

Unfathomable 481

Chapter 481

“You dare!?”

“What if I do? I will not let you speak ill of my master!”

‘What the hell is going on here...’

After returning from the golden palace Zhang Dong was greeted by a display of animosity between two young men. One of them was his own disciple Zhang Liu and the other was a young man around the same age. Both of them were staring at each other with rage in their eyes, behind the unknown youth he also spotted one of his nephews that for some reason was grinning.

‘Husband, you might have to intervene.’

Liena was quick to send him a message that only he could hear and give him the shortened version of what happened. Apparently, this young man was a disciple of Long Fengge the youngest son of the Azure Emperor. He had continued to badmouth the sect’s name in a roundabout way, mostly mentioning how it was below the Long Clan’s prestige.

‘So he insinuated that I should pack up and get my ass over here?’

‘Ah yes, something like that...’

Zhang Dong and Long Qing had just arrived in this large open courtyard of the Azure Castle. It was even larger than the one he had in his own castle and was also bustling with people and various other creatures. Fountains filled with deep blue fish that possessed a strong Qi signature, beats that looked like a mix of lion and horse were trotting around while everything was happening.

It seemed that his disciple couldn’t take the back talking of this other young master. Judging by the fact that this other young man was a disciple of Long Fengge that was almost at the top of the totem pole probably didn’t help. His life was probably met with little backtalking and resistance so when he got called out it was impossible in his head that he might have said something wrong.

“Ha ha, are the youngsters getting along already?”

The Azure Emperor’s laugh resounded through the whole courtyard and brought attention to him and Zhang Dong that was floating next to him. Even the two arguing youths had to bow their heads and stop fighting before these two world-class cultivators. While they mostly only respected the one dressed in blue, the golden one was slowly gaining some traction.

“Excuse me father, my disciple sometimes gets into heated exchanges like this.”

“It’s good to be passionate, perhaps the two want to exchange moves with each other to further their bonds?”

‘What is this idiot...’

Zhang Dong just wanted to grab his family members and get on with the get-together without causing a scene. When they arrived the two had quieted down but were clearly glaring at each other. It was

already a miracle that the two youths were allowed to be here together with the Azure Emperor's inner circle.

"That's a great idea father, how about it Enlai are you up for a friendly spar?"

"I am master, but I'm not sure if my opponent will agree..."

Zhang Dong could see the young man's status, he was a year older than Zhang Liu and their cultivation level was very similar as both were at the core formation stage. Their Qi pools were very similar which would put their skills to the test. It was clear that Enlai was confident in the Long Clan's superiority here and not afraid to face off against the country bumpkin from the United Element Sect.

Even if cultivation realms and Qi were very similar this didn't mean that the fighters were equal. Mastering various battle skills could create a large gap between the fighters that were of similar stature. Zhang Liu's opponent was clearly of this mind as he was not afraid of challenging the unknown fighter.

"Is that so, well we from the Long Clan are not bullies and we don't want to offend our esteemed uncle so I propose that we just continue with our chat instead?"

While Long Fengge seemed to want to de-escalate the issue, the words he chose had venom in them. It was clear as day that he was insinuating that Zhang Dong's disciple was inferior to his and would lose miserably embarrassing his master in the process.

While just ignoring those words would have probably been the proper way of doing things, cultivators were filled with unrivaled pride. Before Zhang Dong could send a message to his own disciple Liu jumped forward to accept the challenge.

"I accept!"

There was a large grass field the size of a football field that was devoid of any structures. It was the perfect stage for the two to battle it out and was probably created for this very reason. Cultivators liked to fight and show off, it was also the main way of handling any disputes. The one with the bigger fist and backing was always right.

'Master don't worry, I will teach this scoundrel a lesson!'

Liu looked toward Zhang Dong while sending him a quick voice message himself. It was as if he was ordered to go protect the honor of his master along with the sect. It also seemed that Xue, his sister was of the same mind as she was staring daggers into the other young man that was also quite handsome.

But this was an obvious trap that Zhang Dong was convinced of. He had already embarrassed his brother's children when he was here the first time. They could not get to him so the next best thing would be to target his family and friends. Disciples were a reflection of their master so when they failed it would tarnish their reputation. If Fengge's disciple came out on top it would be like he was getting slapped by him directly.

"Wait, father!"

"Oh, would you like to stop the sparring match Fengge?"

“No father, I just thought of a better idea, why don’t we use a more accessible arena where more of our youths could witness their senior brothers exchanging pointers!”

“That’s a great idea!”

‘Damn, that guy is really trying to push it...’

It seemed Fengge took losing his clothes quite badly and now wants revenge. Instead of having the two battles in this small area he wanted to have everyone from the Long clan witness the fight. They even had recording devices that could store this sparring match for future generations to watch. It was clear that he wanted to immortalize Zhang Liu’s failure and along with it cause a big blow to Zhang Dong’s prestige.

‘He is older than me but acting like a ten-year-old brat, hard to get past that young master mentality.’

He could only shake his head while shrugging. Fengge was still a young master to the core that had probably never had anyone besides Zhang Dong cause him this much grief. All the best techniques and resources were handed down to him along with the best teachers so he could rise up above the others.

Yet he did not see those as privileges gained by his own birth, it was his god-given right to be above others. It was very similar for the other cultivators that towered over others and were unable to process any blockades that were put before them.

“Or do you have something against it brother?”

Finally, they decided to ask him, the one responsible for one side of the predicament. He could have ended it here and told everyone to calm down. This would of course be considered weak behavior, similar to running away from the fight. He would lose face from not allowing his disciple to continue even when he had agreed and Liu would be considered inferior as even his master was unwilling to let him fight.

“No, go ahead, you have my permission.”

“That’s great to hear!”

Fengge was a bit surprised that Zhang Dong replied quickly while glancing his way. In actuality, he was also interested in seeing how the techniques he upgraded would fare against the ones produced here. Both of the fighters were confident young warriors that were able to bring out the most out of their battle techniques.

‘While this guy is only thinking about his little revenge he doesn’t realize how much face he could lose. Liu is still the underdog no one expects him to win this fight but if he wins it all then Long Clan’s methods of schooling their disciples will be questioned...’

The Azure Emperor clearly didn’t care one way or another but the other elders were furrowing their brows as all of this was happening. They all knew that they would suffer quite the blow to their prestige if an unknown disciple toppled one of their own. They were of similar age and realm which meant that only their skills would be pitted up against each other.

“Big brother Liu looks mad.”

Zhang Xiu commented while pulling on Zhang Xue's dress.

"Is elder brother going to be okay?"

Said Zhang Jun while next to his older sister.

"Don't worry, your elder brother is strong, he will be victorious!"

"Yay~"

His two potatoes cheered towards their elder brother, it was actually quite sweet to see his disciples act as older siblings to their children. The relationships that masters and their students had were considered as deep as being related by blood, sometimes they went even deeper than that. He was glad that in his absence his children found some people to bond with.

"Then it is settled, let us prepare!"

Long Qing clapped his hands which roused various cultivators from the distance. The order to prepare a venue for the two disciples to have their fight was carried out quickly. Within ten minutes the large arena was cleared out and they were already sitting down in the VIP booth that overlooked all the other seats.

Various Long Clan members came from the skies to fill out the area. Everyone from the younger generations wanted to see a battle between what seemed to be two top disciples. Others were just enticed by the Golden Dragon that the disciple carried the name off.

It was actually quite impressive, in the distance, he could see cultivators on swords pulling along advertisements for the event. There were strange slogans such as 'Golden Dragon's strongest disciple vs Long Clan's young hope' flying around. It painted his disciple as some kind of villain coming to destroy their peace. Thus it was clear that no one was cheering for Zhang Liu but the other handsome youth that was all smiles and waving at all the beauties that batted their eyelashes at him.

"Young master Enlai, please look this way!"

"You are the best young master Enlai, show the upstart what the Long Clan is made of!"

"Don't listen to them Liu!"

Replied Zhang Xue that seemed to be without any help with cheering on. Her voice was blocked out by all the shouts from the various onlookers. Soon the battle was starting and both of the combatants made their way towards the stage, who would win no one knew.

Chapter 482

'They are really into it...'

Zhang Dong was surprised to see the many cultivators that had gathered in this large venue. The quality of the experts housed here was probably enough to bulldoze through the entire empire if they set their sights on the smaller sects. It put the original size of the Zhang Clan in perspective as even one core formation expert from here would probably be able to eradicate it themselves.

In actuality, he was not that interested in defending his honor or the sects. There were more pressing matters at hand but due to the Long Clan, he needed to do it by the book. Even if Zhang Liu lost this fight he would not care much as he was confident in his own skills. Perhaps his disciple would be depressed for a bit but it would give him some room to grow.

‘Seems like Liu wants to prove himself to me after my absence, there are no opponents for him in the sect in the same age bracket either and Feng Nuana keeps him on a short leash too.’

This was a good opportunity for his star disciple to spread his wings. Without a certain ball and chain attached to his leg he could finally breathe. It was actually interesting to see what the people around him would do without him giving out orders for once. The fight would also be good training so he did not bother to stop them. Yet if he saw any foul play he would instantly act even if that meant that he would be insulting the Azure Dragon himself.

‘I wonder if I’m stronger than Long Qing...’

While his thoughts were clouded by various things he was brought back to reality by a loud gong.

“Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you to Zhang Liu, most of you might not know him but he is a disciple of our long-lost Golden Dragon, Long Dong!”

“Long Dong!”

“It’s really the Golden Dragon, Long Dong!”

“Uhhh...”

An announcer flew out on a flying sword and his voice boomed through the whole arena. Zhang Liu hopped onto the stage when his name was called but all of the attention was focused on his master. The moment everyone started chanting his updated name Zhang Dong wanted to crawl under the stage. It was a bit funny but when so many people were cheering it started getting uncomfortable for even someone of his status.

“The next person doesn’t need an introduction, he is Lord Long Fengge’s star disciple, Long Enlai!”

Luckily the announcement quickly continued and everyone looked to the other handsome young man hopping onto the stage. His height was over six feet and his facial features made him quite alluring to the ladies. Even though everyone here was from the Long Clan it didn’t mean that they had close blood ties and thus various young women started shouting to get the young man’s attention.

“Today these two young masters will clash in a friendly sparring match, will the yet unknown Zhang Liu be victorious or will Long Enlai claim another victory!”

By how the announcer was speaking it made it seem that this type of flashy combat was common. Zhang Dong could only attribute this to the lack of much entertainment around here. The cultivators were on top of the world without any enemies. No one in their right mind would be willing to challenge a person from the Long Clan. Thus they probably could only challenge each other to friendly matches and make a large spectacle of it.

‘Don’t worry master, I will show them that our techniques are superior!’

‘Ah yes, make me proud.’

Before the fight started Zhang Liu sent a message to Zhang Dong that could only cheer his disciple on. While he could not learn much from the fight himself he was still interested in some of the techniques that these Long Clan members used. The fights that he previously had had ended quite fast so he couldn’t really put his own lightning skills against them that well.

Enlai was a disciple of someone from the royal family. He was probably in possession of some hidden skills that the Azure Emperor was using. While the stronger arts were reserved for direct blood relatives some of them should be similar.

‘The Azure Dragon, as I remember, also had some folklore behind it. I think it was also called the blue-green dragon and its domain was rain.’

Finally, the two young men took up their stances. They were fighting barehanded with no weapons which could put some of them at a disadvantage. It was also just a spar and with sword energies flying around a head could come off quite easily.

While deep blue lightning surrounded Zhang Liu’s whole body, Enlai produced a fainter bluish aura that resembled clear ocean water instead. It was as if an enhanced Zhang Clan member was fighting with his disciple which also raised a few questions about his background. Could there be a direct relation between his old clan and this one, both of them used water techniques but one was clearly inferior?

‘I guess this whole scenario had deeper ties that were supposed to be connected in the future, I messed everything up by getting cut away from the system.’

Zhang Dong was not sure what the main scenario of this world was supposed to be. Was he supposed to live through that difficult expedition as someone that barely had any training in the core formation realm? Or perhaps the main plan was for the Zhang Clan to fall instead. Then while he adventures through the lands he would discover his real background that connected him to the Long Clan.

“What’s this, the challenger has decided to make the first move, what a loud movement technique!”

Zhang Liu was like a past version of himself, the movement art that he used was an improved version of the Thunder Movement Art that came together with the system. It produced a loud booming sound and made it look as if the user was sliding on the ground at an astonishing speed. The after images left by this art were quite dense which could confuse an inexperienced enemy, regretfully the young man was quite experienced.

A palm strike was the first attack, it carried Zhang Liu’s understanding of the Dao of Lightning. If he was fighting any other cultivator from any other sect then this one attack would probably have ended it. Yet Enlai countered with a palm strike of his own, when the two palms collided with each other a class of Qi occurred and was followed by a roar.

“Ladies and gentlemen, what is this! The young masters Azure dragon palm is being held back by Zhang Liu’s own palm! Two dragons are fighting for supremacy!”

Enlai’s palm strike produced an illusory image of a water dragon. It was coiling around his hand and trying to devour Zhang Liu’s palm. Yet a similar technique was used by his disciple but instead of a

dragon made from water it was made from blue lightning energy. Even though it was up against water the electrical discharge wasn't doing much damage to Enlai's body.

It seemed that the young man from the Long Clan was confused about something. The technique he was using was probably considered to be a staple around here. He had clearly cultivated it to a high degree but it was unable to overpower the lightning art that Zhang Liu was producing.

Soon the two blurry before everyone's eyes and start blasting each other with their palm attacks. It was as if both of them wanted to prove that their palm technique was the superior one as they weren't using anything else. Yet even after a hundred exchanges, there was no winner and both of them were forced to retreat to evaluate this tactic.

"For a country bumpkin, you aren't that bad."

"Finally stopped underestimating me?"

"Hah, I haven't even shown you half of my true power!"

"Well, I haven't even used a quarter of mine!"

Both of them had realized that they were somewhat evenly matched. The little exchange of moves was there to prod for an opening and now they would reveal their teeth against each other. In Zhang Lius a sword of pure lightning energy appeared which was also an improved version of the Thunderlight Sword Zhang Dong used to use. While the technique mostly fell in contrast to proper armaments when there was none it could easily slice an opponent in half.

In response Enlai produced an unknown technique of his own. Multiple water dragons surrounded his body while also producing a large water puddle that traveled in all directions. The water soon encompassed more than half of the arena while the previously visible dragons jumped into it to submerge themselves.

Liu was right at the edge of this body of water and could tell that his legs would quickly sink down into it if he stepped forward. Only when surrounding his feet with a protective layer of Qi would he be able to move forward.

'Interesting technique, I bet the moment Liu tries to dash forward those water dragons will try to tear him to shreds, it's like creating an area of influence. I bet if he falls into that puddle he won't be able to get out either a good technique if your opponent can't use a flying sword but will it be enough?'

It didn't seem that Liu was taking the bait of jumping toward his opponent but he would need to make up his mind fast. Even after taking over half of the stage the puddle of water continued to expand in all directions. If he continued to stand there without doing nothing he would need to step onto the watery zone.

Yet Liu didn't move, he just held his lightning sword over his head while concentrating. This was another take back to his old fighting days, a sword technique that could cleave through almost everything. While it would be weakened by not having a proper sword, the one made from lightning energy would still make it work.

Thus before the entire area was consumed by water Zhang Liu moved his hands down to cleave. The moment the place connected with the approaching water it was cleaved apart along with the stage below it. Though his opponent was not weak, multiple water dragons tossed themselves at the sword energy to absorb the blasts. The attack continued to approach Enlai that was just standing there but right before reaching him the energy was halted.

Enlai grinned while opening his eyes, Zhang Liu was already charging toward him while the large basin of water was forced to the sides.

"I have you now!"

"Think again!"

Both of them shouted at each other, Liu with his sword raised as he charged forward and Enlai with his hands performing a grasping motion. The water that had been parted started swarming back as a concentrated blade of azure. Would it reach Liu before he delivered the final blow or would Zhang Dong's disciple be the first to strike...

Chapter 483

'Well, I was not expecting this...'

Long Enlai along with Zhang Liu were now separated from each other. Both of them were bleeding out after their techniques collided with Liu being in a slightly better situation. Thanks to being a dual cultivator with what seemed to be a better body refining technique he had managed to survive through more hits than his opponent.

Yet victory was not assured yet, each of them had a bit of spiritual energy left in them for one final attack. A victor would surely arise if they continued for longer but this also could cause a long-lasting injury to the both of them. Zhang Dong could see that the two youths were set on even burning their own lifespan to make their masters happy.

When looking at Long Fengge he saw a man too concerned about his own face than anything else. He was the poster boy of a cultivator that could not take any criticism and would allow his disciple to suffer long-lasting injuries if it meant that he would regain his honor.

'Does he really not care or believes in their life-saving arts enough to heal his disciple from any sustained injury...'

The Long Clan had superior technology and resources to any other superpower in the empire. Their size was also smaller which allowed them to concentrate their assets in a smaller elite force. Perhaps even if the young man's arms were cut off and he was maimed they would be able to restore him to full health. Even then it left a bad taste in his mouth, he could heal his disciples from critical injuries as well but just standing there twiddling his thumbs was not something he was willing to do.

"Daddy?"

"Sorry, daddy needs to take care of something, go into mommy's lap instead."

"Husband?"

Zhang Dong had his daughter sitting in his lap while watching the fight. It was a bit strange to have the children look at the bloodbath but not like he trusted others to keep them safe without him or his wife around. After placing the potato in Liena's lap he started to stand up which did not go unnoticed.

"We shall leave it at that, stand down Zhang Liu, and you Long Enlai. You both did a great job but I fear that you both risk injury if you continue. This will be a draw."

His voice boomed through the entire arena which was taken by surprise. This was not his sect and he was only an outsider with a title. Normally as long as the Azure Emperor was here he would not have the right to stop the fight. The people here didn't see him as anyone above the elder generation and certainly not equal to the emperor.

"What do you mean by a draw? My disciple can still continue and is willing! Isn't that right Enlai?"

Long Enlai looked to Zhang Liu who was now focused more on his own master than the fight and then back to Long Fengge. Zhang Dong could see the young man clasping his hands and quickly nodding as if it was obviously so. Yet he had seen the disciple feel relieved after he had spoken out but he could obviously not go against his own master, an order was absolute.

"See uncle, my disciple wishes to continue but if you wish to forfeit then..."

"And you call yourself a master? Would you allow your student to sacrifice his future to satisfy your hubris?"

"H-how dare you..."

"It's us to the elders to lead our disciples yet your dispute with me has clouded your judgment. If you wish to see this as me forfeiting then let it be so."

Zhang Dong just shrugged while talking back to Long Fengge who seemed taken aback by how his uncle was acting. He could only look towards his own family members for some words of encouragement but as this was happening Zhang Liu had already begun walking away from the stage.

"You dare to do this in front of my father, you are being rude!"

The whole place had become deathly silent as no one was willing to offend the royal family. With the mention of the Azure Emperor Long Fengge had taken this fight to the next level though. Zhang Dong seemed to be going against the wishes of the current ruler by just forcing the event to a close. Normally the Azure Emperor with the highest status should be the one to do that and his younger brother wasn't even asking.

"Your father?"

Zhang Dong looked towards Long Qing who was just smiling like this was not his problem. He could not figure out this man that did not take anything seriously. If he offended him would he need to actually battle it out? Would he even be able to? He couldn't see the Azure Emperor acting himself as there were many people that could do it for him.

"What about Long Qing? He is my brother, not above or below me, we are equals but you on the other hand don't seem to know your place."

“What? How...”

Long Fengge was clearly confused as he had not expected a response like this. Zhang Dong was sure that whenever Fengge brought up Qing’s name everyone instantly folded and dropped down to their knees. Who in their right mind would go against the Azure Dragon? Yet he was not talking with a regular cultivator but with Zhang Dong.

Long Qing had already shown that he was trying to be an ally even than normal cultivators would still distance themselves into a subordinate role. From everyone’s perspective, Long Dong was the inferior of the two and should act as his position required him to. Yet there he was, calling himself equal to the Azure Emperor.

“That you are alive and well now is only because you are the child of my brother, don’t ever forget that.”

Zhang Dong’s aura exploded in front of everyone that was there. Words were just words, he needed to reinforce his statement with actions. He could not go wild and attack anyone here so he decided to do the next best thing. This was to act as an offended elder that was being disrespected by a junior.

After his seed had consumed the three cores his aura had become even heavier. He did not know the full scope of his brother’s capabilities and now was a good chance to measure it. Long Qing was a relaxed person but even he needed to act in a situation like this due to the fact that the two elders that were meant to protect them were being pushed down to their knees by Zhang Dong’s overbearing aura.

“W-will the two dragons fight?”

“But if two pinnacle masters clash then we will be affected as well...should we escape?”

“How will we escape if we can’t even more!”

The tremendous amount of Qi that Zhang Dong was generating was making the whole area rumble furiously. The lesser cultivators were instantly knocked out with only a few remaining that were at least at the later stage of core formation.

“My child seemed to have offended you, my brother!”

Long Qing finally made his move, he was sitting on a large throne that was clearly made for him. Even after the elders were pushed down to the ground he remained unaffected by Zhang Dong’s oppressive aura. Even now he was able to protect himself along with his wife and his kids that quickly retreated to their father’s side.

“But don’t you think that you are taking things a bit too far?”

Zhang Dong was really curious about this Azure Emperor. He seemed to be hiding his true motives, the fact that he could be part of the system still existed. Like the human king from the magical world, he was in a similar position.

In a sense he mirrored that man, his position and power was about the same. He was forced to remain in the area even though he could probably solve the empire’s problem before it started. It would make sense if he was just an arbiter watching from the sides and only when there was an imbalance in the scenario he would act.

But he could also be one of the many denizens of this world that had no clue about the shadowy scenario playing out in the background. In a sense, Zhang Dong felt that the Azure Dragon was meant to fall during this war of the empires and the person with the system would become the new ruler.

People were expecting the Golden Dragon to be forced into a defensive position. Everyone believed in the Azure Emperor's might that was unmatched on this planet. Yet even as he stood up and continued walking forward Zhang Dong didn't falter.

"How..."

Long Fengge along with his two other siblings were flabbergasted by the scene they were seeing. Their father, who they saw as a god among men, had released the full brunt of his oppressive aura and was focusing it against Zhang Dong. However, instead of seeing him going down to at least one knee to apologize he just stood there with his hands behind his back and waited.

"Am I going too far? I think I'm well in the right of my current position..."

Soon the two men were facing each other, Zhang Dong was a little bit taller than his brother dressed in blue. Both of their eyes were now focused on each other which caused the space to warp around them. The two were giving out spiritual energies that would have knocked even nascent soul masters out instantly.

Yet even though Zhang Dong was managing to hold out he was dead even. This was quite surprising as he thought of himself as someone slightly above the nascent soul's great circle realm. This put the Azure Dragon really like someone that was able to break through the limits of this world but it was not to the extent of taking a step into the immortal realm just yet.

"Well then, I will have to ask that you look past my son's offense and that we can look past it as brothers!"

"If my dear brother is asking me to look past his hopeless son then what else can I do? Let us consider this water under the bridge!"

Both of the men started laughing while constant sparks of energy erupted and continued to make the whole arena shake. Luckily for the people gathered here the oppressive air of conflict soon subsided without a battle between experts breaking out.

'Scared me for a moment there...'

He was relieved but didn't show it on his face. Even though he might have been able to contend with the Emperor in a one-on-one battle he would not be victorious here. Enemy elders, grand formations, and lack of weapons, he was just ill-prepared to further a conflict here. In reality, he was already hovering with his hand over the teleport prompt that would get him and his whole family out of here.

'Now, I need to get this over with and rebuild that golden palace...'

Chapter 484

The little incident was over, Zhang Liu clasped his hands before his opponent that seemed dejected. While it was only a draw to the young man from the Long Clan it was closer to a defeat. He was not able

to defeat someone that he considered to be trash from a rural area. The fact that Zhang Liu was the disciple of the man that was equal to the Emperor was the only saving grace.

During the staredown between Zhang Dong and Long Qing, both the disciples were shocked. Each of them believed that their side was the mightier one but after the auras clashed it came out to be about equal. They were only core formation experts but even they knew that if a fight between these two elders broke out there was no set winner.

Yet Long Qing was still the favorite as he had the home advantage. With the help of the Azure grand formation, the Emperor's powers could apparently be boosted even further. In their long past, the Azure Palace had never fallen and the name of the Azure Dragon had not been challenged in what seemed to be forever.

Luckily for everyone involved both of the elders reached an agreement. Both Zhang Dong and Long Qing backed away after putting their energies up against each other. Yet the silence remained and it was obvious that the people were left speechless.

'I guess their perceptions of me have been shattered...'

Zhang Dong pointed out with his finger towards Zhang Liu around whom a bubble of golden energy appeared. With a little wiggle, his disciple floated right up to the VIP booth where all the other people close to him were.

'I bet their little cultivator brains can't process what had happened. It looked like Long Qing had backed off, some of them probably think that indicates that he is wary of my power and unwilling to confront me...'

This was not an outlandish claim, they were both top experts with miraculous powers that were not confirmed. Long Qing's behavior worked in Zhang Dong's favor as it indicated that he was indeed strong enough to make an expert like his brother to think twice before attempting something.

In this world, it was common for the party that was challenged to retaliate. Only when both parties were at similar levels of power the conflict would cease. Thus Long Qing's actions could be taken as the Azure Dragon accepting his brother's strength before all of these people. With this revelation, his worries would actually decrease as everyone would think that he was at a similar level as their Emperor and perhaps even above him in some ways.

"Well then my brother, I shall return to my Golden Palace, I'm sure my wife and children would love to see it. It's not part of the Azure Palace so I will also invite the rest of my retainers that are waiting for us outside."

"Is that so? I wished to guide you through some of the sights but restoring the palace is probably the most important issue on your mind but don't be a stranger, if you need a helping hand I will be here."

"That is indeed reassuring, I promise to invite you and your family into the Palace after I go through it. I think it's not quite safe for the kids and it needs a lot of cleaning."

Long Qing didn't seem to be mad about the little wrestling match they had with each other. Long Fengge on the other hand looked pale in comparison. The youngest son of the emperor was probably stunned

after his father couldn't overpower his uncle whom he disliked. Even he would now be afraid to speak in ill will against Zhang Dong which made things easier.

Zhang Dong's main priority was to get his people off the streets. While his brother was acting cordially he was not sure why. Long Qing was too relaxed and didn't seem to care about his face as much but why was this so? Could he truly be a good brother or did he have some ulterior motives?

'There is that Goliath thing they have talked about but I haven't been shown what it is... Feels like there are some restrictions on activating it that have something to do with me and now perhaps also the palace.'

He had a small idea of what this thing could be but to be sure he would need to restore the flying fortress that he had received. Perhaps after it was operational he would be given a clue but for now, there was a lot of work to do. The first thing he needed to get in order was a teleportation gate to allow his people to get into the golden palace.

Normally this would be impossible without strict permission from the Azure Emperor and his people. Their grand formation blocked all possible teleportation techniques from piercing their shield. Yet after the Palace was fused with his system it received a slight boost. It was seen as a domain connected with his main sect ground. This meant that he could circumvent the outside grand formation to let his people in.

'It's impossible to see what is happening inside the palace...'

Luck was on his side again, the outside of the palace was covered with that miraculous metal. With that 'engine' room that was powered by the golden egg working well the exterior was now even shinier. He could even surround it with a smaller barrier that resembled the egg.

'Was that design intentional? Doesn't matter, thanks to that I can just get my people over here without the Long Clan finding out.'

Zhang Dong didn't trust his dear brother quite yet. The man was still a cultivator from this world that could throw him to the wolves if something happened. His ancestor the previous Golden Dragon apparently gave up his life during the last war but was this the truth? Could his brother have anything to do with it? There was always a possibility that after everything was over Long Qing would bare his fangs.

'Better safe than sorry....'

"Well then, we will excuse ourselves, we won't need an escort. I know my way around here."

Finally, it was time to take his leave, there was a lot of work to be done. After leaving the arena he could hear many people burst out in shouts. Some of them were flying into the distance probably to tell about what transpired during the fight.

Even though he had said that he didn't require anyone to show him around the city, that didn't mean that people weren't watching. He could feel some nascent soul elders trying to hide from his spiritual sense but doing a bad job. It was clear that he would not be allowed to just wander around without anyone shadowing him.

"Liena, we need to call gramps over and the rest of the elders that went along with him to the city."

With the family, dinner being over and a lot of time already wasted he just wanted to move along. Yet without knowing anyone in this place it would be hard to get around. Even now people evaded his gazes and no one showed up to help them. The show of force was not enough for people to go against the reigning emperor. Everyone was afraid to associate themselves with someone that could usurp the throne.

“Do you know where he is? Should we go together or split up?”

“It would be better if we remained together, don’t worry I know where all of them are, just give me a moment.”

Luckily he had his mapping function that allowed him to pinpoint the location of his faction members. Zhang Jin’s loyalty level was quite high so it was even possible to teleport to him directly. With the added bonus from the golden palace, this would not even burn that many spirit points as they could be now quickly recovered.

“Come, he is together with everyone else, follow me.”

With the location on the map, he took up into the sky along with his entire family and disciples. They were in neutral territory where they needed to watch out but this didn’t stop everyone from looking. The whole city in the skies that they were in now was truly beautiful. Various flying creatures and spiritual treasures were flying around making it look even more astonishing.

Just as he expected the nascent soul masters that were shadowing them slowly followed after them. Shaking them off was an option but then he would probably irritate the grand elders that probably sent them to watch his movement. Luckily after grabbing his people this would not be that easy anymore.

“He should be in that hotel?”

Where his map pointed him to was a large building with many floors. It looked like a luxury hotel for rich cultivators and a resort of some sort. Even though the Long Clan kept to themselves they still had members that visited from outside.

“This... yeah this is where he would stay...”

Even before entering he could see some ladies hanging out close to the windows to look as alluring as possible. There was soft music playing that sounded somewhat sensual, it was clear that this place was somewhere that Zhang Jin would like to spend his time. Yet other elders were together with him and spread out throughout the entire establishment.

“Liena, take care of the children I’ll go get him...”

Both Zhang Xue and Liu started blushing as they found themselves before the building. This was probably the red light district of this city. He hoped that perhaps the Long Clan members were above such things but it seemed that the oldest profession survived even here.

‘I bet that horny old fart could not help himself to see it... but did he bring his wives in there as well?’

That was the surprising part as the delegation that he brought along to talk business with some of the Long Clan members seemed to be in there as well. Was this just a horny outburst of an old man that

regained some of his youth or was he doing something else? He couldn't imagine both of his wives being fine with their husband going to a whore house when they were around.

'One way to find out...'

With many questions on his mind, he took a step towards the large red building from which he could smell all sorts of scents. When stepping closer he could feel that the music playing and the air around here was not simple. Everything carried a certain dao that could lower a person's defenses.

'I hope he isn't getting brainwashed by some vixen inside...'

Chapter 485

"Welcome to the Pink Pleasure Palace, can I..."

"Sorry, I'm not going to be here for long, I'm just looking for my family member... you probably know him by the pervy look on his face... no?"

Zhang Dong entered into the large building that turned out to be a gambler's den along with a brothel. It seemed that his place had it all for big spenders, women, alcohol, and probably drugs to make life easier.

'I guess even if you are from the top clan in the empire, you still can't get rid of your desires...'

The lady that greeted him bowed really low, she probably knew who he was as there were already a lot of other fine women behind her to greet him. They were giving him a grand welcome worthy of the name of Golden Dragon, even the person responsible for the brothel was here to greet him. She was a lady that looked to be a mix between a human and a fox with quite the alluring body.

'Good that I kept Liena outside but It would be better if I didn't linger here for too long, she might get the wrong idea if I stay here for too long.'

He was now surrounded by alluring ladies of various shapes and sizes. They did not look like they belonged to one race either, some of them were half beasts or ones that gained the ability to morph into a humanoid shape. For people from his old world, this would have been a paradise where they could find a girl for every possible fancy. On the other hand, it was somewhat uncomfortable as he had found a lady that covered all of the bases with his wife.

"Now please, I really need to go."

Before he could be totally surrounded by the vixens he activated a simpler movement technique to go past them. This one didn't shock anyone or produce any loud sounds but just increased his speed by a tremendous amount. With the map function in his possession, he could see each and every member of the elder group that was here.

But he was the Patriarch of the sect, it would be strange for him to go around through the rooms to get everyone. Instead, he would go for the ringleader that was Zhang Jin. After getting his grandfather out from here the old man would be tasked with getting in touch with the others instead.

'Luckily the people here clearly know who I am.'

Thanks to his face and aura the guards that were stationed in this place stepped to the side. Soon he arrived at a large golden door that led him to an interesting area. After opening he was hit by vivid shouts of customers, dice, and water.

‘Did they combine a spa with a casino?’

There was clear flowing water in a few places and warm baths with people sitting in them. They were mostly older men together with scantily clad women that were chatting and smiling. In the distance, he could see many tables with various dice games that were loved in this world.

Cultivators in this world were quite fond of gambling. Most of the time they swarmed for gambling houses to wager their spirit stones against other masters. At first, Zhang Dong was confused about this fact but soon it all made sense. With so little entertainment in a cultivator’s life, gambling was one of the small joys where they could feel some excitement.

This of course led to a lot of trouble as some people didn’t know when it was a good time to end it. They could not accept the loss and continued to gamble on everything that they owned. Sometimes even going as far as putting themselves up for sale or their family members.

Gambling was not forbidden in his sect ground or city that he governed either. It was a good source of income as the games that were played were designed in favor of the casino. It didn’t matter when someone got lucky once or twice if another ten lost miserably to make up for it. The house always won in the end, only when a cheater appeared would the reverse be possible.

‘Now where are you...There!’

Before another attendant appeared to block his way he spotted his grandfather. While he was sitting with his bare chest out in the open his wives were with him. They were draped around his arms while he was throwing some dice around. From the look of it Zhang Jin had come out of one of the hot tubs and was now trying his luck with the games.

Besides him and a few other elders from his sect, he also spotted various outsiders. Some of them looked like influential figures by the amount of jewelry draped around their necks or on their hands.

‘I guess he took my words to heart, regretfully we might not be able to capitalize on those potential deals that he was working on.’

Zhang Jin had one mission, to get closer with the Long Clan members that were a bit lower on the totem pole. After fostering good relations he was supposed to gain some information about the inner workings of their clan. The Azure Dragon was the leader but there had to be various factions working in the background that didn’t trail far behind the current leader. Perhaps one of them would like to offer their aid to the Golden Dragon that on paper was on the same level as the current leader.

‘But perhaps gaining some donations from them would not be so bad...’

For the time being, he needed more resources to repair the Golden Palace he would be using as his new temporary base. The Azure Palace and the main city were divided between themselves so his people could in theory wander around the city while evading the domain of his brother.

'Long Qing does seem to have a use for me, it doesn't seem that he would do anything to alienate me, even less after I have kickstarted that palace, this should give anyone associated with me some immunity in his city...'

Zhang Dong was on the fence now. On one hand, it seems that Zhang Jin was successful in getting some elders that were of the nascent caliber on his side. Perhaps they could start up a trade or ask for donations towards his Golden Dragon faction.

He could promise to support them from the sides, his status as the Emperor's younger brother was still there so he would be able to exert some weight in a few places. Unless the Azure Dragon actually came out of his palace to go against him, he could not be denied. Before any decision could be made though, his people needed to be transported to a safe zone with no one peeking in.

'Hey old fart, I see that you are having fun but we need to go, gather up everyone and meet me outside of this building in ten minutes.'

After confirming that Zhang Jin was safe he sent him a message that only he could hear. Even while talking in an annoyed tone his grandfather remained smiling while listening. It was clear that the man had gone through situations like this and was not about to break his character.

Just as he entered this temple of carnal desires he was ready to leave. Luckily no one in here was capable of making him stay. Even though some random elders appeared out of the blue to ask him to stay he just turned around without replying. Playing the mysterious senior was an easy way to avoid confrontation as no one would call him out on it. Soon enough he found himself back outside where the rest of his family was waiting.

"See, I told you that it wouldn't take long."

"Hm..."

Liena was first to greet him, his wife started eyeballing his clothes for some reason and even leaned over to give his neck a sniff from a few sides. While he did enjoy the view that his wife was producing from leaning forward he wasn't sure what she was doing.

"I can't feel the presence of other women on you, good."

"Hey now, I'm not gramps, I wouldn't do such a thing!"

She narrowed her eyes while stepping closer and grabbing onto his arm. It was quite sweet to see his wife be so protective of him. Her gaze told it all as all of the hostesses that were outside the large hotel averted their gazes. Liena was still a nascent soul master that would make any normal woman tremble in fear.

"Dong'er you should have given me a bit more time."

"Oh, so you want more time?"

"Yes, but what do you mean by that?"

Zhang Jin was clearly confused by how his grandson was grinning. He managed to get some surface-level information from some of the people he met but it wasn't much. After using some of his tricks to get them drunk he was slowly working down their defenses.

"Well, you said that you were bored, I'll tell you after we get to the Golden Palace but first the elders will go back to the Argonaut for now and will wait for further orders."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, also here, this is my seal, if you show it to the guards they should open up the protective formation."

Zhang Dong nodded which only caused Zhang Jin to shrug. He could not really go against the orders of the Patriarch so everyone quickly scrambled to clear out of this place. Luckily they came in small numbers so within about thirty minutes they were already flying towards their destination.

While the elders were showing the guards the emblem he and the rest flew towards the Golden Palace that was recently activated. It had remained in the shadow of the larger Azure Palace, hidden away by a formation. Almost no one knew that it was even there, only when he was accepted by his ancestor did this building react to spring to life. It was barely operational but soon enough it could become one of his greatest battle assets.

"Golden Dong Palace, Daddy it has your name!"

Shouted Zhang Xiu which made her father slump his shoulders forward. The name that he registered would be hard to change and cost a lot of spirit points thus he would need to let it be for now. His kids seemed to be animated enough and no one saw any problem with the character for his name being on the large shiny gate.

"This place isn't simple and you say that it was left by your true ancestor?"

Zhang Jin asked as he was now before the large Palace entrance.

"Yes, though I don't think that ancestor was from the Zhang family side but from the Long Clan instead."

He did not know who he was truly related to. Perhaps a Long clan member made it to his clan in secret, it could have been his mother or father, perhaps even someone further down the line. This didn't matter much as it was just a setting from the system that probably just altered the world as he arrived.

"I'll need to have you take care of it for now but let us go in first where no one can disturb our conversation..."

While looking back towards the hidden elders he opened up the Palace gates, inside he would be able to disclose his plan to his family members as well as teleport them back home.

Chapter 486

"So this is a relic left by the ancestor of the Long Clan? Miraculous."

"Yeah, now it's ours but as you can see it needs a lot of work..."

"And a lot of cleaning."

Zhang Liena swished her finger on the wall that was quite dusty. Zhang Jin was also here along with his grandchildren and both of Zhang Dong's disciples. All of them were astonished to see the golden interior of this large palace.

"That it does but don't worry my wife I didn't bring you here for cleaning, no the only one that will remain here is old gramps over there."

"You want this old man to stay in this empty palace? Can I at least bring ten of my wives to keep me company?"

Zhang Jin frowned at the idea of having to be alone in this large space with no one else to keep him company. Zhang Dong just chuckled before pointing towards the corridor.

"That's fine, don't worry you won't be alone, you'll have a lot of our sect members to order around but first follow me, we need to get some of this palace's functions in order."

There was no time to waste now, he had managed to get rid of the Azure Dragon and his children. With the help of this Palace, he would be able to return to this floating city without the need of making himself known. For this, to work he needed to get the teleportation array operational. Luckily for him, the whole place was now part of his system so he just needed to spend spirit points to make upgrades or to repair old broken down rooms.

"Where are we going daddy? This place is bigger than our house!"

"Yes, we are going on a little adventure!"

Zhang Dong smiled at his daughter who came over to ride on his shoulder. His younger son looked a bit envious at this gesture but was still a bit too shy to ask for a ride himself. Instead, his mother grasped his hand so he could float with her towards their next destination. Thus after passing through various empty rooms and corridors they arrived at a spacious one that was somewhat destroyed.

"Here we are, this should be the transmission chamber..."

"There has not been anyone here in a while... there is nothing here Dong'er, everything seemed to have been affected by time."

Zhang Jin stepped forward to look around. Besides the golden walls and the crumbling floors, there was nothing here. The ceiling had fallen down to bury something under a lot of rubble, this something was what Zhang Dong was looking for.

"Just give me a moment, you'll probably want to see this so watch!"

After pointing out with his finger both Zhang Jin and Liena glanced at the destroyed area. They had question marks floating over their heads that soon changed to exclamation marks as they witnessed a strange change. The once dirty and destroyed floor started glowing in white.

"What is happening?"

Liena asked while the strange phenomenon took place. Zhang Dong was just smiling so she did not panic as the whole floor disappeared along with the dirt and broken tiles. They were replaced by the golden

metal that lost some of its sheens but was the framework of this whole palace. It continued further as everything vanished into thin air.

“That takes care of the cleanup but now we have to restore it...”

Zhang Dong nodded while his finger swished towards the air. While no one could see it he was just clicking on his system menu. The first part was just to clear out the rubble that was taking up most of the space in this room. After it was finished the area looked like an empty warehouse and not something that would have a teleportation array.

But like in a game the room retained its initial use. In the system, it was listed under the transmission room which indicated a teleportation function. The use of points was tremendous but it needed to be done, unless he spent them he would not be able to get his people over here.

After the cleaning up he actually got an option to dispose of the destroyed debris to gain some of the materials back. These materials appeared as a separate source that was now visible in his construction window.

‘Interesting, so I can lower the spirit point requirements if I procure at least part of the materials, what if I try this...’

At first, he just wanted to show off in front of his kids and spend all of his spirit points to remodel this room. Bob had calculated how much he would need and if he spend 95% of his current spirit points this room would be operational. Yet now after going through the disposing he noticed a new option that allowed him to recycle some of those destroyed columns and floor tiles.

“What’s all of that Daddy?”

“Oh, that’s just something daddy will use to bring this place to life!”

Zhang Xiu called out as she saw her father wave his finger and activate his spatial ring. From the ring, a large number of various materials popped up that he had borrowed from some other locations while going through his travels. It wasn’t much as he didn’t think that he would have a use for regular building materials but with this new feature, he now could.

‘The rates are abysmal as always though...’

After throwing out all sorts of various resources in the form of rare ores and even bricks from buildings he wasn’t able to get the price down by that much. It came out to about 15% of the whole sum that he would need to use spirit points for. Yet this wasn’t that bad, every little point mattered and now he had another way of hastening the process of restoring this floating palace made from gold.

His family and disciples were all there to see the materials vanishing almost as fast as they were thrown out from the spatial ring. His wife was the only one that knew that he was a person from another world but he did trust everyone gathered here enough to show everything that he was capable of. Finally after dumping off what he could spare the prompt to repair the room was pressed. This caused the entire room to glow in white once more.

“Go back into the corridor for a moment...”

Everyone retreated to the hall that the room was connected to. Even the doors leading into it were affected by the change and were restored almost instantly. Zhang Jin started scratching his head at the phenomenon but he had already seen Zhang Dong produce many miracles so this wasn't that surprising anymore. The ones mostly amazed were his disciples and his children that could not believe what they were seeing.

"And there it is... the transmission chamber but you could also call it the teleportation chamber!"

The once shiny golden room had been renovated. Together with the black tiles on the floor and light blue patterns here and there it looked a lot more lively. The focal point of the construction was the large teleportation gate in the middle. It did not look much different than the ones produced by his sect, the technology from this era was still quite similar to the previous one where relics were cherished and protected.

This was not all as the gate was not the only relic that could be used for teleportation. Behind it was another platform with included stairs leading up to it. It had a honeycomb pattern of golden tiles divided by dark lines made from extremely hard marble.

This was a device to teleport people directly to faraway places and did not require another gate on the other side. There was a corresponding panel to the side where Zhang Dong or one of his people could put in coordinates to where people could be teleported to. It was more similar to the technology of the magical knights he had encountered.

'From what I can tell that device has a limited range and requires a lot of energy but if someone creates a teleportation formation at the location they want to go to the requirements will be lowered. I can work with that but the most important one is still the gate...'

The teleportation gate was now created but it needed to be tested first. The Argonaut came equipped with a small gate for military purposes. It was a mobile fortress that was able to call for reinforcements from the sect directly. Even if it was attacked by a large force a few nascent soul masters could arrive through the compact gate to offer aid.

"Well gramps, how about you help me test this thing out first?"

"You want me to go through it? Are you mad?"

Zhang Jin was opposed to testing a gate that just popped out from thin air. He did not have the system window before him to assure him of it working.

"Can Xiu do it instead? That looks like fun!"

His daughter ran into the room and started looking at all the strange contraptions. She had never before left the sect or used a teleportation gate before. In her eyes, this was certainly a new toy that she could play around with.

"Daddy was only joking~"

Zhang Dong grabbed his daughter that was poking the teleportation gate. He would certainly not let his child go through an untested gate. If there was a problem with it she could end up lost in the void. Then

with the other transmission device, if the coordinates were wrong a person could end up inside of a mountain and very dead.

“We will use something else for the test.”

He smiled while snapping his fingers then out burst his familiar, the small dragon Bahamut. The creature was connected with him and would not die that easily. Even if it perished he could conjure it back up again or that was at least what Bob theorized. Its soul would return to his spiritual seed to slowly be nourished once again and be reborn.

His kids certainly were now more interested in the small dragon that their father created. He had not shown them it yet which caused their eyes to go wide. Bahamut was overjoyed after being summoned and gave out quite the cute little roar. This only caused his kids to be more interested in the friendly-looking creature.

“Oh right, this is Bahamut I guess this is something similar to a soul beast but not quite, he can really get big, I’ll show you after we get home okay?”

His dragon flew over to his children and gave each one a lick on the cheek. While Xiu giggled out of happiness Jun on the other hand didn’t appreciate his face being covered in slobber. It seemed that his familiar liked his kids which was mostly due to them having inherited his bloodline.

“Well then, I’ll contact the Argonaut and see if I can get Bahamut there!”

“GAO!”

Little Bahamut cheered out as if it was excited to go through the gate. It was time to have his people get over here to do some work.

Chapter 487

“Bring it in slowly, hey watch it, if you drop it you’ll have to pay for it!”

“I’m sorry elder!”

Zhang Dong was now looking at a group of people from his sect moving equipment from the Argonaut here. After performing a test with the help of his familiar he was successful in connecting the palace’s teleportation gate to the sect’s system. With the coordinates now locked in he would be able to send his people here.

“How long do you think it will take Kuo?”

“As you instructed, I have examined the interiors of the golden palace. It will probably take at least a month to get rid of all this rubble and reconnect all the faulty spiritual connections.”

“Good, prioritize this facility, you have permission to assemble a team, the cost doesn’t matter. Don’t forget to organize everything by worth, I will come to inspect it later. Prepare a storage area where you will transport high-quality building materials from our sect. ”

“Right away Patriarch!”

The Palace was quite big, even with a large group of specialized sect masters it would be hard to check everything. The old materials that this place was made of could be recycled and along with the ones his sect brought along he would have more to work with. A month was a good amount of time for him to gather some passive spirit points as well.

'I should have enough to get the basics running but will it be enough...'

This flying treasure was a fortress in itself. Even at this moment, no one would be able to get into it while bombarding it with conventional spirit attacks. Perhaps even the Azure Emperor would need to get involved to bust down the main gate. Yet even if this place was so sturdy it was of no use to him here. What he needed to do is to get it outside and use it as a base of operations.

'I don't think Long Qing would let me take this old relic outside their borders. He probably doesn't suspect anything but I don't think I would have enough time to flee without suffering major damages...'

It seemed that Long Qing needed this golden palace for something. For the time being Zhang Dong felt that he was not in any danger. As long as this thing remained here the Long Clan would probably not move either. This left him with one option of taking it out, long-range teleportation to somewhere outside the grand formation.

'From what I can tell this relic did have such a feature but it will cost a lot of spirit points...'

After going through his system window concerning this golden palace he acquitted himself with all the uses it had. It could be used as a mobile fortress if it was at least 70% operational. Yet for some reason, there were a few options that were grayed out and to which he had no access too.

'Perhaps if I repair some of the destroyed rooms the function will become available?'

He could only speculate about the requirements of the locked away options but if this was all created to mimic a game system then there were a few possibilities. Either he just needed to continue repairing this place to unlock everything or find some external help. This was what he was afraid of as Long Qing's closeness seemed a bit strange.

Even though his so-called brother was all smiles he couldn't shake the feeling that he wasn't telling him the whole truth. Without being able to stroll through the Azure Palace by himself and researching the past he could not confirm anything. However, this did not mean that Long Qing's motives could be malicious. He could just be like any other cultivator that was seeking to use him to further some kind of agenda.

'Well can't worry about that now, what I need to do now is...'

Zhang Dong tossed the Long Clan problem to the side and focused on another matter. He found something that could be the holy sword that Argus told him about. It was clearly some kind of powerful relic that reacted to concentrated holy energy. Even then Zhang Dong could not activate it with his current knowledge, it was perhaps not something that he could ever use.

'I need to set up a meeting with them and bargain for something worthwhile.'

He smiled while thinking of the treasures that he could receive from Lucius and his knights. The duke looked like he was loaded and the armors they were using could turn a beggar into a hero. If he could get a few of them then perhaps he could improve on his own designs that were sometimes used.

The one Lucius was wearing was far superior to anything that he created as it increased his power to match a pinnacle nascent soul master. The armor that he once used would not give him that much protection as his body refining skill already gave him enough protection without being bulky.

This didn't mean that he could not equip some of his sect members with similar gear. Zhang Liu for instance would be a great help if he could acquire that kind of armor. This would give him another way of strengthening his forces without needing to spend spirit points to boost everyone's cultivations while forcing them into the nascent soul stage.

"Good, I already got the alibi of being in closed cultivation here so everything is ready."

A few days had passed since he entered this palace. Both his children and his wife had been escorted by him outside the Azure Palace and the city. He at least made it seem that they were leaving while he stayed to contemplate his new treasure. This, of course, brought a smile to his brother's face and with the help of his teleportation array, he would be able to go back to his sect unnoticed.

"Kuo, I will leave everything in your hands and you gramps also behave, if you need some help you know how to reach me."

Zhang Jin was left behind as the leader and also as a backup plan. This place should be safe but having a nascent soul master around wouldn't be bad. The old fart was only willing to help if he could bring over a few of his wives which Zhang Dong agreed to. With that, he finally left by stepping through the teleportation gate and returning to the sect's flagship the Argonaut that was waiting for him.

"Captain, we are going back home."

"Aye aye."

Lien and his children had taken another jump towards the main sect as he did not want them to be stuck in the ship for days. He on the other hand didn't want to waste more energy on unnecessary teleports and there were still places on the way that he could inspect. While the regions around his sect had managed to push back the invaders this couldn't be said for the others.

Up in the north where Wang Long was biding his time was his largest problem. The battle-crazy tribes from another empire were constantly pushing into the mainland. News of their horrific murders had already spread through the whole Empire.

Some of the sects were striking deals at this very moment as they threw everything at their borders to not let the invaders inside. Yet just as he had theorized they were all being pushed back towards the middle of the Empire where the Long Clan resides.

'If this continues then within a few months most of the middle-sized sects will be left decimated and the great leader is nowhere to be seen...'

During his flight, he decided to bring up the large map of the whole Empire while in his private cabin. A large blue hologram covered with some red spots was presented to him. It reflected the current state of the war and how much ground they had lost to the invaders.

His sect was in the southern region and it hugged the western regions. A bit to the north from his lands there were various light red dots that further increased in intensity. The most intense spot was the enemy fortress where the leader of the vampires he faced probably resided. Since their last clash, the intensity of their expansion was hampered but instead of the vampires, other creatures started to appear.

Then there was the northwest region that he had also visited. Even though he had blasted the invaders and destroyed their base they had managed to reclaim it shortly after he had left. The sect that was there could not even last for one day and now it was another crimson zone with many people dead.

Yet when he looked further north to where Wang Long had fled he could not see much movement. It seemed that the invaders were having trouble with the demonic cultivators. Either they were stronger than he had anticipated or the tribes could not pass through the treacherous regions there.

Then there was the region to the south that was populated by the people from the magical kingdom. The part they occupied was quite small compared to the tribe and with some luck, it would only get smaller.

To the east was another large dark circle that was occupied by an empire that he actually was in before. It was the one most similar to this with their Emperor being called the Emerald Phoenix. They had also bitten a large chunk out of some territories by advancing slower than the other invaders. It seemed that perhaps this land of cultivators was comparable to this one.

Then there was the last place in the northeast that the last of the invaders came from. There was not much information about them besides that they came from beyond the deep sea. The north part of the empire was quite large and composed of a somewhat uncharted sea that could not be passed even by flying ships.

'Could be some water-based creatures, they didn't really push into the mainland and instead remain in the ocean...'

The red spot seemed to stop when it arrived at the large landmass in the south and was spreading west towards where Wang Long was. The demonic cultivators fled beyond where normal people could reach them and had access to the ocean there.

'Would be nice if they got rid of him for me but it's more probable that they would just turn into more spirit points.'

While looking at the map he needed to make a decision. He still had a few weeks until his appointment with Argus. This gave him enough time to visit some places that he could help. With this palace underway and now with an option of transporting his closest family to a safe location even when he wasn't there he was feeling a bit more adventurous...

Chapter 488

"Kill, kill them all!"

A ferocious scream escaped from the toothy humanoid that resembled a disfigured human. It was about two meters and had crimson leathery skin. Small spikes were coming out of its back and its hands looked more like black claws. Similar creatures like this one descended towards what looked to be a temporary settlement composed of tents.

“H-how did they follow us this fast...”

“R-run, spread out, it’s our only hope of survival!”

There were women and children that were only a few months old here. The mothers were covering them with their bodies while running away while the men grabbed their weapons. Yet this did not amount to much, the creatures were much stronger and faster. The small protrusions from their bodies grew out slightly before being shot off like projectiles.

These bone bullets traveled in an arc and descended on the panicking people. They pierced through their legs and lodged themselves into their bodies causing a lot of critical injuries. While the humans cried in agony the monster-like humanoid creatures relished in it. Their grotesque faces had massive smiles plastered over them as they continued to torture their prey.

Yet as all seemed to be lost something miraculous happened. As the projectiles were traveling through the air they suddenly stopped. It was as if time had stopped for the monsters as they could not move a muscle. The men that were still able to stand up noticed the strange phenomenon and quickly realized what was happening.

“A master?”

He appeared from the sky, his spiritual energy washed over the entire area disabling all of the creatures without a single exception. The man was wearing a white robe and on his back, an embodiment of a golden dragon could be seen. When looking closely there were characters of the sect that this man belonged to, the United Element’s Sect.

With just a motion of his hand, the creatures began being sucked into the middle of the encampment. In just about ten seconds a large ball composed of monster flesh was assembled. The monsters that were laughing and parading around were now squirming around without being able to get away.

By pointing up into the sky the ball of monsters was thrown upwards. While it flew there the man started gathering energy in his fingertip. Lightning crackled and was followed by a thunderous roar before the energy attack escaped from his pointed-out digit. A wide beam of energy flew forward, it engulfed the trapped monsters and quickly extinguished their existence.

The people were injured but the spectacle that they had just witnessed made them forget about the pain. The man floated like some kind of deity without saying anything but soon he turned around to open his mouth.

“Tend to the injured!”

“Yes, Patriarch!”

A group of men and women in similar robes and patterns quickly flew in after him. They quickly used some spiritual healing arts on the people that were hit by the bone fragments. The people here knew

who the man was, the tales of his generosity had reached far and wide. It was him that they were trying to reach as it was known that only the United Element Sect could turn the tide against the strange invaders.

...

"Just as you have ordered, we have captured one of the demi-humans."

"Good, did the interrogation arts work on them."

"Yes, Patriarch, please follow me."

It was of course Zhang Dong that appeared to save these refugees. After some deliberation, he decided to stick to the border regions where his forces were stationed. With not much time on his hands, it would be best to first lower the danger in his own area of influence. The other bridges between the empires were too far, splitting his forces was also unwise. Only he could handle the tribe leaders that possessed those horns with Huo Qiang having some chances of winning a one-on-one battle if no one else got involved.

Apparently, after he had driven the vampire monsters out they had managed to evacuate a large chunk of the population. There was far too much space to cover though and many settlements that did not believe in the losses that were being reported. This resulted in situations like this with people being unable to escape far enough when the monsters were at their doorstep.

'The information should have spread enough though, even these cultivators recognize our sect's character...'

His fame was slowly growing as he was the only high level nascent soul master that was willing to lend a hand without asking for anything in return. The legend of the Golden Dragon was spreading slowly but surely. Some recognized him as Long Dong, some as the Golden Dragon and others used his other name of Zhang Dong. One thing was clear though, whenever he appeared the people would cheer and then bow.

"Do we know what tribe this one belongs to? Is it the same one that those pale demi-humans were from?"

Zhang Dong asked the interrogator what was done with hypnotizing the prisoner. Since the monster-like humanoids didn't have a proper name he decided to go with a popular trope name from novels that he had read before. He already knew that they were just humans that had their biology altered by various body refining techniques which made the name fitting.

"The demi-human claims to be from another tribe, as you have ordered, here are the answers to the questions you requested, Patriarch."

The member from his clan handed him a scroll where he had written down the answers. Zhang Dong nodded and quickly left as he did not have any time to waste. After going through everything he could see that these people were closely related to the white demi-humans he had managed to force back.

It seemed that their tribes shared an ancestor. They had split off into two tribes that had many similarities but some differences. The prisoner informed them that the two tribes were always trying to

prove themselves as the superior successor to their ancestor's will. It seemed that if they managed to defeat the 'golden one' they would be able to prove once and for all that they were the true descendants.

'I see, they hope to bring me to their emperor after their sister tribe has fallen. They probably still feel that the other tribe was part of them so if they had failed they probably see it as a loss of face due to the similarities between them...'

If he compared them to cultivators it was as if one section of the same sect had been eradicated by an outsider. Even though they were from different factions they were still connected by something.

'Their movements are somewhat erratic, they have been vigorously pushing closer to our borders, they really are battle-hungry monsters... it's as if they are trying to provoke the battle even if they are suffering losses.'

It didn't seem that there was much reason and logic in the way these red spiky basterds moved. They were just killing anyone that they came across and throwing bodies against it. Sometimes they were victorious but in other cases, they were eradicated by his own sect members like Huo Qiang that was constantly patrolling these areas.

'Either they are stupid or ... they want to lure me out by killing more people... did they realize?'

Zhang Dong frowned as it seemed that the enemies had figured out that he had a weakness. This weakness was his humanity that he did not want to abandon. If he had the chance he would put himself in danger to save other people of this empire. If they wanted to deliver the golden one to their emperor then by killing civilians they could lure him out.

It was true, while floating away from this temporary encampment he took some time to look at the people that were mostly affected by this war. He had not been able to get here in time and the sobbing of women could not be ignored. Many people had laid their lives down for their loved ones in hope of getting to their lands. To them it seemed to be the only hope as traversing half of the empire to arrive at the lands of the Long Clan was impossible.

Even if they managed to travel to their borders, there was always a chance that they would not be allowed to get past their walls. The Long Clan was known for not allowing people to traverse their lands, the war would probably not change their minds either.

When he was ascending he could see the survivors follow him with their eyes. They were quick to prostrate themselves before him as usual. Yet there was a difference, they were not doing this out of force of habit before strong cultivators. No, they were thanking him for allowing their families to see another day.

'Those bastards are going to continue killing and enslaving everyone in their path unless someone stops them...'

While he tried to get over his hero complex it wasn't that easy. He could not see any other cultivators or sects moving towards the battles unless they could gain something. Perhaps if they saw worth in the lands there they would be charitable but he could not see them doing that. These were the lower lands

of the empire, resources were sparse and the strongest people living here would barely make it into his sect.

It didn't seem that unless he acted there would be any change. While his borders would probably be strong enough to block the demi-humans from invading that didn't mean they wouldn't continue with their slaughter. They could easily clear out the border regions and continue bringing destruction to the empire.

'But as the leader, I can't just send in my people...'

This was the troubling part, he was the sect leader and his people depended on it. If he decided to send his forces out they could be victorious but there would always be deaths. It might be possible to save millions at the risk of losing thousands of his sect brothers and sisters. Even without asking, he knew that his people would agree with anything that he decided on. If he told them to raid the enemy stronghold this instant then they would do it.

'Sometimes I wish they would question my decisions instead of blindly following every word that I say...'

He gave out a sigh while floating up. His mind was already made up, even though he could go back and wait it out he still thought that getting rid of the fortress where the vampires waited would be the right move. The enemies were still missing their strongest card, the emperor was not here. If he wanted to recapture the bridge between empires then this would be his best chance. While this war did not truly begin he needed to seize victory so that a brighter future awaited all of his people.

Chapter 489

"Take everything."

"Even the floor tiles?"

"Especially the floor tiles, also don't forget to keep your eyes open there could always be some survivors."

"O-of course Patriarch."

A member of the united element sect clasped his hands while flying into the distance on his flying sword. Zhang Dong looked from afar while a large group of them were dismantling buildings for resources.

'The only good thing that comes out of these demi-humans is that they don't care about the treasures at all...'

After arriving at the border region Zhang Dong had decided to push toward the lands behind it. The demi-humans were causing a lot of wanton destruction that he could capitalize on. While he felt bad to rob the previous owners of their heirlooms this was war. These cities were devoid of life with part of the people fleeing into the lands that he owned or perishing.

'Those vampire bastards are keeping their distance, the only demi-humans we encountered are either these red bastards or those molemen...'

Zhang Dong tried to remember the man named Valentine that whom he had come in contact with. That was one of the more difficult beings to kill as he possessed some kind of life-saving technique. He was clearly the schemer type that didn't take his opponents lightly.

Zhang Dong was actually convinced that he was the reason that these red boney bastards appeared instead of the vampires. They had a reason to prove themselves to the Emperor after he decimated their sister tribe. This was probably a stalling tactic but what was he stalling for?

'It's probable that he is unable to use that trump card repeatedly, he might be trying to recover while pushing the other demi humans towards my lands. I bet he won't face me until he is sure that he can get away like last time, those cowardly types are always a pain in the ass...'

The monster he was facing was the type to be strong against the weak and cowardly against the strong. Probably even if he decided to storm that fortress the Vampire could decide to flee again. He would do anything in his power to survive, only when those types were assured that their strategy worked would they toss themselves into battle.

'But sneaking into their fortress alone is probably a bad idea...'

Zhang Dong thought back to the many times that he had tried being stealthy. First, the molemen discovered his location by the soil stuck to his boots. Then Argus' managed to pinpoint his hiding spot with a spell he was not that familiar with. It was probably that if he went alone he would be discovered.

With his current cultivation level, he didn't feel like he would lose out to these horned tribe leaders. Even before he absorbed all three of his cores he was more than a match for them. The only person that he could see coming close to his level was their leader, the demi-human Emperor.

'The leaders shouldn't be that much stronger than the Azure Emperor but I wouldn't be surprised if he was the weakest of the Emperors.'

The Long Clan was strong but even they feared the invaders. This was something they had been informed about by their ancestors. The old writings were probably keeping them from being involved. While they might achieve victory if they could wait it out it was fine.

Even if the other sects and clans perished they only needed to last for a hundred years before everything was over. If the invaders remained they would not be able to get any reinforcements either as the connecting bridges would be gone. Zhang Dong was able to traverse through the barrier thanks to his system cheat but he did not believe that it would be possible for anyone besides him or Wang Long to do the same.

'Long Qing doesn't really want to talk about his plans, and neither do the elders. Unless I spread my influence there is no possibility of the Long Clan listening to me, killing the current Emperor is also out of the question even though that would probably be the easiest way...'

Zhang Dong knew how this world operated, the best way to gain resources from the Long Clan would be to compete for the throne. If he could defeat his brother in a fair one-on-one bout then the members of the Long Clan would have to listen to him. But he could not see them being quiet while he was beating their Emperor's face in.

If he went with that nuclear option his hands would be filled with blood. He would have to eliminate everyone that was closely related to Long Qing, this included his children and his wife. After being able to create his own family there was no possibility of him performing such an evil act on someone else. His actions would be no different from what the invaders were doing now and killing people as a means to an end.

'Can't attack the Vampire Fortress yet but if I get that Palace to work then perhaps I can force a victory...'

To end this whole invasion faster he would need to take an active part in the war. For that, he either needed stronger forces to battle his enemies or strategic superiority. He could use guerrilla tactics that would allow him to slowly push the larger demi-human forces back. Yet the biggest problem with that approach was Wang Long.

If left alone for too long he would gain too much power. He was the true last enemy and a wild card with a system. The other last bosses or hidden bosses that were created in this scenario were probably balanced to let the system holder win. On the other hand, Wang Long could do anything, even reach the immortal stage if he was given enough time to absorb spirit points from the increasing number of enemies from all sides.

"Why did that damn bastard need to appear, if he wasn't here..."

Zhang Dong frowned after remembering Wang Long's stupid smug face. If that bastard was not here he would probably be living a more relaxed life even with the invaders attacking. Now on the other hand he needed to worry about an angry manchild that was taking this world as one big game.

From Zhang Dong's perspective, Wang Long was mistaken. The people living here weren't much different than the people in their original world. It was true that the setting was customized behind the scenes but it wasn't at the level of mind control or mind alteration. The people here thought for themselves, they were just victims of the setting and reacted accordingly.

All of them were taught from a young age how the world worked. With one person being a nuclear bomb in a robe it was normal for their mentality to be different than the modern world that both Wang Long and Zhang Dong came from.

'It wouldn't surprise me that if something came to alter the setting, a being like that Demon Lord comes out to bring it back to the original setting?'

He was not sure as he only had one instance to look back to. In the other world after he affected the power balance the being appeared. Luckily he came from a world that allowed him to gain enough strength to face that demon. Which made it problematic, as whoever appeared before him would probably be stronger than the strongest martial master here.

'I'll cross that bridge when I get there, for now, I need to get more materials.'

His people were working diligently on ransacking one of the large cities. While most escaping clans took the treasured items with them, the buildings were still there. These would be stripped down to their foundations and sent off to the Golden Palace. Thanks to his faction window he would be able to use the recycle function even when not being there.

For the past few days, he had been escorting his men while they ransacked everything. Small packs of the red demi-humans appeared here and there but they were quickly dispatched. They had a similar way of fighting to their pale counterparts but instead of throwing bone spears, they could turn into porcupines. Their whole bodies would then fire off smaller projectiles that could even explode if the attack was performed by a senior tribe member.

“I don’t like it, it has been too quiet lately...”

Even with the mapping function, these demi-humans that didn’t give out much of a Qi signature were hard to spot. It was impossible to pinpoint their location as the entire area was light red now. His spiritual sense also had trouble with enemy detection which mostly resulted in not much time to react. It also didn’t help that stripping down the buildings was a very slow process. Transporting all these heavy items was only possible due to the replica dimensional regalias that were better at storing such large loads than regular spatial rings.

“I need to contact Argus, the deadline is in a week...?”

While mumbling to himself he noticed something. The map that he had set up to be to the side of where he could see flashed red for a moment. This was a clear sign that something or someone was approaching. By how they have been spending some time traversing these conquered lands he already knew who it was.

“Everyone, take to the skies and retreat!”

An order was given quickly and everyone instantly dropped what they were doing to jump onto their flying swords. This was not the first time that he had warned his sect members of an incoming enemy attack. Now he just needed to raise his voice slightly for his people to follow his instructions. With them being mostly core formation experts they were ill-equipped for battling these demi-humans that had many members that were close to nascent soul masters.

“Patriarch, I am here!”

“Zhang Zhi, there is something coming from below, be careful...”

He was not the only nascent soul master in this area. Together with his number one fan Zhang Zhi, he had been traveling for a week and gathering materials. Most of the time it was actually the samurai that cleared up the enemy encampments or ambushes with him just keeping watch of the weaker core formation sect members.

Zhang Zhi pulled out his katana that was specially made for him. It was a lot longer and had a nicely decorated blue hilt. While holding it above his head he started gathering his true Qi. The black blade instantly became engulfed with blue water energy that took the shape of a water dragon.

Then suddenly a large worm monster burst through the ground. Its toothy mouth opened up to devour the nascent soul master but he was prepared. With one downward slash, the sword energy traveled forward while roaring.

Zhang Dong was watching from the side and felt a bit sorry for the monster that was cleaved in half before it could do anything. Yet it was not over, even though the monster was dead it was just the beginning of the battle as many mole-like creatures appeared from the hole beneath.

'I guess this was bound to happen...'

Chapter 490

"Watch out, they are hiding below ground, leave them to me just keep them away while I concentrate."

"It shall be done, Patriarch."

Zhang Zhi shouted loudly which caused Zhang Dong's ears to hurt. While he appreciated that this elder was so animated he seemed to be too eager to show his worth. Whenever he asked him to do something he would follow his words to a fault without considering anything else.

If he told him to fetch him something while his child was being born he felt that Zhang Zhi would not even question the order. The man was a true classical cultivator that was overly grateful for being given cultivation resources to get into the nascent soul level. Zhang Dong was like a monolith in the man's mind that was close to a godly being.

Some of the demi-human tribe members could swim through the earth like it was water. Even with the help of his map system, it was hard to pinpoint their location and then aim for an attack to get them. The hard rocks below were enough to slow down any attacks. This always gave enough time for the mole-like men to move away from danger while also pelting the person attacking them with rock bullets.

But Zhang Dong was not a regular opponent, he had the system with him and even though the map wasn't perfect it gave him enough information. When mixing it together with his spiritual sense he could lock onto the desired target one by one while concentrating his attack. What he just needed was time and then most of the enemies would be done for.

"I won't let you interrupt the Patriarch, your opponent is this Zhang Zhi!"

For this very reason he needed some help and Zhang Zhi was the man for the job. While Zhang Dong was concentrating on the map and his spiritual sense the attacks kept coming from all sides. The rock bullets were nothing to scoff at but they were not the only problem. Besides the mole demi-humans, there were the red ones that did not hide but charged straight toward his location.

Even though he was letting Zhang Zhi protect his position he spread his senses enough to know that he could handle himself. If one of the horned demi-humans paid them a visit then Zhang Dong would need to act. For the time being besides Huo Qiang, there weren't any others that could handle them. Even his wife would probably fare badly that was the third strongest in the sect.

A loud roar escaped from Zhang Zhi's soul beast which was a water dragon. It produced a large sphere of water around the entire area and protected Zhang Dong while its master pulled out his blade. Soon a battle ensued in the skies as the samurai wannabe continued to cleave his opponents in half.

The watery prison Zhang Dong found himself in didn't actually hurt him or make it hard to breathe. Each time a spiked bone or a rock bullet came in contact with the water it would lose its momentum. With time there were many of these projectiles just floating around while the enemies continued to attack without successfully hurting their target.

Even though this looked easy Zhang Dong knew that the water soul beast that was producing this barrier of water wouldn't hold out forever. Zhang Zhi was the only nascent soul master besides him here and

they were drawing attention away from the core formation experts. With some regular people in the area, they needed to wait a moment before unleashing more destructive arts than this.

“That does it, remove your barrier Zhang Zhi!”

He called out and his helper quickly followed the instructions. The bubble that was around him burst and while the projectiles that were in it started falling down to the ground Zhang Dong attacked. Above his head, a large orb of golden energy appeared that he guided down with his finger.

Soon the technique took effect by a mass of concentrated beams of light shooting out from it. These guided energy blasts sunk down into the earth at an astonishing speed towards the routes the enemy demi-humans would take. Predicting an enemy’s movement was something that he learned through the years of combat he went through and this was nothing different.

The groans of the people underground could be heard by everyone here as the ground beneath turned into swiss cheese. The missiles created from a mix of Qi and mana bent in odd directions as he altered their trajectory where it was necessary. The demi-humans that looked like moles were getting eradicated without being able to counterattack at all, soon enough only one remained.

“Hey, I know you... you’re that one that ran like a coward before I could finish you off!”

It was the mole tribe leader that he previously met with the vampires. That time he had escaped by using his people as meat shields but after what Zhang Dong did there were not enough demi-humans to create a big enough diversion.

“You ruined my stealth run, you bastard! Hope you are ready for the consequences!”

Zhang Dong was still somewhat angry that the soil that he carried out from the camp had done him. This mole man commander was a lot stronger than the minions that he surrounded himself with but he was not the tribe leader. His realm of power could not compare to a trained cultivator like Zhang Dong and the demi-human knew that.

“Oh no, you don’t!”

Before the battle could even start the mole-man attempted diving back below ground. Just like before he was attempting to flee while distracting people with something else. In this case, it were the red-skinned demi-humans that came along for the ride. Regretfully for him, Zhang Dong was not alone and Zhang Zhi was holding his own against the commander of that troop. Without anyone to stop him Zhang Dong had ample time to charge forward to get him.

His palm flew forward and left a giant imprint on the ground that the mole person dived into. How this demi-human traversed the earth wasn’t through pure digging. They were using a special technique that could turn rocks into something similar to mud through which they could swim through.

Yet this also required concentration and the earth elements to be in balance. By constantly delivering large area attacks and infusing the ground with his holy energies Zhang Dong attempted to make things more difficult. His approach was successful as he could feel the demi-human getting stuck in the crumbling earth that it could not easily traverse anymore to the point of propelling itself towards the sky to free itself.

This commander-class demi-human now knew that he wasn't getting out of this predicament without a fight. Thus he turned toward his attacker, his entire body expanded to a monstrous size and his muscles bulged out intensely. It seemed that he had decided to try a more vicious approach. His body was pure black like obsidian and his hands were more like sharp claws.

Zhang Dong was not impressed though as he casually punched out towards those massive claws that looked like they were made from sharp metal. The increased size that the demi-human achieved was supposed to help him defeat his enemy but when the claws collided with that fist they quickly snapped in half.

"Impossible..."

The creature's bones shattered into tiny fragments during the collision. Zhang Dong's level of body refinement was far above what this commander class demi-human was capable of. Even though he had a small horn on his forehead it didn't amount to anything. After the right arm turned into a wet noodle the next target was the head.

After the transformation, the mole-man had gained a lot more teeth yet even those quickly shattered. There was no possibility of victory as the mole demi-human flew upwards from receiving a clean uppercut to the jaw that was broken as well.

Even though Zhang Dong wanted to deliver the killing blow this was a commander from the enemy camp. The mole person might not have looked smart but he could have some important information for the future.

These bastards were hard to capture by how they could traverse the earth, perhaps his sect masters could examine their techniques and come up with better countermeasures. As it stood there would not be that many people that could soak the ground with enough Qi to disrupt the earth elements that were turning the ground softer.

Thus with a swipe, the mole man made his way inside of his replica medallion. Inside was a large group of humanoid puppets that reached up to the core formation level of power. They were the prison guards that he used to carry off prisoners of war. After they were defeated he only needed to use slave collars that sapped them of their strength so that they could not escape.

"One down... and one more to go?"

While the mole men were taken care of, for now, the red bony demi-humans were still attacking. Zhang Zhi had suffered some minor injuries as their commander class leader was close to him in power and skill. But with the help of his many minions, the tide was shifting in the demi-human's favor.

"Zhi that's enough, let me handle him."

He called out to his retainer that surprisingly didn't just nod his head and move away. Instead, he just looked at him with indignation in his eyes.

"I see, you wish to face him alone, very well I will set the stage for you just don't lose."

"You have my gratitude, Patriarch!"

As always he replied with a lot of vigor in his voice. While Zhang Dong could easily wipe the floor with this demi-human that wasn't the problem. Zhang Zhi still had his honor as a master, he wanted to prove that he was worthy of being part of the sect.

Thus to accommodate that request all the small fries need to be exterminated. Thus by gathering his Qi he surrounded the area around Zhang Zhi and his red opponent so that no one could come inside. It was a ring created for just the two of them. The red minions weren't happy about this though as they tried attacking the barrier. When they did, their bodies were electrocuted and turned to ashes in almost an instant.

"You red bastards have other things to worry about than your master..."

The air around Zhang Dong started crackling as lightning bolts appeared. There was no one here beside him and Zhang Zhi now could truly let it loose. By clapping once with his hands he surrounded his entire body with a thick layer of Qi. The demi-humans turned to face him, their disfigured faces for the first time showing dread as they knew that their opponent was far above them.

"Let's dance..."