

Worth 391

Chapter 391: Autonomous Zone!

Chen Mu, Wen Huai, and Fang Jing from Plume Manifestation Connate Sect... Looking at the file sent by the Martian Colony Governor, Wang Baole raised his eyebrows slightly. He finally knew that the person who had wanted to rob him but was instead robbed was named Wen Huai.

Wang Baole's deepest impression about this Wen Huai was that... he was rather poor.

It would have been fine if he was just poor, but he still had to act cool and cover himself with black bandages. His figure isn't as great as mine, and he didn't grow as well during puberty like I did... Wang Baole patted his stomach. As he became more knowledgeable, he began to have sentiments of a person who was bored that no one could defeat him because he was too superior.

However, that sentiment all but vanished when he focused his attention on Chen Mu's profile again. Chen Mu was from the Five Generation Sky Clan, and within this clan, the Chen family's status was far superior to that of the Zhuo family. Even though both family clans were nuclear family clans, the Chen family clan occupied almost thirty percent of the Five Generation Sky Clan!

Chen Mu, as the eldest son in this generation of the Chen family, may not be the heir to succeed the position of Clan Leader, but the possibility of him eventually taking on the position remained high.

The profile that the Martian Colony Governor has given me is... interesting. Wang Baole held onto the jade slip containing the profile and narrowed his eyes. In reality, anonymous comments from someone, who may or may not be the Martian Colony Governor, were given for every single person listed in the file. There was only a single comment for Chen Mu.

Ambitious but not sufficiently talented!

The comments for Wen Huai were even more vicious, which mentioned that he was malicious and stubborn!

The comment for Fang Jing from the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect was the only one that was slightly better. It merely said that she was hot-tempered.

Wang Baole didn't know for sure if the three comments were true, but he thought that they were very likely made by the Martian Colony Governor. Therefore, Wang Baole couldn't help but wonder what the Martian Colony Governor would say of him if she were to assess him.

Without having to think too hard, I know what she'll say. Handsome, intelligent, the suavest person in the entire Federation. I'm sick of hearing words like these. Wang Baole shook his head. He wasn't affected by the three comments. He was clear that he should only take other people's comments as a reference, as he would lose out if he formed the habit of viewing others around him as fools.

However, this Chen Mu is definitely a simpleton! Wang Baole sneered. However, he knew that even though the trio had been appointed as mayors instead of working their way there, this should be the outcome of the discussion between the Federation, Mars, as well as the various factions.

At the same time, in the file, it was also stated that the trio wouldn't come by themselves. They would bring with them a large amount of resources, similar to the case of Lin Tianhao, Kong Dao, and Jin Duoming, who also provided resources for the construction of the new city.

The tactic used by the Federation and Mars is always about trying to gain something without risking anything of their own. They use it all the time... Don't they have other tricks up their sleeves? Wang Baole shook his head. Even though the one that would sponsor the most resources was Chen Mu, the displeasure Wang Baole felt towards Chen Mu was still strong. He was a thorn in his eyes.

However, he also understood that in terms of importance, scale, and future prospects, the new city far exceeded that of the new city zone. He was also wielding authority that he never had before. As he enjoyed all of these benefits, it was inevitable that he would clash with the Federation and the various factions.

In reality, these clashes could be considered a battle to a certain extent. However, they were competing not based on divine abilities, but tactic and circumstance.

My cultivation level is still too low. If I were a Nascent Soul now, these ridiculous people would have long been eliminated by me with a single slap. Their family clan and factions wouldn't dare say a word either! Wang Baole slapped his forehead as he sighed. He gritted his teeth and continued to meditate in seclusion to cultivate.

In the entire life of, I, Wang Baole, everything I've owned has been the result of my own efforts. I can't even remember the amount of sweat and blood that I've spared! They will never know that even when I'm snacking, I'm thinking about my journey of cultivation! A look of determination appeared in Wang Baole's eyes. He knew very well that even though Little Missy had helped him significantly, that even without Little Missy, his achievements wouldn't pale in comparison to what he had now—based on his talent and that gorgeous face of his.

After all, in his consciousness, people who looked good would naturally be kindly treated by the entire world, and their luck was typically good.

Little Missy's appearance proves this point too. I know that she took the initiative to come to me because she appreciated my talent. She wanted to assist me in accomplishing great success.

With that thought, Wang Baole's head swelled. He took a deep breath, feeling as if his confidence was through the roof. With that strong sense of confidence, a glow flashed across his eyes as the cultivation within his body began to activate furiously. It was as if his Spirit Qi was also being boosted with his confidence.

Therefore, leveraging on this confidence, Wang Baole began meditating and cultivating. As his Lightning Dao was activated, and as the Dark Art gradually cycled, Wang Baole could feel that his cultivation level was slowly rising.

That increment satisfied him, making him feel as if his talent was beyond describable. If that wasn't the case, he wouldn't have already reached late-stage Foundation Establishment realm while others in the same batch as him were still in the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm at most...

I cannot be arrogant! A glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes as he hurriedly reminded himself. With that self-reminder, he couldn't help but grow even more satisfied with himself.

Just like that, days passed. When Wang Baole finished a few cycles of his cultivation, he realized that the three appointed mayors had still not arrived. He didn't need to monitor the construction of the city either. At the same time, the donkey seemed to have gone missing during this period, its whereabouts unknown.

Based on Wang Baole's sense, he felt that the donkey seemed to be very healthy, and therefore, didn't care much about it. Instead, he used the time to continually upgrade his Dharmic Artifacts.

He had many Dharmic Artifacts, which made the upgrading process extremely long. It was also in this process of refinement that Wang Baole grew more familiar and gained a deeper understanding of his Dharmic Artifacts.

In his free time, he also began to play out the Dark Corpse Face Art in his head. In this manner, days passed, and soon, half a month had gone by.

By this time, Chen Mu and the other two had still not arrived. That made Wang Baole frown, and he thought about calling Lin Tianhao to ask about it after he emerged from seclusion.

Listening to Wang Baole's tone, which indicated his displeasure, Lin Tianhao laughed bitterly and hesitated for a moment before deciding to tell the truth.

"City Lord, according to the information I have received from Martian City, Chen Mu and the other two people have long arrived on Mars. However, after their arrival, they remained in the Martian City, paying visits to the Governor, Deputy Governor, as well as the people in charge of the different departments... I heard that they are still not done with their visits even now..." Lin Tianhao looked at Wang Baole and spoke softly.

Hearing those words, Wang Baole slowly narrowed his eyes. He was extremely annoyed, thinking that the three fellas were trying to send an obvious and clear message for purposely not visiting him after visiting so many others.

However, they aren't foolish people. Why are they making it so obvious... This was something that Wang Baole couldn't understand. After Lin Tianhao left, he was still pondering this question.

However, without having to think for too long, Wang Baole immediately got the answer he was looking for on the second day as the voice transmission notice from the Martian Colony Governor arrived.

"City Lord Wang, Chen Mu, Wen Huai, and Fang Jing will report for duty at Divine Armament New City in the next few days. It has already been approved by the Federation that the three zones that they will be stationed at will be overseen by the Federation directly, and be approved as an autonomous zone!"

"Huh?" After receiving the voice transmission, a cold glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. He looked increasingly solemn and serious as he lowered his head to look at the voice transmission ring.

"Governor, the Federation has gone overboard with the handling of this matter, don't you think? This is my city, and they are still going autonomous in my territory?"

“Even though it’s autonomous, it is, after all, still under your charge.” The Governor was unhappy about this matter, but it was a decision made by the Federation, and she didn’t want to participate in the battle between the factions.

Wang Baole’s breathing quickened slightly. He knew very well that he would just be a figurehead. He wanted to fight for his rights, but the Martian Colony Governor sighed once again, emphasizing that these were the orders of the Federation.

However, she eventually told Wang Baole that she would definitely not let matters rest if the three of them acted out of order!

Once they break the rules, everything will be too late. After all, they aren’t Li Yi... Wang Baole thought about this but didn’t verbalize it. After calming down and accepting the news, a look of ruthlessness appeared on his face as the Martian Colony Governor hung up the voice transmission.

Those three rascals. You’re so capable, huh? I’ve silently agreed for you to have a piece of the pie, and you’re still not satisfied? Now you want autonomy too?

Sure, just you wait! A cold look flashed across Wang Baole’s eyes.

Chapter 392: Don’t Be Too Serious!

To Wang Baole, the feeling was like he built a large house for himself, but three other people just came and occupied it with him, taking up one room each.

It wouldn’t have been an issue if it was similar to the act of living in his house, but what they were trying to do was erase his name as the owner of the room from the deed, and then replace it with their own name.

*This is robbery! D*rn it, how dare you snatch my things away?* When Wang Baole thought of the word ‘robbery’, he was reminded of Li Wan’er and Chen Mu’s engagement. With the thought that Li Wan’er would soon become Chen Mu’s Dao partner, the anger he had towards it, which had once appeared but waned, reappeared again.

At the same time, in the skies between the Martian Colony City and Divine Armament New City, tens of specially built large cruisers were traveling at an astonishing speed.

The cruisers carried the first batch of manpower and resources, which were in staggering quantities. In the cockpit of the first cruiser, three people sat there, sipping on wine and conversing with each other. One of them was dressed in formal attire and had fair skin. At the same time, he had a profound look in his eyes. Besides looking extremely handsome, he gave off an extraordinary vibe.

“Junior Brother Wen and Junior Sister Fang, as long as we go according to our agreement and carry out our duties in Divine Armament New City, there would be no issues.” The youth held the wine cup and took a sip of the wine. He smiled, appearing extremely intelligent and persuasive, and that made the two people sitting opposite him nod their heads slightly.

Of the two, one was Wen Huai, who was now wearing a long robe of traditional design. From his wide sleeves, it could be seen that a large number of black bandages were covering his arm, and that was the same case for his neck and half of his face. This unique style made him look extremely vicious.

The other person was a woman named Fang Jing. There were obvious signs that she was from the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect. Even though the name 'Plume Manifestation Connate Sect' sounded elegant, in reality, all their disciples strove for physical strength, regardless of whether they were male or female. All of them had exaggeratedly large muscles, and Fang Jing was no exception.

She was born with beautiful looks. However, no matter how beautiful she was, when paired with a muscular physique, anyone who saw her would gasp.

Right now, Fang Jing was like a metal tower, sitting there, giving off a strong suppressive force that made even Wen Huai fearful. However, it had no effect on the youth in formal attire.

That youth was Chen Mu, the Chen Family's eldest son. Right now, the three of them were on the way to Divine Armament New City. According to the scheduled time, they would arrive in an hour.

"Senior Brother Chen, don't belittle Wang Baole. I had some interactions with him previously... not only is he a vicious person, but he is also extremely shameless and sly. It's as if there are no limits to the things he can do or how he can act. Disgusting!" After a period of silence, Wen Huai spoke softly, revealing all his thoughts about Wang Baole.

"Li Yi and I are best friends. According to her, Wang Baole is scum with all the body fat he carries. At the same time, he is extremely lecherous. If he dares to have any perverted thoughts towards me this time, I will let him know that not everyone will be bullied by him!" Fang Jing snorted. She was filled with hatred towards Wang Baole, especially when she already had a bad impression of him through what she heard from Li Yi's stories.

A look of bewilderment flashed across Wen Huai's eyes, but he didn't say much. Chen Mu, on the other hand, remained elegant throughout the process. One couldn't guess what he was really thinking, and right now, he was nodding his head while smiling.

"Wang Baole is indeed a scum of the Federation. It is necessary to eliminate him as soon as possible, but Junior Brother Wen is right. The fact that he could make it until now means that he has some capabilities. His tactics may be vicious, but we should never let our guard down. However, the fact that the three factions of ours have already reached a consensus, allowing us to regard each other as brothers and sisters, shows just where the issue lies.

"Therefore, as long as the three of us don't fall out with each other and remain united, Wang Baole will eventually be our stepping stone."

As Wen Huai and Fang Jing listened, they seemed to have thought of something. They smiled, holding up their wine glasses and toasting Chen Mu.

Chen Mu laughed heartily. He looked calm on the surface, but he was secretly delighted. This time, not only did his family clan manage to arrange for the position of mayor for him, but they also achieved the right to be autonomous. At the same time, in this new city, he already had people standing on the same side as him. His fiancé Li Wan'er was already the Deputy City Lord.

In reality, Chen Mu was dissatisfied towards this fiancé of his. To him, although there were many women superior to him, enough that he felt shameful, there were also innumerable women who would willingly strip naked and leap at him with a snap of his fingers.

After all, he was different from Jin Duoming. Jin Duoming liked to collect, while Chen Mu preferred brief enjoyment. Therefore, he was somewhat against his fiancé.

When he arrived, his family clan had told him that according to the agreement with the Head Senator, Li Wan'er's role was to pave the way for his success in Divine Armament New City.

Therefore, on the basis of having a path to success, he unwillingly agreed to the marriage arrangement. However, these were all thoughts that he kept in his heart, thoughts that he didn't dare reveal in front of the senator.

Fine then. I have met this Li Wan'er previously. She looks quite beautiful, and her figure is hot. Even though I don't know how she will look naked, she should be relatively good in bed. With that thought, Chen Mu was suddenly excited. However, Li Wan'er had long made it clear that before their marriage, there would be no physical contact. Despite that, Chen Mu was confident that, as a woman, what she said wasn't what she meant.

Having thought of Li Wan'er, hatred and dislike towards Wang Baole arose uncontrollably in Chen Mu's heart. It was even transformed into a form that would make him choose to kill if he had the choice...

He belittled Wang Baole, because, according to his judgment, Wang Baole was merely lucky. That luck of his was baseless and inconsistent.

To Chen Mu, the persistence of wanting to expand the city zone into a city when Wang Baole was already holding a stable position as mayor was a stupid move, despite it allowing him to be promoted. Wang Baole was rash, but Chen Mu still had to thank him for his stupidity. If not, his family clan wouldn't have the opportunity to interfere in the New Mars Region again when everything seemed to have already been set in stone.

There was another reason. He had heard about the incident between Wang Baole and his fiancé, Li Wan'er, through the private conversations of the Zhuo family. That shocked him extremely badly. He tried going to the Zhuo family several times to demand the video footage, curious about finding out exactly what was going on.

However, the Zhuo Family didn't dare to hand it to him. All they said was that it had already been destroyed.

However, Chen Mu didn't want to let the matter rest. Therefore, he found Zhuo Yixian, but Zhuo Yixian was already frozen in fear with regret and didn't dare involve himself further. However, the strong hatred he had towards Wang Baole overruled everything, and with a pitiful look, he patted Chen Mu's shoulder and told him...

"Brother, don't be too serious about this matter. Just treat it as if nothing happened. If not, if you were to really see the footage, you might... Forget it, that's all I'll say. You'll understand what I mean."

It wouldn't have mattered much if he didn't say such things. However, hearing those words, Chen Mu grew even more bitter. However, he could only hide it deep in his heart, without revealing a hint of it in

his interactions with Wen Huai and Fang Jing along the journey. In truth, his heart was filled with hatred towards Wang Baole. Just like that, the cruiser they were in traveled at high speed for another hour, before eventually reaching Divine Armament New City.

Obviously, Wang Baole didn't receive them, and Li Wan'er went in his place instead. After the trio arrived in Divine Armament New City, they paid a visit to Kong Dao and Jin Duoming. They already had an understanding of the people in charge of internal affairs. They chose to ignore Lin Tianhao, and after that, they headed towards their respective zones and began building.

However, even though Wen Huai and Fang Jing were courteous when interacting with Li Wan'er, Chen Mu treated her as if he was her owner. He may not have ordered her around, but his attitude made Li Wan'er very unhappy.

From start to end, they didn't mention Wang Baole. They didn't visit him, treating him as if he didn't exist, and acted as if their new region was unrelated to the new city. When others noticed this, they began to have speculations. Li Wan'er wanted to give them a gentle reminder that this resistance was inappropriate, but when she noticed Chen Mu's attitude, she was annoyed and decided not to remind them.

As for Wang Baole, even though he didn't appear, due to the detailed information from Liu Daobin and the Ethereal Dao College students—as well as what he noticed about the actions of the trio after they arrived—a look of irritation flashed across his eyes while he sat in the office. He caressed the donkey that seemed to have returned tired after play.

So obnoxious, huh?

Chapter 393: The Goal: Dharmic Armament Master!

Wang Baole knew about the obnoxiousness of the trio, including Chen Mu, like the back of his hand. Now, he was caressing the donkey as he narrowed his eyes. He felt that Chen Mu and company should thank the Federation for teaching and bringing them up. If not, with that temper of his, he would have definitely gone to bash them up.

"I'm already a prominent figure now. As a prominent figure, I can't bash someone up willy-nilly, don't you think, Scram?" Wang Baole cleared his throat, speaking calmly while pretending to be profound, as he grabbed the donkey.

The donkey felt wronged. It merely wanted to rest after tiring itself out after playing for a while, and that was why he passed by the office building Wang Baole was in. However, even before it could distance itself, it was ordered by Wang Baole and had to go towards him, allowing him to scratch and caress it. Even though the donkey was unhappy, he couldn't show any signs of it. Now that he heard Wang Baole's words, the donkey hurriedly grinned and acted obedient, nodding its head furiously.

It was as if it was trying to say that whatever Wang Baole said was right...

The method used by prominent figures against insignificant people like them is often profound. Not only do they act, but whatever action they take has a significant impact! The more Wang Baole thought

about it, the more he felt that everything made sense. He was filled with delight and had the impression that his understanding of the high officials' autobiographies was further deepened.

However, when he thought about how obnoxious Chen Mu and company were, he was unhappy. He looked askance at the donkey, trying to convey the message through his eyes that it could eat at the residence belonging to Chen Mu and company from time to time.

Even though the donkey was smart, it was, after all, still a donkey that hadn't gained human intelligence. Therefore, when it saw the look in Wang Baole's eyes, it was confused, apparently not understanding what Wang Baole meant.

This made Wang Baole frown as he kicked the donkey.

The kick was swift and loud. It seemed like the combination of Wang Baole's cultivation, strong physique, and slim thighs made the kick extremely powerful.

Perhaps the shock from the powerful kick had the ability to knock some sense into the donkey's head. At that moment, it seemed to have realized the meaning behind Wang Baole's gaze, and it quickly called out while nodding its head furiously.

Seeing that the donkey understood the situation, Wang Baole stopped kicking the donkey. He thought about whether he should proceed with the kick, but as he felt that he was an amiable owner, he cleared his throat and decided not to proceed. Instead, he gently caressed the donkey.

"How obedient. Scram, do this task well!"

The donkey was suddenly touched by Wang Baole's gentle caress and voice. It vaguely felt that even though its owner was abusive, he still treated it well occasionally. Therefore, it suddenly had the intention to lick Wang Baole's hands with its tongue. Wang Baole was surprised by it, and that was when the donkey suddenly turned and ran towards the door.

What's going on? Wang Baole was taken aback. He had never thought that the donkey would lick him. Therefore, he stood up and went to the window. As he saw the donkey charging towards the new region that Chen Mu and company were in, he blinked his eyes in realization.

I approve of this. It's an expression of its love for its owners. At the same time, it took the initiative to share the burden of its owner's worries and wants to help take revenge. Good donkey! Wang Baole was encouraged and thought that he had really used the correct method of being harsh with punishment to bring up a good disciple like the donkey.

With that thought, Wang Baole buried the absurdities of Chen Mu and company in his heart and began his usual cultivation process. His cultivation level was now at that of late-stage Foundation Establishment realm. With the presence of the array formation, he could absorb the Dark Qi in the catacombs every time he cultivated, which helped to speed up the process significantly.

That made his cultivation grow exponentially by the day. At the same time, Wang Baole had great expectations for the future. He knew that when the structure of the array formation was completely formed, his cultivation would reach an unimaginable state.

Even though there were no short cuts for any cultivator if they wanted to advance from late-stage Foundation Establishment realm to the perfected stage, Wang Baole was still confident that with the help of the array formation, the entire process could be sped up limitlessly for him.

The construction of the new city was also boosted significantly with the arrival of Chen Mu and company. Chen Mu and company may be autonomous, but they had also seen what happened to Li Yi. Therefore, they met all the requirements needed for the construction, as well as the array formation. Even though they were autonomous in terms of management, there was no impact on Wang Baole's cultivation process.

Just like that, days passed. A bird's eye view of the new city revealed that, as countless people busied themselves with the construction, the prototype of the large city was slowly being formed, and was becoming clearer with time.

At the same time, as Wang Baole cultivated, he didn't neglect the refinement of his Dharmic Artifacts. All his Dharmic Artifacts were upgraded, reaching the level of sixth-grade Dharmic Artifacts. Even his Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact was upgraded to fifth-grade. Even though more resources were needed for it to advance to sixth-grade, Wang Baole was confident that within a few months, he could upgrade his Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact to the sixth-grade.

As he analyzed his Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact, the scabbard, which was now fifth-grade, he found some changes. There were no longer just nine mosquitoes. Rather, the number had doubled to eighteen!

Furthermore, when those eighteen mosquitoes flew out, the maximum possible distance between them and Wang Baole was also significantly increased. At the same time, their combat capabilities also shocked Wang Baole when he tested them out. Right now, each of the eighteen mosquitoes seemed to be in mid-stage True Breath realm.

Most importantly, they could revive continuously without limits. As long as the Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact scabbard could support the force of revival without failing, it would be as if he was bringing a True Breath realm army along with him everywhere he went.

Other than that, Wang Baole was most concerned about the three unique mosquitoes within his Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact scabbard. Even though the gray mosquito had integrated with the donkey, the second one had now appeared. According to Wang Baole's guess, the second mosquito could perhaps allow him to control a second ferocious beast.

As for the remaining two purple and black mosquitoes, they were actually the ones that Wang Baole desired most. He was clear that the two mosquitoes were formidable, but he still couldn't control the purple and black mosquito despite the Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact scabbard already reaching fifth-grade.

He felt slightly upset about this, but he also had a strong feeling that with the advancement of the Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact scabbard, he could eventually control the two mosquitoes!

At this stage of refinement, Wang Baole's goal wasn't only focused on continually upgrading his Intrinsic Dharmic Artifact. He had another goal, one that made him extremely excited when he thought about it!

He would never forget the day when he was admitted into the Ethereal Dao College and accepted into the Dharmic Armament faculty. It was the day when he saw the motto inscribed on the large rock of Dharmic Armament faculty!

'Divine armaments shall destroy the myriad Dao if restraintment by Dharmic Artifacts and Numinous treasures proves fruitless!'

The first- and second-grade are Dharmic Artifacts, those under sixth-grade are Numinous Treasures, while the seventh-grade is called... Dharmic Armament!

Now, I'm finally at the stage where I can attempt to refine Dharmic Armaments! Wang Baole took a deep breath as his eyes lit up. The thought of being able to study Dharmic Armaments and try to refine them made him so agitated that he was unable to calm down. However, he also understood that the expenditure needed to try out and refine a Dharmic Armament would be huge.

Now, other than studying how to go about the refinement, the other issue was that the first Dharmic Armament that he would attempt to refine shouldn't be too complex. Therefore, after thinking about it, Wang Baole came to a decision.

The first Dharmic Armament that I attempt to refine shall be... the megaphone! With that thought, Wang Baole was filled with enthusiasm. He had a special liking for the megaphone, and the megaphone had also accompanied him for a large part of his journey. Every time the megaphone was sounded, its effects were miraculous. Wang Baole felt that this unique treasure, if made into his first Dharmic Armament, would be extremely powerful, enough to impact the entire surroundings.

That was especially so when he pictured himself holding the Dharmic Armament megaphone and blowing into it. Its sound would have such a big impact on the enemies that they wouldn't be able to fight back. That made Wang Baole's decision to refine a megaphone Dharmic Armament even firmer.

With that firm belief, Wang Baole, a Primary Rank Three City Lord with ample resources, embarked on the intense process of research.

He was already an outstanding Dharmic Armament cultivator of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. At the same time, he had a strong foundation in terms of refining treasures. As he proceeded step by step into refining sixth-grade treasures, he had formed his own insights and inventions. He had a deep understanding of how to arrange the inscriptions, such that they would always work. As such, even though his process of researching the Dharmic Armament was slow, he was heading in the right direction, proceeding forward steadily.

Furthermore, his seventh-grade Dharmic Armament saber also became his reference. He knew very clearly that a Primary Rank Three who could successfully refine a Dharmic Armament, while still not as impressive as a Core Formation cultivator, would be impressive.

It could also be said that once the Dharmic Armament was successfully refined, Wang Baole's status and position would stand out, even without the support of the four Dao Colleges!

After all, only the one amongst the many Dharmic Armament cultivators of the Federation who could refine a Dharmic Armament would be worthy of the title of... Master!

Chapter 394: The Wind Blows!

The thought that one day, after he successfully refined a Dharmic Armament, that every single person—man or woman—would have to address him as ‘Grandmaster’, made Wang Baole extremely agitated, as well as troubled.

Would they call me Grandmaster Wang, Grandmaster Bao, or Grandmaster Le?

No matter how Wang Baole thought about it, he still felt that the word ‘Grand’ made the title awful. He had the intention that after he refined a Dharmic Armament, he would take the initiative to make others, such as Liu Daobin and company, first address him as Master Wang. That way, the others would follow suit as well.

Master Wang! Wang Baole was satisfied with this title. After he fantasized about it for a moment, he felt energized and began the process of researching Dharmic Armaments by playing it out in his mind.

A Dharmic Armament was structurally similar to a Numinous Treasure, both having Spirit Kernels and inscriptions, but when seen in detail, many differences were also present. There were two other factors, which were Spirit Integration and Heavenly Evocation!

According to the knowledge Wang Baole gained through his time spent in the Ethereal Dao College, he knew very clearly that, regardless of whether it was a Dharmic Artifact or a Numinous Treasure, they were merely a method of using Spirit energy—such that the Spirit energy could flow according to the inscriptions in order to produce different explosive effects.

A Dharmic Armament differed in that it not only focused on only Spirit energy, but also encompassed... Heaven and Earth power!

The so-called Heaven and Earth power sounded very ethereal in its description. According to the Dao College, it could cause the heavens and earth, as well as everything in nature, to be seen as having life. The ripples that resulted from this life would accumulate and fill the entire world. This seemingly separate, yet united force, was known as... Heaven and Earth power!

This is actually magnetism. The heavens have a will, and therefore, they would give off magnetism belonging to the heavens. This was the same case for the earth, the mountains, the rivers, and even the mud, rocks, lightning, wind and rain, and so on... Wang Baole rubbed his glabella, as he recalled the knowledge he learned in the Dao College.

Dharmic Artifacts and Numinous Treasures control the Spirit energy. As for a Dharmic Armament, it doesn’t only control the Spirit energy, but also the Heaven and Earth power. Therefore, in terms of power, activation of any Dharmic Armament would send shock waves in all directions. It wasn’t groundbreaking but was still extremely impressive.

The way to control the Heaven and Earth power was to incorporate one of the two additional factors that distinguished a Numinous Treasure from a Dharmic Armament, and that was... Heavenly Evocation!

This so-called Heavenly Evocation meant incorporating all the mystique forces emanating from the magnetic fields of every single object between the heavens and earth into a Dharmic Armament. It could transform a Dharmic Armament into a medium for communicating with the forces of the heavens and earth!

This way, the first step of making a Dharmic Armament could be considered complete. A Dharmic Treasure that could communicate with the Heaven and Earth powers could already be considered half a Dharmic Armament, with its power far exceeding that of a Numinous Treasure, even though it still paled greatly compared to a Dharmic Armament.

At that time, the second stage of refinement would be initiated, and that was... Spirit Integration!

True to its name, Spirit Integration meant integrating the spirit into a Dharmic Armament!

It didn't require the Artifact Spirit to have Spirit Intelligence. As long as it fulfilled the requirements, once the spirit was integrated, it could form something like an outlet for a Dharmic Treasure that had Heaven and Earth power. Through the lead of the Artifact Spirit, a surprising force would result.

For example, the black hurricane from Wang Baole's Dharmic Armament saber appeared as such because the source of the Dharmic Armament's Heaven and Earth power had come from a hurricane. The crocodile inside the black hurricane was the Artifact Spirit!

Heavenly Evocation and Spirit Integration... These two steps are challenging. Wang Baole sorted out the knowledge he had learned. In silence, he began thinking about these two steps that were unique to a Dharmic Armament. For the Heavenly Evocation step, he needed to continually try and play it out. As for Spirit Integration, it could be considered the simpler of the two steps.

I need to capture a ferocious beast as the Artifact Spirit. The choice for the Artifact Spirit should ideally complement the power of the Dharmic Armament. Therefore, since I want to refine a Dharmic Armament megaphone, I should find a beast that could roar, and do so loudly... With that thought, the donkey surfaced in Wang Baole's mind. Instantly, his eyes lit up, but he soon sighed. He felt that killing the innocent donkey that hadn't done anything wrong was somewhat inhumane.

However, he still felt that using the donkey as the Artifact Spirit and creating the Dharmic Armament megaphone would make it extremely impressive and astonishing.

As he pondered, Wang Baole pushed away the idea of using the donkey as the Artifact Spirit. He began to research Heavenly Evocation. Time passed, and soon, seven days went by.

In the seven days, even though Wang Baole didn't reach the state where he forgot about food and rest, he still spent almost the entire period of time researching Dharmic Armaments. He still spared some time to receive the reports from Liu Daobin and company. With them around, Wang Baole knew the status of his city like the back of his hands.

For example, Chen Mu and company may have put in a lot of effort in the construction of the city for the past seven days, but compared to Wen Huai and Fang Jing who had laid low, Chen Mu held a small banquet in his zone three days ago. He had invited many people. Without a doubt, Li Wan'er was also there and had appeared to be extremely courteous towards Chen Mu.

Another example would be that during this period, incidents of missing resources frequently occurred in the region belonging to Chen Mu and company. In addition, the donkey would be seen every time, both before and after the incident happened. This issue was only resolved after the Core Formation realm cultivators from each of the three factions began standing guard. However, throughout the length of the episode, the total amount of resources lost by the three factions was astounding.

Everything surfaced in Wang Baole's mind. He was satisfied with the donkey's performance. At the same time, he received Li Wan'er's voice transmission. Her tone was formal as she requested for the capture of the donkey.

Wang Baole naturally rejected that request. After receiving the rejection, Li Wan'er didn't say much. She merely mentioned that should such things happen again, that she would report it directly to the Governor. After all, the construction of the new city trumped everything else. Anything and anyone who stalled the construction process should be punished.

Is she threatening me? Wang Baole was unhappy, his gaze somewhat colder than before. He seemed to have realized that Li Wan'er had already had a change of heart. She was merely engaged but was using her authority to side with Chen Mu.

Is she trying to warn me not to have any ulterior motives towards Chen Mu...? Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. Based on the many years that he had spent studying the high officials' autobiographies, he began to realize the meaning behind Li Wan'er's actions.

With that thought, a chilly look was revealed in Wang Baole's eyes. He didn't take any action though, as he knew very clearly that it wasn't the right time to meddle with Chen Mu and company's affairs. After all, the city hadn't been completed yet...

Another half a month passed like that. Wang Baole's research on the Dharmic Armament, specifically the segment on Heavenly Evocation, had shown some progress. When he thought about trying it out, the ground suddenly shook violently that evening. After that, a deafening boom reverberated, and the Divine Armament Catacombs opened up once again.

Having learned from the experience of the previous incident involving Li Yi, a large number of cultivators immediately took action as the loud boom reverberated. That was especially so for Kong Dao, Jin Duoming, and company.

It was the same case for Li Wan'er as well. Even though she didn't have experience in this field, she had a responsibility to act. She studied the city and the catacombs for a long while and knew that the sudden appearance of the loud boom had something to do with the catacombs for sure.

For Wang Baole, when the loud boom sounded, he swiftly emerged from seclusion, activating the array formation and using his authority to inspect every single zone.

In the city, including the areas that had yet to be constructed, everything, be it Li Yi's catacombs or the Divine Armament Catacombs, appeared normal. However, in the wilderness not far away from the city, new catacombs had appeared.

Within a short period of time, following Li Yi's catacombs, new catacombs appeared. This meant that the ripples inside the Divine Armament Catacombs had entered an active state. That matched the analysis of the Martian Colony Governor, but Wang Baole still felt immense pressure because of it.

He knew very well that once the catacombs appeared, he needed to seal it within the shortest time possible. Even though it was outside the city, and wasn't as easy to suppress compared to if it were within the city, the purpose of constructing the new city was to equip the Divine Armament Catacombs with more cultivators. Therefore, with Wang Baole's command, the cultivators and Core Formation

realm elites from the six zones were activated and gathered at the location of the new catacombs in order to suppress it in unison.

With the participation from the various factions, the number of Core Formation realm cultivators in Divine Armament New City also swelled in number. Wang Baole's orders were sent throughout the city, and Jin Duoming, Kong Dao, as well as others like Li Wan'er continued to pass it down. Soon, a large number of cultivators emerged from the city, charging towards the location of the new catacombs at high speed.

Very quickly, everyone who arrived heaved a slight breath of relief when they saw the new catacombs. The size was clearly smaller than that during the incident involving Li Yi. Now, even though a large number of ferocious beasts and corpses were emerging while roaring, it wasn't difficult to suppress them. However, since his arrival, Wang Baole began frowning as he looked around, inevitably growing solemn.

Kong Dao, Jin Duoming, Lin Tianhao, as well as others from the great Dao Colleges had all gathered here... However, only a handful of cultivators from the zones belonging to Chen Mu, Wen Huai, and Fang Jing had gathered. In addition, the Core Formation realm cultivators, as well as the three autonomous mayors, didn't show up at all!

Chapter 395: Choosing Humiliation Over Dignity!

Are you fearless because you have a strong backing? Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. If Chen Mu and company hadn't sent manpower, he could still use this reason to punish and question them. However, since they still made arrangements for their cultivators to come despite their Core Formation realm cultivators and themselves not showing up, it was difficult for him to make a big fuss about it, even though it was clearly done in a perfunctory manner. After all, to a certain extent, they had fulfilled the orders.

Interesting! A chilly glow flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. He had originally planned to find fault with Chen Mu and company after they had completed the construction of the city, but now, he could no longer wait.

I'll give all of you another chance. If you still behave this way, then don't blame me for unleashing my wrath. You really think that there is nothing I can do to you while you operate autonomously? Wang Baole snorted. He immediately sent out a command to gather Chen Mu and company, as well as the Core Formation realm cultivators in their respective factions to suppress the catacombs.

After the command was sent out, Wang Baole didn't have much time to bother himself with it anymore. He immediately took action, and with the cooperation of Jin Duoming and company, he stopped the spread of the ferocious beasts, gradually encircling them.

Instantly, the snarls of the ferocious beasts reverberated in all directions. Jin Duoming and Kong Dao, who had been through the incident involving Li Yi, understood that after encircling them in the catacombs, they had to seal it immediately. Therefore, they put all their effort into the resistance. At the same time, they also noticed that Chen Mu and company were missing in action, and heard Wang Baole

ordering for them to come once again. They looked at each other, occasionally throwing glances to Lin Tianhao, who was a distance away, and they saw the glow in each other's eyes.

"I wonder how Wang Baole will handle Chen Mu and company this time... Speaking of which, it's also difficult. Chen Mu isn't stupid and has sent people here to help..."

"Most importantly, they are autonomous. In theory, even if Wang Baole is the City Lord, he has no power to command them..."

"Their duties as autonomous mayors have already been clearly listed. They are managed by both the Martian Colony Governor as well as the Federation, and have no authoritative links with the new city." While the trio was resisting the ferocious beasts in the catacombs, they sent each other voice transmissions. Compared to Jin Duoming and Kong Dao, Lin Tianhao was clearly displeased with Chen Mu and company.

However, this sort of autonomous rule seemed like a protective identity token. Lin Tianhao could only sigh, thinking silently about how Wang Baole would handle the matter. In reality, they weren't the only ones thinking about this. The other cultivators surrounding them were no fools. They had long understood that something was amiss, and were keeping close to find out how things would develop next.

It could be said that how Wang Baole decides to handle the matter would determine how everyone treated Chen Mu and company. To a certain extent, Wang Baole's influence on the people could also be affected by this.

If he handled the matter perfectly, he would have solidified his influence. However, if he failed at this initial attempt at sparring, his influence on the people would be greatly reduced.

Li Wan'er, on the other hand, was now frowning. In reality, this was the scenario that she was dreading the most. According to her plans, there was no need for Chen Mu and company to resist Wang Baole head-on in this manner. She had tried persuading them, but the effects were minimal.

This current mission of suppressing the catacombs appeared noisy on the surface, with everyone resisting the beast tide with their utmost effort and the seal being put in place with the help of the Core Formation realm cultivators. However, in reality, everyone focused their attention on Wang Baole, wanting to find out how things would unfold.

With regards to this, Wang Baole, who was familiar with the high officials' autobiographies, understood the whole situation like the back of his hand and took everything seriously. He appeared calm from beginning to end, and other than sending out the second order, he didn't take any further action, instead, continuing his efforts to manage the catacombs incident.

The newly appeared catacombs may not have been large, but the number of beast waves that showed up was still astounding. They had been confined into a small area, and with the abundance of cultivators and Dharmic Artifacts, the ferocious beasts were continually killed. The beast tide within the cave was also beginning to show signs of receding, and the seal was about to be completed.

However, right at this moment, a deafening scream was heard, and a thick fog exploded suddenly from within the cave, destroying the half-completed seal and rising to the skies. In mid-air, the movement of the fog was transformed into a giant python, screaming as it emerged.

The instant that the black fog was transformed into the python, more black fog surged from within the cave. As it rose to the skies, it was like seawater, spreading furiously in all directions. Within it, numerous tiny black pythons could be seen, screaming as they moved.

A chill flashed across Wang Baole's eyes. He had no time to think about Chen Mu and company. He had a duty to fulfill now, and he immediately dashed out, his late-stage Foundation Establishment realm cultivation activated and Dharmic Armament saber in hand. In a few steps, he slew the giant python that was roaring in mid-air!

The moment Wang Baole acted, the four Core Formation realm Dao guardians from the four Dao Colleges looked solemn. They instantly surrounded Wang Baole. Of their responsibilities, protecting Wang Baole was most crucial, while resisting the catacombs was secondary. Therefore, they now stood guard around Wang Baole, before charging out and going against the giant python.

The Core Formation realm Dao guardians beside Jin Duoming and Kong Dao acted similarly. Everyone's main objective was to protect their respective important figures, and there were now over ten Core Formation realm cultivators there. Therefore, as they acted in unison, the effect was shocking. As a loud boom reverberated, the glow from their spells lit up splendidly in various colors. The giant python that approached was unable to withstand it, and within a short period of time, it burst open and died.

Wang Baole's saber beam didn't have the largest effect, but with his initiative, he managed to have a strong influence in gathering others to act.

Soon, as everyone cooperated in unison, the new catacombs, which wasn't large in area, was gradually suppressed completely. When all the black fog that emerged dissipated, and as the catacombs was sealed, Wang Baole heaved a sigh of relief. Standing outside the sealed catacombs, he looked at it while it was still glowing. He calmly conveyed another series of commands, including the order to build a base at that very location and make it part of the new city so that it could continually be suppressed.

Right now, there was a principle held by Martian City regarding a newly formed Divine Armament Catacombs. The principle was that in the second Martian City, the array formation would be used to destroy the barrier, forming the foundation for eliminating the beasts. With the appearance of every new catacombs, it would be suppressed, and a new base would be built in that location.

Even though this method seemed a little belated in terms of response, if it was carried out until the barrier was destroyed, it could solve the issue regarding the Divine Armament Catacombs.

After he was done handling the matters of the catacombs, Wang Baole turned his head and looked in the direction of the new city. The chill in his eyes intensified. From the time he arrived until the time the catacombs was suppressed and sealed, approximately two hours had passed. However, everything has ended, and Chen Mu and company still hadn't shown up. It was clear that they had disregarded his second command.

“Choosing humiliation over dignity.” Wang Baole spoke softly. Jin Duoming and Kong Dao looked at each other without speaking. They could both sense a chill emanating from Wang Baole, one that couldn’t be suppressed anymore.

The surrounding people also realized it. They all remained silent, which made the surroundings of the sealed catacombs appear eerily quiet.

In this quietness, Li Wan’er appeared to have something to say, but she stopped herself. This was the case for Lin Tianhao as well. Based on Lin Tianhao’s thoughts, the autonomous power given to Chen Mu and company was sufficient to resolve everything. Therefore, he wanted to step forward and persuade Wang Baole. After all, finding fault with the trio right now could easily lead to inconclusive results. Once that happened, Wang Baole’s influence would be affected.

However, even before he could speak, Wang Baole’s cold voice reverberated in all directions.

“Everyone, please follow me to the three autonomous zones to see if catacombs have appeared there as well.” As Wang Baole spoke, he began heading to the new city. Lin Tianhao hesitated and didn’t speak; instead, he took a deep breath and followed behind. The four Dao Colleges were on the same side as Wang Baole and naturally followed him.

Jin Duoming and Kong Dao looked at each other and followed, and that was the case for others as well. They all wanted to see what would happen when Wang Baole crossed paths with the autonomous trio.

“City Lord Wang, there is no need to do this. I can handle this matter. You...” Noticing the situation, Li Wan’er hurriedly spoke. However, even before she could finish, Wang Baole, who was ahead, interrupted in a stern voice.

“Shut up! Li Wan’er, mind your position. You’re only the Deputy City Lord!”

As the words reverberated, the aura from Wang Baole grew stronger. Compared to Li Wan’er, who had perfected Foundation Establishment realm cultivation, Wang Baole didn’t let loose, and neither did he turn back. He immediately took out his cruiser and charged towards the new city. His destination was the zone Chen Mu was in!

Having been reprimanded, Li Wan’er was aghast with shock. She fell silent as she followed behind.

As the masses left, some still stood guard around the catacombs, continuing the task of handling the ferocious beast corpses. In the process, no one noticed that a piece of the ferocious beast flesh had quietly blended into the ground and disappeared.

Chapter 396: Confined Within a Prison!

Outside the new city, no one in Wang Baole’s company spoke. There was only the sound of the cruiser speeding through the air, whooshing. It entered the new city’s array formation and headed straight for Chen Mu’s autonomous zone.

During the journey, the expression on Wang Baole’s face wasn’t that of sternness and simmering anger. Instead, he looked calm and composed, and there was an unfathomable light in his eyes. He seemed

different than he usually was. Jin Duoming and company stared at Wang Baole and narrowed their eyes. They had a considering look in their eyes.

They had been working with Wang Baole on Mars, and it was clear that their understanding of Wang Baole's character surpassed that of many others. They knew clearly that the happy-go-lucky fatty was a harsh and brutal character. He showed little mercy towards others, and even less towards himself. He didn't lack cunning and decisiveness. This was clear from the episode with Li Yi.

After the Li Yi incident, Jin Duoming and Kong Dao both had their guesses... that Wang Baole had set a trap for Li Yi right from the start. He had been waiting all along for Li Yi to walk right into his trap.

Such vicious tactics earned great approval and admiration from Jin Duoming. As for Kong Dao, he didn't think they were right, but he knew very well that Li Yi had brought it upon herself. Besides, Wang Baole was his savior. Even though he spoke nothing of it, he never forgot that fact.

Wang Baole's methods were extremely brilliant and tactical. He had thought of something that would benefit everyone tremendously. The most important thing was that he had actually succeeded. Everything ensured that Jin Duoming and Kong Dao recognized Wang Baole's authority as the City Lord.

At present, they weren't in much of a mood to stand on the sidelines and spectate. However, they had no idea how Wang Baole was going to deal with Chen Mu and his gang.

What is Wang Baole going to do? Jin Duoming narrowed his eyes. He thought about how he would handle the matter if he were in Wang Baole's shoes. Finally, he came to the conclusion that he would make use of his family clan's influence and power to resolve the issue.

Kong Dao and Li Tianhao also wondered how they would address the problem. Even Li Wan'er was considering what Wang Baole was going to do. It was then that Li Wan'er realized that she didn't really understand Wang Baole as a person. At present, she only felt that Wang Baole was inviting trouble onto himself. However, she knew that Wang Baole had climbed his way up steadily, advancing from the status of an ordinary nobody to his current Primary Rank Three Noble. He was definitely not a fool.

The same thoughts surfaced in the people behind Wang Baole. The cultivators from the four Dao Colleges, especially, thought so. If the journey had been longer, someone amongst them might have come up with something, but the distance between the catacombs and Chen Mu's autonomous zone was simply too short. Everyone was still stuck with no ideas when they arrived outside the new zone.

The new zone under Chen Mu's charge was located in the southeastern region of the new city. Its size rivaled the size of the city zone that Wang Baole had constructed when he had been mayor. It was a significant land area, and Chen Mu had clearly spent some thought on the construction. The Five Generation Sky Clan had also given him their full support. Despite his recent arrival, the prototype of a city zone had already been set up.

From afar, what had previously been wilderness had been replaced by leveled roads and even grounds. Towering buildings rose to the skies, and an aesthetic that identified strongly with the Five Generation Sky Clan's style could be seen clearly in the zone—picturesque, quaint, and filled with countless pavilions. In fact, it almost didn't look and feel like a city zone and looked more like the villa of a vast family clan.

The entire zone was divided into ten rings. The layers interconnected with one another but could be isolated instantly and could exist independently as well. The zone was guarded by members of the Five Generation Sky Clan, and the intersections with the new city were especially heavily guarded.

Everything hinted at its autonomy. They were setting themselves apart and declaring self-governance. This was Wang Baole's first time visiting the zone, but he had heard about what was going on and wasn't a stranger to the place. However, he still raised his eyebrow after seeing the situation with his own eyes.

Even though the zone was built to resemble a family clan's home, the set up of the array formation was in order. The Five Generation Sky Clan wouldn't commit such a mistake.

Chen Mu had been notified of Wang Baole's arrival, and he didn't give Wang Baole the chance to criticize him on his etiquette. Prior to Wang Baole's arrival, he, alongside Wen Huai and Fang Jing, had brought with them numerous guards from their respective zones and walked out. They cupped their fists and saluted Wang Baole from a distance. When they lifted their heads, they had friendly smiles on their faces. Their voices were mild and gentle, ringing out into the air.

"Our greetings to the City Lord, Deputy City Lord, as well as our comrades. Welcome to the new zone."

As soon as his voice rang out, Chen Mu's gaze fell on Wang Baole. He stared at the rotund figure with a gentle expression on his face, but inside, he laughed scornfully. He had always believed that a person who couldn't even maintain a good figure would undoubtedly possess many flaws in other areas.

Despite secretly mocking Wang Baole, his attitude towards Wang Baole wasn't what he had told Wen Huai and Fang Jing. He had done a great deal of research and investigation into Wang Baole and knew what kind of character he was. Despite that, he didn't really pay much heed to what he had found out. It simply meant that this opponent of his was going to pose a slight challenge.

This was also Wang Baole's first time meeting Chen Mu. He stared at that friendly smile plastered on a handsome face, the tall, striking figure, and the air of casual nobility that had obviously been cultivated through growing up in an elite family clan. Everything displeased him further.

Anyone of us from the Adonis Association is better looking than he is! Wang Baole snorted inwardly. He took a huge step forward, his gaze sliding past Chen Mu and towards Wen Huai and Fang Jing, who were standing behind Chen Mu. This was his first time seeing Fang Jing. As for Wen Huai, he had robbed him blind on the moon. He even knew what the young man looked like under his clothes.

Fang Jing seemed fine with Wang Baole's gaze on her, there was even a hint of provocation in her eyes. On the other hand, Wen Huai trembled. Their encounter on the moon surfaced in his head, and he instinctively avoided Wang Baole's eyes instead of meeting them. If not for Chen Mu stressing it repeatedly and the arrangements that had been made by his sect, he really didn't wish to ever see Wang Baole again.

Chen Mu's eyes flashed when he noticed Wen Huai's lowered head. He stepped forward and into Wang Baole's line of vision. Then, he smiled gently and said, "City Lord, is there a reason that you have gathered such a big group and come to my autonomous zone?" Chen Mu placed stress on the word "autonomous" when he spoke. He had made up his mind as well. Since Wang Baole was inviting trouble, he wasn't going to waste this opportunity to challenge and weaken his authority!

With his line of sight obstructed, Wang Baole returned his gaze to Chen Mu. Their eyes met and silence descended around them. All eyes fell on the both of them.

“Chen...” Wang Baole started to speak. Chen Mu interrupted him before he could finish saying what he wanted to say.

“If this is about the appearance of the new catacombs, I made arrangements for my people to head over and assist. Did they shirk their duties in any way?” Chen Mu smiled and looked at Wang Baole. He was inwardly disdainful.

The cold light in Wang Baole’s eyes intensified when he had been interrupted. He was about to speak again when Chen Mu smiled before he even said anything.

“I don’t believe the City Lord is here because of that. Is it because I didn’t obey the second order? I seek the City Lord’s understanding. I am sincerely apologetic. As you can see, the new zone is still in the midst of construction. Be it me or the others, we are all busy with the construction and have no time to attend to other matters...”

“After all, we’re an autonomous zone. The construction of the zone is the top priority. We seek the City Lord’s understanding.” Chen Mu cupped his fists and extended a bow towards Wang Baole after he was done speaking. Throughout the entire speech and his following actions, he had a smile on his face. His words weren’t harsh, and his attitude was cordial, but he had interrupted Wang Baole twice forcefully. His intentions were revealed clearly through his actions.

A myriad of reactions flashed across the faces of everyone around them. Jin Duoming and Kong Dao frowned while dark anger flickered in Li Tianhao’s eyes. As for Li Wan’er, she sighed inwardly. Everything was as she had guessed.

Amidst the various reactions of the people around them, Wang Baole suddenly laughed. A smile blossomed on his face, like a flower in full bloom. There was approval and admiration in his eyes.

“I understand. Your City Lord understands, naturally. An autonomous zone doesn’t report to the new city. They are separate entities. I know... in fact, if I take a few more steps, I’ll be stepping into your territory.” Wang Baole laughed out loud. Chen Mu was stunned, as he found Wang Baole’s sudden change in attitude unexpected.

Before he could consider it further, Wang Baole stopped smiling. He said coolly, “Lin Tianhao!”

“Your humble servant is at your service!” Lin Tianhao immediately stepped forward and lowered his head in a bow.

“Make the arrangements. I want a wall built around the autonomous zones governed by Mayor Chen, Mayor Wen, and Mayor Fang. Take note. The wall must be built on the land belonging to the city and not in their new zones.” As soon as Wang Baole’s words rang out, Lin Tianhao immediately understood what was going on. He answered loudly in the affirmative. The expression on Chen Mu’s face took a drastic change instantly. Everyone around them was stunned, and their eyes widened.

This was merely the beginning. An expressionless Wang Baole spoke again.

“Kong Dao!”

“Your humble servant is at your service!” Kong Dao immediately raised his head and looked at Wang Baole.

“Gather your people. I want the newly built wall surrounded and locked down. No one will enter or leave the zones!”

As Wang Baole’s words echoed in the air, everyone around him gasped. Chen Mu finally reacted to what Wang Baole had just said. A myriad of emotions flashed across his face as he tried to say something. This time, before he could say anything, Wang Baole interrupted him. Wang Baole couldn’t even bother to put on an insincere smile. He said coldly, “Mayor Chen, aren’t you governing autonomous zones? Sure, no problem. I, Wang Baole, will not interfere with anything inside your autonomous zones. But outside your zone, that’s my territory, my new city. In my new city, I will help you with your self-governance, help you build city walls, help you imprison yourselves within those walls. Let me tell you clearly and plainly, don’t expect to take a single step outside your zone. We have array formations in the air space. Without my orders, no one enters. I’ll discard my own surname if I allow a single one of you to step outside!”

Chapter 397: An Honest and Fair Reason!

As soon as Wang Baole spoke, the people around him, with their varied expressions, widened their eyes. They held their breaths. Even the more level-headed ones felt their hearts stop. They thought Wang Baole’s retaliation unexpected, but this move was like his character—vicious beyond measure.

It was as Wang Baole had said. They had been going on and on about being autonomous zones, banking on their being jointly managed and supervised by the Federation and the Martian Colony Governor, without having to report directly to the new city. That was why they had been so fearless, disregarding orders and putting on a show brazenly...

Since that was the case, he would play along and lock them in, build high walls and surround the three zones. This was another way of trapping them in their own zones. At this moment, this was enough to trigger a significant effect.

The worst thing was how Chen Mu and his gang were powerless to stop him. Wang Baole had reason on his side. He had ordered Lin Tianhao to build the wall on the new city’s territory. There was no intrusion into the zones belonging to Chen Mu and his gang. His gangster-like attitude, declaring his actions and intentions in front of Chen Mu and his gang, gave the others around them a deeper understanding of Wang Baole’s character.

“This is devious. This is simply too devious!”

“This is simply too malicious and too despicable, but Chen Mu and his gang, there must be something wrong with their heads. Why did they offend Wang Baole?”

“He’s not to be messed with. I’ve finally seen his true nature. He is a nasty person, filled with nasty ideas!” The people around Wang Baole dared not speak out in the open. They could only deal with the shock Wang Baole had dealt them through this move by sending messages to their close friends.

As soon as Lin Tianhao and Kong Dao had heard Wang Baole's orders and given their affirmative replies, they had known what Wang Baole had been planning to do. Even they eyed Wang Baole a few times. Kong Dao made up his mind to never make an enemy out of Wang Baole. This devious and malicious move of Wang Baole's made him understand what true malice was...

Lin Tianhao almost slapped his thigh and cheered. He had been troubling himself over how to resolve this matter, as he knew that his fate was bound closely with Wang Baole's. One's glory was shared by both; one's injury was also shared. As soon as he had heard Wang Baole's words and had seen the faces on Chen Mu and his gang—as if their faces had been rubbed in dog sh*t—his troubled heart had eased considerably.

The guy only has those few tricks up his sleeve. To think that my father told me to view him as my role model when I was young. Seems like my father doesn't have that good an eye when judging others. As Lin Tianhao basked in self-satisfaction, Jin Duoming had just come to his senses and sucked in a deep mouthful of air. He smiled. It was clear he disliked Chen Mu and his gang. They hadn't been the ones who had baked the cake, but they had come to cut the cake up and take their undeserved share. To do so with such arrogance and to not play along—that was what annoyed him.

Compared to Kong Dao and the others, Li Wan'er had been instantly alarmed. She had half a mind to step in and say something. However, she hadn't been able to find anything wrong with how Wang Baole handled the matter. He had reason on his side. After all, Chen Mu and his gang's arrogance had been made plain to everyone.

He's setting a trap for them. Wang Baole has a habit of setting traps for others. This has been brought up during the investigation of the Li Yi incident! Li Wan'er frowned. She knew this wasn't the time to speak and offer her help, so she remained silent.

Compared to them, the ones who were truly alarmed and shocked were Chen Mu and the other two mayors. Both Wen Huai and Fang Jing's breathing quickened. They had been stunned by what Wang Baole said, and had immediately looked towards Chen Mu, panic and anger burning inside them.

Chen Mu had a dark, ugly expression on his face. He stared at Wang Baole as countless thoughts surfaced in his head. He tried to think of a way to retaliate against his opponent's move, but Wang Baole had done something completely unexpected. Regardless of how fast the gears in his head spun, he couldn't think of a solution immediately. He took a deep breath, identified Wang Baole's problematic tone, and spoke immediately.

"City Lord Wang, your decision shows your displeasure against our self-governance and the Federation's judgment. You actually speak of imprisoning us. Fine. I will definitely report this matter to the Federation. Then..."

His response had been extremely swift. Despite not being able to think of a solution, he had caught on to Wang Baole's problematic tone of voice. He was about to cut through the superficial pretense and get to the essence of the issue, but before he could finish what he wanted to say, Wang Baole laughed again. He said coolly.

"A new catacombs just appeared. There may be a danger of monsters remaining that weren't completely exterminated. To protect the three autonomous zones, from now on, a strict military rule

will be enforced. We seek the cooperation of Mayor Chen, Mayor Wen, and Mayor Fang!” Done speaking, Wang Baole turned and—without sparing a glance behind, without looking at the changed expressions on Chen Mu and his gang’s faces, and amidst the awed looks from the others around them—he left.

His final words forced Chen Mu’s yet-to-be vocalized words back down his throat. Even though he knew that Wang Baole had simply thrown a random reason at him, it was a reason that was equally difficult to dispute.

*So you’re good at seeing through the bullshit and discerning the reality of the matter? Fine, let me apply it on you as well. You’re a Primary Rank Four Noble trying to fight a Primary Rank Three Noble. Obviously, you have sh*t for brains. Now, let’s see who gives up first and cries for daddy!* As Wang Baole left, he basked in self-satisfaction. He strolled right back to his office. As soon as he returned, he received Li Wan’er’s transmission asking to see him.

Wang Baole turned down her request immediately. He ignored her and began his seclusion. He continued to research how to refine Dharmic Armaments. Wang Baole firmly believed that with Lin Tianhao’s abilities, the latter would execute his orders flawlessly.

That was indeed the case. Lin Tianhao knew that his fate was now tightly bound with Wang Baole’s. He wasted no time and immediately gathered workers to start on the construction of the wall. He threw in a few ideas of his own as well and was prepared to build a wall many tens of yards tall!

The rate at which cultivators could build a wall was astonishing. Soon, amidst the growing rage of Chen Mu and his gang, and amidst their resigned powerlessness, they watched helplessly as a vast wall rose from the ground like a mountain range, forming the beginnings of a city wall.

From the speed of construction, the wall would likely be fully built within the day. Despite it being a prototype, it still looked towering and overpowering from above. It was vast and majestic, casting a shadow over the city zones governed by Chen Mu and his gang. Those who had no idea what was going on would think the area surrounded by the wall was the Martian prison.

After all... outside the walls, Kong Dao had arranged for heavily armed guards to stand guard. They faced the three zones and were clearly on high alert. They were to stop anyone from entering or leaving the zones.

News of this spread like wildfire across the entire city. Countless people who found out about it were all stunned by what Wang Baole had done. As heated discussions took over the city by storm, Wen Huai and Fang Jing grew more frantic in their panic. They knew that this couldn’t continue forever. There would be grave consequences if this persisted for too long. Chen Mu maintained his silence. He thought about seeking help from his family clan, but, in the end, he set this idea aside.

I’ve only just arrived. To have to seek help from the family clan whenever I face any problems... how can I keep my pride after that! The expression on Chen Mu’s face was dark and sullen. He thought for a while, then pulled out his jade slip. He contacted the Federation and made a complaint against Wang Baole’s misuse of his authority, which disrupted the construction of the autonomous zones. At the same time, he also told Wen Huai and Fang Jing to contact the Martian Colony Governor.

He would resolve this matter through official means!

The two parties engaged in fierce conflict via the walls that were about to be erected. No one noticed that, outside the new city, in the area where the new catacombs had just been sealed, the monsters' corpses cleared, and the construction of a base in the area in progress—a chunk of flesh was wriggling slowly. It grew larger and larger in the soil until it transformed into the shape of a human. Then, its hand slowly reached out from the earth.

The hand seemed to exude a strange power. Everyone around it ignored its presence. It grabbed at the ground and slowly dragged its entire body out from the earth.

The person seemed ill accustomed to his body. He stood on the spot after crawling out from the earth, moving his body slightly and forming strange contortions. A long moment later, it seemed to finally grow accustomed to its body. A black robe gradually appeared and covered his entire body. His lips, hidden beneath his clothes, twitched upwards slightly.

“Finally, I’m out.” A raspy voice came out of his mouth. The person lifted his head slowly, and there was a strange light in his eyes as he stared at the new city.

Under the dying light in the heavens, one might discern the face under the black robes. It was lined with wrinkles... After a long time, the person lowered his head. His body stirred, then vanished. It appeared that he had headed towards the new city...

Chapter 398: Forceful Till the End!

Time flew by. Soon, three days passed!

The city wall sealing the three autonomous zones had been fully constructed the day before. Under Lin Tianhao's supervision, the height of the wall had been increased compared to what had been previously planned. From afar, it looked like a real mountain range, and its height surpassed the tallest building within the three autonomous zones. It was clear that the scale of its construction was considerable.

The new city had no lack of resources and human labor. Regardless of how much thicker or taller the walls were to be made, it could be accomplished within a short period of time. After the construction had been completed, Lin Tianhao hadn't considered at all how Chen Mu and his people must be feeling inside their city zones. However, he guessed they must be feeling intense pressure looking at the three-hundred-odd meters tall giant wall.

In fact, that was indeed the case...

Wen Huai was about to go mad. He saw the towering walls and felt immense pressure. It felt as if he and his people had become real criminals who were trapped and imprisoned inside.

Fang Jing felt the same as well. The expression on her face was dark, and her unhappiness wasn't only directed towards Wang Baole but also towards Chen Mu. Based on hers and Wen Huai's original plans, they hadn't found the need to create such a tense relationship with Wang Baole after they arrived and began their self-governance of their autonomous zones. However, Chen Mu had been filled with self-confidence. The two, in their hesitation and uncertainty, hadn't resisted against his ideas.

At present, Wang Baole had only given them a small taste of what he was capable of, and they were already feeling miserable because of that. Despite their contacting the Federation and the Martian administration, neither had come back quickly with their responses. This made their heads throb even harder.

Chen Mu was having a headache as well. He had similarly made a complaint to the Federation about Wang Baole. He had even sent a voice transmission to the Martian Colony Governor to lodge a report against him. He had heard nothing from either... and he didn't feel comfortable chasing for replies repeatedly. He watched as three days passed. The walls beyond their autonomous zones towered like mountains, seeming to block light from shining in. Chen Mu began to panic as well.

If this had been the end of it... he might have tried to tolerate the situation and wait for the Federation and the Martian administration to handle this matter. However, he had no idea what Lin Tianhao was thinking. After the wall had been built, he seemed to feel that it hadn't been tall enough. He had gone to Wang Baole and requested to increase its height further.

Wang Baole had felt that he shouldn't kill Lin Tianhao's enthusiastic work attitude and had nodded in approval. Upon receiving Wang Baole's support, Lin Tianhao had immediately perked up and ordered for the height of the city walls to be increased!

I'm anticipating the City Lord's concerns and worries and echoing his cheer when he's happy. Through this incident, I'll be able to make my alliance clear to the City Lord and improve our relationship on a deeper level! Lin Tianhao had been pleased with his actions. Since becoming Wang Baole's follower, he had come to understand where he stood. He also knew that he had no reason to compete with Liu Daobin.

Liu Daobin is only an administrator. What I'm trying to be... is someone who gets things done, and who is irreplaceable!

Lin Tianhao began bustling again. Chen Mu and gang were driven further into madness as they watched the walls grow taller and taller. Countless cultivators continued building the wall through the day and night. The pressure on the three mounted. At this rate, they worried that Lin Tianhao was going to build a giant lid for the three autonomous zones...

"This Lin Tianhao, he's just a lapdog!"

"Wang Baole only said to build a wall. This Lin Tianhao is too much. Is he building a stone coffin for us? Is he trying to seal us in?"

Chen Mu and his gang weren't the only ones frantic and terrified. The cultivators inside their zones who were from the various political forces had all been shocked by Lin Tianhao's crazy actions. Everyone began cursing him in their hearts. Chen Mu and his gang could no longer keep a lid on their anger. They led their people to the walls and were prepared to disregard the city walls and force their way out.

At the precise moment when they were about to charge out, numerous cultivators guarding the city walls dashed over. They surrounded the walls instantly. Lin Tianhao's figure appeared on the city wall. He stared down at Chen Mu and his people and said coolly.

"Mayor Chen, stop!"

“Lin Tianhao, you dare stop me!” Chen Mu raised his head and stared unblinkingly at Lin Tianhao. A cold glint flickered in his eyes.

“Stop you?” Lin Tianhao raised his eyebrow. His eyes narrowed, and his voice echoed in the air.

“The City Lord has ordered. There are still monsters running amuck after the new catacombs appeared. To ensure the safety of the autonomous zones, military rule will be enforced. Without the necessary approval, no one is to enter or leave the autonomous zones!”

“Lin Tianhao, are you trying to make complete enemies out of the Five Generation Sky Clan?” Chen Mu didn’t bother mincing his words when speaking to Lin Tianhao. The cold light in his eyes intensified, and his cultivation began to spread from his person.

Wen Huai, Fang Jing, and the cultivators standing behind them did the same. They looked ready to battle.

Lin Tianhao only snorted at the sight. He finished the second part of what he had wanted to say.

“Those who disobey his orders will be executed!”

“You dare to do that!” Chen Mu hollered. He was about to leap into the air when Lin Tianhao sent his hand sweeping across the air. The cultivation of the cultivators who had been guarding the walls immediately erupted, and many of them whipped out their Dharmic Artifacts. If Chen Mu and the other two mayors dared to charge out, they would have no qualms squashing them.

At that moment, the auras of the various Core Formation realm cultivators locked onto the Core Formation realm cultivators inside Chen Mu and his gang’s autonomous zones. Their cultivations clashed. Even Wang Baole ended his seclusion. With a wave of his hand, he observed everything through the new city’s array formation. Anticipation shone in his eyes.

There was tension in the air. A fight could break out anytime. Chen Mu’s face was stiff and brimming with anger. It appeared like he was about to strike. It was then that a figure dashed towards them from the distant walls. It appeared instantly. It was Li Wan’er.

“Enough!” Li Wan’er appeared, anger clear on her face. She shouted, but her shout wasn’t directed only at Lin Tianhao, it was also directed at Chen Mu and his gang.

Lin Tianhao was reluctant to step down, but Li Wan’er was the Deputy City Lord, after all. He lowered his head and took a few steps back. Chen Mu, upon seeing Li Wan’er’s arrival, seemed to have rediscovered his courage. He was about to leap into the air when Li Wan’er turned and glared at him.

Her eyes were colored with displeasure and exasperation, which caused Chen Mu to freeze. The expression on his face darkened as well.

“Mayor Chen and the rest, please return. I will handle this matter!”

“City Lord Li, City Lord Wang’s actions have severely harmed the autonomous zones’ normal operations!” Chen Mu was filled with agitation. He felt that if Li Wan’er had made a stronger stance in this incident, Wang Baole would definitely back down. From how he saw it, with the support of himself and the other two mayors, Li Wan’er could arm wrestle Wang Baole for power. Even though she might not gain a complete win, she might still be able to wrestle some degree of power from Wang Baole.

“This matter...” Li Wan’er frowned. She was about to speak when suddenly, whooshing sounds came from the distant skies. Li Wan’er lifted her head. Soon, everyone, including numerous cultivators from the new city saw a dozen gigantic transport cruisers heading their way from a distance.

The dozen cruisers had the symbol of the Five Generation Sky Clan on them. They were clearly delivering the latest batch of resources. Prior to the completion of the city walls, the cruisers would make a trip once every two weeks. They always landed inside the autonomous zones. Besides resources and materials for city construction, they also contained large quantities of resources and materials for cultivation.

At present, the cruisers did what they normally did and gradually approached the new city. Before they could head towards the autonomous zones though, a gigantic glowing array formation descended from the skies and spread out, blanketing the dozen cruisers. It stopped the cruisers outside the autonomous zones and trapped them within the array formation. The cruisers couldn’t move forward, nor could they leave.

The scene alarmed Chen Mu and his gang. The Five Generation Sky Clan cultivators inside the cruisers were equally stunned. Before they could react, Kong Dao, who was responsible for clearing the air space and in charge of the new city’s military, brought his people and leaped straight into the sky, appearing before the dozen cruisers.

“In accordance with the City Lord’s orders, new catacombs have appeared. Military rule will be enforced. All cruisers are prohibited from entering and leaving the zones. Anyone who disobeys the orders will be shot down!”

After saying that, he wasted no time with unnecessary words. He immediately ordered for the cruisers to be taken in. They were forced to land at a designated landing ground. The dozen cruisers were surrounded by the military, trapped and restrained by the power of the array formation. To prevent any mishaps, Wang Baole, who was sitting inside his office, activated his control over the array formation. The cruisers could instantly feel the threat emanating from the array formation. After a short moment of silence, they didn’t try to resist.

After they got out of their cruisers, they realized that Kong Dao and his army were going to forcibly confiscate the resources they had transported over. A perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan who had been leading the transport cruisers immediately flew into a rage.

“Who dares to touch the resources of the Five Generation Sky Clan? Is it Wang Baole? Ask him to see me!”

As soon as this elder spoke, the array formation over the entire city rumbled. From afar, it seemed as if countless bolts of lightning were criss-crossing in the air. They formed an indistinct face. From the looks of it, the face was Wang Baole.

The face formed through the array formation. When it appeared, it exuded an overpowering presence. The force of its presence weighed down on the raging elder instantly. The elder, who had been furious a moment earlier, was immediately alarmed.

As emotions flashed across his face, through the aid of the city's array formation, Wang Baole's voice rang in the skies.

"You wanted to see me?"

Chapter 399: Wang Baole's Military Warrant!

The array formation of the Divine Armament New City originated from the Great Martian Array Formation. It was immensely powerful. Prior to the set up of the new city zone, the Governor was the only one on the entire Martian planet who had the highest level of access to the array formation. Others only had limited access and couldn't fully wield and direct the power of the array formation. They could only borrow its power for support.

When the new city zone was being constructed, the responsibility for suppressing the force of the catacombs had been too great. That was why the Governor had granted Wang Baole a certain degree of access. This allowed him to control the power of the array formation within the new city zone.

The level of access he had was high, but the actual extent of his access was limited. That was until Wang Baole formally requested to convert the new city zone into an actual city, giving birth to the second Martian city. There had been modifications made to the array formation then. That resulted in the array formation that Zhao Yameng designed becoming the core of the array formation, which fused together with the Great Martian Array Formation.

Wang Baole had complete access and control over the Great Baole Array Formation that Zhao Yameng had designed. He could use this array formation to activate the Great Martian Array Formation. In addition, after he had been promoted to City Lord, he was naturally given control of the Great Martian Array Formation. As a result, even though he was only at the late-stage Foundation Establishment realm, through the array formation, he was able to display astonishing powers inside the second Martian city!

This was the power and authority the City Lord of the new city, a Primary Rank Three Noble should possess. Else, if he had only his late-stage Foundation Establishment realm cultivation, how would he be able to instill awe and respect in the people, or shoulder the responsibility of keeping the catacombs under control?

However, Wang Baole's access was limited to within the new city. Outside the city, his access to the Great Martian Array Formation was severely limited. As the power of the array formation erupted, the perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan stilled his breath. He could feel an immense aura hanging over his head, dictating his life and death.

Chen Mu and his gang were shocked at the scene as well. Even Li Wan'er gave Wang Baole's blurry face in the sky a deep, meaningful look. She had limited access to the Great Martian Array Formation as well. However, it was clear that the level of her access wasn't as high as Wang Baole's in the new city.

As Wang Baole spoke and the silence descended, the perfected Foundation Establishment elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan started to sweat profusely from his forehead. He sucked in a deep breath. He had no choice but to lower his head and cup his fists, extending a salute towards Wang Baole's face in the sky.

He knew that he was no match for Wang Baole. Despite him being at the perfected Foundation Establishment realm, the False Core realm, he was leagues behind Wang Baole in terms of abilities as well as Noble. Wang Baole not only had a bright future ahead of him, his ability to reach such a level of cultivation proved his extraordinary natural abilities. Besides, he also held the prominent status of a Primary Rank Three Noble.

Things might have been better for the elder if this were the true Dao civilization. However, there were laws and rules on this earth, and with those, hierarchy and organizational structure. The system that existed for thousands of years wasn't something that could be easily transformed with just a few decades of Spirit Inception Era.

"I was too reckless with my choice of words earlier. I seek the City Lord's forgiveness... however, I am charged with a responsibility for the resources. I implore the City Lord to give us a reason for confiscating our resources!" the perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder lowered his head and said. He had to put it across in this manner. Else, if he simply allowed the resources to be confiscated, he wouldn't escape punishment when he returned to the Five Generation Sky Clan.

He had calmed down, however, and the tone of his voice had softened. He used the word "reason" instead of "explanation". The difference in his choice of words spoke volumes about the meaning he was trying to convey.

"A justification?" In the sky, Wang Baole's face, which had been formed through the array formation, had a calm expression. It spoke coolly.

"Didn't Mayor Kong Dao just inform you? A new catacombs has emerged. The entire city is on high alert. This matter concerns the survival of the new city. All cruisers will have to be taken under our charge. As for the resources... they will similarly be taken over for safekeeping by the new city!"

"In addition... you have two hours to take your leave!" Wang Baole's voice rang in the air, and his face gradually dissipated in the sky. Despite its disappearance, the forcefulness behind his words remained and made the perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan sober up immediately.

He wasn't the only one. Even Kong Dao had raised his head to look at the face dissipating in the air. He could sense the forcefulness behind Wang Baole's words. He knew that Wang Baole had made up his mind to teach Chen Mu and his gang a lesson. As a result, Kong Dao also treated the matter seriously.

After all, he didn't care who he offended. Wang Baole hadn't only saved his life; Kong Dao also owed him a favor for his help in pulling him up a rank. Both emotion and reason dictated that he had no cause not to help Wang Baole.

Under Kong Dao's strict supervision, the perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan had no choice but to leave with his emptied cruisers. Before he left, he got an eyeful of the walls outside the autonomous zones. He shook his head and sighed, then hurriedly reported the matter to his superiors.

Chen Mu and his gang also fell silent. They weren't privy to the details, but they could see what had happened in the distance. They witnessed their resources being confiscated while they were trapped

inside their own zones. The feeling of having their strings yanked by someone else filled them with endless resentment. However, they were powerless to do anything about it.

Truth be told, there was a way out of this problem, but it was one that Chen Mu, Wen Huai, and Fang Jing were unwilling to take. It was... to submit and compromise, and accept supervision over their zones!

"There's no other way except to report to my family clan. Wen Huai, Fang Jing, you should immediately notify your sects as well. We will not compromise on this matter!" A moment later, Chen Mu gritted his teeth and raised his head, staring at Lin Tianhao standing on the city walls. He gave Li Wan'er a meaningful look, then turned and left. He returned to his autonomous zone and immediately contacted his family clan.

The Five Generation Sky Clan had received the report from the perfected Foundation Establishment realm elder as well. After listening to what Chen Mu had to say, they were furious. They began to step in.

However, every one of them underestimated Wang Baole's firm stance on this matter. As the City Lord, besides that one encounter where he had shown his forceful side during the Li Yi episode, he hadn't yet revealed this overbearing side of him. Wang Baole had made up his mind to force his way through this matter and show how much of a hardliner he was!

It doesn't matter who tries to convince me to change my mind. It's of no use. I'm going to wait and see if they'll submit! Sitting inside the office, Wang Baole had just ended a voice transmission with the Governor. He had first argued that he had been doing everything because of the appearance of a new catacombs and to ensure the new city's safety. Then, he had expressed how he had been maligned. Finally, he had sent over a set of documents. After the Governor viewed the documents, she had fallen silent. Then, she seemed to smile. She decided not to question him further.

After the transmission from the Governor, others also began to flood him with transmissions. Wang Baole stared at them with annoyance and decided not to answer any of them. Amongst them was a voice transmission from Li Wan'er. That was why she eventually headed straight for Wang Baole's office.

Li Wan'er had a dark look on her face when she barged into Wang Baole's office. She said coldly.

"City Lord Wang, this batch of resources is extremely important. When will City Lord Wang return it to the autonomous zone?"

The dark expression and unfriendly tone of Li Wan'er after witnessing his teaching Chen Mu a lesson displeased Wang Baole tremendously. He pulled out a bag of snacks, then started munching while he yawned.

"This batch of resources needs to undergo a detailed and careful inspection. Perhaps after the current military curfew is over."

"When will it end?" Li Wan'er stared coldly at Wang Baole.

"You shouldn't be asking me that. You should be asking the Divine Armament that's underground. When it stops with the new catacombs and with the Beast Tides, maybe the curfew will end then." Wang Baole rolled his eyes. He pulled out a bottle of Ice Spirit Water and took a gulp. He could feel his mood improving significantly.

“You!” When Li Wan’er heard that, rage rose inside her. She knew that Wang Baole was intent on punishing Chen Mu and his gang. She turned and made to leave. Just before she left the room though, she sucked in a deep breath and said coldly.

“City Lord Wang, when I arrived, you said that the construction of the new city trumps everything else. If this continues, I cannot guarantee if this will affect the construction of the entire new city.” Done speaking, Li Wan’er pushed the door open and left.

After Li Wan’er left, Wang Baole put his Ice Spirit Water down. His eyes narrowed. He could hear the threat in Li Wan’er’s words. He knew that if anything went wrong with the construction of the new city, while everyone else would be implicated, his responsibility would still be the greatest.

But Li Wan’er, you still don’t understand. What the Federation truly cares about isn’t the new city but the wall in the Divine Armament Catacombs... Wang Baole smiled lightly. It would have been all right if he hadn’t made a move, but since he had, he wouldn’t stop until Chen Mu and his posse yielded. Wang Baole paid no heed to Li Wan’er’s threat.

This was because he had sent a set of documents over to the Governor when she had sent him a voice transmission. The documents detailed the outcome of Kong Dao’s investigation and study of the wall’s erosion.

The report clearly listed the data proving his new city’s array formation had a strong erosive effect on the wall. He also guaranteed that the problem of the wall would be resolved entirely within three years!

This was his Military Warrant. This was why he dared to have such a hard stance towards the Five Generation Sky Clan, the Galactic Dusk Sect, and the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect!

To see through superficial appearances and discern the essence of the matter. This is something out of the high officials’ autobiographies. It’s obvious Li Wan’er doesn’t understand! Wang Baole smacked his tummy, pleased. He pulled out another bag of snacks and, with a tinge of pride, started munching happily.

Chapter 400: A Letter

As Wang Baole basked in self-satisfaction, as Chen Mu and gang simmered in resentment, and as Li Wan’er fumed and threatened... the Five Generation Sky Clan, the Galactic Dusk Sect, as well as the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect received transmissions from their disciples. They found out what was happening in the new city and were instantly infuriated.

This was especially the case for the Five Generation Sky Clan, as an entire batch of their resources had been confiscated. They felt the pain of this extremely. In their anger, they reached out to the Federation President directly.

The Federation President seemed to view this matter seriously. He set up a special investigation team and even appointed the Martian Colony Governor as the team leader. They were to look into this matter specifically and conduct investigations.

It seemed like they were taking it seriously, but the Five Generation Sky Clan, the Galactic Dusk Sect, and the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect simply became more infuriated. They weren't the young, naive brat-like Chen Mu. The three political forces didn't lack intelligent people who were familiar with the rules of the Federation's game; they had plenty of people who were equally conniving and experienced in the game of Federation politics. They knew that this superficially forceful stance that the Federation was displaying was often simply a front for them to shirk and dodge further responsibilities in the future!

It was indeed what they had guessed. As the leader of the investigation team, the Martian Colony Governor set an investigation period of two weeks and promised to give everyone an answer within the two weeks.

Chen Mu and his gang fell into deeper misery. They had suffered a lockdown for some time. Outsiders hadn't been allowed entry, people inside weren't allowed to leave, and all resources had been confiscated. The Galactic Dusk Sect and Plume Manifestation Connate Sect, having witnessed the situation, had their transport cruisers turn back mid-journey.

A large majority of their cultivators were almost at their wits' end. If the situation were to persist for another two weeks, they would really be driven to the end of their ropes.

After all... most of them were at the Ancient Martial realm, the True Breath realm, and the Foundation Establishment realm. They weren't like the Core Formation realm cultivators, who could survive without food or water. Wheat and rice were still necessities of life for them. Water was another necessity as well.

Mars had its own filtration and generation system for drinking water, but it required a lot of energy to keep on running. After the zones had been sealed in, they started to face problems of not having enough energy. This meant that they had to ration their drinking water.

The cultivators inside the three autonomous zones at the moment were all affiliated with the three political forces. Since the three zones hadn't yet been fully constructed, residents unaffiliated with these political forces hadn't migrated to the zones. As a result, Wang Baole was utterly unsympathetic as he messed around with Chen Mu and his gang.

The three autonomous zones could soon bear it no longer, and they started to vocalize their sufferings. Chen Mu and the other two mayors were panicking and frantic as well. Li Wan'er was unable to do anything though. As a result, the political forces they were affiliated with requested the Head Senator to step in and resolve this matter.

Even the Federation President and the Martian Colony Governor had to treat the Head Senator with due respect. When he stepped in, the Governor finally gave him an explanation for this matter.

"Wang Baole is fully responsible for the security of the new city. Even I'm not allowed to interfere!" Alongside her message was a set of documents that were delivered to the senator at the same time.

The documents had been the set that Wang Baole had submitted. They dealt with the situation of the wall's erosion as well as his promised three-year timeline, which was the basis for his Military Warrant. The Head Senator fell silent after reading the documents. A moment later, his eyes started shining with

a strange light. It was clear that this play of Wang Baole's had made the Head Senator reassess Wang Baole seriously for the first time.

"Chen Mu is no match for him!" The senator released the information, the message from the Governor, and his own assessment regarding the entire fiasco to the Five Generation Sky Clan, the Galactic Dusk Sect, and the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect. Then, he withdrew from the dispute entirely.

He knew that with the information holding true and the Military Warrant in effect, as long as the wall continued to be worn down at the current pace, and unless Wang Baole shot himself in the foot, his position was secure.

After receiving the Head Senator's reply, the Galactic Dusk Sect and Plume Manifestation Connate Sect immediately fell silent. The Galactic Dusk Sect was the swiftest in its reaction. It immediately contacted Wen Huai and told him to distance himself from Chen Mu. At the same time, he was to ally himself with Wang Baole. The sect knew their existing tensions with Wang Baole. In place of the Sect Lord, who was temporarily exiled in seclusion as punishment, the few elders temporarily taking charge of the sect did some research and decided to increase the quantity of resources they were providing Divine Armament New City.

At the same time, they also acknowledged and supported Wang Baole's decision to consolidate all resources for reallocation under the temporary military rule.

Wen Huai's autonomous zone didn't require as many resources, so the reason for the excess in resources needed no further explanation. Such a move showed the Galactic Dusk Sect's decisiveness and boldness. When Wen Huai received the message from his sect, he bit the bullet and sent a voice transmission to Wang Baole, explaining what his sect was going to do. Wang Baole was momentarily stunned.

The Galactic Dusk Sect is indeed something. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He was inwardly pleased with how the Galactic Dusk Sect was handling this matter. However, he felt that he could still try and get something more out of this. He coughed and sent Wen Huai a voice transmission.

"Wen Huai, the work in the new zone is overwhelming. You're still young and growing, and I'm worried you can't cope on your own." Wang Baole hinted.

Wen Huai fell silent. He wasn't a fool. He knew what Wang Baole was trying to say. In the past, he might have resisted violently, but now, seeing how his own sect yielded, he felt no shame in doing the same. He smiled wryly and said.

"I thank the City Lord for your understanding. Your humble subordinate indeed is overwhelmed with work. I'd like to request the City Lord to send an assistant over..."

Wang Baole was comforted by how well Wen Huai was playing along. He exchanged a few more words with Wen Huai, casually mentioning Liu Daobin. Wen Huai immediately caught on and took the initiative and proposed to get Liu Daobin over to serve in the capacity of the vice mayor. He would take care of all the administrative work for the transfer.

After ending the transmission, Wang Baole stood up and went to the window to gaze outside. He patted his tummy. He was extremely happy. He could clearly sense that he had slowly grown accustomed to his

authority as a City Lord. He wielded his power with ease. He sent a voice transmission to Liu Daobin and instructed him briefly. Liu Daobin was beside himself with excitement and joy, his voice trembling.

“Don’t worry, City Lord. I, Liu Daobin, will watch the new zone closely. If anything bad happens, I will cut my own head off and bring it to you. I won’t disappoint the hopes the City Lord has placed in me!”

Wang Baole was extremely satisfied with Liu Daobin’s attitude. He spent some time instructing him further on the matter before ending the transmission. Liu Daobin was moved to tears and near sobbing at the end.

Wen Huai was indeed efficient as well. He took only a day to settle all the administrative matters. Liu Daobin was promoted without a hitch, rising to become Wen Huai’s vice mayor. It would be difficult to promote his Noble ranking within a short period of time, but there was no problem with him assuming his office.

Satisfied, Wang Baole instructed Lin Tianhao to end the lockdown for Wen Huai’s autonomous zone. The doors were opened, and Wen Huai was freed. Large quantities of resources began to flow in.

Wen Huai finally released a breath of relief. He made up his mind then. In the future, anyone who wanted to make trouble would have to do it alone. Unless it concerned matters of life and death, he, Wen Huai, wasn’t going to stand against Wang Baole.

Wen Huai’s betrayal angered Chen Mu tremendously, but he was powerless to do anything. Fang Jing, who had witnessed everything, also received instructions from her sect. Despite her unwillingness, she still yielded and chose to do what Wen Huai had done.

Wang Baole successfully resolved his tensions with two out of three autonomous zones. Only Chen Mu remained fighting. However, as time passed, the impact of the blockade intensified. Chen Mu’s autonomous zone was nearing complete depletion of food and other resources. Without any new resources flowing in, construction had ceased. The towering wall gave them immense psychological stress. It felt as if they were trapped in prison. Every one of Chen Mu’s Five Generation Sky Clan cultivators was repressed and depressed.

The Five Generation Sky Clan had no choice but to compromise in the end. Despite Chen Mu’s extreme unwillingness, he had no choice but to submit... and submit a request to the Martian administration. As for the contents of his request—it was to accept Divine Armament New City’s direct supervision from now on!

The battle that had gone on for two weeks finally ended with Chen Mu and the others’ admission of defeat and submission to Wang Baole. All cultivators in the new city had been following this matter closely during these two weeks. After witnessing how it had ended, everyone realized clearly that Wang Baole’s authority had remained unshaken. He was immovable.

After all, the Five Generation Sky Clan, the Galactic Dusk Sect, and the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect all had to compromise on this matter. That itself revealed all manners of problems.

Other political forces in the Federation had also been following this matter closely and with interest. It had been through this that all political forces in the Federation began to view Wang Baole with increased interest and greater seriousness.

Most importantly... since the beginning of this incident, Wang Baole had not made use of his connection with the four Dao Colleges. He had solved the entire matter on his own!

During the same period, in a region of the Federation unmarked on every map, was a place in the mountains where clear waters flowed. This place was a highly secretive location in the Federation. A cultivator wouldn't be able to locate this place based on their spiritual senses.

Within the region was a pavilion. At present, the skies were colored orange by the sunset. The setting sun cast its last rays of light onto the top floor of the pavilion. Within sat a man in his middle ages. He was dressed in simple, old-fashioned, long-sleeved robes, and reading a letter he was holding in his hands by the light of the setting sun.

The man's features were ordinary. However, if there had been anyone else in the room, they would have thought they were seeing things. It was as if this ordinary looking man was one with the entire heaven and earth. Looking at him was like seeing the laws of heaven and earth before oneself!

In this Spirit Inception Era, most people were already using jade slips. Few read letters like this man. He was reading the letter. A moment later, he set the letter down. Then, he raised his head and gazed into the distant sky, smiling faintly.

"Recommending him as a seedling candidate? So be it. Let's monitor and assess the situation for a while." Having said that, the man placed the letter on the last shelf of the bookshelf beside him.

There were three shelves on the bookshelf. There were three red letters on the top level, seven to eight blue letters on the second level, and on the last level were letters identical to the one he had in his hand—all seventeen of them!