had to damage his own home that he had some fond memories in. His family was more important than material things, the kids were below ground and well protected with his disciples, they would be fine.

“The Patriarch’s castle is moving! How could this be?”

“Is the grand formation working again?”

The sect members called out at the sight of their late Patriarch’s home moving. It was a symbol that reminded them of him but most of the people here had thought him to have perished.

“People from the Soaring Dragon Sect, you are not welcome here, begone!”

His voice was heard through all the speakers that spread through the city. The large fortress that once looked like a villa started to shed its outer shell. Many cannons appeared from within and all of them were pointed at the ships and cultivators from the Soaring Dragon Sect.

“That Voice... could it really be?”

Zhang Liena backed away from the reactivated barrier and looked to her home approaching. While she wanted to believe that her husband was back, it could have been some intricate treasure with his voice.

“I’m sure you would rather do nothing more than to attack us but before we start killing ourselves I’d wish to speak with that person... yes the person called... Wang Long...”

Zhang Dong had his system so even through the computer screens he could see the man’s name floating above his head. It was clear that he went for a similar style of naming but for some reason reversed the last name with his name.

“What is that? Did we activate a hidden boss?”

The pervert called out while not even seeming alarmed by the appearance of the flying castle.

‘Bob, can you directly connect me to his system, so we can have a private conversation?’

‘Affirmative, connecting now.’

With one last try, Zhang Dong decided to try the olive branch approach. The person was not of this world, so maybe if he knew that he was interacting with another ‘player’ he might see things differently.

‘Connection established.’

“Hello there Long Wang, we need to talk...”

Chapter 376

The large floating fortress with cannons pointed in all directions halted its advance. The cultivators from the United Element Sect recognized that the voice that came from it belonged to their Patriarch.

While some of them cheered out, others were concerned. Did the Patriarch really return or was this just some pre-recorded voice line that this floating weapon possessed? There was also the problem with it being openly hostile towards the Soaring Dragon Sect.

Some of the elders were still hopeful that giving up one or two women would save the rest from bloodshed. While everyone was speculating and discussing with each other another conversation that could not be heard by anyone else was taking place.

“Long Wang huh?”

“How are you talking to me?”

“Did you think that you are the only one that has a system? Things are not how you might think, stop treating this like a game.”

“Wait? Do you have a system too? You’re a player just like me?”

Zhang Dong with the help of Bob had managed to hack his way into the communication function of Wang Long’s system. He wanted to do nothing more than to punch this guy in the face. Regretfully people’s lives were at stake, if he could talk his way out of this mess he needed to try.

“Player? This is not a game, why are you attacking my sect? The woman that you are trying to take away is my wife.”

“Your wife? Are you one of those role play types or something?”

“Huh?”

“Well I did try that one time, but I was never good with those romance games, getting the correct dialogue checks was confusing.”

The man called Wang Long gave out a sigh and started going on a tangent. While listening Zhang Dong realized that this person didn’t see the people living in this world as true living beings.

It was clear that he thought that they were nothing more than a part of some program. The system allowed people to see people’s stats, even alignments. It also sometimes advanced its features to suit what the user wanted.

He was a witness to such things as when he desired the teleportation feature that had just appeared there. This could have happened to this man as well, maybe his system was presenting him with emotional-related statics like affection.

Even Zhang Dong had similar stats in his faction system. He could see how well his people were doing, it was all presented to him with things like the satisfaction level of his people. If he didn’t invest in his clan as he did he might have still been thinking like this person.

“Wait... hold up, these people aren’t NPC’s, have you actually sat down and talked to one without your status looming over them?”

While Zhang Dong started out thinking in a similar way as this person. It started changing over the years, he was a more compassionate person from the start which probably caused him to see the humanity in these strange cultivators.

They all had their problems but they all had goals just like him. While they acted reserved when people with status were involved they also laughed and cried.

This he mostly learned when he was out on his travels. When he pretended to be someone else he did visit restaurants, taverns and even looked at the people in the villages. He just couldn’t see them as part of some strange program. They were certainly not soulless puppets as this person was claiming.

“Damn, are you being serious right now? You role-player types always got too much into your strange fantasies. Wait, aren’t we forgetting something? How come you also have a system? could this be some trick?”

“Did you think that you were the only one? You are not the only person with a system.”

“This is bull-shit! I thought this was a single-player PVE experience! Does this mean that I have to worry about getting ganked by other players? Wait, why should I even trust you? Hah, you almost got me but I’m too smart for such an obvious trick!”

“Wait, what are you talking about...”

It seemed that the person he was talking with was not the trusting type. He started accusing Zhang Dong of a scheme. The person was clearly a gamer that was used to playing certain player versus player-related content. Some of these games were quite toxic and people loved killing others just to troll them in any way possible.

“Damn, I didn’t know that you could go into faction versus faction combat, I bet I’ll get a massive boost in spirit points if I win this fight...”

“Wait, this isn’t what...”

“Shut up, you think that you can pull a fast one on me? Go screw yourself!”

The connection was cut off soon after and Bob reported that this Wang Long had used some of his points to set up some kind of communication barrier that would require Zhang Dong to also spend points.

‘Shit, what is this idiot even thinking? Did he lose himself to the debauchery of this world?’ While Zhang Dong had a rather reserved personality and it came hard for him to interact with women, this person seemed to be the total opposite. He treated everyone as mere NPC’s in the game and probably didn’t suffer any remorse when something happened to them.

“Young master are you alright?”

He looked into the distance and could hear a member from the Soaring Dragon Sect calling out to Wang Long.

“Yes I’m fine, let us continue with the attack! They are clearly disrespecting our sect!”

The barrier was reactivated but he had to jump start it. This used up some of the power reserves which would cause it to shut down a lot sooner.

“Wang Long or Long Wang, stop this, you don’t realize what this world really is, we can still discuss it!”

While his connection to Wang Long’s system was down he could still talk through the fortress and the city speakers.

“Do you think that I’m stupid? You just want to gank me and take away all of my spirit points! I’m not going to trust some idiot in a backwater sect like this.”

“Listen to me, you idiot!”

“Screw you!”

The little back and forth between the two was clearly heard by the people around it. It didn’t seem like it was going anywhere as the two cultivators started calling themselves strange names like cucks, simps, and incels.

“Enough! Tong attack, at least I’ll be able to see if there is a respawn feature in this game! Burn the city to the ground but leave the women alive!”

It seemed that the time was up and the young master pointed out with his finger towards the barrier. The ships in the back that were prepared started gathering up energy and soon they started to assault the city.

The people from the Soaring Dragon Sect would soon discover that it would not be such a one-sided slaughter. The barrier that was created here was not like the other ones fashioned in this world. While the defensive capabilities were lowered it also possessed a certain feature.

Zhang Dong flying fort’s cannons were already ready to discharge similar spiritual bullets. Normally this would be impossible as the barrier was a two-way barrier. With some testing though he had managed to get the energies in tune with each other. Thanks to this the deathly energy-packed bullets would be able to pass through it.

Soon the energy bullets were released and they were not only coming from this flying castle. The whole city was a massive fort filled with automated weaponry. All of this firepower lit up the sky and the ships from the Soaring Dragon Sect started being suppressed.

“How is this possible? Their protective formation is still up? How can they return fire!”

Tong called out in fright while holding one of his palms forward to produce a shield of his own.

“Elders, summon your soul beast, protect the ships!”

While the automated weapons that were scattered around the whole city emerged from some buildings, the people from the sect were still confused.

“Elder Liena, is this your doing?”

“Huh? What do you mean?”

“Who else but you would profit from this chaos?”

Asked a rather angry looking man from the Huo clan.

“Be quiet father, you should know that only Senior Brother would be able to do this...”

“The Patriarch? Could he really be alive?”

Huo Qiang shrugged while looking to Zhang Liena and Zhang Jin for answers. The old man looked to the large floating fortress that was shedding its skin and revealing some kind of metal contraption underneath.

“I’m not sure, it could have been some weapon left by Dong’er that was activated when his wife was in danger...”

Zhang Jin looked at Liena who was still staring at what used to be her home crumbling into dust. Her expression that was filled with astonishment quickly changed to one of curiosity and longing.

“Nuana, stay here, the rest of you... what are you doing? It’s already too late to bargain, you heard that bastard, they are going to turn this city, our city, to cinders if we don’t stop them. Even if it’s the Soaring Dragon Sect, they are not impossible to beat, let us focus on this battle first and then deliberate on our future actions!”

After giving a little battle speech she departed towards the island that was approaching them slowly. It didn’t seem that her advance would be stopped as even when she was right next to the cannons they didn’t fire at her.

She descended onto the part that was the main courtyard. The buildings that were once her home were in tatters. The whole place was shaking as the cannon fire continued endlessly. With each shot of these cannons, more of the marble crumbled and more of the buildings crumbled.

“Husband? Are you there? Is it really you?”

She called out, her breath heavy as she was unsure of what was happening. While the conversation between the bastard that tried to take her away and this flying fortress was quite animated it didn’t mean that it was her husband.

Leaving behind part of one’s memories was a technique that some cultivators could use. Her husband could very well have left a part of himself behind that could somewhat speak and reason. It would not be him if this was true.

“Zhang Dong? ZHANG DONG? Where are you?”

Her shouts were met with silence and as she was almost ready to give up hope she noticed something. A large glowing circle appeared in the spot that once had a large fountain on it.

The light was there and it was humming, without thinking much she decided to stand right on it. The moment she did, the ground under her shook slightly and she started descending.

Soon a strange feeling took over her, it was pitch black in here and she dropped into something. It felt like she was submerged in some kind of liquid. She wasn’t prepared for this so she opened her mouth and it made its way inside which caused her to panic.

“Relax, the spirit fluid won’t hurt you.”

She then heard a familiar voice which was followed by light returning to her eyes.

“You should have regained your senses, it’s a strange feeling at first but you’ll get used to it.”

Once her breath returned and her vision got clear she found herself in a certain man’s lap.

“It’s been a while, hasn’t it...my wife.”

Chapter 377

While Zhang Dong was concentrating on the battle he almost didn’t notice that he had a visitor. His wife appeared in the middle of what used to be his home. While he was a bit preoccupied with what he was doing and this was not the place for a family reunion, the moment she started shouting his emotions got the better of him.

While this place he was in was not really made for more than one person, he could squeeze in one caramel beauty in. It was a little funny to see her panic when she was submerged in the special fluid but soon he found himself opening up his arms to catch her.

It took a moment for it to sink in. Watching the people through the screen wasn't the same as actually being right next to them. He could feel her body pressing into his which made him instinctively move them around her back. It was as if he feared that she would just vanish into tiny soap bubbles if he didn't hold her tightly.

Soon he could tell that sight had returned to his wife. She could finally see him and it was clear that she was unable to utter a word. A tiny moment passed between the two where they just kept looking at each other without saying a word.

If it was any other time he wished that this moment could continue to eternity. But fate was cruel and the sight of explosions and the chaos outside brought Zhang Dong to his senses.

"It's been a while..."

He called out to her, Liena looked at him with even more intent before giving an answer.

"Is... is it truly you?"

"Who else could it be?"

She narrowed her eyes and he could feel that she was using her spiritual sense on him. He was glad that she was not being too gullible as he could have truly been some other entity taking the form of her husband.

It was really him though so the spiritual scan was allowed as he dropped all of his defenses. Liena would soon find out that it was indeed her husband but he was not the same as before. The largest change was his cultivation level that seemed to have regressed.

"It is truly you... but... "

"Yes, my cultivation has changed slightly but I wouldn't consider myself much weaker than what I was before, I just need some time to recover."

He quickly replied to at least alleviate some of the questions. While his cultivation level had decreased, the improved version of the core formation realm was close to what his old nascent soul level was. If he managed to break through into the great circle he might actually be slightly stronger than before.

"Truly my husband has returned?" "Yes, that's what I... is something wrong?"

Soon he could see his wife's eyes closing. If this wasn't inside of a special pod filled with liquid he would be seeing her tears streaming down her face. She suddenly slung her arms around his neck and gave him a big hug. Her voice started getting more muddled as she started to sob.

Without being able to do much, he just returned the hug and started to rub her back. The embrace lasted for a few moments but soon he felt some resistance as she started pushing herself back. When she did he could see that her face was devoid of sadness which was now replaced by anger.

“Where were you?”

“Well... that’s going to be hard to explain...”

“You better have a good explanation!”

“My dear wife, I don’t think this is a good time to be arguing. I think we have more important matters to attend to...”

Zhang Dong backed away while trying to soothe his angry wife. It was understandable that she was angry as her husband just popped out of nowhere and seemed mostly fine. If he was in her shoes he would also be quite livid if a family member appeared out of nowhere after being seen as dead.

She looked back and could also see what was happening outside. While the automatic cannons could shoot at the invaders the other cultivators couldn’t. Without attuning their techniques to match the barrier they could just sit there and look at the enemies.

The biggest problem was the large number of nascent soul elders protecting their ships. Along with their soul beasts, they could protect those battleships from the cannon fire while also attacking the barrier.

It was turning into a battle of attrition, would the barrier give out or would the nascent soul experts run out of juice first? While Zhang Dong didn’t really know what the end plan of these attackers was, they certainly did seem like they were in a hurry.

The force that they brought over was quite large for something like this. It was excessive for going against a middle-sized sect. Either the Soaring Dragon Sect had a lot of resources to spare or they wanted to get it over with fast.

The best way to do such a thing would be to overwhelm their opponents with firepower. With ten late stage nascent soul elders and one at the great circle realm, they could steamroll any normal middle-sized sect.

They were out of luck with this one as with the system’s help and Zhang Dong’s knack for crafting they were in for a prolonged siege. That was also not counting in all the buried escaped tunnels that blocked out spiritual sense from coming in. They would be in for quite a chase if they ever wanted to get to every last sect member that was here.

“I hope that you have a plan.”

“A plan...”

“If not... I could still try...”

“No.”

He shook his head while glaring at Liena that flinched.

“I’d rather die than have you go with that bastard.”

“But what about the Sect? What about...”

“What about you? What about our children? They need their mother!”

Zhang Dong shouted out but soon gave out a sigh as he caught a fearful expression in his wife.

“It doesn’t matter now, that bastard won’t let us go.”

He heard the one called Wang Long call out. It seemed that he was planning on getting rid of every male member from the sect and just taking all the women with them. Probably the less good-looking ones would follow in the footsteps of the men. The ones that made the cut could look forward to a life of slavery.

“But can we win? This is the Soaring Dragon Sect and you are also weakened!”

“Don’t worry, we have a chance of survival, luckily our opponent isn’t the brightest.”

Zhang Dong tried to calm Liena down, while it didn’t look good there was still a chance of walking out of this battle alive. This would be possible thanks to it being their home ground. The advantage was actually on their side as they were only involved in a defensive battle.

What was needed was just some bait and if their enemies took it, then victory was assured. Luckily the man in charge wasn’t really the elder at the great circle level. While he might have been the strongest of them, the person in charge was the otherworlder.

This person had many glaring flaws that could be used during this fight. It was clear to Zhang Dong that Wang Long lacked any real combat experience. Just like him before he received the system degrading he was very dependent on it.

His faction was also a big reason why he would fail. Being brought up in a powerful sect had its advantages but there were some disadvantages when being brought up as a young master. These he would now try to exploit along with the man’s pride. He knew very well how it could cause one to lose himself.

“So be it, I shall put my faith and the sect’s faith in you my husband! If we fail, then we will fail together!”

He smiled at the proclamation from his lovely wife. While he was not interested in perishing here, he had a backup plan that would allow his wife and kids to survive. It was not much of a plan but at least his loved ones would be safe.

It was a strange feeling to finally have something that he wanted to protect. When he thought back to his old life that he lived in the modern world it wasn’t all that bad. While he didn’t have much going for himself he was still free and with no responsibilities other than himself.

Now, on the other hand, people’s lives were dependent on his decisions. With a wave of his hand, he could decide if people lived or died. At first, he felt that he would be crushed under the weight of this responsibility but then he found something that he could fight for.

The selfish void in his heart was replaced by memories of his new family and friends. When he looked at the grinning expression of the person named Wang Long he could only pity him. The man clearly lost himself and was unable to find something that was above surface level.

The pity that he felt would not hold him back from ending his life though. He was still an opponent that made his decision.

“Hah, that’s why I love you.”

He smiled one last time before pulling Liena into a prolonged kiss. When their lips parted he could see her blushing which only made him want to protect her even more.

“While I intended to make this as a one seater, some more spiritual energy is always better.”

Zhang Dong said while stretching out his hand towards Liena.

“Will you lend me your strength?”

“Do you really need to ask?”

She just smiled and they both interlocked their fingers. Now with Liena sitting in his lap and lending him some of her spiritual energy the fortress exploded with even more energy. The cannon fire increased and the enemies from the Soaring Dragon Sect even found themselves being pushed back.

“Liena, help me talk to the other elders, they’ll probably listen to you more than me.”

Liena nodded while Zhang Dong used his connection with the system to contact Zhang Jin along with Huo Qiang. Both of them were very influential figures in their own right, with their help he would be putting his hastily put-together plan in motion.

“Hey there, gramps and you to Qiang, it’s been a while, I need you to do something for me...”

Even though he was inside this fortress and he couldn’t really see them, he could feel their gazes shooting towards the crumbling castle that he was in. It was finally time to turn this thing around, if everyone made it out alive would depend on how stupid and prideful their opponents were...

Chapter 378

“Young master, we might have to retreat, for now, I must remind you that this is a critical moment for our sect, our time should be used elsewhere. The elders that had come with us will be needed for the coming...”

“Be quiet Tong, that can wait but this can’t!”

Elder Tong looked at the young master that had a peculiar expression on his face. This was the face of a man that was consumed by something. It was an uncommon thing to see this young master striving for something but the timing could not have been worse.

Tong could somewhat measure the defensive and offensive capabilities of the sect they were facing. They were more or less at a stalemate, they were somewhat at an advantage as the United Element’s sect was stationary.

If they kept at it long enough the defensive formation would falter but it would falter later than sooner. This elder feared that it would take up too much time and cause their enemies to go through some plans of their own.

The ten late stage nascent soul elders that they were using here was not a small number. The group here could more or less conquer the middle sized sects if they attacked them one by one all by themselves.

Tong feared that their resources could be spent elsewhere and after they were done with their main plan they could honor the young masters' conquests. Thus he decided to report this to the Patriarch, maybe he could convince the true leader of the sect to force this unruly grandson to back off for now.

They were giving a certain time window to clear things up, while this window had not passed yet he feared that they would not meet the deadline. But before he could grab the communication jade he noticed something, the barrier started faltering.

"Hm? Isn't that a bit too early?"

The protective barrier that had stood like a solid wall of energy started flickering as if it was running out of energy. He could even see some of the spiritual bullets that were being fired from their own ships penetrating into it and some damage being caused to the buildings below.

"Hah you see that Tong? I knew that the bastard was using some tricks, the system can't be beaten! This is our chance, everyone attack! Remember that we take the women!"

Some of the cultivators that were manning the ships shouted out in unison. Tong knew well why those people were quite ecstatic at what the young master had said.

This was not the first time that something like this was happening. There were some other lesser-known sects that were flattened by this Wang Long. Every time he would capture the women and kill the men.

Then the ones that were deemed not beautiful enough he would give away to the other sect members. They would be free to do with them as they wanted, which led mostly to a life of slavery and misery. Consumed by lust and egged on by the young master the sect members were more willing to do things that they wouldn't normally do.

"Young master please wait, doesn't this all feel strange? Would this grand formation just fail almost instantly right after being reactivated?"

Tong tried to reason with Wang Long as he was afraid that they could be going into a trap. While he believed that they would be able to punch through this barrier in time, it was too soon. There was also that large thing that was floating about and raining cannon fire on them.

At first, it looked like a giant castle that was situated on a giant boulder but now he could see strange metallic parts under it.

"Strange? Nothing is strange, they probably used up the remaining energy to restart the formation while trying to scare us off. They clearly failed as I called their bluff, just follow my lead old man, and let's get on with this!"

Tong was ignored and while he had his reservations what the young master said could have been true. After the reactivation of the barrier, he noticed that his young master was talking with someone.

Even without him telling the elders to act they were moving forward. He was the strongest person here but he was not the one with the most prestige. Everyone here knew that the young master would be the next sect leader, thus they were afraid to get on his bad side.

He would really need to put his foot down and threaten them if he wanted them to go against the young master's wishes. He was nothing more than a costly bodyguard and his only mission was to keep Wang Long safe.

Thus he kept his eyes open while advancing slightly behind the other ten elders. The people from the United Element's sect were seen by him and they were escaping to where their main sect was located.

The nascent soul elders from their side were using their soul beasts as shields while everyone else backed off. The flying fortress in the sky had also halted its advance as it started to back away slowly.

"Look at them flee, don't let them escape, they probably have a secondary protective formation deeper!"

The cannons that were firing at them were quickly picked off by the ten nascent soul elders and their soul beasts. Along with their flying ships, they started decimating the Spirit Spring city.

It seemed like the obvious conclusion of this fight, why the Patriarch from the United Element Sect had decided to fight was unclear to Tong. The logical conclusion was to hand over his wife and be glad that they didn't need to give up more.

To this old man, the survival of the sect far outweighs the survival of his own family members. If he could offer them up in exchange for long-lasting prosperity to his faction, it would be the greatest honor.

His hesitation was slowly fading away as it seemed that the others were just backing off and ready to make their last stand. Now he was only concerned about them all running away and them having to chase them down. It would be quite a headache if they needed to play a cat and mouse game and chase after them.

Thus he was ready to give the ten elders the order to quickly encircle the main sect and not give them space to escape. Before that could happen a flash of blue caught them off guard...

.....

Back in the flying fortress Zhang Dong and Liena were looking at the advancing enemies.

"They really took the bait as you said."

"It looks that way, It's time for phase two of the plan!"

Just as one of their enemies expected, this was just a ruse. There was enough energy to run the barrier for weeks even if they continued to pelt each other with spirit bullets.

Zhang Dong knew that they had a fighting chance as long as they fought at the location of his faction. He wasn't sure about his enemy but his system did present him with a buff whenever he was at his faction's main location.

With him present, he could activate a buff that would cause people that he had high affinity with to be stronger. This mostly included people from the old Zhang Clan like his grandfather and Zhang Zhi but also people like Huo Qiang.

Thus the problem was to keep the enemies around this specific location. This they could only achieve by entrapping them here. The barrier had not faltered and there was enough energy to activate it yet again. When the bulk of the enemy ships and all of the nascent cultivators were at the right spot, Zhang Dong sprung his trap.

The formation was reactivated and its blue light shone strongly as it encompassed the bulk of the Soaring Dragon Sect inside. The key locations of the barrier were hidden away under the rubble. It would be possible to deactivate it if their enemies managed to gain information about their locations.

Luckily this was a forceful approach with not much planning behind it. The Soaring Dragon Sect clearly wasn't prepared for any deviations to their plan. They were assured of their own might being enough to push them through any adversity.

"Are you ready Qiang?"

"I was born ready!"

"Good, this might feel funny..."

Zhang Dong moved into his faction window and activated the buff that would enhance the strength of his faction members. Depending on their loyalty it could go all the way up to 50%.

The faction system that he had upgraded with time did not suffer as much as his crafting system. Thus it kept most of its functions with one in particular which he would need to win this battle.

He was able to select a champion from his faction, this would allow this person to gain even further enhanced capabilities along with the factionwide buff. With Qiang being the strongest person now, even outperforming Zhang Dong due to his lowered cultivation level this choice was obvious.

Huo Qiang was outside and gaining speed, he could feel his muscles twitching in anticipation of the fight he would be having. Zhang Dong had contacted him not so long ago and tasked him with holding back the nascent soul master that was at the great circle level.

At first, he thought that he would be sacrificing his life for the cause but it seemed that this wasn't the case. Soon he realized that newfound power was entering his body, he felt strong and powerful as he exploded into a fiery inferno.

His body went through a strange transformation. It felt like he was burning up from the inside and all of his flesh was turning dark as coal. Soon it all caught flame and he felt as if he broke through into the late stage and maybe even beyond.

The change was quick and to the point. His body was covered by a dark red firmament of flames which made him look like a fire elemental. This new form gave him the feeling of being able to destroy anything in his path, even his soul beast that was right behind him expanded in size.

The fire Ifrit started looking like a devil made from molten rock. Its horns and tail expanded in size and were black as obsidian. The temperature around it caused everything that was in close proximity to instantly melt or evaporate.

He wasn't the only one suffering from a change to their being. Zhang Zhi, who was dressed in a white robe and was wearing a snow-white katana on his side, could feel his muscles contracting. With sword in hand, he charged at one of the late stage masters, not afraid of losing.

"United Element Sect, Attack!"

Zhang Dong's voice was heard from the flying fortress and soon the fight commenced. With the formation keeping anyone from leaving, only when the last enemy was dead would this battle end.

Chapter 379

A large object was moving through the air while receiving damage from massive amounts of spirit-filled attacks. Even though it was getting pelted from all sides it continued to fire back.

Finally, its outer shell was blasted apart and there was nothing left from the large castle that it once was. What greeted the attackers was a strange-looking shiny metallic sphere with many cannons sticking out of it.

The attackers from the Soaring Dragon Sect were doing their utmost to continue with their attacks on the giant mechanical thing and they were slowly whittling it down. It had thick armor plating that was posing a problem and the longer it took for them to pierce through the more damage did their own ships suffer.

They had gone into a trap, the whole city and part of the sky above was encased in a dome through which they could not leave. Soon after they felt a massive spike in their opponents' cultivation level, it was as if they were holding back and only now showed their true might.

Elder Tong, their best fighter at this moment, was engaged in a brutal confrontation with a man that looked to be made out of strange fire. Both of them were not riding on their soul beasts that were clashing with each other.

Huo Qiang was standing on the top of his Ifrit's head that had gone through a size increase. Up against him was an eastern-style dragon with an emerald coat of scales. While the length of the dragon was about four times of the ifrit, it wasn't as wide.

As the emerald dragon tried coiling itself around his opponent it received an uppercut to its head which sent it tumbling back. It released emerald bolts of lightning which were somehow absorbed by this creature that was actually made out of plasma and not fire.

"Is that all you have, great elder from the Soaring Dragon Sect?"

"You..."

Huo Qiang gave out a laugh while pushing himself towards his opponent. Both of them started crashing through the entire city and the residual shockwaves caused the buildings to crumble.

While this battle was happening the other elders from the United Element's sect were trying to engage the other ten nascent soul elders. While they weren't as strong, they were strong enough to cause them damage.

They weren't alone, many of the lesser cultivators that were still at the core formation level banded together to form battle formations. These beasts made from condensed spiritual energy were as powerful as the people going against them.

Argonaut 1 the sect's flagship was already charging its main cannon to deliver a devastating blow to the enemy's huge flying vessel. While it started off bleak and with no hope, it looked like the defensive capabilities of the United Element Sect were enormous.

It was far larger than what a regular middle-sized sect should be able to produce. The longer the battle continued the more the people from the Soaring Dragon Sect realized this. They were assured of their victory when they charged in, now on the other hand they were not sure if they would be able to make it out alive.

"What are you doing? Just kill them all!"

Wang Long shouted out while using a sword to counter a peculiar-looking cultivator.

"You're annoying, just die!"

His sword was met with another peculiar-looking one. While it was thinner and longer than the Jian it looked to be quite sharp.

This was Zhang Zhi from the United Element's Sect that had picked out his opponent from all of the chaos. While Huo Qiang was keeping Tong busy the young master was unprotected which made it a good chance for him to capture the second biggest threat.

"Isn't that a dai-katana?"

Wang Long called out as he was confused about seeing this type of weapon in the hand of a cultivator. He was facing off against a man that would be more fit to be in a world filled with ancient samurai.

The man didn't reply while slicking forward. His blade started glowing and Wang Long quickly dodged to the side. The energy from the blade that was one long line started splitting apart into a thousand.

"Annoying!"

Instead of evading them, the young master used his own sword to defend himself. His Qi was gathered onto the blade, the previously white blade turned purple and bolts of lightning started shooting out from it. He performed a sideways swipe which caused the sword energies to collide with the other which in turn canceled each other out.

"Stop moving around!"

The exchange continued for a moment and it was clear that the samurai was below the young master's level in terms of power. Even then, the young man found it hard to land a clean blow as the member from the United Element sect was finding ways to dodge at the exact right moment.

"Your strength is great but your lack of technique and experience is painfully obvious!"

"Hah? Do you think I haven't heard that before? What do I need technique for when I can kill anyone with just one shot? Now try dodging this!"

Wang Long pointed out with his finger at his opponent. A strange dark shadowy bracelet appeared on his wrist from which four chains that were covered in black energy shot out.

They traveled at an astonishing speed and were upon his opponent in a fraction of a second. The samurai used his sword energies to try to deflect this attack but as he tried he noticed that his attacks went right through these ghostly chains.

His next step was to quickly retreat but try if he might he wasn't able to shake these chains free. They followed him everywhere and even when he tried to get behind some cover they just went through it.

"Just give up, I spend so many spirit points to get that rare binding skill!"

Wang Long laughed out and soon his opponent found himself being shackled by this skill. Both his wrists and ankles were being constrained and Zhang Zhi felt that this attack was even affecting his nascent soul. He was momentarily paralysed and unable to move, he could feel that if he had enough time he could break free but would his opponent give him that?

"Hah, it never fails to get them."

Wang Long pointed his sword up into the sky and energy started gathering on it. Zhang Zhi could tell that the power behind this skill was massive. Normally he would be able to easily evade it but with these shackles, he was a sitting duck.

"Another one bites the dust!"

Wang Long started swinging his sword down, the massive torrent of energy was about to get discharged but right before he could complete his sword technique another blast of energy approached him.

"What the?"

Wang Long was submerged in a blast that came from the side.

"Young Master!"

"It's not wise to look away during a fight, old man."

Elder Tong noticed that Wang Long had been directly hit by a blast coming from the large flying fortress. But as he tried to move to help the young lord he was interrupted by Huo Qiang's fist which he had to block.

"I'm fine old man, no need to scream like a little girl."

Zhang Zhi was finally able to get himself out of the strange ethereal shackles but the young man that he was facing was clearly alive. After the beam attack subsided his form covered by a thin flickering barrier could be seen. One of the rings he was wearing that was previously quite bright had its gem become cloudy after this attack was received.

"Protective treasures? Did you buy them in the system store or did you receive them from your own sect? Must be nice to go with the easiest starting location."

The voice of a certain man came from the side and when people turned to it they saw someone that they didn't expect to ever see again, Zhang Dong the Sect Patriarch. Zhang Zhi's eyes went wide and some of the other cultivators that were busy fighting stopped in their tracks.

"From the shop of course? Why would I use the items they give me when I can get better ones from the cash shop... what the hell are you even wearing, first the samurai now armor? What are you supposed to be, a power ranger?"

Zhang Dong approached slowly from the skies. The item he was wearing looked like a more modernized suit of armor that snugly clung to his body. It was white with golden outlines and had his sect's insignia written out on his back.

"Something like that, it's not too late to leave, I'm sure you could talk to your people and make this blow over."

"My people? I think you've been living with these NPC's for too long and lost it."

Zhang Dong frowned as he heard the reply. It didn't feel right to go against someone from his original world but the man was not giving him much choice. It was clear that he was taking this like some kind of elaborate game that came down to gaining points. Even now he was probably wondering if he would get a special bonus for killing an actual system holder.

"I think you are the one that has lost it, fine... Have it your way."

Liena at this moment was left inside of the large fortress and was giving it some of her spiritual energy to run it. He had given her a crash course about piloting it, only when the attackers managed to blast through its plating was she to leave.

While their reuniting was brief he needed to do this himself. Liena would do more by piloting the large orb of cannons as it could easily keep the enemy ships and some of the nascent cultivators at bay.

"Why would I have it any other way? This is just a playground for me, but you seem to have a different idea... and what's this? Ha ha..."

Wang Long started laughing after Zhang Dong placed a helmet over his face. But it didn't look like his armor was the true reason he was laughing.

"Core formation? You are still only at the core formation level? How am I to get any points if you're below my level?"

Just like Zhang Dong, Wang Long could see his enemies stats and realms. He knew the weakness of that approach though. The system did disclose the realms but this could be misleading if someone like him was involved. His response was not in words but with a fist to Wang Long's face. The armor that he was wearing started giving out a golden hue and his power was boosted to a new level.

The young master from the Soaring Dragon Sect made a nice arc and landed five hundred meters away. His body slammed into a yet not destroyed building that now crumbled and dropped down on him.

"Go help the other elders Zhang Zhi, leave this idiot to me."

"As you wish, Patriarch!"

Zhang Zhi nodded and then flew away. He knew that Zhang Dong would be able to bring victory to the sect like he always did. Even if it meant to go against the Azure Emperor he would follow his Patriarch all till the end.

Chapter 380

There they stood, two people from a different world that now came together on the battlefield. Zhang Dong was on one side wearing a somewhat uncharacteristic white and golden armor. It made him look like a certain metallic superhero from a comic book that he used to read when he was younger.

On the other side, there was Wang Long, a person that he just met. Both of them might have come from the same world and might have even had similar backgrounds. While one chose to succumb to the carnal pleasures of this world where power was paramount, the other managed to retain some of his core values.

“Were you one of those cringe weebies or something?”

“I guess talking sense into you will be impossible...”

Zhang Dong raised his sword up over his head and was ready to deliver a strike.

“Do you think you can win against me? With such a low cultivation level? You really didn’t use your time well to grind for points.”

Wang Long laughed while waving his own sword around. From his perspective, he had a clear advantage. Zhang Dong could also see that his opponent was at the nascent soul stage and in the middle realm of it.

The time he was gone has given the man time to catch up but from Zhang Dong’s perspective, his level was somewhat low. He was a member of a prestigious clan but he only managed to get to the same point that he did before he was ejected from this world.

This person’s progress was somewhat slow but there were a few explanations. When he was looking at how he behaved it was somewhat clear to him why.

“Low cultivation huh?”

He replied while also quickly swinging his sword downward. Wang Long just snorted and released a blast from his own sword which turned purple. The two surges of energies collided with each other and canceled themselves out.

There was a clear surprise on Wang Long’s face as he probably expected to overpower Zhang Dong’s strike with pure cultivation power. But this moment of confusion would not be wasted by his enemy.

Zhang Dong’s body faded away as the area that he was previously in had only an after image left behind. Wang Long’s reaction was somewhat slow as a protective barrier around his body appeared and he finally turned to the side. There he saw a blade being pressed against this barrier that was protecting him.

“You little shit!”

He swung back but his opponent quickly dodged in a strange fashion. His heightened senses pointed him to where he vanished to but when he swung his blade towards that spot it was as if Zhang Dong knew that the attack was going and was able to parry.

The two fighters started clashing through the sky and one of them was obviously coming out on top. Soon the exchange ended and Wang Long's face started contorting into an ugly frown.

"How the hell... it's that armor isn't it?"

Zhang Dong didn't reply as he was done with the talking. The diplomatic approach had been refused by Wang Long so he would not give him an opportunity to back out now.

'This guy clearly doesn't know how to fight.'

After the couple exchanges, Zhang Dong came to this conclusion. Wang Long's cultivation was high and if he tried to pit power against power, Zhang Dong would be on the losing end. This he was able to counter with his superior battle scene which he gained through experience.

It was clear that Wang Long was a protected young master. While he might have had to prove himself somewhat at the lower realms, it was clear that he had not advanced past a certain threshold.

Battling at the foundation establishment and core formation level was quite different from the nascent soul level. The enhanced spiritual sense that a nascent soul master had could be used in certain ways to read your opponent's movements.

The two masters would pit it against each other to affect the flow battle. For some reason, this Wang Long was not very good at doing this so he could read him like an open book. After progressing to this level it was obvious that he didn't study the techniques that were available to him.

With his status of Soaring Dragon Sect's future Patriarch, he had a big shield around him. No one in their right mind would try to offend him or ask him for a sparring match. Thus Zhang Dong believed that his opponent didn't actually know how to fully use his current abilities.

The system was also probably responsible. He remembered the days when he was also dependent on it. Instead of learning the techniques himself he spent his days using points on skills that sounded cool and had a good rating.

Some points were used on abilities that were not even that good or somewhat similar to others that he already had. After the system store went away he was forced to actually train his skills up but then he finally noticed that being proficient in his skills was actually better.

It was much better to train in a certain sword art that he could also later upgrade with his system than to buy a new sword skill from the store. This was probably what this man he was facing doing. When he was done with the lower level skill he just replaced it with a new version that might not particularly go well with his own fighting style.

'It would be nice if that was the case but I'm not doing much to him either way...'

While he didn't find it hard to land a few hits here and there, he wasn't able to do any damage. Any time he went in for the kill a protective barrier surrounded Wang Long's whole body. It was as if he had an intelligent defensive formation on his body that sprung up every time he was in danger.

“Don’t get ahead of yourself, this fight has almost started, let me show you the difference in levels!”

Wang Long called out while being surrounded by a haze of purple energy that also was lightning-based. Zhang Dong backed away as he was unsure of what was coming but soon he realized that his opponent was bringing out one of his trump cards, his soul beast.

“Wait... isn’t that...”

He was a bit surprised by the appearance of this soul beast that Wang Long summoned. The purple energy that he was covered with and the lightning strikes also felt familiar. The moment the soul beast was revealed it all made sense.

“A black lightning dragon?”

There it was before him, it was not quite as big as his own soul beast golden dragon but it wasn’t far behind. During the exchanges that he had with the man, he also noticed the peculiar element that he was using was very similar to his own.

It looked like both of them went with the lightning element when it came to making their character. The only difference was that Wang Long went with the purple lightning that offered more attacking power while he went with the golden variant that was more universal and added healing.

“That armor might be making you stronger but without a soul beast you are just like a trash mob!”

Wang Long laughed while pointing with his finger, this caused the large black dragon to howl in anger and discharge purple lightning bolts towards Zhang Dong. His body was submerged in this strange purple lightning energy as he was not able to dodge.

“Yeah, that’s what I’m talking about, now give me all of your spirit points!”

The laughs continued for a while but soon Wang Long noticed that something was off. His enemy was being surrounded by electrical energy but he was not screaming. It was as if the attack wasn’t affecting him at all.

“Dragon, crank it up, use your breath attack!” Wang Long pointed out with his hand and the dragon opened up its large toothy maw. In front of it, the lightning energy started to condense into a shape of a circle before it was fired off towards Zhang Dong.

If Wang Long had any battle sense in him, he would know that something wasn’t right. His opponent didn’t even try escaping after the first attack was broken and he did nothing to dodge this one either.

The torrent of energy connected and everyone was greeted with a magnificent light show. The elders that were fighting in the distance looked to the side and even some from the United Element’s Sect cried out in fright.

Zhang Dong that was inside of this torrent of energy on the other hand didn’t move a muscle. He just let this energy flow through him while concentrating. The terrifying energy blast that was just pure condensed lightning energy instead of increasing started to slowly falter and vanish.

“What? Dragon what are you doing, kill him!”

The Soul-Beast listened to its master and continued to inject more of its spiritual energy into the breath attack. Even when it did, the blast continued to diminish the moment it connected with Zhang Dong.

After the prolonged discharge, even Wang Long started getting tired as the energy source for the soul beast was directly him.

“What? Is that all?”

Soon Zhang Dong’s armored form was revealed to be there and without damage. His whole body was radiating newfound power as he managed to absorb all of the lightning energy that came his way into his lightning core.

“You probably didn’t go past the cultivation upgrading part that was provided by your system, did you?”

“Huh? What are you talking about, I picked the best cultivation upgrade that there is!”

Zhang Dong wanted to smile as he knew that he had gone in a different direction by focusing on his crafting abode upgrades. He had pushed his own cultivation past the initial upgrade offered by his system by grinding crafting upgrade points.

Wang Long on the other hand was content on just going with the highest upgrade available to him at the given point. Without anything to strive for he didn’t try to find any other ways to improve his cultivation past what the system was giving him.

Thus he was not able to fathom how Zhang Dong was just able to absorb all of the lightning energies into himself and take no damage.

“I must thank you, I wasn’t sure where I could get enough lightning energy to charge my lightning core.”

Zhang Dong had absorbed all of the spirit crystals, holy weapons, and items that he could get his hands on but there was a certain lack of electric energy to get. When he was a nascent soul master he mostly used natural storms as cultivation aid and didn’t stock up on anything like lightning crystals.

Thanks to this lightning-based attack though he was all filled up. The nascent soul that he absorbed previously covered his soul core and the spirit crystals and holy herbs that he managed to get, were enough to fill up his golden core. It was time to skip a realm and finally reach the great circle of core formation.