

Worth 371

Chapter 371: New Member of the Adonis Association!

The Eternal Fortress in the New Mars Region would be ten thousand times the scale of its prototype. It covered a shockingly large area, and the Eternal Fortress of Wang Baole's would also be equipped with facilities that were previously uncompleted during the assessment. They would be fully furnished through the construction of the new city zone!

Wang Baole was extremely busy throughout the process of the stronghold's construction. After all, this Eternal Fortress was an independent structure of his. After going through the initial construction process during the assessment, some issues had surfaced, despite it looking extremely imposing. Those issues, however, weren't obvious to outsiders.

Wang Baole was, after all, the person who was most familiar with the workings of the Eternal Fortress throughout the Federation.

According to his estimations, it was possible to construct a new city zone that could house a hundred million people within half a year. However, a lengthy period of time was still needed to test the quality of the new city zone, as well as its ability to withstand the Beast Tide.

Therefore, the deadline Wang Baole set for himself to construct the prototype of the new city zone was three months. In the three months following that, construction would continue while the city zone underwent continual tests to see if it could resist the Beast Tide. That would take place until a total of six months had passed, when the initial stage of the new city zone had been completed and undergone some tests. That way, the safety of the people who were to move into the new region would be guaranteed.

In order to achieve this goal, it was necessary to have sufficient resources and manpower. With the hundred thousand workers available right now, Wang Baole analyzed the situation and felt that it was still far from what would be required.

The three vice mayors of mine will probably arrive within a few days... Along the way, Wang Baole had already planned out where his four vice mayors would be positioned.

He knew well that he had the advantage afforded to him for winning the assessment. He could forcefully pressure others at the start, but once they gained a footing, it would require some effort to pressure them.

He naturally wouldn't let go of this early-stage advantage. Therefore, after thinking about it silently in his mind, he made a decision.

Li Yi's responsibility will be to construct the stronghold according to my plans. This is a responsibility that she cannot shrug off and perhaps would even delight in doing. After all, that position gives her the greatest power, secondary only to mine.

This way, the White Deer Dao College will have nothing to be unhappy about. As for me, I will be able to make my stance this way... Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. Being familiar with the teachings of the high

officials' autobiographies, he knew that in order to find fault with someone, the first step was to give them a task.

If not, it would naturally be difficult to pinpoint that person's weaknesses.

As for Kong Dao... even though City Lord Lin mentioned that it wasn't necessary to care about him and that I could even try to become friends with him after resolving the grudges between us, that is challenging as well. I'm annoyed the moment I see him... After thinking about it, Wang Baole felt that it was most appropriate to position Kong Dao in the military zone in order to guard the Divine Armament Catacombs.

After all, the most important area of the New Mars Region was the Divine Armament Zone. Wang Baole analyzed the situation and concluded that Kong Dao wouldn't reject the arrangement. At the same time, the military would be satisfied, since that would allow the military to acquire first-hand news about the Divine Armament Catacombs.

This way, I remove the chances of us meeting, since there would be less of a chance of us being in the same area. This makes it easier to manage the situation. Wang Baole sat in his unadorned office and took out a bag of snacks to munch on while thinking about the task to allocate to Jin Duoming when he arrived.

Since Jin Duoming has the potential to become the director of Trilunaris Corporation, he would naturally be confident in management affairs. Even though his abilities aren't obvious, this task shall be given to him! After finishing the snacks in a mouthful, Wang Baole came to a decision to place Jin Duoming in charge of managing the internal affairs of the new city zone.

As for Lin Tianhao, Wang Baole didn't have too many concerns. He was one of his own and would be in charge of the disciplinary and law enforcement departments.

After making arrangements for the placement of his four vice mayors, Wang Baole felt that his understanding of the high officials' autobiographies had deepened yet again. After all, real understanding comes with putting what was learned to use. With delight in his heart, he took out a bottle of Ice Spirit Water, feeling emotional as he took a gulp.

As the leader, I need to learn not to be suspicious of the people under my lead! This could also be considered a platform that I have provided for them to show their capabilities. As for me, it is sufficient as long as I have a grasp over manpower and finances.

Hah, with manpower and finances in my grasp, I will be able to oversee the entire operation! Wang Baole felt that his status was different from before. He hummed a happy tune while walking out of his unadorned office. He looked at the busy construction going on and immediately corrected any aspect that he deemed was out of place wherever he passed. That was especially so for the location where the seal of the Divine Armament Catacombs was located.

Wang Baole was clear about the purpose of the stronghold. He was even more clear that if there were no Divine Armament Catacombs, the new city zone wouldn't garner the attention of the various factions in the Federation.

Therefore, the Divine Armament Catacombs was the key.

The goal of constructing the stronghold is to support the Qi Fostering Spirit Array Formation, and the purpose of this array formation is to demolish the barrier under the Divine Armament Catacombs's seal. At the same time, once the stronghold is in operation, the Divine Armament Catacombs seal would then be activated once in a while to relieve the internal pressure. The stronghold would also require an automatic killing mechanism, as well as facilities with protective purposes.

It is only through this manner that a cycle could be initiated. Only when the cycle has begun could the New Mars Region be considered to have been constructed successfully! Wang Baole thought silently, as he arrived outside the Divine Armament Catacombs.

Right now, there had already been transformations to its appearance. Bases had already been erected in the area, and over ten thousand workers were hard at work in the construction process. There were so many workers that the crater was about to be completely filled.

The donkey was also there, behaving suspiciously like a thief. It occasionally looked at the pile of resources, its saliva uncontrollably flowing out of its mouth. It would then look at the Divine Armament Catacombs seal, as if waiting for its dream food to fly out of it from within.

Seeing that the donkey was behaving like a good-for-nothing, rage arose in Wang Baole, and he went forward to give the donkey a kick. The donkey had endured Wang Baole's beatings so frequently that its skin had already thickened, and it didn't feel anything after being kicked. Instead, it looked energetically at Wang Baole, instinctively revealing a look that implied that it was trying to get into Wang Baole's good books.

"Dumb donkey, know that the resources here are all accounted for. It doesn't matter whether you eat them or not, as long as something goes missing, I will bash you up and shut your mouth as punishment!" Wang Baole stared sternly, and the donkey grew shocked and nervous after hearing his words.

It appeared that it had already developed some consciousness to be able to understand the meaning of what Wang Baole said. It would be his fault regardless of whether he ate the resources or if others stole them.

Therefore, it hurriedly rubbed its head on Wang Baole's thigh as if asking for forgiveness. After being kicked once again by Wang Baole, it seemed to have lost all hope, understanding that appealing to him was futile. The donkey sneezed loudly, and its eyes reddened as it looked ruthlessly at the construction workers like a supervisor...

Soon, as the days passed, Wang Baole delightedly found out that he had gained another pair of eyes, which was in the form of the donkey. It was working day and night within the new city zone, continuously checking whether resources were lacking. Once it found that something didn't match up, it would roar like crazy, reminding Wang Baole and Lin Tianhao to take a look.

Lin Tianhao thought nothing much of it initially, but after finding issues repeatedly, he looked at the donkey in shock as he realized that the donkey could count, which could be considered a miracle.

When he conveyed his surprise to Wang Baole, Wang Baole cleared his throat, feeling that he was indeed smart to be able to extract the best use out of trash. When he looked at Lin Tianhao and recalled that Lin Tianhao's workload for the past few days had significantly exceeded that of his own, he satisfyingly patted his shoulder, deciding to send him an invitation.

“Tianhao, you’ve heard of the Adonis Association, right? Now, Zhuo Yifan, Zhao Yameng, and I are the members, as our appearances are of a certain standard. That was how the Adonis Association started.

“Even though your figure isn’t as impressive, and you don’t look as handsome as me, we are brothers. Therefore, I officially declare that from now on, you are the fourth adonis of the Adonis Association!”

Lin Tianhao didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. He felt that Wang Baole’s judgment of figure and appearance was perhaps different from his own. However, he knew that he was completely entwined with Wang Baole and would live and die with him!

Furthermore, through the time he had spent with Wang Baole on Mars, he has been transformed under his influence. Therefore, after hearing Wang Baole’s words, Lin Tianhao, who was half-sitting before Wang Baole, suddenly stood up and agitatedly announced.

“Greetings, Chairman!”

Chapter 372: Foundation Establishment Late-Stage!

Wang Baole sat there feeling satisfied as he accepted Lin Tianhao’s greeting. Seeing how agitated Lin Tianhao was to be accepted into the Adonis Association, Wang Baole was heartened.

“I have toiled all my life, sacrificing my youth for the Federation, for the people, and for the Adonis Association, all without rest...” Wang Baole chatted briefly with Lin Tianhao before sending him away. He sat on the chair, munching on a chicken leg as emotional thoughts flooded his mind.

“I can imagine that perhaps in the future, there would be a day when I recount my deepest regrets. That would be creating the Adonis Association, as my greatest desire would be to live life peacefully like an ordinary person...” As he spoke, Wang Baole felt that his life was tough, as every few days, he would be kept busy for hours on end.

Sighing while shaking his head, Wang Baole ate a chicken leg and drank three bottles of Ice Spirit Water. After, he patted his stomach and took out a bag of potato chips, munching on them noisily as he walked out of his unadorned office to continue his inspection.

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye just like that. In the two weeks that passed, Wang Baole didn’t forget to continue his cultivation while eating and busying himself with various affairs. He was clear that in the Spirit Inception Era, cultivation was foundation.

That was especially so when he realized that as he proceeded with cultivation, the rate at which his cultivation was improving had been significantly increased, perhaps due to the emergence of the Dark Fire. Right now, he felt that he was just a step away from achieving a breakthrough.

Wang Baole had originally planned to wait and achieve a breakthrough naturally. In this way, he wouldn’t waste time used for eating and handling official affairs. However, the thought had emerged for less than two days when he realized that the donkey had achieved a breakthrough...

In the process of endless supervision and inspection of the resources, the donkey had somehow stepped into the Foundation Establishment realm!

That shocked Wang Baole, especially when he noticed that after the donkey reached Foundation Establishment realm that it put up a resistance when he wanted to check if it had gained any additional abilities, and even ran away...

At the same time, a look of arrogance appeared in its eyes, which made Wang Baole gasp as he stared on. He felt that the donkey no longer knew who his daddy was, and dared to resist the commands from a handsome person like him.

Trying to rebel, huh? In his anger, Wang Baole felt that he needed to teach the donkey a lesson so that it would understand that he would raise his son not just by calling it his son, but through beatings.

With that anger, Wang Baole activated his cultivation and caught up with the donkey. Without waiting for it to speak, he ordered it to shut its mouth, and then beat it up.

Immediately, the donkey was reduced to a pitiful state, but was unable to make a single noise and couldn't escape. Wang Baole was only satisfied and stopped after the donkey revealed a look of obedience in its eyes. He then lifted the order for the donkey to shut its mouth. Noticing that the donkey wanted to make noise again, he kicked it hard.

Instantly, the donkey hurriedly shut its mouth, looking at Wang Baole obediently with a clear look of wanting to curry his favor.

"You know where you stand now, right? Say it, who are you to me?" Wang Baole spoke calmly, with his hands behind his back.

"Son! Son!" The donkey trembled. Even though it was unwilling, that was the only sound it could make. In its helplessness, it could only scream.

That scene was watched by the others who were busy with the construction work around them. They were bewildered, confused, and frightened, as they were also clueless as to how to treat the donkey. It took its responsibility as a supervisor seriously and had reached a maniacal level in its inspection of the resources, such that it would know even if a screw was missing.

That made many who were looking to earn a small fortune through the construction of the new city zone annoyed, but now that they noticed the donkey being beaten up, they were secretly happy.

However, they were delighted too early. When Wang Baole turned to leave while swaggering in an exaggerated manner, the donkey that seemed to have been beaten to the brink of being handicapped previously immediately leaped up, shivering as there was no damage to its roughened skin. When it turned, it looked ruthlessly at those busybodies and sneezed, growing even more enthusiastic and diligent in inspecting the resources.

It seemed to have realized that it was no match for Wang Baole, the tyrant. The helplessness it felt in its heart was channeled towards the busybodies instead.

Wang Baole could see that the little donkey had become even more maniacal and diligent, but didn't care much. Right now, he was experiencing a lot of stress, as to him, the rate at which the donkey's cultivation was improving was increasing swiftly.

If there happens to be a day when the donkey reaches Core Formation realm before me... Thinking about the consequences of that possibility, Wang Baole shuddered. His head felt numb as the scene of himself being savagely beaten by the donkey while he tried to run away surfaced continuously in his mind... Eventually, he might still have to yield to the donkey as he heard the donkey shouting 'Son! Son!'.

That image was so frightening that Wang Baole's heart palpitated rapidly. He hurriedly tried to wipe that sinister scene from his mind. After that, a look of determination appeared in his eyes as he immediately went into seclusion.

That shall never happen!

It must be mentioned that the breakthrough in the donkey's cultivation agitated Wang Baole significantly, such that he put everything aside and went into seclusion. In the seclusion process, he didn't bother about external affairs, having passed the responsibility to Lin Tianhao.

On the one hand, he believed in Lin Tianhao's ability. On the other hand, the construction was going according to plan. As long as there were no hiccups, everything would go smoothly even without Wang Baole overseeing it.

Therefore, he settled down and immersed himself fully in cultivation. As he meditated with his legs crossed, he continually activated the force of his cultivation according to the initial teachings of Lightning Dao: First Volume in order to nurture the two Heavenly Thunders in his legs, while trying to carve the third lightning tattoo on his left arm to form the third Heavenly Thunder.

Other than that, Wang Baole also began practicing for the cultivation of Dark Fire while in seclusion. He soon realized that the rate of practicing the Dark Art outside the Divine Armament Catacombs was significantly faster than inside the Martian City by at least ten times.

That shocked Wang Baole. He vaguely felt that if there was no blockage by the seal of the Divine Armament Catacombs, the speed of his cultivation could be even faster.

As for the level that he would eventually be able to reach, Wang Baole couldn't put his finger on it. To him, matters like these were both like a sharp blade and a matter of fate!

Wang Baole breathed rapidly, taking a while before he finally calmed down. He thought about it with a bizarre look in his eyes and didn't attempt to try it out immediately in a rash manner. Instead, he calmed himself further, practicing the Dark Art in conjunction with the Lightning Dao: First Volume, continuously nurturing the third Heavenly Thunder and the third Dark Fire!

Days passed just like that. After a month, Wang Baole, who happened to be meditating, suddenly opened his eyes, and a chilly look was immediately revealed, as if Dark Fire was burning in his eyes. The ground around and beneath him instantly turned cold, with visible black sheets of ice forming on the walls around him.

That was not all. There was a current running through the ice. The area of seclusion looked extremely bizarre!

As for his cultivation, it had directly broken through Foundation Establishment mid-stage, reaching late-stage Foundation Establishment realm the moment he opened his eyes!

By the time he achieved a breakthrough in his cultivation, the construction going on outside the area of seclusion was more than fifty percent complete. It could be seen that the location where the prototype of the New Mars Region was located, which was where the Divine Armament Catacombs was, had been changed!

The appearance of the Divine Armament Catacombs had been transformed, with a large wall encircling it, enveloping it completely. There was a gigantic cover where waves of Spirit energy were churning within, forming several invisible Spirit threads.

The Spirit threads circled continuously in the area, occasionally criss-crossing over one another to form a huge net. That was part of Wang Baole's plans to form a Dharmic Artifact meant to destroy the Beast Tide.

The Beast Tide wouldn't be able to escape, and would immediately be torn to pieces by the Spirit thread. Their corpses and blood would fall to the ground and be absorbed by the array formation, forming the nourishment of the Qi Fostering Spirit Array Formation, resulting in the production of a cycle as it broke down the Beast Tide within the catacombs.

Now, the initial stages of the array formation had been completed. There were also many people guarding and repairing it. However, at that moment, within the Divine Armament Catacombs, a loud roar suddenly emerged, and the face that had appeared previously and shocked the entire Federation suddenly appeared again from under the array formation!

It was more vigorous this time, as if there was an existence it desired that made it want to dash out like a maniac.

This sudden change immediately threw everyone into a state of shock. As they retreated in fright, the emergence of that face activated the alert system, and ear-piercing alert rings reverberated in the large prototype of the new city zone.

Instantly, innumerable figures rushed to the location!

Chapter 373: Banging!

Of those people, there was Lin Tianhao, as well as Li Yi and Kong Dao!

During the period of Wang Baole's seclusion, Kong Dao and Li Yi both arrived. Kong Dao didn't do much, but Li Yi immediately interfered in the construction of the new city zone, even putting forth hard-headed suggestions in many areas, requesting that changes be made.

Those requests, which were unreasonable in Lin Tianhao's eyes, were immediately rejected by him. In front of Wang Baole, he had suffered and therefore yielded, which made him seem weak. However, as the son of a senator, Lin Tianhao was considered prominent regardless of which faction he was in.

Comparing his background, he didn't lose out, and comparing his Noble, he had caught up and was now a Secondary Rank Four Noble like Li Yi. Comparing his cultivation, even though he was merely someone who had perfected the early-stage Foundation Establishment realm, Li Yi was still nowhere near superior to him.

This way, Lin Tianhao's prominence was strongly conveyed. It wasn't a simple rejection, but outright disregard. During that period of time, the clashes between them grew.

Even so, with the sounding of the alarm, the group of them charged towards the area in all seriousness. When they saw the huge face within the seal, they jumped out of their bodies in shock. Suddenly, the face was no longer screaming and was instead slowly calming down.

The alarm also stopped ringing at this moment.

The instant the face sank, Wang Baole heard the alarm and retracted his Dark Fire. When he stood up, the chilliness around him visibly disappeared. When everything returned to normal, Wang Baole, who emerged out of seclusion, rushed to the Divine Armament seal, looking extremely serious.

He didn't know what the issue was, but according to his plans, the alarm would only sound when an extreme crisis occurs.

Therefore, even though the alarm had stopped ringing now, he was still charging at an extremely fast speed. He arrived not long after Lin Tianhao and company were inspecting the situation. He neared the area immediately, stepping out of the circular array formation. Lin Tianhao immediately noticed him, and hurriedly greeted him respectfully.

"Greetings, Mayor!"

Kong Dao and Li Yi stood looking coldly at Wang Baole without greeting him. If it were in another situation, Wang Baole would definitely throw them a death stare. However, right now, he didn't have time to think about all that. He hurriedly neared and immediately inquired.

"What's the situation!?"

Lin Tianhao didn't dare to cause any delay, immediately speaking in a hushed voice and telling Wang Baole everything they knew and saw. That shocked Wang Baole, as he looked at the Divine Armament Catacombs seal that had returned to a state of calmness, and he thought about the time...

That was the exact time when I achieved cultivation breakthrough, the moment when the Dark Art wasn't suppressed... When I heard the alarm, I immediately withdrew the Dark Art, and with that, the alarm stopped and the face sank. Wang Baole was deep in thought as he checked everything thoroughly. After that, he began inspecting the construction, ensuring that there was nothing wrong with it and that everything was going according to plan, before leaving.

From start to end, Li Yi and Kong Dao stood there without speaking to Wang Baole. Wang Baole also disregarded them and muttered under his breath as he left.

Putting on airs in my territory? With that thought, he turned to look at Lin Tianhao, speaking with a look of dissatisfaction in his eyes.

"Tianhao, I spent about a month in seclusion right? It's been almost two months since we've arrived here, hasn't it?"

Lin Tianhao estimated the time in his mind and immediately agreed.

“Yes, it’s been almost two months. My three vice mayors haven’t reported to work. That’s interesting. It seems like they don’t wish to suffer here. Tianhao, go to the Martian City to meet the Martian Colony Governor now to inform her about what happened. Tell them that if they’re unwilling to come, I don’t want them either!” Wang Baole spoke arrogantly, wanting to leave after that. However, Li Yi and Kong Dao, who were standing nearby, were immediately angered.

“Wang, are you blind!?” Li Yi had initially wanted to take over whatever Wang Baole refined, but since losing, she had lost all will, feeling that she must have been kicked by the donkey to have made Wang Baole fall in love with her. Listening to Wang Baole’s words now, she grew even more furious.

“Oh?” Wang Baole turned around, throwing a glance at Li Yi, before turning to ask Lin Tianhao.

“Who’s that?”

Li Yi was about to explode from anger. A fire was raging in her eyes, and she looked furiously at Wang Baole while speaking with gritted teeth.

“Wang Baole, don’t go overboard and feign ignorance here. Do you think...”

“Shut up!” Without waiting for Li Yi to finish what she had wanted to say, Wang Baole bellowed, the late-stage of his Foundation Establishment realm cultivation exploding, instantly forming a strong force that directly suppressed Li Yi!

Li Yi trembled violently, feeling as if her eardrums were about to be broken apart. At the same time, she sensed the transformation in Wang Baole’s cultivation and immediately gasped. Even Kong Dao, who was beside her, was shocked, his facial expression changing wildly. He hadn’t noticed it with the alarm sounding previously. Furthermore, Wang Baole instinctively tried to hide it when he arrived, which made this sudden activation of Wang Baole’s cultivation catch the attention of Kong Dao.

“You still know that I am Wang Baole? Vice Mayor Li, do you know then that you’re just an assistant? You don’t greet me when you see me and are instead waiting for me to greet you?” Wang Baole reprimanded, without a hint of politeness.

His cultivation, status, and responsibility were all superior to Li Yi. Right now, whatever he said reigned, putting so much pressure on Li Yi that she was aghast with shock and hyperventilating.

Kong Dao also fell silent, knowing that it was unwise for him to say anything right now.

Seeing that Wang Baole was reprimanding Li Yi, Lin Tianhao gloated in his heart. He had grown extremely annoyed at Li Yi during this period of time, and now, he opened his mouth to speak.

“Mayor, I would like to confess... After Vice Mayor Li arrived here, she made many suggestions that weren’t in line with the foundational blueprint for the Eternal Fortress that was given by you. I didn’t dare to apply them, which resulted in delays in the construction process...”

Wang Baole raised his brows upon hearing Lin Tianhao’s words, and he looked towards Li Yi.

“Mayor Wang went into seclusion the moment he arrived and didn’t care about how things were progressing over here, eventually resulting in chaos. As the vice mayor, I would naturally have to oversee the construction of the new city zone. What is wrong with expressing my opinion about it?” Li Yi raised her head, recovering from being reprimanded previously as she looked coldly at Wang Baole.

“You can. From now on, Vice Mayor Li won’t only be in charge of the area of the seal, but also the construction of the entire Eternal Fortress. Tianhao, pass a copy of the blueprint for the Eternal Fortress to Vice Mayor Li later on.” Wang Baole spoke decisively, shocking Lin Tianhao. Even though he wasn’t sure why Wang Baole responded this way, he still hurriedly nodded his head.

Li Yi was taken aback as well. She had originally planned to find a chance to interfere later on, eventually gaining the power to oversee the construction through a dramatic underhand scheme. Her goal was only to be in charge of twenty to thirty percent of the entire process.

However, she had never imagined that Wang Baole would hand over the entire responsibility for the construction to her. However, even though she was suspicious, she immediately accepted the power that she had been bestowed.

Without bothering himself further with Li Yi, Wang Baole turned to look at Kong Dao.

Kong Dao was silent. He thought about the time he made a pact with his foster father and the Mars military when he first arrived, and how Wang Baole had flipped between being the leader and relinquishing his power in a give-and-take manner, which gave him an indescribable gut feeling. He didn’t know what it was, but he instinctively felt that there was danger lurking.

However, he still greeted Wang Baole expressionlessly.

“Greetings, Mayor Wang.”

Wang Baole smiled vaguely, nodding his head before speaking calmly.

“Mayor Kong...”

“Say no more, Mayor Wang!” Kong Dao interjected Wang Baole mid-sentence.

“Didn’t you already communicate my role with the military previously? I won’t participate in any construction, and will only be responsible in guarding the Divine Armament Catacombs while periodically releasing the seal to do an internal cleansing. As for the resources, I have already reported to Mayor Lin, and I won’t participate in any audit!”

“The alarm just sounded here, and I need to inspect in greater detail. If nothing’s the matter, I will be taking my leave.” As he spoke, Kong Dao didn’t pay any further attention to Wang Baole. Instead, he turned and led his army of military cultivators and began stringent inspections outside the Divine Armament Catacombs.

Wang Baole looked at Kong Dao and squinted his eyes. He didn’t say anything and turned to lead Lin Tianhao out of the Divine Armament Catacombs’s seal. Li Yi threw a glance at Kong Dao before looking away. Thinking about the power she had just gained, her heart palpitated. Even though she was still suspicious, she was no longer hesitant. Even if there were to be anything amiss with this matter, she wasn’t afraid!

Perhaps, this is a sign that Wang Baole is bowing down to the White Deer Dao College...

Chapter 374: To Not Commit Oneself Until Success Is Certain

As he left with Wang Baole, Lin Tianhao had wanted to say something but stopped himself, until he could no longer bear it when the two of them reached the Mayor's Office in the new city zone—which now had its initial stage completed. He cupped his fists at Wang Baole and spoke.

“Mayor, this Li Yi must be plotting something. Furthermore, when she came, she brought along thousands of escorts, behaving in an imposing manner as she interfered with each and every matter...”

“Now that Mayor Wang has given her control over the new city zone's construction, I am worried that.. problems will arise.” Lin Tianhao couldn't understand what Wang Baole was thinking. Even though he felt that Wang Baole wasn't one to let others take advantage of him and that those who opposed him wouldn't be any better off either, he was still worried about Li Yi's presence, and he softly reminded Wang Baole.

Seeing how much effort Lin Tianhao had put in, Wang Baole was heartened as he patted his shoulder. He sat down and took out a bag of snacks, cheerfully speaking as he munched on them.

“Tianhao, I know what I'm doing in my handling of the matter. What I need you to do next is to keep a close eye on Li Yi. Don't stop her for anything. Instead, report everything to me as soon as you can.”

Lin Tianhao blinked in a confused manner. He wasn't ignorant, and after hearing Wang Baole's words, he thought about what Wang Baole had been through. Immediately, a look of realization flashed across his face as he finally understood that Wang Baole was trying to trick Li Yi into making a mistake.

Therefore, Lin Tianhao heaved a sigh of relief and agreed. He then discussed matters regarding the construction of the new city zone and left after receiving instructions from Wang Baole.

As he watched Lin Tianhao leave, Wang Baole patted his stomach in a satisfied manner and chuckled.

Li Yi, right now, the cave has been dug for you. What's next is to see how you would jump into it yourself.

While Wang Baole was basking in delight, Li Yi was leading the escorts arranged by the four Dao Colleges, arriving at her designated workplace. She fell silent, as she still felt that something was amiss, but was excited to start work at the same time.

She understood that this was a golden opportunity for her!

In reality, she was extremely unhappy that Wang Baole had become the mayor. To her, she found it easier to accept Kong Dao as the mayor instead. However, as fate would have it, that pig became the person in charge of the new city zone, which made her feel indignant and disgusted.

This time, her goal wasn't to become the vice mayor. Instead, it was to kick Wang Baole away and take charge of everything. This wasn't approved by the White Deer Dao College, but Li Yi felt that the Dao College would support her if it became a reality.

The people from the Dao College obviously hate Wang Baole to the core. However, they are too pedantic, giving excuses about stability, and about how the time isn't right... Everything is in the control of our own hands, and that is the greatest form of stability. As for the right time for things to happen... that is created by humans too! Li Yi sneered, unhappy that the Dao College didn't support her views.

As a result of her goal and attitude, she immediately took initiative and grabbed hold of power when Wang Baole went into seclusion previously. She wanted a part in every matter, as her goal was to remove Wang Baole from power.

She had planned to do everything step by step and estimated that she would need a year's time to slowly and successfully reach her goal. However, now that Wang Baole had relinquished his authority to her, Li Yi was agitated, her eyes revealing a look of bewilderment.

She was very clear that Wang Baole had become the mayor with the entire Federation as his witness. That meant that he had a strong backing and foundation, which made it difficult for the situation to change, unless...

"I just have to prove that his Eternal Fortress isn't as perfect as others have imagined, and is no match for my Global Dharma City!" Li Yi mumbled. She understood that in order to achieve this, she couldn't do it in an obvious manner, and should instead appear to abide by the rules on the surface while going against them in secret. It would appear that she was constructing the Eternal Fortress, but was actually waiting to ambush.

At the same time, she belittled the Eternal Fortress. In her opinion, she was the representative of the four Dao Colleges. Even though her Global Dharma City had failed in the assessment, it still lasted until the end. Wang Baole may have won, but his stronghold was destroyed eventually as well.

That was what made Li Yi so confident.

Once I have proven this point, the Dao College would naturally take action and collaborate with other factions to kick Wang Baole away, in order for me to smoothly ascend to the position of the new mayor! With that thought, Li Yi grew even more passionate as she immediately pushed aside her suspicions and became determined. She secretly made plans to pretend to be constructing the Eternal Fortress on the surface, while building her own Global Dharma City in secret!

However, she also didn't dare to make her movements too obvious. Therefore, she focused her attention on a corner of the Eternal Fortress, designating it as an area for the Global Dharma City. There was something that she wasn't too clear about, and that was that Wang Baole seemed to be responsible for constructing the stronghold, but was actually facilitating the Qi Fostering Spirit Array Formation!

After all, this new city zone was constructed in order to form the array formation. This matter was considered a secret, and people who were Secondary Rank Three or below didn't have the authority to know about it. Wang Baole was an exception, as he had a unique identity and was informed by the Martian Colony Governor.

Even though Li Yi also knew about it, she didn't have a complete view like Wang Baole did. Naturally, she couldn't possess the blueprint for New Mars Region's array formation like Wang Baole!

In reality, minor adjustments had been made to Wang Baole's Eternal Fortress so that the stronghold and the array formation could integrate with each other perfectly!

That meant that no matter how powerful Li Yi's Global Dharma City was, it would be difficult for it to integrate perfectly with the array formation. This way, errors would be obvious.

Right now, however, Li Yi didn't seem to realize that and was instead very excited for the day to arrive when she could prove that her Global Dharma City was superior to the Eternal Fortress.

Just like that, time passed. The construction of the new city zone officially began, with transformations visible every day. Areas of construction and plots of land were constantly being constructed at an astonishing speed.

It was also at this moment that Jin Duoming finally arrived. As the last vice mayor, he may be late, but he brought along an astounding amount of resources and manpower. The speed at which the new city zone was being constructed had visibly increased by the second day he arrived.

After meeting Jin Duoming, Wang Baole relinquished more of his power, passing Jin Duoming the responsibility to act like a housekeeper responsible for the internal affairs of the new city zone. He even told Jin Duoming that this was a chance for him to prove himself!

That surprised Jin Duoming. He felt that what Wang Baole said made sense, and since he had nothing better to do, he was enthusiastic about his job. However, after a few days, he felt tired and bitter.

There were simply too many things to handle and oversee in the new city zone's construction process. If everyone worked equally hard, it wouldn't feel so miserable. However, Wang Baole was the one who became the freest, having time to either cultivate or bring the donkey walking in the new city zone. Therefore, after bearing with it for a few days, Jin Duoming finally exploded in unhappiness, realizing that he didn't even have time to flirt with the ladies anymore.

However, the way he expressed his unhappiness wasn't to argue with Wang Baole. Instead, he sent an order to Trilunaris Corporation, assigning hundreds of management elites from Mars to become his assistants, helping him to manage the internal affairs of Mars. This way, he could relax and had the time to pursue Li Yi...

The way Jin Duoming went after girls in the past was to give them a ton of money until the other party gave in. However, this time, he decided to try a different method to see if he could move Li Yi, not by giving money, but by pursuing her with his capabilities.

He already had this idea when he was in the Martian City, and this thought had remained now that he was in the New Mars Region. He was around Li Yi every single day, which made Li Yi extremely annoyed. However, when she thought about Jin Duoming's status, she rolled her eyes and bore with the annoyance, occasionally stirring discord between Jin Duoming and Wang Baole.

In response to Li Yi trying to sow discord, Jin Duoming always appeared to be angry at Wang Baole, wanting to go against him. In reality, however, he wasn't the least bit affected, as he understood the implications of the matter, and didn't want to be part of the battle between the two of them.

However, he still hinted to Li Yi that as long as she became one of his Dao partners, he would immediately roll up his sleeves and bash Wang Baole up.

This attitude of not committing oneself until success is certain made Li Yi grit her teeth. Seeing Li Yi's response, Jin Duoming was heartbroken, as he felt that it was a beautiful sight. He decided to secretly support Wang Baole!

That was because the more he supported Wang Baole, the more powerful Wang Baole would be. At the same time, Li Yi would become more angry and annoyed, and that would perhaps make Li Yi agree to become his.

In order to agitate Li Yi even more, Jin Duoming didn't hide his support for Wang Baole and instead made it very obvious to Li Yi.

"Can you see that with the resources I hold, whoever I help would be at an advantage. How's this? If you become one of my three hundred Dao partners, I will help you!"

"You a**hole! Get lost!" Li Yi exploded at Jin Duoming angrily.

Chapter 375: The Sound From Within the Catacombs!

It's so troublesome to pursue a girl. After Jin Duoming was hurled out of Li Yi's office, he entered his luxurious cruiser, leaving dejectedly with his bodyguards surrounding him.

Jin Duoming lay in the embrace of one of his servants while snacking on fruits that had been peeled by the other beautiful servant ladies surrounding him. He was filled with emotional thoughts, as he felt that Li Yi was a challenge to pursue. Therefore, he was thinking about whether to adopt his previous method, which was to overwhelm her with money...

No, I should move her with my sincerity and let her know that she would be safest in my arms. Jin Duoming put on a look of seriousness, thinking about how he needed to plan carefully before executing anything.

While Jin Duoming was in deep thought about how to improve the relationship between himself and Li Yi, Wang Baole finally managed to completely stabilize his cultivation. In reality, during this period of time, he appeared to be inspecting the construction of the stronghold, but most of the time, he was searching for a place where the speed of his Dark Art cultivation could take place at a faster speed.

He realized that even though the speed of Dark Art cultivation increased the nearer he was to the Divine Armament Catacombs, similar effects could be obtained at a few other areas as well.

However, the Divine Armament Catacombs still afforded the most convenience. It could also be imaginable that once he entered into the seal, the extent of his cultivation there would reach an unimaginable state.

It was similar to there being a giant cake that was inaccessible for Wang Baole to eat. It wasn't out of bounds, it was just... too dangerous.

Caught between a mix of struggle and disappointment, the initial stage of the new city zone's construction gradually reached completion. There was still other construction work to follow, but according to Wang Baole's plans, this was the time to test out the degree to which the array formation integrated with the stronghold.

Not only was there only three months left before the deadline set by the Martian Colony Governor to relocate the people would arrive, but these three months were also crucial for Wang Baole to ensure

that there were no issues with his New Mars Region. Even if problems were to surface, they would need to be rectified immediately.

Never should he wait until after the hundred million people had moved in to solve the problems. Otherwise, if he didn't do a good job, disaster might occur.

Wang Baole placed a lot of emphasis on this matter. Therefore, after the initial stage of the New Mars Region's construction had been completed, he immediately notified the Martian Colony Governor. Eventually, the Martian Colony Governor bestowed Wang Baole with authority over the seal, and after all the preparations had been made, Wang Baole tried to activate the Divine Armament seal.

As a loud boom reverberated and all the necessary protective measures had been put in place, a corner of the Divine Armament Catacombs seal was opened. Immediately, a roaring noise resounded in all directions, and numerous Beast Tides emerged without control.

The moment they emerged, the invisible array formation threads suddenly became obvious in the sealed area where the Divine Armament Catacombs was located. The threads slashed in all directions, and immediately, painful screams reverberated, and flesh and blood flew in all directions. Countless limbless bodies fell onto the ground after being cut into pieces.

Wang Baole, Li Yi, Jin Duoming, Kong Dao, Lin Tianhao, and all the other people put on a serious look as they stood inside the command center, watching everything unfold through the spirit screen.

No one said anything. Their eyes were all fixated on the spirit screen. They saw the flesh and blood flying in all directions and also noticed how the corpses and flesh dissolved rapidly upon falling to the ground.

Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. The other people didn't have a full understanding, but Wang Baole knew very clearly that the corpses and the flesh had all become the driving force and energy of the array formation.

Before long, the continual acts of defense and killings going on in the Divine Armament Catacombs ended, and everything returned to normal. Wang Baole tried to increase the opening of the seal, releasing even more powerful ferocious beasts. Tests like these took place for several days. During that period, they discovered many problems. After that, Wang Baole immediately shut the seal and gathered manpower to rectify the issues immediately.

Three days later, all the repairs were completed, and the seal was lifted once again. This cycle continued for an entire month. As the repair and improvements happened continuously, the protective covering outside the Divine Armament Catacombs was perfected. Sometimes, Core Formation realm ferocious beast could also be killed by the force of the array formation there.

It was only at that moment that Wang Baole could fully heave a sigh of relief. At the same time, the lifting of the seal that happened the past two months significantly reduced the number of Beast Tides that emerged. Therefore, after asking for permission, Kong Dao began carrying out his actual role, and that was to periodically inspect the melting process of the chilly iced barrier in the catacombs.

Even though danger still lurked within the seal, the military had arranged significant manpower to enter the seal during relatively safer times to begin the inspection and discovery process.

It was only relatively safer, as the bizarre-looking face had reappeared twice. It wasn't present all the time, and according to the Federation's judgment, the faces that were transmogrified previously while the barrier was present were merely formed by other gods.

As the masses watched the situation nervously, Kong Dao gritted his teeth and led the men into the seal. No one knew what it was like inside, and after five minutes, Kong Dao and company rushed out. Following them was a large crowd of ferocious beasts that were chasing after them while roaring, who were then killed by the array formation.

This happened again and again for half a month. With every inspection, information regarding the Divine Armament Catacombs was summarized and reported to Wang Baole, who then relayed them to the Martian Colony Governor.

Wang Baole felt solemn looking at the information. Even though Kong Dao and company entered the seal during safer times, there were still many deaths and injuries. At the same time, until now, no one had managed to reach the location where the barrier was located. There were just too many ferocious beasts, and they grew in numbers the deeper they went.

At the same time, Wang Baole sensed that each time the seal was opened, the Dark Fire in his body burned more furiously when he stood near the Divine Armament Catacombs. If there weren't so many people around, Wang Baole wouldn't have controlled his urge to cultivate.

In the end, Wang Baole didn't manage to control his urge. He released the mosquitoes to follow the military personnel as they entered the seal once again for inspection.

The moment they entered, Wang Baole immediately saw the deep tunnels within the catacombs through the eyes of the mosquitoes. The surrounding mud was of a dark red color, and a sinister vibe continuously stimulated Wang Baole's psyche. The deeper they went, the brighter the red color of the mud grew. In the end, it appeared as if blood was circulating within.

At the same time, he noticed the ferocious beasts as well. They were in the form of uncountable globs of flesh wriggling non-stop on the mud walls. Every time one of them broke open, either ferocious beasts or frightening corpses that could move appeared.

That was extremely similar to the blood-colored cave in which Lin Tianhao had met with danger and gone missing. It was little wonder that the Martian Colony Governor, as well as others, had thought that the blood-colored cave was somehow related to the Divine Armament!

Holding his breath, Wang Baole controlled the nine mosquitoes to follow the military cultivators to an assembly point. That was the deepest point that the military, under the lead of Kong Dao, could reach. Even though it was still a distance away from the barrier, there were just too many flesh globs. The slightest movement would awaken them, and unless they were all cleared, it would be difficult to advance further.

Therefore, after placing Dharmic Artifacts all around them, the military quickly retreated. However, the mosquitoes controlled by Wang Baole stayed behind. Wang Baole was silent, and with a look of determination, he controlled the nine mosquitoes and charged deeper within the catacombs!

Without the military cultivators, the nine mosquitoes charged forward at an even greater speed. Even Wang Baole didn't know how far they went, and could only depend on a rough estimation. With his current level of cultivation, he still almost lost all connection with the mosquitoes. When he reached the limits of control, he finally saw the end of the cave.

There was a gigantic piece of chilly ice seal, which gave off a frightening cold. At the same time, even before Wang Baole could take a detailed look, the chilly ice suddenly vibrated, and a huge face that looked extremely frightening appeared. It stared intently at the nine mosquitoes controlled by Wang Baole as it suddenly spoke.

“Dark Child...”

That voice didn't speak in Earth's language and was instead a language that Wang Baole had never heard before. It sounded like a curse, and the moment it emerged, it blasted loudly inside Wang Baole's mind through the mosquitoes, causing him to tremble and his breathing to quicken. Even the Dark Fire in his body was almost out of control.

What made him even more shocked was that even though he had never heard the language used by the other party before, for some reason, when it reverberated in his mind, he found out that he actually understood it!

Chapter 376: An Unforeseen Turn of Events!

There was no need to overthink the matter. Wang Baole knew why he could understand what was being said. He was practicing the Dark Art!

Wang Baole was at the new city zone's command center, and there were people all around him. The Dark Fire inside his body had stirred suddenly and summoned chills inside the command center.

The sudden chill startled Li Yi and everyone else. They were about to investigate its source when the sealed Divine Armament Catacombs suddenly rumbled. A shocking chill erupted from the catacombs suddenly. The giant face appeared again, pressed against the seal. It seemed different from its previous appearances. It seemed to be howling. It howled the same few words repetitively.

“Dark Child!

“Dark Child!”

The unexpected and sudden eruption drew the attention of everyone instantly. The sudden chill didn't affect only the Divine Armament Zone. It spread outward with the appearance of the giant face and led Li Yi and the others into instinctively concluding that it was the source of the earlier chill!

They didn't give the matter further thought. Alarm and terror flashed across their faces, and Wang Baole grew stern as well. He immediately formed a series of hand seals and sealed the catacombs shut. He intensified the defenses as well. The layers of array formations interwove with one another rapidly. The hordes of numerous beasts that had surged out alongside the sudden appearance of the giant face shrieked in agony as they were sliced into pieces.

It took a long moment before the giant receded. The area around the sealed catacombs descended into silence once more. The people in the command center released a sigh of relief. They continued to monitor the situation for a while longer before scattering off.

Wang Baole hadn't spoken a single word throughout the entire ordeal. He headed straight back to his residence, then he started heaving. There were shock and alarm in his eyes. He knew why he could understand what the other creature was saying, and had known that there was some sort of connection between the Dark Art and the Divine Armament Catacombs, but he had still been shocked and alarmed when he had been called a Dark Child.

That's a form of address. Are all cultivators of the Dark Art called a Dark Child? Wang Baole began to grow uneasy. He took out the mask hastily and went in search for Little Missy to answer his doubts. However, Little Missy seemed to have vanished without a trace. He didn't know why that had happened. It didn't matter how many times he called out for her; she didn't reply or show herself.

Wang Baole's anxiety grew. However, he could sense his cultivation of the Dark Art growing significantly just by releasing his mosquitoes into the sealed catacombs. His three Dark Fires burned fierce and strong. He could imagine the speed at which his cultivation would grow if he stepped inside the catacombs personally. It would be so swift it was unimaginable.

Based on the typical rate of progression, I'll need a year or so to progress to the perfected Foundation Establishment realm, regardless of my natural talents and proficiency. That's still a secondary concern. The main concern is progressing from the perfected Foundation Establishment realm to the Core Formation realm. That would be a giant leap... Wang Baole's eyes were bright. He was no longer an inexperienced beginner in the ways of cultivation. He had read up on plenty of materials and information on breaking through the Foundation Establishment realm.

Wang Baole knew very well that every political force in the Federation had Core Formation realm cultivators. From the perspective of the entire cultivator population, a Core Formation realm cultivator stood at the pinnacle. Regardless whether one kept their Core Formation realm cultivation a secret or made it public, there were likely about a few hundred of such cultivators in the entire population.

Most were at the early-stage of the Core Formation realm. The number of mid-stage and late-stage Core Formation realm cultivators tapered off sharply. As for those at the perfected stage of the Core Formation realm... they numbered less than ten across the entire Federation.

Compared to the Core Formation realm cultivators, the number of perfected Foundation Establishment realm cultivators in each political force was significantly higher. There were multiple scores more. However, most of them had reached their limits. It was simply too difficult to achieve another breakthrough in their cultivation.

This was why Wang Baole had been agitated to find out the effects the Divine Armament Catacombs had on the Dark Art. He didn't act recklessly though. Wang Baole knew that as the mayor of the New Mars Region, he held partial control over the native array formation as well as the seal over the Divine Armament Catacombs. He could enter the catacombs anytime to practice.

He had the right to do so. However... the dangers within the sealed Divine Armament Catacombs were unpredictable. Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He shoved down his strong desires and decided to wait for a while longer, until things had stabilized and gotten safer inside. It wouldn't be too late for him then.

He weighed the pros and cons of the matter. Time passed steadily, day after day. The construction of the new city zone continued, and Li Yi became more brazen as she carried out her secret plans. She started to believe that if she were able to modify the defenses of the Divine Armament Catacombs, it would display a greater effect.

This wasn't something she could interfere with, though. The seal and defense of the Divine Armament Catacombs fell fully under the jurisdiction of Wang Baole. Even Kong Dao would find it difficult to interfere.

The six-month mark approached. The waves of beasts escaping from the Divine Armament Catacombs shrank after repeated exterminations, and the array formation grew stronger, forming an endless cycle.

Kong Dao and his party of military cultivators still suffered casualties in the repeated exploration of the catacombs. However, they had also brought back firsthand information that deepened the overall knowledge about the Divine Armament Catacombs. Wang Baole sent the information back to the Martian Colony Governor for analysis and evaluation.

The repeated explorations led to Kong Dao and his team progressing further and deeper into the catacombs. They were now able to accurately time their exploratory exercises. They would approach the wall. Despite being unable to venture near it, they were able to observe the rate of erosion from afar and document the changes.

However, the Dharmic Artifacts installed inside the Divine Armament Catacombs only worked for a short period of time. Otherwise, the exploration exercises would be significantly less challenging.

If everything went according to plan, Wang Baole would be able to submit his evaluation report to the Governor in two weeks' time. Then, they would be able to arrange for a mass migration of residents to the new city zone. The entire new city zone's infrastructure had been completed. Be it residences or industrial estates, they had all been built and equipped with basic necessities. What the new city zone lacked now was a population.

Even though the new city zone had approximately a few hundred thousand workers, it was still a vast space waiting to be filled. Wang Baole decided to monitor for another two weeks before arranging a mass migration.

They were seven days away from the half-year mark when something unexpected happened. Wang Baole's training was interrupted by a sudden, hasty alarm. He opened his eyes abruptly. Lin Tianhao's voice transmission seemed to arrive swiftly, at the same time.

"Mayor, Kong Dao ran into danger while exploring the Divine Armament Catacombs. We don't know if he survived the encounter!"

Alarm flashed across Wang Baole's face. He rose to his feet and rushed to the sealed Divine Armament Catacombs. Lin Tianhao and Jin Duoming were already there when he arrived. The two had grave

expressions on their faces. Through the defense barriers, they could see hordes of beasts howling inside the sealed catacombs. They were being sliced into bits by the numerous strands of the array formations.

They saw Wang Baole's arrival and immediately approached Wang Baole, reporting the situation in hushed tones. There were numerous military cultivators around them with anxious and panicked looks on their faces. They all turned and looked at Wang Baole.

"Mayor, everything had been running smoothly, but soon after Kong Dao brought a party of people into the catacombs, there was a Beast Tide. We hadn't expected it. Based on our records and forecasts, it arrived a lot earlier than expected. When the Beast Tide erupted... Kong Dao was..." Lin Tianhao didn't finish his sentence. It was clear what he was trying to say, though. It was likely that Kong Dao had met his death deep inside the Divine Armament Catacombs.

"Have we informed the Governor?" Wang Baole's head started throbbing. Kong Dao held a unique position. Despite that, he continued to helm the exploration teams personally. Wang Baole had no idea what he was busy with. He had tried asking a few times, but the other man ignored him completely.

Now that there was a problem, as the mayor, Wang Baole wouldn't escape unscathed. He couldn't help his growing agitation and frustration. Jin Duoming observed Wang Baole at his side and whispered.

"We've blocked the news, but it's not going to stop the news from leaking..."

"How can you block it? We should report it immediately!" Wang Baole frowned. The military cultivators around him immediately started speaking.

"Mayor, the danger posed by this wave of beasts isn't high. I believe Vice Mayor Kong is alive and is awaiting our rescue!"

"Mayor, please issue the order. We're willing to brave the Beast Tide and enter the catacombs to mount a rescue!"

"Mayor, you can't just watch him die!"

Wang Baole was already agitated. He became furious as he listened to the cacophony of voices from the people around him. He roared.

"Silence!"

His voice boomed like thunder, exploding in the ears of the people around him. Wang Baole released his mosquitoes. They rushed into the Beast Tide and followed the path deep into the catacombs. They flew speedily, in search of Kong Dao.

He soon found Kong Dao and three other military cultivators in the middle segment of the catacombs. They were inside a sunken segment of the catacombs that had been dug up earlier, and they were fighting off the hordes of beasts trying to rush in.

From the look of it, they wouldn't be able to hold off the beasts for long. The beasts in the sunken pit were too many. They had no chance of survival if they were to rely only on themselves to fight off the beasts. They were all injured and were straddling the line between life and death!

Chapter 377: Rescue!

Wang Baole had two options before him. He could wait for the Governor to arrive, or he could... make haste and mount an immediate rescue. There was no need to deliberate further. Once he found out that Kong Dao and his team were in a life or death situation, he couldn't find it in himself to leave them to die.

He didn't hesitate. He immediately maneuvered his mosquitoes, and they dashed into the horde of beasts surrounding Kong Dao and team. At the same time, Wang Baole opened his mouth and said inside the command center.

"Mount a rescue!"

As soon as he said that, the military cultivators erupted. Their cultivation surged, and they rushed towards the sealed catacombs without hesitation. Wang Baole barked an order, and Lin Tianhao and Jin Duoming immediately issued commands and gathered their servants, joining the rescue party.

Wang Baole could choose not to enter the catacombs, but if he did that, the others wouldn't be able to determine Kong Dao's exact location. They wouldn't be able to find Kong Dao immediately when they entered the catacombs.

Wang Baole didn't want others to know he had the mosquitoes and was able to rely on their vision. He was silent for a few moments. Then, he gritted his teeth and personally led the team into the catacombs!

"Mayor!" Lin Tianhao and Jin Duoming were stunned. They saw Wang Baole dash out hastily from the command center and straight into the region of the sealed Divine Armament Catacombs. The array formation erupted and exterminated numerous beasts. An opening presented itself then, and Wang Baole and the thousands of military cultivators charged into the catacombs.

The sight of Wang Baole charging into the catacombs didn't only shock Lin Tianhao and Jin Duoming. It also moved the military cultivators. They started seeing Wang Baole in a different light. There was no need for words as they quickly gathered around Wang Baole in a protective cluster as they descended into the catacombs in a rush.

Lin Tianhao took a few deep breaths. His eyes were slightly red, colored by uncertainty. Eventually, he gritted his teeth and charged in as well. At his side, Jin Duoming grimaced. He didn't hesitate too long before he also entered the catacombs with his army of guards.

An army of more than ten thousand people rushed in, rumbling, and fought their way through the Beast Tide. Even more cultivators who had received their orders rushed over from all directions and entered the catacombs as well. The flow of cultivators into the catacombs was ceaseless.

Li Yi had rushed over by then, but she frowned at the sight and sneered.

Fools! She was clearly disdainful of their actions. It was clear she wouldn't choose to enter the catacombs. She clearly felt it a losing bargain to risk so many lives in order to save a few.

As a vice mayor, it wasn't right for her to enter as well. She viewed the actions of Wang Baole and the rest as irresponsible and immature.

At that thought, a flicker flashed across Li Yi's eyes as she stood inside the command center. A thought arose in her mind...

If Wang Baole perishes inside, I'll naturally become the mayor...

As Li Yi was deep in thought, inside the Divine Armament Catacombs, tens of thousands of cultivators began their furious extermination and rescue efforts under the leadership of Wang Baole, Lin Tianhao, and Jin Duoming.

The influence of the array formation was present inside the catacombs, but it was severely weakened. This meant that the array formation couldn't provide that much help. Fortunately, many of the beasts had already been killed. In addition, under Wang Baole's leadership, the party was able to progress steadily without any breaks or delays. They were like a torrent of waves sweeping through the catacombs, rumbling and thundering, pulling everything that stood in their path under.

Howls continued thundering throughout the slaughterings and collisions. Shrieks of pain pierced the air. The beasts grew fewer in numbers. The ceaseless killings brought them deeper into the catacombs until they reached its middle segment. They weren't far from where Kong Dao and his party stood, fighting for their survival.

It was then that a sudden howl thundered from the end of the catacombs. It rang out suddenly, and as it resounded in the catacombs, a sudden chill exploded.

It was a strange chill like winter had suddenly descended—a layer of ice formed on the walls all around them. The cultivators who were mounting the rescue started to shudder violently. Alarm and shock flashed across their faces. It was as if an invisible force had descended alongside the chill and was eating into their bodies, assimilating them, and making them part of the catacombs.

When the chill descended, the beasts around them started to spiral into a mad frenzy. They seemed to grow mindless with violence. They lunged forward unthinkingly and attacked.

Wang Baole's breath stilled for a moment in the face of danger. Others might not know what the chill signified, but not Wang Baole. As soon as the chilly presence appeared, he could feel the Dark Fire inside his body stirring awake. He could feel the Dark Fire's hunger, as if it desired to devour the aura!

Negative Spirit Body... maybe this is the Dark Qi that Little Missy mentioned before? Wang Baole had no time to deliberate. He saw everyone's faces around him growing paler. Some began to look dazed as a layer of ice started to form on their bodies. Wang Baole clenched his teeth at the sight. He didn't hesitate and activated the Dark Art and started sucking!

The chilly presence around them seemed to falter; then, instead of spreading itself across the entire area, it headed straight for Wang Baole. Wang Baole shuddered suddenly as the Dark Qi surged into his body. The Dark Fire inside him burned brighter and fiercer than it had ever burned. It was as if a parched land had just received an unexpected first rainfall. His cultivation grew exponentially. There was a light in his eyes that brightened. He was moving faster and fighting more fiercely, better.

His blade landed and slashed a beast that had lunged itself at him into halves, but Wang Baole was still wrought with anxiety. Even though he had begun absorbing the chilly Dark Qi in the catacombs, he alone was still not enough to save everyone. All around him, the rest were infiltrated by the chilly

presence. What he was doing was only slowing it down, and it wouldn't take long before everyone fell to the chilly presence.

Wang Baole had never personally witnessed the aftereffects of being completely taken over by the chill, but he could imagine it. It was a transformation from the living to the dead. If the tens of thousands of people who had entered the catacombs fell to this extreme injury, Wang Baole's decision to mount a rescue would become a grave mistake.

Damn it!

In his panic, Wang Baole knew that he could either choose to retreat immediately or... increase his speed of absorbing the Dark Qi...

Devouring seed! Wang Baole roared inwardly. He threw caution to the wind in the face of danger. The devouring seed inside his body erupted, and the eruption had been spurred on by the Dark Fire. Its absorption intensified, and the chilly Dark Qi in the air started racing madly towards Wang Baole, in greater quantity and speed than it had before.

It was as if Wang Baole had transformed into a black hole invisible to an outsider's eyes. He absorbed the chilly presence furiously, causing the cultivators around him to shudder and slowly begin to regain their conscious minds. Shock and alarm flickered across their faces. They were still recovering from the danger they had escaped when Wang Baole roared.

"Follow me! Our priority is to rescue the men!" Wang Baole's holler shook the people, including Lin Tianhao and Jin Duoming, around him. They charged forward in a race against time, pushing forward another short distance. Finally, they saw Kong Dao, grievously injured, covered in blood, shaking while struggling to fight back!

His servants had become mere dead bodies...

Kong Dao had been prepared to die. He knew that there was still a chance of someone mounting a rescue to save him, but he also knew that his relationship with Wang Baole was tense and distant. Wang Baole would likely choose to report the matter to the Governor and await the Governor to mount a rescue mission.

Even if the process was carried out swiftly, it was unlikely that he would live to see the rescue party. He watched as his guards fell one after another, his eyes reddened in his despair. He had amassed great knowledge about the catacombs during this period. There were many things he hadn't told Wang Baole. He knew that if he didn't self-combust, perhaps... before long, his dead body would become a part of the Divine Armament Catacombs and a part of its army. Then, his subordinates and his friends would see his corpse appearing in the Beast Tide, like any other beast.

At that thought, Kong Dao watched the beasts surrounding him attempting another lunge. He smiled a tragic smile, howled, and was about to trigger a self-explosion.

It was then that... suddenly, he heard gasps of shock. He heard human breathing and explosions. He hadn't the time to see clearly what was happening when spell after spell erupted around him in a blinding glare. Dharmic Artifacts shot into the pit he was at and exploded.

The beasts, who had the pit surrounded and had been trying to charge inside, screamed amidst the series of explosions. They were torn into pieces, their flesh bloodied. Kong Dao, who escaped death narrowly, saw Wang Baole, Dharmic Armament in hand, charging towards him and appearing before him. Wang Baole grabbed at him. Behind Wang Baole were hordes of cultivators with varying degrees of injuries.

“You...” Kong Dao was dazed. He struggled instinctively. Before he could finish what he wanted to say, Wang Baole shut him up with a glare.

“Kong Dao, did you knock yourself too hard in the head?” Furious, Wang Baole swept his large hands and snaked around Kong Dao’s instinctively struggling arms. He grabbed Kong Dao’s robes and flung Kong Dao towards the military cultivators behind him.

“Quickly, retreat!” Wang Baole was wrought with anxiety. He had a bad feeling. He could feel that a presence inside the catacombs was slowly stirring awake with his arrival.

Chapter 378: Points Added and Points Deducted!

Just as Wang Baole and the group were about to make their escape, a howl that seemed to come from the depths of the catacombs rang out suddenly. It erupted without any warning from the deep end of the catacombs.

It thundered and deafened, shaking everyone to their core. Blood spilled from everyone’s lips, and Wang Baole shuddered violently as the three Dark Fires inside his body wavered and became unstable. They almost extinguished.

As he lowered his head, he thought he could vaguely see a warped, translucent giant hand reaching out from the depths of the catacombs. It seemed to stretch endlessly towards where Wang Baole was, reaching out for him!

“Dark Child...” The voice howled. Its howl thundered and rang in the catacombs and drained all color from Wang Baole’s terrified face. He shouted back angrily.

“To hell with your shouting!” Wang Baole’s skull was about to explode with the terrible howling. He and the rest around him charged madly towards the catacombs’ entrance, but they were too late. The giant hand was too swift. It had been a distance away a moment ago, but in the next moment, it was but a hundred yards away from Wang Baole!

Everywhere it passed, it left catacomb walls frozen in ice. There would be waves of crackling as the giant hand approached, then after, ice everywhere.

It approached him and was about to catch up...

Wang Baole started heaving and was about to silently chant the scripture to fight back. It was then that they heard a snort over their heads. It erupted suddenly and without warning. Three silhouettes leaped across the crowd of people like lightning bolts, appearing behind their backs and before the giant hand that was about to grab them!

They were the Martian Colony Governor, the giant tree, and a red-haired elderly man dressed in military uniform. The three of them were all at the perfected Core Formation realm. Their cultivation erupted, and they joined forces as they clashed against the giant hand.

A thunderous boom erupted. It was deafening. The giant tree and the elder grunted under their breaths and retreated hastily. Only the Governor stood firm, raising her right hand. An enormous war hammer was instantly summoned and appeared in her hand. As soon as it appeared, its presence shook the heavens and earth. A force that paled only in comparison against the Divine Armament erupted. It was... a ninth-grade Dharmic Armament!

One hit from it seemed to shatter heaven and earth. The giant hand shuddered violently and split apart instantly. Only the howling remained, echoing in the catacombs. It seemed to be filled with hate and resentment, and it contained fury and madness.

“Go!” The Governor’s face was stern. After that single blow, she didn’t speak again and fell back hastily. She flung her sleeves and, together with the giant tree and the elder from the military, guarded Wang Baole and the tens of thousands of cultivators as they fled with increasing speed.

Their journey back was smooth and without obstacle. They immediately reached the entrance and charged out. When they reappeared in the open again, the Governor quickly formed a series of hand seals. The seal over the Divine Armament Catacombs erupted and once again sealed the catacombs shut.

Wang Baole’s heart was still racing after they escaped outside. He couldn’t help but stare at the Governor and her accompanying duo. He knew that the Governor had immediately teleported over after receiving his notice. If she hadn’t done so, the rescue mission would have been a complete disaster.

Supported by his fellow cultivators, Kong Dao swallowed a pill that prevented him from passing out despite his serious injuries. He knew that he had made a misstep this time and had narrowly avoided death. He also knew that if Wang Baole hadn’t come for him, it was likely... that he would have died in the catacombs.

He felt a complicated array of emotions regarding this. He didn’t know what to say to Wang Baole when he looked at him. He chose silence instead.

“Wang Baole, you’ve gone too far!” The Governor sealed the catacombs and turned on Wang Baole. There was fury in her eyes, and she had an extremely stern and disapproving expression on her face.

Wang Baole grimaced. He was about to speak when Kong Dao clenched his teeth and said softly.

“Governor, this entire incident is a result of my recklessness. It has nothing to do with Wang Baole...”

“Silence! So, you do know that you’ve been rash? What did I tell you before you came?” Without giving the Governor a chance to speak, the red-haired elder in military uniform flew into an instant rage. As the primary priest of the Martian military, he had a close friendship with Duan Muque. The reason Kong Dao was here on Mars was that he and Duan Muque had found him in the Sea of Beasts when he had been only a baby.

Kong Dao was clearly very important to the elder. That was why when he heard that Kong Dao had fallen into danger, he had immediately left his seclusion and joined the rescue party. Whilst he raged at Kong

Dao, the elder still spared the occasional glance at Wang Baole. The expression he showed Wang Baole was different from what he was showing Kong Dao. It was colored with approval as well as gratitude.

The elder knew that if Wang Baole had waited for them to arrive before taking any action, Kong Dao... would have been dead by then.

Wang Baole blinked under the elder's gaze. The Governor glared at Wang Baole again, then scolded Jin Duoming and Lin Tianhao. Finally, she said...

"This will never happen again!"

Wang Baole finally released a sigh of relief when he heard that. He realized that there was nothing he feared in the entire universe, except the Martian Colony Governor. He didn't understand why...

He stepped forward hastily and was thinking about how best to suck up to the Governor when she snorted.

"You can stop that now. Put away that pitiful look on your face. Since I'm here, I'm going to check out how far the construction of the new city zone has progressed. If there's anything not in order, you're going to be punished!"

"Don't worry, Governor. I won't dare to make guarantees for anything else, but this definitely is in order. Your humble subordinate has been forgoing sleep and food for the past six months..." Wang Baole thumped his chest and immediately started rattling off. A glare from the Governor stopped him mid-track in his exaggerations. She didn't say anything else, only walked ahead and started her inspection.

It was a detailed inspection but hardly slow-moving. The Governor's cultivation often allowed her to identify any flaws or oversight with a mere glance. Within an hour, the Governor had found a few problem areas and instructed Wang Baole to resolve them quickly. She ended the inspection and left.

During the entire process, she hadn't spared Li Yi a single glance, nor had she spoken a single word to the latter. She had seemed to have completely disregarded her presence. Li Yi, who had been expecting praise, had been stunned.

The red-haired elder had done the same. He had been stern towards Kong Dao, but towards Wang Baole, Lin Tianhao, and Jin Duoming, he had shown apparent approval. He had smiled and displayed friendliness towards the trio. He similarly ignored Li Yi. Before he left, he had given her a deep, meaningful look and snorted.

Li Yi had grown nervous. She hadn't been able to control herself from sneaking a glance at the giant tree, but he remained silent. Then, just before they left, he sighed. He looked at Li Yi with an unfathomable look in his eyes, filled with thoughts he found difficult to express. There had been slight regret and a certain sense of speechlessness.

When he first arrived and noticed that Wang Baole and the others had entered the catacombs while Li Yi alone had remained outside, he had immediately known... that Li Yi had made a grievous mistake!

It would have been fine if there had been no basis for comparison, but that hadn't been the case. Everyone knew that the relationship between Wang Baole and Kong Dao was strained. However, despite

the tensions between them, Wang Baole hadn't hesitated to put his life at risk in order to mount an immediate rescue.

Even though his actions might have revealed an impulsive nature, they were all young men and women. Some passion and impulse was essential. His actions might not have been appropriate, but he had gained points for his character in people's hearts!

Li Yi, on the other hand, regardless of the reasons she might have had, chose not to follow them. She seemed to have made the right decision from the grand scheme of things; however, in reality, while what she had done wasn't exactly wrong, she had lost points in the hearts of the people. In fact, she hadn't simply lost a few points...

In the political landscape of the Federation, one's character was key. Others' impression of them were equally important. Often, it was important to accumulate points for one's character.

This was especially so because of the special status Kong Dao held...

Li Yi started trembling under the giant tree's gaze. She had grown pale gradually. Then, she had come to her senses and snuck a glance at Kong Dao. She then saw the look that Kong Dao had been giving Wang Baole. It was one filled with complicated emotions.

Even Jin Duoming had shaken his head inwardly. He had wondered if Li Yi had directed all the nutrients towards nourishing her body and had left her brains malnourished and inadequate.

Everything seemed to revert to normal after the Governor and the other two cultivators left. However, Li Yi could clearly feel herself being ostracized... Kong Dao hadn't said anything, but the military cultivators under his supervision treated Li Yi more coldly compared to how they treated Wang Baole.

Lin Tianhao had been like this from the start. Though, Jin Duoming's attitude towards her seemed to have grown less fervent...

Wang Baole, you must have done this intentionally! A sullen Li Yi returned to her residence. She gnashed her teeth as her eyes shone bright with hate and resentment. She swore that she would kick Wang Baole out and take his place!

While Li Yi swore vehemently under her breath, Wang Baole had just returned to his residence. He released a sigh of relief as a strange light glimmered in his eyes. He recalled what had happened in the catacombs earlier. The absorption by his devouring seed had enhanced his cultivation tremendously during that short period of time.

He couldn't control himself. He started thinking. Then, he realized that while most of his mosquitoes had been destroyed after they had rescued Kong Dao, two remained... they were alive and were inside the catacombs right now!

Wang Baole relied on the two mosquitoes' vision and saw the chill inside the catacombs rapidly dissipating. After everything returned to normal, he maneuvered the two mosquitoes, with slight difficulty, and got them to rapidly fly deeper into the catacombs. Slowly, they reached the end of the catacombs... where the wall was!

Chapter 379: The Bigger the Territory, the More Powerful Baole Was

Inside the Divine Armament Catacombs, silence reigned.

It was as if the Governor's ninth-grade Dharmic Armament had destroyed everything with a single blow. Within a short period of time, there would be no beasts in the catacombs.

Even the meatballs previously hanging on the walls had all been destroyed and disintegrated into dust. Wang Baole's mosquitoes flew ahead, their journey undisturbed. They easily reached the end of the catacombs.

Wang Baole had reached the limits of his control by then. He could vaguely see the wall. His eyes widened, and his breathing stopped. Incredulity colored his face.

It wasn't that he hadn't seen the wall before. It was true he had never seen it with his own eyes, but he had seen images and videos of the wall through the mosquitoes' eyes and via the reports that Kong Dao submitted on a regular basis.

He remembered the wall as a thick wall of ice that exuded a frightening chill. It was like a hardy fossil resistant to erosion, one that required the constant wearing down by the array formation all hours of the day and night in order to chip away slowly at it.

The rate of erosion was indiscernible to the eye across a brief period of time, and changes were only apparent after decades.

Now, however... the wall appeared before Wang Baole's eyes. It was clearly more eroded than what he had seen a week ago in Kong Dao's reports. The erosion seemed like the result of months of wearing down.

This shocked Wang Baole. A strange light glimmered in his eyes, and his breathing quickened. He couldn't pinpoint the cause that sped up the rate of the wall's erosion.

Is it because of the appearance of the giant hand? Or maybe the blow from the Governor's ninth-grade Dharmic Armament? Or perhaps... it's because of the Dark Qi that I absorbed at an increased rate using my devouring seed? Wang Baole was unclear of the exact cause. However, he could sense that this was an opportunity.

Even though he couldn't say for sure what sort of opportunities the quickened erosion opened up for him, he had studiously read the high officials' autobiographies and through that honed a keen instinct. His instincts were telling him that... he could try exploring further on this matter.

With that thought in mind, Wang Baole immediately summoned Kong Dao. Kong Dao hadn't yet fully recovered from his injuries, but he had healed well and was in fine condition currently. If it had been in the past, he might not have given great consideration to Wang Baole's summons and got a deputy to respond in his stead. Now, however, he fell into momentary silence and made a personal visit.

He heard Wang Baole's inquiries regarding the wall. Kong Dao didn't attempt to conceal what he knew. He shared everything he knew about the wall, including the video recordings he had taken during his observations of the wall yesterday, with Wang Baole.

Wang Baole watched the video, and his eyes shone. Yesterday's wall and today's wall were completely different creatures. This allowed Wang Baole to narrow his scope of investigation. However, it was difficult to replicate the appearance of the giant hand or the blow from the Governor's ninth-grade Dharmic Armament as and when Wang Baole wanted so that he might test and verify his hypothesis.

Based on Wang Baole's analysis, though, the giant hand's appearance shouldn't be the key to solving the mystery at hand. It also seemed improbable that the blow from the ninth-grade Dharmic Armament had been the cause of the wall's rapid erosion. If that had been the case, the various political forces in the Federation wouldn't have chosen to set up an array formation here. They could simply take turns unleashing the power of their ninth-grade Dharmic Armaments at the wall.

The reading materials from the Governor said before... only a Divine Armament could forcibly break through the wall! Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. His heart started racing. The only thing that remained before him that required his verification and testing was... whether his devouring seed had an influence on the wall!

The idea burned like a scorching fire inside his heart, fierce and bright. He had no idea why he had to test this theory. His instincts simply told him that if he could indeed verify that the devouring seed indeed was the cause, this would present an unprecedented opportunity for him!

Wang Baole shoved the burning heat inside his heart down and sent Kong Dao off. Then, he raced towards the sealed Divine Armament Catacombs. The area was controlled by the military. However, Wang Baole's rescue efforts had won the respect of all military cultivators. He was also the mayor. No one would try to stop him, and some even volunteered to escort him in.

Wang Baole didn't want others to witness his attempts. He turned them down politely. Then, with a racing heart, he sent his mosquitoes out first to scout out the area before entering the catacombs alone.

He didn't venture too deep into the catacombs and stopped at an appropriate section. He checked that there were no dangers around, then, controlled his excitement as he used the Dark Art as a foundation while activating his devouring seed. Instantly, a rush of chilly aura erupted from within the depths of the catacombs and surged towards him. Wang Baole transformed into a vast whirlpool that drew the chill inwards. At the same time, he allowed part of his attention to settle on the mosquitoes that had ventured near the wall at the end of the catacombs, pushing them to investigate the area swiftly.

Wang Baole shuddered at what he saw. He could see, clearly, the wall eroding at a rapid rate as his devouring seed churned.

It was the devouring seed all along! Wang Baole perked up. He stopped the churning of his devouring seed before turning and leaving hastily. He soon exited the catacombs and sealed it shut. Wang Baole returned to his residence. He wasn't in the mood for meditation. Instead, he started pacing in his residence.

This is an opportunity...

Let me think, how should I play this so that I can fully utilize this opportunity to my maximum benefit...

How should I do this... Wang Baole's Spirit Qi stirred as countless thoughts flashed across his head. He seemed to have exhausted himself with the intense thinking, so he pulled out some snacks and started eating while continuing his brainstorming.

Firstly, the Federation will definitely treat something that can increase the rate the wall is eroding with the utmost importance... Even though my individual powers are limited, and I'm not inclined to reveal the existence of my devouring seed, the mystic technique I taught the students in the Dao Mountain Mist Academy should be able to achieve a similar effect...

However, it has to be built on the foundation of the Dark Art... this can be easily done. I just have to convert the mystic art into an array formation and turn myself into the core of the array formation!

This way, the array formation will be able to amplify the powers of the devouring seed and absorb the Dark Qi inside the catacombs at a furious rate, increasing the speed the wall is eroding! Wang Baole paused in his pacing and slapped his thigh loudly before raising his head. His eyes shone with excitement and anticipation. He could hardly contain his emotions. He had combined everything he had learned from the high officials' autobiographies and came up with... a solution that was out of this world!

If I'm able to achieve that, I'll be able to gain complete control. The array formation... will need more resources and greater space. That's why... we need to expand the existing city zone extensively based on the existing infrastructure already in place...

We'll then be able to set up the Devouring Seed Array Formation on the foundations of the Qi Fostering Spirit Array Formation!

If the Federation approves my proposal, I'll have the final say on how much we will need to expand the city zone in order to accommodate the array formation. I can expand the city zone multiple times and turn it into a... new Martian city!

That's right, that's how this is going to work. That's the opportunity I instinctively sensed. If the array formation is successfully set up, this will present an opportunity for me to transform a city zone... into an actual city! Wang Baole's head started buzzing noisily. There was no doubt that his idea was an extremely bold venture, but if he succeeded... the new city zone would become a fully formed city. His Noble would naturally be elevated despite there being no chances of it happening previously. He would no longer be a Primary Rank Four Noble but rise to become a Primary Rank Three Noble!

After all, the Federation wouldn't allow a mere city zone to possess the structure and scale of an actual city, that would create chaos in the existing administrative system and structure. Once something like that happened, the city zone would be reclassified as a city!

Wang Baole was the key to building the city. He would have been the one who submitted the proposal. He would become irreplaceable, to a certain extent. What was equally important was also... the urgency the Federation would have in wearing down the wall inside the Divine Armament Catacombs as soon as possible. As long as his theory was valid and could be implemented successfully, there was a great chance of him being made a Primary Rank Three Noble without much quibbling!

What this means is that the more territory I have, the more powerful I will become! Wang Baole was overcome with excitement. He realized he was simply too clever. He actually came up with such a

brilliant and crazy idea. He grabbed a bottle of Ice Spirit Water excitedly and took a huge gulp. The fire inside him burned brighter.

I won't share this with anyone at the moment. As for converting the simplified devouring seed mystic technique into an array formation... Wang Baole considered his options while his heart raced. Finally, the image of Zhao Yameng and the Ethereal Dao College surfaced in his mind.

I'll ask Zhao Yameng for help. At the same time, I'll get the Sect Lord to provide some assistance as well! At that thought, Wang Baole turned on his voice transmission ring hastily and called Zhao Yameng.

Zhao Yameng was stationed on Earth in the Federation Capital. Currently, she was sitting inside her office. A beautiful and dignified young woman, she had earned the adoration of countless male cultivators since she assumed office. However, her presence inspired shame and guilt in the opposite sex when they stood before her.

Before her stood a rather good-looking young man, he had adoration in his eyes and spoke softly.

“Minister Zhao, our department is holding a party tonight. Will you...”

Zhao Yameng lifted her head before he could finish saying what he wanted to say. She gave him a deep, meaningful look. The young man started to sweat profusely under her gaze. He grew nervous and awkward, started stuttering, and couldn't finish his words. He left silently.

Zhao Yameng lowered her head after he left and resumed reading her documents. It was then that her voice transmission ring rang. Wang Baole's loud voice rang out from the voice transmission ring.

“Yameng, did you miss me? Let's have a hug that stretches from Earth to Mars, across the vast expanse of space.”

Chapter 380: Death Comes to Those Seeking It

Zhao Yameng's expression was that of exasperation as she listened to Wang Baole's shameless greeting. She had long since discovered that when others disrupted her in her daily routines, she needed only to lift her head and give them a long, deep look before they would lower their heads nervously. This tactic of hers had allowed her to drive away the many irrelevant people around her.

But Wang Baole was simply too thick-skinned. He seemed naturally immune to her tactics; they were useless before him. He had also saved her life. Most importantly, Zhao Yameng did feel more warmly towards Wang Baole than towards other people.

Zhao Yameng smiled when she heard Wang Baole's unpredictable words. Fortunately, no one saw her smile. If anyone in her department saw that smile, they would undoubtedly be dazzled and dazed by it. The Zhao Yameng of their memories was distant and dignified. She was composed and unfazed. Such an authentic smile that came from the heart was a rare display.

“Have you gotten yourself into some other trouble on Mars? Is that why you've come looking for me?”
Zhao Yameng smiled and said casually.

“How is that possible? I’m the leader of the Adonis Association, beloved by all. Flowers blossom when I walk past them. Everyone’s fallen in love with me since I arrived on Mars.” Wang Baole coughed and thudded his chest.

“Is that so.” Zhao Yameng picked up a file and continued reading it.

Wang Baole could hear the disbelief in Zhao Yameng’s voice. He grew slightly unhappy and decided to list the various examples that proved his point...

“You don’t believe me? Let me tell you a secret. You heard of the Governor of the Martian Colony? I realized that she’s been looking at me in a funny manner...” Wang Baole whispered, pleased. He couldn’t see Zhao Yameng, who had placed her documents down and had a strange expression on her face.

“My charm is just too great. I can feel that the Governor really admires me. She might be considering making me her son-in-law, but it would be hard for her to succeed. I’m just too popular. Do you know? So many young women on Mars are fighting to give me their transmission contact details. Girls these days are all perverts! I’m only the most good looking person on Mars. It has caused me so much trouble. If only I wasn’t so good looking.” Wang Baole got extremely excited. He didn’t have anyone around him to talk to about such matters after all. That was why he couldn’t control himself as he started bragging.

As he rattled on and on, he suddenly realized the silence on the other end of the voice transmission. He froze.

“Yameng?”

Zhao Yameng raised an eyebrow and looked at the voice transmission ring. Wang Baole couldn’t tell if she was smiling or not as she narrowed her eyes. It was rare to see such expressions flickering across her face.

“Ah, how amazing you must be!” After a moment, Zhao Yameng spoke softly and was about to end the transmission. Wang Baole seemed to sense the change in her emotional state. He laughed awkwardly then went straight to business. He told Zhao Yameng about his views and about modifying his mystic technique into an array formation.

Zhao Yameng, who had graduated from the Array Runes Pavilion of the Ethereal Dao College, had extraordinary talents in the area of array formations. She started thinking after hearing what Wang Baole had said. She discussed with Wang Baole the finer details of his idea, and Wang Baole sent her the simplified version of the Qi Devouring Art.

They spoke for a while more. Wang Baole also told Zhao Yameng that he would be informing the Sect Lord of this matter and that he would study the array formation together with Zhao Yameng.

Their transmission ended. Zhao Yameng set her voice transmission ring down. She did not know why, but the voice of Wang Baole bragging appeared in her head.

She thought for a bit before turning on her voice transmission ring. She found a contact number and tried calling. After chatting for a while, she finally went away, pleased, to study the simplified Qi Devouring Art that Wang Baole had given her.

At the same time, Wang Baole had contacted the Sect Lord immediately. He didn't conceal his ambitions. The Sect Lord was surprised when he heard Wang Baole's ideas. He took a few breaths, and his eyes shone.

"Baole, are you sure this array formation will speed up the erosion of the wall?"

"Sect Lord, I swear on the lives of my four vice mayors!"

The Sect Lord grew silent when he heard that. He realized he shouldn't have tried to confirm whether the plan was feasible. He smiled wryly.

"That's alright, as long as you're sure. I will contact Zhao Yameng regarding the modification of the array formation and follow her lead. We will work together and help you keep this a secret!"

The conversation ended. Wang Baole was brimming with energy and excitement. He felt as if the doors had just opened to a brand new world. He had everything going smoothly. He only needed the array formation now. Once the array formation was deemed a success, he would become a Primary Rank Three Noble!

He walked out happily and did a round of inspection, catching sight of the donkey. Since he was in high spirits, he did the rare thing and didn't send a kick in the donkey's direction. He even patted the donkey on its head, his eyes shining with tender care for it.

The donkey, which had been prepared to be kicked, shuddered at the sight. Its eyes shone with shock and terror. It seemed to sense that Wang Baole was behaving abnormally at that moment, which made it nervous. It thought that some disaster was about to happen. It shuddered and didn't recover from his shock and alarm even after Wang Baole left. It thought for a while and finally crept away, deciding that it would avoid appearing in front of Wang Baole during this period of time.

Wang Baole ended his inspection and began his seclusion. The night passed. On the second day, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, Wang Baole was about to continue his inspection when suddenly, he received a voice transmission from the Martian Colony Governor.

The Governor started by asking about Wang Baole's work, which took Wang Baole by surprise. She had just left yesterday and completed her own inspection. Why was she sending him a voice transmission and inquiring about the new city zone?

Regardless, Wang Baole patiently and respectfully reported everything again. Before he was done, the Governor caught an oversight Wang Baole had missed. She flew into a rage immediately and gave him a scolding over the voice transmission. He was reprimanded for half an hour before she hung up.

Wang Baole was dazed by the verbal lashing he had just gotten... only recovering after a long while. He stared in shock at his voice transmission ring. He found it incomprehensible. The Governor, who was busy all the time and could only afford half an hour to meet him then, had called and reprimanded him for half an hour. Why had she done that...

She specifically called so that she could scold me... could it be that someone has been talking bad about me behind my back? Has someone been passing along reports to the Governor secretly? Wang Baole gasped as violence flashed across his eyes.

It must be Li Yi!

Wang Baole thought Li Yi simply too despicable. She actually tried to stab him in the back. He was extremely displeased. It was then that Lin Tianhao came looking for him to report on the progress of their work. He had a stern expression on his face. As soon as Lin Tianhao saw Wang Baole, he spoke immediately, and his words made Wang Baole's eyes turn cold.

"Mayor, Li Yi has been unilaterally modifying the design of the city infrastructure. On the surface, it seems that she's building the Eternal Fortress, but she's actually secretly building the city model that she built during the trial!"

"Hmm?" Wang Baole raised his eyebrows. His eyes flashed. Lin Tianhao quickly shared the findings of his report with Wang Baole.

Li Yi had been very careful with what she was doing. However, she couldn't keep everything under wraps indefinitely. Her occasional carelessness was caught by Lin Tianhao, who had been watching her closely. He had then started to investigate further. The results of his findings had shocked even him.

Li Yi had used her authority and modified the design of quite a few areas in the new city zone. The external appearance of the city seemed to be based on the Eternal Fortress's design; however, the core of the design and its inner infrastructure had been tweaked to replicate the Global Dharma City.

She had been very careful, though. Many of her modifications had been difficult to spot. Lin Tianhao had watched her for a very long time before he had been able to retrace what she had been doing and get his hands on evidence of her tampering.

Wang Baole grew serious as he listened to the report. He had given Li Yi greater authority so that he could catch her making a mistake. He hadn't expected her to be so bold. She hadn't just made a simple mistake. What she had done would affect the smooth running of the array formation. The disaster that would befall them was unimaginable should any instability occur.

This was especially so with the imminent mass migration. If something went wrong with the array formation after the residents had settled in, the consequences would be disastrous!

The thought made Wang Baole furious. He immediately summoned Jin Duoming, Kong Dao, as well as Li Yi. She was to see him immediately.

Kong Dao and Jin Duoming arrived first. They sat in his office, staring at Wang Baole's somber face with slight surprise. They noticed Lin Tianhao and the lack of expression on his face as well. Kong Dao and Jin Duoming looked at each other but didn't ask any questions. Soon, an annoyed Li Yi walked in. Before she could sit down, Wang Baole slammed his desk loudly.

"Li Yi, did you get your head kicked by a donkey? Or maybe some dog pissed on your guts, making it swell to such an extent! That's some guts you have!" His palm slammed loud against his desk. Wang Baole's furious roar descended like a storm, erupting in the room suddenly.

"Wang Baole, what do you mean by this!" Li Yi lifted her head, her eyes shining with icy hostility. She had a temper as well. She was emboldened by the support the four Dao Colleges were giving her and hence faced Wang Baole's anger head-on.

“What do I mean by this?” Wang Baole pulled out Lin Tianhao’s jade slip containing the findings of his report and threw it at Li Yi.

“I made you responsible for building the new city zone. Instead of doing that, you went behind my back and secretly built the city model you had designed for the trial. Li Yi, are you trying to start a revolt? Or are you trying to sabotage the Martian project and go against the Federation’s mandate?”