

Black Iron 1011

Chapter 1011: A Surprise

There were a big garden and a spacious grassland outside the palace tree. Zhang Tie pointed at an open place and teleported the bloody sacrifice furnace out of his portable Xuanwu Secret Warehouse of Bloody Soul Temple onto the lawn. The 30-m higher joss whose upper body was anthropomorphic while its lower body was winding round a huge furnace in the shape of a snake. Its raw material was like red copper.

According to common sense, space-teleportation equipment could not be superposed. A space-teleportation equipment could not be put into another space-teleportation equipment, except for Castle of Black Iron. All the portable space-teleportation equipment could freely access to Castle of Black Iron.

From this perspective, Zhang Tie felt that Castle of Black Iron was not only a space-teleportation equipment, but it was also more like a special space.

As the joss, the altar and the furnace were connected with each other, Zhang Tie regarded this joss as a huge machine.

In the hieron's ruins, Zhang Tie had completely figured out the usage of this bloody sacrifice furnace and some special, hidden tricks on the bloody sacrifice furnace. Of course, he took the whole set of the machine when he left the hieron ruins.

In the beginning, Zhang Tie thought the bloody sacrifice furnace below the joss was like the pool of chaos, which would digest everything of the demons being sacrificed, leaving nothing at all. After studying it carefully, Zhang Tie found a hidden space covering dozens of cuber meters behind the base of the bloody sacrifice furnace, which was used to contain remains of living beings being sacrificed.

Those living beings being sacrificed and burned would leave some dark purple remains which were not ash but a finer material which Zhang Tie could barely figure out. One demon could only leave at most one handful of that remains.

Heller said it was the original impurity and raw material of living beings, which could not be found anywhere else besides in the bloody sacrifice furnace. This sort of impurity and raw material might be the most senior and special fertilizer that humans could find, it's the tunic of all the plants.

2/3 of the hidden space of the bloody sacrifice furnace had been filled with this dark purple material.

After hearing that this material was effective to plants, when he left the hieron ruins, out of curiosity, Zhang Tie moved some of the material out of the hidden space and buried it under the two parasol trees outside the palace tree.

Before Aziz, Agan and Edward brought those demon knights here, Zhang Tie and Heller went to see the two parasol trees.

Outside the palace tree, over 100 parasol trees were standing on both sides of a corridor. Zhang Tie remembered that he buried the fertilizer under two common parasol trees. When he approached the two rows of parasol trees, Zhang Tie immediately found the two parasol trees.

Previously, the two parasol trees were nothing different than other trees; however, now, they were much larger than their neighboring trees. With luxuriant foliage, the two parasol trees looked especially sturdy. What was weirder was that the edge of their leaves turned extraordinarily bright purple. By contrast, the two parasol trees looked evidently taller and sturdier than their surrounding trees.

"Ahh, have the two parasol trees mutated?" Zhang Tie became startled by the two exceptional parasol trees. He had not imagined that the two parasol trees could become so distinctive only after a few months.

"No, they were not mutated. The species of the parasol trees have not changed. They just grow too well!"

"Why the leaves of the two parasol trees are different than that of others?"

"Because the two parasol trees have absorbed the nutrients in the fertilizer. It indicates that Castle Lord has buried too many fertilizers at the beginning. After the leaves turn bright purple, they could produce something special by the process of photosynthesis. As a result, the two parasol trees would grow healthier and more special. Like human beings, glands of different people would secrete different levels of substances. Meanwhile, the substances secreted by glands of human beings would also directly participate in and influence the physiological activities and life existence levels of human beings. It was similar to plants!" Heller explained.

"According to your explanation, if I buried those fertilizers under other plants, the other plants would also grow pretty well. Although the species of the plant doesn't change, its state of existence turns better!"

"Yes!" Heller nodded.

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter, "It turns out that we could gain better fertilizers for our farmland. What a surprise!"

"Castle Lord, it would be too wasteful if you bury this fertilizer in the farmland. Because this material could be used for more advanced things!"

"More advanced things?"

"For instance, some special medicines or senior tea trees. Castle Lord, do you remember that you brought some tea seeds into Castle of Black Iron when you returned to Coiling Dragon Mountain, the hometown of Cui Li last time?"

"Yes, I do!" Zhang Tie nodded.

After having Castle of Black Iron, wherever he arrived, Zhang Tie had been used to bring new plant species into Castle of Black Iron, good or not. Last time, when he returned to Cui Li's hometown, he teleported some tea seed into Castle of Black Iron.

"Those tea seeds are just quality ones from Coiling Dragon Mountain. They're not too expensive. After Castle Lord brought them into Castle of Black Iron, I've already had them mutate once. They became more unique. If Castle Lord took those mutated tea seeds out of Castle of Black Iron and cultivated them with this special fertilizer, this mutated tea leaf would definitely be distinctive in Taixia Country!"

After hearing Heller's words, Zhang Tie became stunned. He had not imagined that Heller could breed a new tea leaf in Castle of Black Iron.

Tea leaf was one of the most important commodities and living necessities in Taixia Country. Hua people in Taixia Country and rich people in other subcontinents both regarded drinking tea as a most elegant entertainment. Tea leaf trading was a very profitable business...

Zhang Tie remembered that Barley the Fattie fetched some tea leaves which were treasured by them pretty much. When in Waii Subcontinent, elders of Huaiyuan Palace and mushrooms in Blackhot City were all the fans of tea leaves.

Tea leaves like wild spring in Taixia Country would be even treasured by elders of Huaiyuan Palace. They would not waste any of them.

When Zhang Tie was digesting Heller's words, Aziz, Agan and Edward had pushed those demon knights out...

At the sight of the exotic scenery in Castle of Black Iron, those black iron demon knights who had been knocked out and locked in the dungeon of Castle of Black Iron for a few days were all shocked or dumbfounded; they didn't know why they were here and was confused about their location.

The colorful cloud and exotic scenery over the immortal mountain, the palace tree and the bloody sacrifice furnace were all out of their imaginations.

Whatever, these guys would become fertilizers soon, Zhang Tie didn't care what they saw before they were killed.

Heller's words made Zhang Tie's heart race. He felt that those trivial fertilizers might play a big role on the earth's surface...

...

6 black iron demon knights were pushed here by wheelbarrows. They were the achievements that Zhang Tie had made over the past one month.

All of these guys wore restrictive equipment which were produced by Edward. The same restrictive equipment could make earth knights as tame as muppets, not to mention these black iron knights. After wearing the restrictive equipment, they immediately became fish on the chopping board.

Most of these black iron knights didn't have any response at the sight of the bloody sacrifice furnace except one of them, the very one who carried a space-teleportation equipment. At the sight of the bloody sacrifice furnace, it looked pretty scared. Closely after that, he twisted his body out of excitement as if it had known about his fate...

Chapter 1012: A Top Secret

Besides recovering wounds, the bloody sacrifice furnace could also help people break through the bottleneck of their secret method and battle skills; especially the second function, which was very useful for everybody.

As of now, the most profound battle skills that Zhang Tie cultivated were those secret battle skills in the Fire Dragon Sutra. Those demon knights being knocked out and caught alive became Zhang Tie's precious resources to break through the bottleneck of his secret method and battle skills.

Watching these sacrifices being pushed out, Zhang Tie didn't waste time. Without communicating with those demon knights who were destined to be fertilizers, he directly came to the front of the altar and started the bloody sacrifice furnace right away. He intended to promote to a higher level in those battle skills of the Fire Dragon Sutra through the bloody sacrifice.

After Zhang Tie started it, the vent of the bloody sacrifice furnace was opened while the terrifying black flames appeared in the furnace. The fierce flames seemed to be cold; however, they could burn everything. With the atmosphere of hell, the flames were like changing demon's claws, which wanted to devour all the living beings. In a terrifying atmosphere, the vent was like an open gate of the hell.

Even though those demon knights didn't know what they were pushed here for, at the sight of the open bloody sacrifice furnace, they realized that they were destined to die miserably.

However, they couldn't resist at all; neither did their struggle work. They couldn't even scream because they wore a muzzle.

This method was always used for those untamed dangerous wild beasts.

Those demon knights could only twist their bodies and struggle in vain while "wailing" mournfully.

The first black iron demon knight was poured into the bloody sacrifice furnace like a rubbish by Edward. The moment it entered the black flame, it had disappeared. At the sight of this scene, all the other black iron demon knights were scared.

The 2nd one, the 3rd one and the 4th one...

Zhang Tie noticed that one of these demon knights was especially thrilled. When it was carried onto Edward's wheelbarrow by Agan and Aziz, it started to struggle while the vessels on its neck bulged. It turned its head and goggled at Zhang Tie without even blinking its eyes while uttering a voice, "Wuhwuhwuh" as if it wanted to say something to Zhang Tie...

The earlier demon knights would exert their full efforts to struggle when being thrown into the bloody sacrifice furnace; however, they would not gaze at Zhang Tie in this way. Even though this demon knight was pushed forward, it still turned its head and kept gazing at Zhang Tie as if it had many words to say...

Zhang Tie realized that this demon knight might want to say something to him.

Therefore, he raised his hand when Edward pushed the wheelbarrow to the front of the bloody sacrifice furnace.

Edward stopped at once as he looked at Zhang Tie.

"Open its muzzle, I want to know what it wants to say!" Zhang Tie issued the order.

After throwing a glance at that demon knight, Edward stretched out his hand and opened the demon knight's muzzle.

The muzzle looked a bit evil as was like a metal corncob with a base. The base sealed the demon knight's mouth while that metal corncob directly stabbed into the demon knight's mouth, making it unable to bite people.

The moment the muzzle was opened, the demon knight had started to cough heavily while drooling...

"I...I'm...a member of Augulas Clan...you...you cannot kill me..." The demon knight hurriedly revealed its status before wiping off its saliva as if it wanted to "frighten" Zhang Tie...

Zhang Tie replied with a sneer, 'What motherf*cking Augulas Clan, is there anything to do with me? This guy wants to frighten me with this status? How naive it is!'

After throwing another glance at the demon knight, Zhang Tie waved his hand and said, "Push it in..."

Edward then kept pushing that guy towards the vent of the bloody sacrifice furnace...

"Wait..." The demon knight shrieked at the crucial moment while its face completely twisted. It wanted to seize all the chances to survive on, "I'm useful for you if you keep me alive. Augulas Clan will trade with you for me..."

'What motherf*cking trade!' Zhang Tie ignored it, so did Edward. When the wheelbarrow became vertical in front of the vent, that guy added, "I know who colludes with us among the Class I Hua officials in Taixia Country..."

Before its life disappeared in the black flame, the demon knight screamed with a terrifying expression...

After hearing the last sentence, Zhang Tie raised his hand to stop Edward.

When a shrewd eye light flashed by, Zhang Tie asked, "What did you say?"

"I know who colludes with us among the Class I Hua officials in Taixia Country..." That demon knight hurriedly added as if he was afraid of losing the last chance to speak.

Zhang Tie had not seen any demon who was afraid of death; however, it was the instinct of all the intelligent lives by avoiding harms and going after gains so as to survive themselves. This law was even suitable for demons. Previously, Zhang Tie had not seen any demon who was afraid of death; whereas, it didn't mean that no demon was afraid of death. Especially those demons, who had been used to privileges, drinks and beauties since young, was more afraid of death and treasured their lives more. This was the common point between humans and demons.

At the critical moments, the most righteous ones were usually small figures; by contrast, those big figures only thought about surviving themselves. Such events had happened many times in the history of Hua people. A demon was acting it in front of Zhang Tie now. This phenomenon would not disappear in the future...

Zhang Tie rolled his eyes before revealing a sneer, "Your joke is too awkward. Even if someone in the Class I officials of Taixia Country colludes with demons, how do you know such a top secret as a trivial black iron knight? If you want to survive longer by telling a lie in front of me, you have made a mistake. You have one minute to prove that you're more useful to me when you're alive than dead..." After saying that, Zhang Tie told Edward with a glassy-eyed look, "If I don't let you stop 1 minute later, continue to throw this guy into the bloody sacrifice furnace!"

"Yes, Castle Lord!"

Zhang Tie only spared 1 minute for it to survive itself. After swallowing its saliva twice forcefully, the demon knight immediately poured out a long paragraph.

"Augulas Clan is a prince's clan which has a time-honored history. I'm a direct descendant of Augulas Clan. I'm the clan head of Augulas Clan; namely, the famous Augulas Prince is my grandpa. My grandpa participated in discussing the major events of demons as a whole. Before the 3rd holy war broke out, I had already promoted to a black iron knight. One day, I heard my grandpa chatting with an ambassador from the Demon God's Hieron in the study. That ambassador told my grandpa that someone in the top 9 Hua chancellors in Taixia Country had been cooperating with us. Additionally, that guy had gained 1/4 of the remains of the Supreme Bloody Soul Sutra, the No. 1 treasure in the original Bloody Soul Temple of Hua people in Taixia Country from us. Oh, that guy seemed to be very interested in the Bloody Demon Imitation Method on the remains of the Supreme Bloody Soul Sutra..."

The demon knight poured all of them without a breath. Hearing these words, Zhang Tie looked as glassy-eyed as before; however, his heart had raced.

When the demon knight mentioned the "Bloody Demon Imitation Method", Zhang Tie felt being struck by a lightning bolt.

The one who wanted to kill Zhang Tie by framing him, causing him to escape all the way here had mastered the so-called Bloody Demon Imitation Method.

Zhang Tie fiercely gazed at this demon knight as he wanted to check whether this guy intended to induce him by the "Bloody Demon Imitation Method" on purpose. However, closely after that, Zhang Tie became clear-minded. Because Zhang Tie maintained the look of Gorath at this moment, even after staying in Castle of Black Iron for a few days, this guy could never know that he was Zhang Tie. Therefore, this guy didn't mean to induce him with the "Bloody Demon Imitation Method"...

'Someone of the nine chancellors in Taixia Country has betrayed humans and cooperated with demons? What does he want to do? In that high position, if he wants to surrender to demons, he could easily bring a catastrophe to numerous people.'

'Additionally, since that man has mastered the bloody demon imitation method, he probably is the very person who framed me.'

'One of the nine chancellors of Taixia Country is a lackey of demons. The one who framed me is one of the nine chancellors of Taixia Country? If it's real...' Zhang Tie couldn't help shivering all over due to excitement, causing goosebumps all over...

Zhang Tie meditated it and almost forgot about time. When time was out, Edward was going to pour that guy into the bloody sacrifice furnace. Watching the pitch-dark flame in the bloody sacrifice furnace, the demon knight howled mournfully and almost cried its heart out.

"Stop!" Zhang Tie uttered and finally saved that guy.

"Do you know who's that chancellor?" Zhang Tie asked with a calm look.

"No, I don't. The ambassador from the Demon God's Hieron didn't mention it. I heard about that by accident..." That guy hurriedly stammered after surviving itself.

"What's your name?"

"Aquino!"

'Aquino, what the f*ck! It sounds so obscene!'

After thinking for a short while, Zhang Tie's eyes flickered as he threw another glance at that demon knight and told Edward, "Take it away, it's still useful to me. Continue to put it behind bars. Treat it a bit better!"

"Yes, sir!"

Edward replied and directly pushed the demon knight away.

This was a major event. Before Zhang Tie accomplished his bloody sacrifice, he had frowned and asked Heller who was standing a few meters away with a serious look, "Was he telling the truth?"

Heller replied with a solemn look or a glassy-eyed look, "I cannot answer you; neither could I make any judgment about it. Given the space-teleportation equipment which could even match that of the demon general in Waii Subcontinent and many senior items in the space-teleportation equipment, this guy definitely comes from a major clan among demons. Average black iron demon knights could never carry any space-teleportation equipment; especially on the battlefield. Therefore, its background should be real. When it spoke, although I couldn't judge whether its words were real or not, given the levels of the secretions of its glands and indicators such as heartbeat, heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature, it could pass the test of lie detector which was invented by humans before the Catastrophe. However, lie detector does not always work as it will also become ineffective to people who are used to tell lies and have special psychological quality..."

Heller's answer was completely within Zhang Tie's imagination. Although Heller's words sounded meaningless, Zhang Tie had got the answer.

'Nobody knew that this demon knight would be captured alive by me. Additionally, this demon knight doesn't know that I'm Zhang Tie. Therefore, it's impossible for him to prepare those words. At the life or death situation, if that guy called Aquino could still survive himself by telling such a lie, it's really a talent.'

'Lie detector? Even I don't know about that thing, not to mention the demon knight. Additionally, given its look, I don't think this guy's psychological quality is powerful enough.'

'Therefore, that guy was probably telling the truth.'

'Pitifully, the mind reading skill in the Soul Forbidden Method is ineffective to demon knights; otherwise, I would know whether that guy was telling the truth or not right away.'

Out of instinct, Zhang Tie felt that the demon knight might be useful to him in the future; No matter what, Zhang Tie didn't believe that it could escape away from him in Castle of Black Iron.

"One of nine chancellors in Taixia Country, a shadow knight..." Zhang Tie radiated a shrewd eye light as he felt thrilled unconsciously...

This clue was very important for Zhang Tie. If he could prove that the demon knight didn't tell him a lie, Zhang Tie could be rehabilitated and the truth of the tragedy in Fuhai City would be exposed to the public. After escaping 3 years, Zhang Tie finally got the most valuable information.

However, it was very difficult for him to prove this information. Because none of the nine chancellors in Taixia Country were easily treated. Their overall strength, their powerful clans and their supreme powers were as formidable as overwhelming mountains.

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"Castle Lord, there's one more, will we continue?" Aziz asked when he received no command from Zhang Tie.

"Continue!"

Zhang Tie took a deep breath as he told Aziz, Agan and Edward to continue.

The last black iron demon knight was glaring at Aquino. Although it couldn't speak, its eye light had killed Aquino many times. If it could move, this demon knight might have long charged at Aquino and broke Aquino's neck by its teeth. However, facing the hell-like flames in the bloody sacrifice furnace, this demon knight also started to struggle...

The struggle was useless. No demon knight could resist in this situation.

The black flame soon devoured this demon knight. Closely after that, the joss's eyes turned bright. According to Zhang Tie's will, it covered Zhang Tie with its red light...

Right in the exceptional warmth brought by the red light, Zhang felt unprecedented vacant while those battle skills of Fire Dragon Sutra automatically evolved in Zhang Tie's mind and grew increasingly smoother...

The bottlenecks of the battle skills leading to higher levels were broken in a split second...

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Chapter 1013: Returning to Lion Fortress with a Bumper Harvest

On July 9th, the 903th year of black iron calendar, over two months since the last collision between two large battle formations, the human's battle fortress and the demon's battle fortress hovering in the core of Tiewei Mountain started to slowly evacuate under the protection of their own large battle formation of over 10,000 knights respectively almost at the same time...

When the two large battle formations started to evacuate, Gorath had just knocked out a battle spirit-level spider demon and thrown it into Castle of Black Iron like teleporting a booty in a messy deep mining trench over 70 miles away from the demon's battle fortress.

The moment the demon battle fortress moved, Zhang Tie had flown off the mining trench which had been deserted for many years and landed on a small hill. After that, he looked up at the floating demon's battle fortress.

Although being over 70 miles away, Zhang Tie could still see clearly the movements of the demon's battle fortress with his flickering lotus-flower eyes through the dense black mist.

Floating in the air, the demon's battle fortress was like a beehive-sized malignant tumor. Being covered with many accesses, it felt pretty chilly while slowly evacuating under the protection of the demon's large battle formation.

'Has the first large-scale battle between human knights and demon knights which broke out since the holy war come to an end?'

In the latest half a month, as the frequency of collisions between knights above earth level of both parties in the core decreased, fewer and fewer land forces appeared. Therefore, Zhang Tie guessed that the earth-element reserves here might have been fully exploited and both parties were preparing to evacuate.

As expected, both parties left this battlefield almost at the same time today.

As the battle fortress of both parties slowly evacuated, some dependent battle qi smokes and tornadoes also separated from each other and slowly evacuated with their own battle fortress and large battle formation...

Before coming here, Zhang Tie was thinking about getting some earth-element crystals here; however, after arriving here, Zhang Tie knew that it was impossible. Because both humans and demons had dispatched more than one shadow knight to prevent from being raided by the opposite shadow knights even heavenly knights. In this situation, it was unrealistic for an earth knight to do anything in the defensive area arranged by the shadow knights or heavenly knights. Little profit, big risk! Therefore, Zhang Tie gave it up.

However, although he didn't gain any earth-element crystal, he also made a great achievement on the battlefield.

Watching the two battle fortresses leaving, Zhang Tie felt a bit regretful inside.

If this large-scale battle lasted two more months, he would make a bigger achievement.

At this moment, a weird figure appeared in the dark mist over dozens of miles away and moved along a strange route as fast as a lightning bolt. It was flying towards Zhang Tie as if it was searching for something. Zhang Tie turned around while flickering his eyes. Closely after that, he returned to the mining trench rapidly. After a few seconds, a little black beetle flew off towards the human's battle fortress...

After a few minutes, that weird figure finally arrived at the place where Zhang Tie was just now.

That was an iron-armored shadow demon knight. The moment it arrived, a large area of black mist in the surroundings had rolled away.

There was some fresh blood on the ground of the mining trench, which was left by the spider demon which had just been knocked out by Zhang Tie.

Squatting down in front of the blood, the shadow demon knight rubbed it by its fingers. Closely after that, a shrewd light flashed by its eyes. After checking the surrounding environment, it hatched a soul-chasing butterfly at the fastest speed...

However, the soul-chasing butterfly kept flying around here like a donkey that pulled a millstone.

Two minutes later, the shadow demon knight roared and shattered the soul-chasing butterfly. After that, the shadow demon knight looked around this place before throwing a glance at the human's battle fortress. Closely after that, it flew towards the demon's battle fortress...

The first wrestle between Zhang Tie and a shadow demon knight in the Earth-elements Realm came to an end...

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In the highest tower of the human's battle fortress, Du Guyi was standing alone like a forceful mountain peak as he was watching the demon's battle fortress silently with rising flames in his eyes...

"In this large-scale battle, we lost 2147 knights in total, which included 2019 black iron knights and 128 earth knights. Two shadow knights were injured. 18% of the total participants were dead. 73% of the late knights were Hua knights from Taixia Country, the rest 27% came from other continents. Additionally, 31 knights have disappeared after the battle, including 2 earth knights. In the rear battlefield of the battle fortress, we lost about 400 Class II garrison knights and over 20,000 auxiliary fighters and logistical personnel..."

A person reported in a muffled voice behind the demon suppression general. When it came to the casualties, the voice turned more muffled.

Hearing those figures, the rising flames in Du Guyi's eyes turned dimmer abruptly. This large-scale battle between human knights and demon knights in the Earth-element Realm was the fiercest collision between humans and demons since the 3rd holy war broke out. Over 1,500 most excellent Hua knights were sacrificed. Such a great loss could not be shouldered by other countries in the world besides Hua. Additionally, in this large-scale battle, Hua people made the greatest sacrifice since the end of the 2nd holy war in order to resist demons. Even though, they had to fight; if not, the demons would grow stronger...

However, this was just a beginning, in some specific stages in the future, large-scale battles between human knights and demon knights would break out too. More and more human knights would die on the battlefields for the well-being of humans.

After hearing those figures, Due Guyi became silent for a minute...

"How about the demons?" The demon suppression general asked in a faintly hoarse voice.

"Demons suffered a greater loss than us. According to the verified military exploits, we've killed 2541 demon knights in total through the face-to-face collision between human's large formation and demon's large formation under your leadership, 157 of them were earth demon knights. Additionally, some

demon knights are still missing and unidentifiable. In the rear battlefield, demons broke even with us. And, demons even lost a very rare earth-level shadow demon. Additionally, demons lost about 30,000 ground fighters..." After replying that, the reporter took in a deep breath before adding, "Lord, we've...tried our best, everyone has exerted their full efforts!"

'Yes, we've exerted our full efforts. After sacrificing so many knights, of course, we've exerted our full efforts!'

Du Guyi let out a sigh inside.

After that, the demon suppression general closed his eyes. After a short while, he opened his eyes once again while the rising flames in his eyes had gone out. His eyes recovered absolutely icy and calm.

"Deliver the name-list of sacrificed knights and fighters on different levels to the Supreme Military Department and tell them to make proper arrangements about the sacrificed knights and fighters according to the relevant regulations!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Let's return to the Lion Fortress!"

After saying the last words, the demon suppression general threw a glance at the direction where the demon's battle fortress was leaving for before going downstairs the highest tower...

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On July 12th, three floating battle fortresses returned to the Lion Fortress. Those who survived this battle were indulged in ecstasy at once, knights or common ground forces. Since July 13th, the streets in Lion Fortress had been covered with ecstatic fighters while the special odor of watermelon liquor filled the entire Lion Fortress...

According to the official declaration in the Lion Fortress and the entire human world, humans made a big victory while the human fighters accomplished the task perfectly.

Through the large-scale battle between humans and demons in Tiewei Mountain, human knights had destroyed the plan of demons about occupying all the earth-element crystals, which were an important strategic resource by successfully grabbing almost half of the total earth-element reserves in the core of Tiewei Mountain, namely, over 2 million high-quality earth-element crystals, although at the cost of over 2,000 human knights' lives. Additionally, they killed over 3,000 demon knights and over 50,000 ground demon fighters...

Only some top rulers in the Lion Fortress knew the real figures on the battlefield. In order to pluck up fighters' courage, the propaganda department in the Lion Fortress exaggerated the military exploits purposefully and depicted the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain as a great victory of humans in the Earth-elements Realm. According to the propaganda, the first fiercest collision between the most powerful human force and the most powerful demon force ended up with humans' victory.

Such a propaganda was very inspiring and could strengthen humans' belief in resisting demons. Even those human fighters who were in subcontinents and continents instead of the Earth-elements Realm were greatly inspired by the news about the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain after clicking the eye-

catching title on the home page of the forum in the Mountain of Brightness as long as they had knights' crystal plates.

The battlefield of propaganda was also the most important branch of the battlefield in the holy war. Even before the Catastrophe, the importance of propaganda had been well known by human decision-makers such as generals. To a certain extent, all the battles would be determined on the battle will, decisiveness and morale in the end. The party whose battle will weakened first would collapse first on the battlefield...

When the entire Lion Fortress was in a carnival, Zhang Tie, after leaving the Lion Fortress over 3 years, returned to the Lion Fortress on July 14th...

Chapter 1014: Re-encountering Comrades-in-Arms

After over 3 years, the Lion Fortress remained unchanged. If not the three floating battle fortresses which seemed to carry the bloody qi of battle, perhaps nobody could find that many human knights in the Lion Fortress had just experienced a large-scale battle with demon knights.

Zhang Tie recovered Cui Li's look and entered the Lion Fortress smoothly and frankly.

Although those at the gate the Lion Fortress were still Hua knights, they looked strange. None of them were familiar with Zhang Tie. Given their solemn young looks and uniforms, Zhang Tie knew that they had just come to the Earth-elements Realm.

Those who had just come to the Earth-elements Realm acted like newbies in troops as they would do everything strictly according to the regulations.

Over 3 years, especially after experiencing many combats and killing about a half dozen of earth demon knights, Zhang Tie unconsciously felt like a distant and experienced veteran.

"That one looks like an earth knight."

"Ahh, he's too young..."

"He might be a powerhouse from the top seven clans in Taixia Country!"

"This man has a sharp killing qi which couldn't be formed without rich battle experience. Perhaps, he has just come back from Tiewei Mountain..."

"Ahh, black iron knight, impossible!"

Zhang Tie swiped his identity card on the machine at the gate of Lion Fortress before entering it.

Zhang Tie entered the Lion Fortress with the black iron identity card that he used to access the knight's tower previously. At the sight of Zhang Tie's identity card, those knights at the gate were not sure whether Zhang Tie was a black iron knight or an earth knight.

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The entire fortress was filled with the special odor of watermelon liquor.

On the streets of the Lion Fortress, Zhang Tie saw many drunk knights and auxiliary fighters lying on the roadsides.

Zhang Tie didn't ridicule these people because he knew what those people who survived back from the battlefield were thinking about. After being extremely depressed and intense, they had to release their pressure by carnival and liquor.

The watermelon liquor didn't have a high degree; however, when Zhang Tie arrived at the Lion Fortress for the first time, he had known that some knights made a set of simple distillation equipment, making the degree of watermelon liquor close to that of alcohol, which would taste cool for many knights.

In the Lion Fortress, watermelon liquor being brewed with grains was also an important resource, which was forbidden being "squandered". Except for this situation, after the large-scale battle, the odor of watermelon liquor filling the Lion Fortress indicated that the regulations in Lion Fortress were very human-friendly.

Besides the sharp difference in overall strength, most of the knights would also feel happy, angry, sad or joyous like commoners.

The entire Lion Fortress was in a carnival.

Some people were kissing while some burst out into laughter after being drunk...

At this moment, pleasure and sadness were as dense as the black mist in the first abyss. Even Zhang Tie was a bit affected by the ecstatic atmosphere across the Lion Fortress.

Although Zhang Tie didn't know about the concrete casualties of both parties after this large-scale battle, he understood that the casualties of knights on both parties were definitely large after such a fierce collision between the top forces of humans and demons after fighting as a guerrilla in the battlefield for such a long time. Each party must have suffered a great loss. As the large-scale battle had just come to an end, both parties needed to make a conclusion and recover their forces. Therefore, humans and demons would recover their statement state in the Earth-elements Realm and the first abyss; a large-scale battle would not break out in a couple of years. Both parties would transfer their main battlefield to the earth's surface.

Therefore, Zhang Tie was ready for returning to the earth's surface.

However, before returning to the earth's surface, he needed to return to the Lion Fortress to submit his military exploits.

The moment he thought about returning to the earth's surface, Zhang Tie remembered the news that he heard from demons on the battlefield a few months ago—Emperor Xuanyuan was missing!

Zhang Tie wanted to go to the Tower of Brilliance first.

After leaving Black Armor Battlefortress a few months, it was unreasonable if he didn't make any military exploit. Therefore, Zhang Tie prepared a military exploit for Cui Li—an ox-headed earth demon's horn and the hardest protective scale on the chest of a black iron demon knight.

Actually, Zhang Tie had more certificates for killing earth demon knights in Castle of Black Iron. However, if he presented them all, he would push Cui Li to the teeth of the storm. That would not be good for Cui

Li. As Cui Li had killed an earth shadow demon, if he killed one more earth demon knight and one black iron knight, he would also win many earth knights' respect in the Lion Fortress and lay his solid foundation as a powerhouse among the human earth knights. Going beyond the limit was as bad as falling short.

The moment Zhang Tie turned a corner, he had caught sight of two familiar people.

Bolam and Cecilia were kissing beside a parterre on the roadside. Therefore, they didn't see Cui Li who had just turned to this street.

Zhang Tie was about 100 m away from them. As there were many knights in the Lion Fortress, the two people didn't notice this tough man at the corner.

Bolam had lost one arm; therefore, he could only put the remaining arm around Cecilia's waist when he kissed Cecilia.

When their lips separated, Bolam directly knelt down in front of the female knight on one knee as he pulled Cecilia's hand and watched this strong and beautiful female knight with a pair of soulful eyes, "Marry me, although I only have one hand, as long as I'm alive, I will protect you with this hand till the end of the world. Unless I die in front of you, nobody could harm you."

Watching this man who used to be silent and protected her at the risk of his life at the critical moment, Cecilia burst into tears as she nodded silently.

At the sight of this scene, those who were drinking on the roadside couldn't stand cheering up.

Sudden wealth might cause an old couple to divorce; however, after experiencing a life or death situation, two people who had not fallen in love with each other might determine to get married.

With a bottle of liquor in hand, Filton wobbly walked out of the pub on the roadside as he pointed at Bolam who had a big smile and said, "You...this guy...I have...long discovered that you liked Cecilia, right..."

Bolam who used to be silent replied with a simple and honest smile. Cecilia threw a glance at him before firmly holding his only hand.

Filton stomped to the ground and thumped his chest before sighing with emotions, "You've picked the flower of knights in Francia Empire, what will our knights from Western Continent do?"

"There's regeneration medicament in Lion Fortress; as long as we serve here a few more years and accumulate enough meritorious points, we will cure your wound for sure!" Cecilia said as she looked Bolam in his eyes. Although being a female knight, Cecilia was very decisive.

The moment Bolam wanted to say something, he widely opened his eyes at once. Because he saw a bald-headed tough man walking towards them with a sincere smile.

"Cui Li..." Bolam cried.

Filton and Cecilia turned around and saw Zhang Tie at the same time.

"Ahh, it's really Cui Li..." Cecilia became startled.

Filton who looked a bit drunk just now directly rushed towards Zhang Tie like a lightning bolt.

"Hahahaha..." Zhang Tie burst out into laughter as he gave a bearhug to Filton, "Filton, long time no see!"

Filton was very thrilled as he forcefully thumped Zhang Tie's chest and shoulders and uttered disorderly, "When we arrived at the Lion Fortress, we heard that you were alive. Oh my god! They say you've killed a very tricky earth-level shadow demon knight and gained the most brilliant reward in Tiewei Mountain Theater of Operations...That's unbelievable. You've promoted to an earth knight?"

"Yes, I survived myself in the hieron ruins by chance. Additionally, I promoted to an earth knight!" Zhang Tie also patted Filton's shoulders as he opened his arms and gave a bearhug to Bolam who only had his left hand. After that, he separated from Bolam and faintly frowned at the sight of his missing right arm, "Bolam, what's wrong with your right arm?"

"When the human's large formation collided the demon's large formation in Tiewei Mountain, we broke off from the human's large formation. At the crucial moment, in order to save Cecilia, Bolam's right arm was shattered by the demon's large formation in a split second..." Filton who was a bit talkative replied on behalf of Bolam, "However, Bolam gained the flower of knights in Francia Empire as a compensation..."

After hearing Filton's explanation, Zhang Tie knew that Filton, Bolam and Cecilia were in the human's large formation when the collision occurred and he was trapping demon knights. They were really fortunate to survive that collision. However, Bolam had paid a lot in order to survive himself and Cecilia.

"It's my pleasure to see you. It's the best news that you could come back alive since we returned to the Lion Fortress !"

Compared to Filton and Bolam, Cecilia acted a bit more reserved in front of Zhang Tie...

Chapter 1015: A Bright Future and A Good Reputation

After departing for 3 years, the four people felt like having a lot of words to say; however, they didn't know from where to start.

As for the fact that Zhang Tie had promoted to an earth knight, although Filton, Cecilia and Bolam felt amazed, they thought it was reasonable. Because when Zhang Tie stayed with them in the hieron ruins, his performance was far better than them. Even Mountain Lifting Hermit praised him. Additionally, Zhang Tie had killed Old Monster Qi in the hieron ruins. Although only Zhang Tie himself knew the reason, it was not too overwhelming for a black iron knight who had killed an earth knight to promote to an earth knight.

Zhang Tie explained to them what he had experienced in the hieron ruins which shocked them too much.

After a short dialogue, Zhang Tie suddenly asked, "Oh, how about other guys in our team since they left the hieron ruins?"

"Mountain Lifting Hermit has returned to the earth's surface. It's said that he needed rehabilitation. As he has been severely wounded, he would barely recover in a short period. The couple of Lu Zhongming and Lin Huanxi gained a silver secret item in the Weapons Mountain. They might have returned to the earth's surface. As for the others, after coming back to the Lion Fortress, they all minded their own businesses and barely connected with us. Some of them have returned to the earth's surface, some are still wandering in the Earth-elements Realm. Oh, do you remember Yang Zhenjun, the elder of Yang Clan in Military Province in Taixia Country?" Filton's voice suddenly turned depressed as he revealed a sad look, "Half a year ago, in the large-scale collision between human knights and demon knights in Tiewei Mountain, he was killed. After breaking off from the human's large formation, he was covered by the dense strikes of the demon's large formation, leaving nothing at all..."

This Yang elder didn't leave a deep impression in Zhang Tie's mind. In Zhang Tie's memory, Yang Zhenjun looked a bit old and was always solemn; however, he did things very carefully. Zhang Tie just had a nodding acquaintance with him. Yang Zhenjun also intended to find a silver secret item for Yang Clan in the heiron ruins so as to increase Yang Clan's overall strength.

After hearing that a familiar person was killed in Tiewei Mountain, Zhang Tie felt sad inside too.

This Yang elder might have not gained anything in the hieron's ruins; however, he sacrificed in the later large-scale battle between human knights and demon knights in Tiewei Mountain.

Zhang Tie knew that clans which only had a few cities like Yang clan might merely have a couple of knights. After losing one black iron elder, their clan's overall battle strength would be weakened greatly, which definitely impacted the destiny of their clan. The sacrifice of Taixia Country in the holy war was composed of the sacrifices of thousands of clans like the Yang clan. At this moment, although the Lion Fortress was celebrating the victory of the large-scale battle between humans and demons in the core of Tiewei Mountain, many clans which had sacrificed their clan knights were pretty sad on the earth's surface.

Finding that Zhang Tie was losing his smile, Filton shifted to another topic, "Oh, where are you going?"

"I'm going to the tower of brilliance to submit my military exploits!" Zhang Tie replied as he threw a glance at Bolam's broken right arm silently.

"After you submit your military exploits in the tower of brilliance, let's meet in the knight's bar. After experiencing this large-scale battle, we three are ready to leave Lion Fortress for the Western Continent. We've received the remote-sensing news from the Grims Republic yesterday. After confirming that I'm still alive, the national defense department summoned me back. Our republic is preparing to establish some new corps. I will be responsible for a new corps. In the following few years, the warfare in the Western Continent might be very intense. A batch of knights with rich battle experience was required to stabilize the battle situation over there!"

Many knights came to Earth-elements Realm and Lion Fortress from the Western Continent out of specific purposes. Common fighters in the Western Continent might not have a chance to see the most brutal combats between humans and demons. However, as knights who ruled the entire corps, they had to have a clear understanding about that. The moment the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain came to an end, these knights who survived the battle would become bestsellers. In the next a few years, the battle situation on the earth's surface might be intense. Therefore, a lot of knights were recruited back

from the Earth-elements Realm to the Western Continent and other subcontinents. At the same time, another batch of newbies would arrive at the Earth-elements Realm for training. Therefore, the Lion Fortress served as the frontline of humans in the Earth-elements Realm and the furnace for training human knights.

The holy war had just broken out; it would last long.

When Filton told Zhang Tie, Cecilia suddenly pressed her hand onto her finger ring as her face slowly turned weird even a bit bad.

"What's wrong?" Bolam asked her out of concern.

"I've just received a remote-sensing news from my clan. My father wants me to return to Francia Empire as soon as possible..." Cecilia answered bitterly as she threw an embarrassed glance at Bolam, "If we go back now, what about your hand..."

Bolam revealed a smile, "Never mind, I will go back with you. Hopefully, your clan doesn't blame you for bringing back a disabled knight. As for the regeneration medicament, let's talk about it later..."

"I'm preparing for returning to the earth's surface too. Now that we all prepare to leave, let's go back and prepare our belongings first. See you later!" Zhang Tie said.

"Sure!"

Zhang Tie patted Bolam's right shoulder as he nodded and accelerated towards the tower of brilliance.

Until Zhang Tie walked away did Filton muttered as he watched Zhang Tie's back, "I've not imagined that... Cui Li...has promoted to an earth knight. If he was in the Western Continent, he had been a commander of a theater of operations and we would have to follow his order..."

"Even in Taixia Country, an earth knight could also become a provincial governor. It's said that he was rewarded with a large area of land..."

"Bolam, are you jealous?" Filton watched Bolam in a joking manner.

Bolam shook his head solemnly, "No, I might be jealous of others; however, Cui Li is a real noble knight. I cannot envy a person with noble morality. I just feel happy for him and treat him as my role model!"

...

The tower of brilliance was very boisterous. After the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain came to an end, a lot of Class II garrison knights returned to the Lion Fortress, making the lobby of the tower of brilliance bustling.

Being different than the first time when he came here, this time, the moment Zhang Tie entered the lobby of the tower of brilliance, he had been recognized by a lot of knights whom he had met in the Black Armor Battlefortress.

"Look, he's Cui Li..."

"Did he kill that earth shadow demon?"

"Right!"

"Powerhouse..."

"Is this Cui Li the extremely righteous one in Yongzhou Province?"

"Right..."

"Over 700 square miles' bounty land and 10 cities. What a great reward! With such rich resources, an earth knight would be able to establish a powerful clan immediately!"

Besides various eye lights, Zhang Tie heard many whispers.

Some eye lights were awe-stricken, some were admirable; of course, some were jealous too. What a great reward! As this great reward was selected from a lot of blocks, especially in Taixia Country, of course, some would envy him.

At the sight of that familiar old man, Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he walked over there.

Hearing those discussions, Zhang Tie felt happy inside. He knew that he had reached his target. Cui Li, at this moment, was not a trivial figure in the Lion Fortress anymore. After being famous across the Lion Fortress, he would have a very good reputation among all the human knights. The good reputation was what he demanded urgently.

"I've not imagined that you could come back!" That old man looked at Zhang Tie from head to toe as he continued, "I thought you've been to other places away from the periphery of Tiewei Mountain after leaving Black Armor Battlefortress, have you made any military exploit?"

"As the others are fighting demons in the frontline, how could I leave?" Zhang Tie replied with a smile as he teleported his identity plate, a pair of horns of an ox-headed demon and a protective scale of an iron-armored black iron demon from Castle of Black Iron onto the counter.

Watching Zhang Tie's military exploits, many onlookers took in a deep breath as they had not imagined that Cui Li could kill another earth demon knight, plus that earth shadow demon, Cui Li had killed two earth demon knights in the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain.

'Powerhouse! What a powerhosue!'

Those people who were looking at Zhang Tie with jealous eye lights just now felt their hearts racing at once as they immediately changed their eye lights. Those with a good reputation would definitely not be average. Cui Li definitely killed that earth shadow demon by his real battle strength and intelligence.

"Ahh, another earth demon knight..."

At the sight of the color of the pair of ox horns which indicated the identity of the ox-headed demon, the old man immediately charged at it. After looking over it in his hand and picking that protective scale of an iron-armored demon, the old man constantly nodded and praised, "Not bad, not bad, two more demons, I find that I like you more and more..."

"Don't, this Cui has a normal gender orientation. If you were a watery young sister, I could consider it!"

"Hahaha..." The old man burst out into laughter as he said, "You can exchange for more meritorious points this time. What else do you want? If you want something, I can give you a discount..."

"I remember that the meritorious points for killing an earth knight could be exchanged for one vial of regeneration medicament?"

"That's true. Do you want one?"

"Give me one!" Zhang Tie smiled.

"It's a good choice by preparing a vial of regeneration medicament in case of accidents!" The old man commented. After that, he told Zhang Tie to wait for a short while before walking into the room behind him. After half a minute, he came out with a crystal case, "Here you go, this is the regeneration medicament. It's very precious. When you don't use it, you'd better seal it in the crystal case. If not, its effect would decline sharply..."

"I see, thanks!" Zhang Tie put away the crystal case in his portable space-teleportation equipment. The moment he wanted to leave, he heard a louder uproar. Zhang Tie turned around and saw Feng Yexiao entered the lobby with his team members of Taiyi Fantasy Sect. As a shadow knight, Feng Yexiao had a powerful qi field. The moment he entered, he had started to look around with his sharp eyes. As a result, all the knights gave a way to Feng Yexiao automatically...

"Brat, hurry up, go..." The old man behind him warned Zhang Tie in a low voice rapidly...

After hearing this old man's warning, Zhang Tie became faintly stunned, 'Hurry up? Go? Why?'

Although Feng Yexiao had a very powerful qi field, Zhang Tie only had Lan Yunxi in his eyes.

Lan Yunxi was walking in the team quietly as brilliant as before. Besides Zhang Tie, many knights in the lobby were looking Lan Yunxi up and down silently.

As many people were looking at Lan Yunxi, Zhang Tie's movement became less eye-catching.

When Zhang Tie gazed at Lan Yunxi for a few seconds, Feng Yexiao immediately moved his sharp eye light onto Zhang Tie...

Chapter 1016: Trouble

Cui Li's look was his signboard. A tower-like figure, a bald head which was full of killing qi, plus the overall strength of an earth knight, very few earth Hua knights in the Lion Fortress could be as distinctive as Cui Li.

Cui Li had been well-known in the Black Armor Battlefortress. Even though those who had not seen him before would be able to guess that he was Cui Li after listening to others' description about his look.

Moreover, the evidence that Cui Li killed another earth demon knight was right on the counter in front of him.

When Feng Yexiao was gazing at him, Zhang Tie felt that Feng Yexiao was not kind to him; however, he didn't understand why Feng Yexiao disliked him.

'Does he know the love affairs between Lan Yunxi and me? No way! Even Lan Yunxi does not know that I'm Zhang Tie. How could he know that?'

When Zhang Tie was making blind and disorderly conjectures, he felt that it was unnecessary for him to collide with Taiyi Fantasy Sect. 'No matter how Feng Yexiao glared at me, I will not lose a hair. Whatever!'

'Is this old guy jealous about my handsome look? Hahahahaha...'

When Zhang Tie thought about this, he glanced at Lan Yunxi for a few times before curling his lip and responding to the old guy behind the counter. After that, he put away the regeneration medicament into his portable space-teleportation equipment and was going to leave the lobby of the tower of brilliance.

At the sight of Zhang Tie's portable space-teleportation equipment, Feng Yexiao's eyes flickered once again.

"Feng Yexiao is here to kill that earth-level shadow demon knight so as to increase his reputation in Taiyi Fantasy Sect. You grabbed his reputation; therefore, you need to be careful with him. This guy is very narrow-minded..."

A sound drifted into Zhang Tie's ears.

Zhang Tie's doubt cleared right away.

Feng Yexiao walked towards Zhang Tie, followed by his team members of Taiyi Fantasy Sect while Zhang Tie walked towards him frankly. If there was no accident, Zhang Tie and Feng Cangwu would just pass by each other instead of colliding with each other like passing a single-plank bridge in the middle of the lobby of tower of brilliance.

However, the accident happened.

When Zhang Tie was a few meters away from the team of Taiyi Fantasy Sect, Feng Yexiao ahead of the team suddenly stopped as he slightly raised his head and asked Zhang Tie with an arrogant look, "You're Cui Li?"

The moment Feng Yexiao stopped, all the other team members stopped too. After hearing Feng Yexiao's question, the entire lobby of the tower of brilliance became quiet.

Both Taiyi Fantasy Sect and Cui Li were tricky. Taiyi Fantasy Sect was deep-rooted in Taixia Country while Cui Li was well-known in Black Armor Battlefortress due to his great military exploits. Therefore, when the elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect uttered and both parties stopped, they had felt that something was going to happen.

Zhang Tie faintly frowned. Although he didn't like to stir up trouble, he was never afraid of trouble. The moment Feng Yexiao uttered, Zhang Tie had felt that Feng Yexiao was not kind and was going to find him trouble.

'F*ck.' Zhang Tie swore inside.

"Hahahaha, yup, I'm the tall, handsome, extremely righteous and fortunate Cui Li from Yongzhou Province who has killed the earth-level shadow demon knight. Alas, the moment one became famous, he would have familiar ones no matter where he was!" Zhang Tie revealed a smile although he swore inside. At the same time, he directly waved his arm in the air and took a pen out of his portable space-teleportation equipment, "Old man, I'm in a hurry. If you want my signature, just tell me where to sign it. I will satisfy you today!"

"Pufft..." The old man who was drinking tea water and going to look on spurted out a mouthful of tea water and started to cough heavily when he heard Zhang Tie's words.

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, all the knights in the tower of brilliance who paid attention to them looked weird. Many people's faces turned red at once. Some of them burst out into laughter although they hurriedly bore it.

'It's not wise for me to offend Taiyi Fantasy Sect at this moment.'

Feng Yexiao's poker face turned black immediately while the blood vessels on his two temples started to jump. After hearing Zhang Tie's words, Feng Yexiao was almost driven mad.

Previously, Feng Yexiao disliked Zhang Tie. Now, he started to hate Zhang Tie.

"B*stard, I'm Feng Yexiao from Taiyi Fantasy Sect!" Feng Yexiao controlled his fury as he told Zhang Tie about his background.

"Ahh, you don't want my signature!" Zhang Tie stroked his bald head as he waved his hand and put away his pen. After that, his face turned a bit solemn. Gazing at Feng Yexiao, Zhang Tie said, "I have not stirred up, neither did I dig your ancestral tombs nor sleep with your wife. I've not owed you money either. Why do you swear me? Didn't your master teach you the basic manners?"

"Audacious!" A young knight behind Feng Yexiao jumped out immediately before Feng Yexiao replied as he pointed at Zhang Tie seriously, "How dare you treat Elder Feng so rudely? Hurry up, apologize to Elder Feng!"

"Pah..." Zhang Tie directly spat towards him as he pointed at that young knight with his turnip-sized finger in a disdainful look, "This old guy called Feng Yexiao swore me; why do I apologize to him? Do you think I'm afraid of you because you outnumber me? This f*ther could even make a massacre in the demon's large formation of over 10,000 knights in Tiewei Mountain, do you think I'm afraid of you?"

After hearing Zhang Tie's words, the disciples of Taiyi Fantasy Sect changed their faces at once. Some of them had put their hands on the handles of their swords and sabers; except for Lan Yunxi who just watched Zhang Tie quietly with a faintly absent-minded look.

Cui Li reminded Lan Yunxi of Zhang Tie unconsciously.

Zhang Tie excelled at such a zig-zagging diction. However, Lan Yunxi was not sure whether Cui Li was really foolish or not. Of course, Lan Yunxi could not imagine that Cui Li was Zhang Tie.

At the sight of the faintly absent-minded look of Lan Yunxi, Zhang Tie's heart raced as he sighed with emotions inside, 'Women's intuition is too terrifying.'

Feng Yexiao sneered as he raised his arm to calm down his disciples of Taiyi Fantasy Sect before saying, "So what? Do you want to pass by me pretending to be an idiot? That's too naive. This old man has lived over 200 years. I've seen all sorts of people. If you don't tell me about the relationship between you and Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster, you cannot leave. If there's really any relationship between you and Zhao Yuan, I will not only swear you. This day next year will be your anniversary of death."

The last words of Zhao Yuan were full of killing intent.

The name Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster might be a magic. The moment Feng Yexiao said it, the uproar and weird atmosphere in the lobby of the tower of brilliance was frozen at once.

Everybody in the world knew the conflict between Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster and Taiyi Fantasy Sect.

"Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster?" Zhang Tie burst out into laughter, "Are you the motherf*cking framing me? How could you fabricate such a lie? You the old b*stard called Feng Yexiao, right? Did you come to the Tiewei Mountain to kill that earth-level shadow demon knight for glory? Pitifully, that earth-level shadow demon knight has been killed by this Cui. This Cui has received the reward. Do you envy me for grabbing your glory or having your daughter? Why don't you the motherf*cker go fight a shadow demon knight? Are you not feeling ashamed by framing this Cui and pretending like you're something?"

"I was told that you had promoted to an earth knight from a black iron knight only after staying with an earth demon knight in the hieron ruins a couple of years. Only Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster could absorb others' chakras and promote to a higher level in a short period in his sorcery purgatory samsara. If you don't have learned Zhao Yuan's sorcery, how could you promote to an earth knight in only a couple of years?" Feng Yexiao said with a strong killing intent as he approached Zhang Tie and gazed at Zhang Tie's face like an eagle or wolf who was hunting a prey.

A storm seemed to blow over the lobby of tower of brilliance. The other knights who didn't know Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster were shocked by Feng Yexiao's words too, 'Yea, how could Cui Li promote to an earth knight only after staying in the hieron ruins for a couple of years? Did he really learn the secret method of Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster?'

None of them had imagined that they could hear such an amazing news and experience such a wonderful scene in the lobby of tower of brilliance. Therefore, they just held their breath and watched the drama.

"It turns out that Taiyi Fantasy Sect which ranks first among the top seven clans in Taixia Country are as narrow-minded as frogs in the well!" Zhang Tie watched Feng Yexiao with a disdainful look as he crossed his arms, "There're so many secret methods in the world. You know that Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster could absorb others' chakras in purgatory samsara and promote to a higher level rapidly. However, do you really think that it's the only secret method in the world that could help people promote to a higher level in a short period? Who could fully tap the secrets and potentials of human bodies? Due to good lucks, I promoted to an earth knight in a few years. But it has nothing to do with you. Where's the source of the purgatory samsara? In the far-ancient times, there were thousands of cultivation methods. Do you think that you know all of them?" Zhang Tie asked in reply.

Zhang Tie's words shocked all the onlookers like a spring thunder that they saw sparkles flying in front of their eyes.

All the knights at present had a question inside, 'Did...Cui Li from Yongzhou Province really learn a secret method that could match the Alchemist Monster's Purgatory Samsara Method by accident?'

Chapter 1017: Winning a Bet

"You mean you promoted to an earth knight in a couple of years by a secret method?"

"Of course, besides me, nobody else in the world could master that secret method!"

"What's that secret method?"

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter, "My secret method has nothing to do with your Taiyi Fantasy Sect. Although Taiyi Fantasy Sect is powerful, it has nothing to do with me, either. I will not tell you about that, so what?"

Feng Yexiao replied with a sneer in an extremely domineering manner as if he had seen through everything, "Do you think that the secret methods that could help knights rapidly form chakras are as many as white cabbages? Taiyi Fantasy Sect was the head of the top seven clans in Taixia Country. We have billions of books, including various classics, many of which were the only one from far-ancient times and couldn't even be found in Xuanyuan Hill. Besides, our sect converges elites and powerhouses from all walks of life. Thousands of knights, elders and savants are spending their whole lives in studying classics. I've joined Taiyi Fantasy Sect for so many years, besides the purgatory samsara of Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster, I've not heard any other secret method that could help knights promote to a higher level in a couple of years. Besides Taiyi Fantasy Sect, the other clans in Taixia Country had not heard about it either. Do you think that you could get rid of the relation between you and Zhao Yuan only by a few words? You're too naive!"

Zhang Tie's heart pounded, 'These high-level knights are really tricky. Soon after I promoted to an earth knight, Guan Qianchong and this old guy in front had guessed the relation between Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster and I. If not having trump cards, I really could not pass them.'

However, the more confirmative Feng Yexiao was, the happier Zhang Tie was. Because he planned to cheat this old guy in the same method that he used to cheat Guan Qianchong.

'This old guy is just coming on to me.'

Although Zhang Tie felt thrilled inside, he still looked outraged and disdainful. He just spoke louder unconsciously so that everyone at present could hear it clearly, "You're narrow-minded. What a frog could see in the well is nothing different than what one million of frogs could see in the same well. How dare you say that one million frogs could see the whole world? Hahahaha, Taiyi Fantasy Sect is just so so..." When Zhang Tie spoke, a familiar qi had come to the outside of the tower of brilliance. Zhang Tie was afraid that someone had noticed the mogul in the Lion Fortress when he confronted with this elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect. Feeling the familiar qi, Zhang Tie became more decisive, "This Cui has to drink with my friends, I don't have time to argue with you. I will lose hundreds of thousands of gold coins per second. Given that you're elder than me, I will not care about your rude words..."

As Zhang Tie said, he directly walked towards the gate.

"Do you think that you could leave so easily?" Feng Yexiao narrowed his eyes like watching a mantis which wanted to stop a vehicle by its arm.

"I will try." Zhang Tie's face turned solemn at once as he strode one more step forward.

Feng Yexiao stretched out one arm and stopped Zhang Tie like an overwhelming mountain.

Zhang Tie directly collided against Feng Yexiao's arm.

In the next second, the entire tower of brilliance was shocked. Those onlookers didn't even see clearly what happened as they just felt the lobby turned darker at once while an extremely huge virtual image of fire dragon appeared in the lobby. With a powerful qi of earth knight, it covered everyone at present...

Being covered by the virtual image of the fire dragon, all the common black iron knights felt their hearts pounding.

Earth knights were absolutely overwhelming in front of black iron knights in realms.

When the fire dragon roared, it flapped its wings, causing a powerful battle qi full of battle will to sweep over...

The huge virtual image of fire dragon filled the entire tower of brilliance. Its eyes were like two suns. The moment it closed its eyes, the lobby would be in the dark; the moment it opened its eyes, the lobby would be filled with a powerful battle qi that could tear off everything.

When the lobby turned bright and dark alternatively, thunders drifted from Zhang Tie and Feng Yexiao constantly. Most of the people at present could not see clearly their movements until it came to an end...

The light in the lobby recovered to normal at once.

Zhang Tie had moved a few steps back with full of battle will. The huge and magnificent virtual image of fire dragon as long as hundreds of meters were above his head. The fire dragon was gazing at Feng Yexiao in a brutal manner as if it was going to dive and charge at Feng Yexiao at any time...

Careful ones had found that Feng Yexiao had moved one step back with a great dumbfounded look.

Those disciples of Taiyi Fantasy Sect behind Feng Yexiao had already pulled out their weapons and pointed at Zhang Tie in some 3-in-1 battle formations.

One more person appeared between Feng Yexiao and Zhang Tie. Although being urbane, this one's qi was not weaker than that of Feng Yexiao. He even had a greater killing intent.

He was Guan Qianchong, the High Chancellor of Black Armor Army.

Besides Zhang Tie and Feng Yexiao, none of the others in the lobby discovered how did Guan Qianchong enter and stop Cui Li and Feng Yexiao.

"Brother Feng, don't you know the regulation in Lion Fortress? Why do you fight a junior here?" Guan Qianchong asked in a calm look; however, he was blaming Feng Yexiao faintly.

After hearing Guan Qianchong's question, Feng Yexiao revealed a faint smile as he restrained his look, "This old man has found that someone might be related to the Alchemist Monster. I stopped him and asked him to clarify it to me in case that he escaped."

"Who's that? Does Brother Feng doubt that Cui Li is related to the Alchemist Monster?" Guan Qianchong asked with a dumbfounded look purposefully, "But why? Cui Li has killed the earth-level shadow demon knight and made great military exploits in Tiewei Mountain, how come he's related to the Alchemist Monster?"

"If he's not related to the Alchemist Monster, how could he promote to an earth knight in a couple of years? I doubt that Cui Li is the apprentice of Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster!" Feng Yexiao looked at Zhang Tie as he firmly believed in his judgment.

'F*ck, he hit it.'

Zhang Tie was really shocked by this old guy's precise judgment. However, only Zhang Tie himself knew the truth. 'At this moment, even if Zhao Yuan the Alchemist Monster was here, he would not be sure that I'm his apprentice. Therefore, I don't care what others think about me.'

Guan Qianchong turned around and blinked his eyes towards Cui Li. Apparently, he looked solemn, "Cui Li, what do you explain the Elder Feng?"

Watching Guan Qianchong blinking his eyes towards him, Zhang Tie almost burst out into laughter, 'Although others don't know about my ability, Guan Qianchong who has suffered a loss from me knows how I could promote to an earth knight in such a short period. If Guan Qianchong doesn't explain to Feng Yexiao at this moment, he's sparing a chance for me to make another bet with Feng Yexiao!'

'It seems that these high-rank military officers in Lion Fortress dislike Guan Qianchong. Guan Qianchong must want to have me punish this old guy severely. What am I waiting for?'

Although being very thrilled inside, Zhang Tie still explained what happened just now to Guan Qianchong in an outraged way. Closely after that, he watched Feng Yexiao with a furious look, "How can you say that what you doubt is real? If one day you doubt that Emperor Xuanyuan is a demon, will Emperor Xuanyuan transfer the throne to someone of Taiyi Fantasy Sect?"

"Taiyi Fantasy Sect has a deep animosity with the Alchemist Monster. He killed the deputy head of Taiyi Fantasy Sect. It's of great significance, which could not be bamboozled easily!" Feng Yexiao gazed at Zhang Tie before revealing a sneer once again, "Even though you survived today, you could not survive tomorrow!"

"Hahaha, what a domineering Taiyi Fantasy Sect..." Zhang Tie glared at Feng Yexiao, "Now that you say there's no other secret method in the world that could help people promote to an earth knight rapidly, dare you to bet with me?"

"How?" Feng Yexiao replied with a sneer as he didn't believe that a lonely earth knight like Zhang Tie could have any marvelous secret method. 'Taiyi Fantasy Sect has spent hundreds of years in searching

for it in vain; how could a common earth knight have one so easily? Is that secret method as popular as white cabbage?'

"Gamble our lives!" Zhang Tie said generously, "If I could prove that there's another secret method that could help knights form my water chakra rapidly, I would be the winner and you should commit suicide in front of me so as to verify that I'm innocent. If not, I would chop off my head. Dare you bet with me? Dare Taiyi Fantasy Sect bet with me?" Zhang Tie's voice sounded aggressive.

Feng Yexiao revealed a shrewd eye light. Even though he hesitated a bit inside, under the eyes of the onlookers, he could only accept Zhang Tie's proposal; otherwise, Taiyi Fantasy Sect would be mocked by the rest of the world and Feng Yexiao would be a rustic who only seek for oral benefits. What happened inside the Lion Fortress would spread over all the human countries in the blink of an eye. Neither could Feng Yexiao nor Taiyi Fantasy risk it.

Watching Zhang Tie's excited look, Feng Yexiao was more confirmative that Zhang Tie was afraid of being found out. It was absolutely a small trick in his eyes.

"Why not?" Feng Yexiao answered Zhang Tie at once.

"The holy war has broken out. As knights in Taixia Country, you should cooperate with each other to fight demons. One of you is an earth knight who has made great military exploits, the other is a shadow knight who's going to promote to a heavenly knight. It's improper for you to bet with your lives in Lion Fortress. Now that you two want to make a bet, why not change a wager?" Guan Qianchong suggested as he threw a glance at Cui Li in a secret manner, "Brat, if you have a shadow knight commit suicide in the public, you will not stay in Taixia Country anymore. Feng Yexiao's floating airboat in the Earth-elements Realm is not bad, there are only a few floating airboats in Taiyi Fantasy Sect, why not bet with him using your bounty land?"

Zhang Tie smirked as he said, "Alright, I will take the suggestion of High Chancellor Guan. It's said that the airboat of Elder Feng is not bad. I will bet with you using my bounty land, namely 10 cities and over 700 square miles' land. You can use your airboat as the wager. Dare you bet with me?"

When Zhang Tie said, he directly took out the certificates of his bounty land from his portable space-teleportation equipment.

"It's just an airboat. I'd like to see your ability!" Feng Yexiao sneered.

"Are you betting here?" Guan Qianchong asked. Apparently, Guan Qianchong was inquiring about the two people's opinions; actually, he was on Zhang Tie's side.

"My secret method could not be exposed to the public. If Feng Yexiao wants to bet with me, only he has the access to see it. High Chancellor Guan could prepare a room for us and be the notary on the spot!" Zhang Tie understood Guan Qianchong's meaning at once.

"Brother Feng, what do you feel about it?" Guan Qianchong turned around and asked Feng Yexiao.

"Fair enough!" Feng Yexiao put it straight. No matter how many onlookers there were, he didn't believe that Cui Li could play any trick in front of him. Additionally, he wanted to know how Cui Li explain it to him when his trick was exposed.

"Find a secret cultivation room for us!" Guan Qianchong ordered a manager of the tower of brilliance who was standing in the distance.

Feng Yexiao turned around and told his followers behind him, "Stay in the lobby for a short while!"

Only after a few seconds, a manager in military uniform of logistics department of Lion Fortress walked towards them and gave a salute to Guan Qianchong, "High Chancellor Guan, the room is ready!"

"Please!" Guan Qianchong told Zhang Tie and Feng Yexiao.

After exchanging a glance with each other, Zhang Tie and Feng Yexiao followed the logistical military officer silently away from the lobby towards the staircase.

When Zhang Tie left, the silent lobby suddenly became boisterous.

"Ahh, did you see how Cui Li fought the elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect?"

"That's too fast..."

"Splendid, splendid, Cui Li from Yongzhou Province is indeed a tough guy who's not afraid of bigwigs..."

"What's the virtual image of Cui Li? How could he be so fierce?"

"Fire dragon, an immortal beast..."

"Could there be a secret method that could match Purgatory Samsara Method?"

"We will know it after a while!"

The knights in the lobby started hot discussions, making it as boisterous as a marketplace.

The sudden collision and the gamble between an earth knight and a shadow knight could not be usually seen at all...

In the tower of brilliance, some knights had already taken out their remote-sensing crystals to summon their partners here to watch the fun.

...

Under the guidance of the military officer in the tower of brilliance, Zhang Tie, Feng Yexiao and Guan Qianchong soon came to a secret room above the lobby. Closely after that, the military officer left, leaving Zhang Tie, Feng Yexiao and Guan Qianchong in the room.

Zhang Tie then grinned up at Feng Yexiao, "Elder Feng, do you have water-element crystals?"

"Yes, why?"

"Lend me one. I will show you my secret method with your water-element crystal in case that you doubt that there's something wrong with my water-element crystal and I have to perform it once again."

Feng Yexiao looked at Zhang Tie and Guan Qianchong before revealing a sneer and having one quality water-element crystal in his hand. Closely after that, he threw the crystal towards Zhang Tie.

Although Guan Qianchong had long known the result, he still looked solemn at this moment as if it was his first time to watch it. 'The High Chancellor of Black Armor Army is indeed vicious.'

"High Chancellor Guan, can we start?"

"Brother Feng, what do you think? Shall we start?"

"Let's start. I want to take a look at his trick. Besides the Purgatory Samsara Method, I really wonder about another secret method that could help people form their chakra rapidly!"

Holding the water-element crystal, Zhang Tie let out a sigh inside, 'I might not have such a good chance anymore in the future.'

...

Over 1 hour later, more knights arrived at the lobby to watch the fun.

When many people were guessing and discussing the result of the gamble, Cui Li went downstairs in his tall and sturdy figure and symbolic bald head while bursting out into candid laughter.

"Elder Feng, I will take the airboat of Taiyi Fantasy Sect, This Cui has not taken an airboat yet. Thanks a lot!"

Cui Li went downstairs with a spirited look. After throwing a glance at those knights in the lobby, Zhang Tie directly walked out silently.

After Cui Li left for a few seconds, Feng Yexiao went downstairs with a pale and extremely bad look...

Needless to say, everybody had known the result.

'Cui Li has won the elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect?'

Many people were greatly shocked inside.

What was more shocking was the meaning of Cui Li's victory, which indicated that Cui Li mastered a secret method which could even match the Purgatory Samsara Method.

On the same day, this news had been spread over all the major clans in Taixia Country and all the subcontinents even the Western Continent being far away from Taixia Country by those fighters in the Lion Fortress in different manners.

...

This time, the name Cui Li shocked the Lion Fortress completely...

...

One hour later, Du Guyi the demon suppression general had heard about this gamble in the Lion Fortress.

"Cui Li... from Yongzhou Province...the same person!"

"I've just been told that Cui Li had killed a demon knight and saved some fighters of our Feathers Army when exploring the hieron ruins with Mountain Lifting Hermit a few years ago. Those fighters being

saved told me that Cui Li was very dauntless and fierce in combats and killed demon knights like how a mad guy slaughtered dogs!" The one who passed the latest news to the demon suppression general continued.

"Not bad!" The demon suppression general replied.

Those who were familiar with the demon suppression general knew that he didn't praise people easily. Now that he praised Cui Li, it indicated that Cui Li had really aroused his attention.

...

Chapter 1018: Friends

10 hours later, Zhang Tie met Filton, Bolam and Cecilia once again in a knights' bar of Lion Fortress.

Being different like before, when Zhang Tie entered the knight's bar once again, he heard a lot whispers from those knights in the bar.

"This guy is Cui Li..."

"He's an earth knight!"

"It's said that he's mastered a secret method which could help him form his chakra rapidly and as effectively as Purgatory Samsara Method. He even won the bet between the grand elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect and him..."

"What kind of secret method could help a knight form his chakra rapidly?"

Among whispers, some knights' eyes flickered when they watched Zhang Tie.

Although all the whispers had drifted into Zhang Tie's ears, Zhang Tie seemed to have not heard that. After noticing Filton, Bolam and Cecilia, Zhang Tie directly walked towards them.

All the three people looked at Zhang Tie in a weird way. None of them had imagined that Zhang Tie could be a popular figure once again after returning to the Lion Fortress for only a few hours. After hearing what happened in the tower of brilliance, none of them could believe that Zhang Tie collided with a shadow knight and finally won the bet between him and the shadow knight and gained an airboat from the first sect in Taixia Country as a compensation.

"Wait, I know what you're going to say. I made it by good fortune!" Before Filton uttered, Zhang Tie had opened his mouth. After that, Zhang Tie took a seat and told the waiter to serve him a glass of watermelon liquor.

"We've got the new watermelon liquor. It has a special taste. Do you want to have a try?" The waiter recommended Zhang Tie politely.

"Sure, I will have a try!" Zhang Tie replied casually. Whatever, the current watermelon liquor has already had the worst taste, Zhang Tie didn't think that it could be worse.

The waiter walked away politely and prepared the new liquor for Zhang Tie.

"Whenever I see you, I feel you have made rapid progress like an utterly different person. Is your secret method that sharp?" Filton finally asked Zhang Tie after bearing it quite a while.

"It's indeed a bit sharp; however, I mastered that secret method accidentally. The others could not fully master it at all. Additionally, a large number of element crystals are required to form my chakra rapidly!"

After winning the bet between him and Feng Yexiao, Zhang Tie had to expose the secret that he mastered a secret method that could help him form his chakra rapidly. Therefore, Zhang Tie had long worked out the countermeasures. After the secret was exposed, he could avoid from being doubted about having any relation with the Alchemist Monster; additionally, as long as he insisted on that the others could not learn this secret method or only very few people could master a part of it, everything was still within his control. In this way, the negative effect of the secret method could be reduced. Additionally, with one more trump card in others' eyes, he could do other things easily.

Of course, the other knights could not absorb elements crystals 10-20 times that of average speed like him; however, as long as they could meet proper conditions, they would increase their cultivation speed by a couple of times. Therefore, this secret method became a bestseller of Zhang Tie.

Zhang Tie had not worked out a method to package "mental arithmetic by abacus" into "mental multitasking sutra" and prevent learners from leaking his secret in case that those who knew "mental arithmetic by abacus" could connect Zhang Tie with Cui Li.

"What do you mean by that the others could not fully master this secret method?" Bolam asked Zhang Tie as he was a bit slowwitted as a martial mania.

"Not fully master it means that someone could master it partially. This secret method could only work on very few people. Less than 1 of 1000 knights could cultivate it. As for the others, this secret method would not increase their cultivation speed at all even if they barely cultivated it. However, if a knight's spiritual energy is powerful enough, he could absorb elements crystals two times faster!" Zhang Tie said frankly.

"Two times faster?" Filton took in a deep breath.

As long as the knight had sufficient elements crystals, he would form his chakra two times faster. As for those common knights who always lacked elements crystals, this secret method might not be very attractive; however, it had a special meaning for major clans and sects which could provide sufficient earth-element crystals. That was to say, as long as some major clans and sects could master this secret method, they could cultivate two times more earth knights in the same period.

The spiritual energy of Bolam, Filton and Cecilia were just average. Spiritual energy was the most difficult cultivation item for knights. Therefore, after knowing that it required them at least one more times' spiritual energy to cultivate that secret method, the three people's curiosities died out.

After looking at Bolam's broken arm, Zhang Tie took out that vial of regeneration medicament from his portable space-teleportation equipment before pushing it in front of Bolam.

"Ahh, regeneration medicament?" Filton knew what was inside it the moment he caught sight of the crystal case.

"Bolam, Cecilia, just take this vial of regeneration medicament as my gift for you. When you get married in the Western Continent, a bridegroom with two arms would look more handsome than a bridegroom with only one arm..." Zhang Tie said generously.

"This...this is too expensive..." Watching the crystal case in front of him, Bolam hesitated a bit as he shook his head.

After staying in the Lion Fortress for a few years, of course, they knew how valuable was this vial of regeneration medicament. Even though they had just participated in the large-scale battle in Tiewei Mountain at the risk of their lives, the total meritorious points that the three human knights made in the large-scale battle couldn't afford this vial of regeneration medicament at all, which at least required 1 earth demon knight or more than 6 black iron demon knights.

"Am I your friend?" Zhang Tie turned solemn at once.

"Of course!" Bolam nodded.

"Cut the crap then!" Zhang Tie directly pushed the crystal case in front of Bolam in an overbearing manner.

Bolam's lips quivered as his eyes turned wet at once...

"Take it..." Cecilia uttered as she took the crystal case on her own initiative.

"Look, even Cecilia is more straightforward than you. If you feel sorry, f*ck those demons ferociously for me when you return to the Western Continent!"

"Yes, f*ck those demons ferociously!" Filton patted the table.

The waiter served Zhang Tie a glass of new watermelon liquor.

"Come on, let's cheer up for this re-encounter. I hope that we could also have a chance to f*ck demons together in the future so as to live up to the name of knight!" Zhang Tie raised his glass, "For the name of knight!"

"For the name of knight!" Filton, Bolam and Cecilia raised their glasses at the same time.

"Nice toast. For the name of knight!" The other knights beside them also cheered up as they raised their glasses.

Zhang Tie burst out into laughter, "Boss, all the knights' consumptions tonight are on me..."

After all, he was going to leave the Lion Fortress, Zhang Tie wouldn't be able to use those consumption points in his identity plate anymore; therefore, he just behaved generously.

After hearing Zhang Tie's exclamation, almost everybody else raised their glasses and cheered up at the same time, causing the bar to become boisterous immediately.

"For the name of knight..."

Under everyone's exclamation, Zhang Tie bottomed up that glass of watermelon liquor...

The moment Zhang Tie tasted the liquor, he had sensed a familiar smell.

It was similar to a beer, which reminded him of that beautiful girl with a big braid, the crazy period in Blapei and those flying beer foams.

This liquor contained the flavor of "inferior" essential-energy aura yeast that Zhang Tie gifted to Hanna. After being added with the "inferior" essential-energy aura yeast, the watermelon liquor tasted a bit different. This sort of liquor would be beneficial to the human body if people always drank it. At least it was much better than the original watermelon liquor.

The familiar taste startled Zhang Tie slightly as he became a bit absent-minded...

"What's wrong?" Filton asked.

"Nothing, I just feel that this liquor tastes a bit special..." Zhang Tie smacked his lips.

"Bolam and I also feel that this watermelon liquor tastes a bit like beer; additionally, there're some bubbles inside it. It should be a new liquor!" Filton commented.

Zhang Tie smiled as he waved his hand and fetched the waiter.

"Where did you get this liquor from? It tastes good!" Zhang Tie asked casually.

"A few months ago, People of Heavens Fortune Sect came to the Lion Fortress. It was said that they presented a secret recipe and helped Lion Fortress modify the technology of watermelon liquor. The new watermelon liquor indeed tastes much better than the previous one; additionally, after drinking it, people will feel very comfortable. Now, it's a popular liquor in the Lion Fortress..."

'Heavens Fortune Sect?'

After thinking about it for a second, Zhang Tie understood it right away. Hanna was in Norman Empire. Marshal Lin Changjiang of Norman Empire was a member of Heavens Fortune Sect; therefore, Hanna's family even the exiled imperial households of Norman Empire in Taixia Country had already relied on the Heavens Fortune Sect.

Zhang Tie remembered that Filis the royal prince of Norman Empire told him that Norman Empire built a city called Bloody Dragon City in Guizhou Province in Taixia Country. Filis' two brothers were in the Bloody Dragon City.

After thinking about it carefully, Zhang Tie felt that it was reasonable. The exiled imperial households in Waii Subcontinent could not even match mushrooms in Taixia Country. Of course, the members of the exiled imperial households of Norman Empire would rely on the Heavens Fortune Sect.

It was out of Zhang Tie's imagination that he could know the news about his friends in Waii Subcontinent. After knowing that Hanna's family had a reliance, Zhang Tie was very satisfied inside. He felt that fate was really marvelous...

...

Chapter 1019: My Airboat

After having the last party with Filton, Bolam and Cecilia, Zhang Tie took three remote-sensing finger rings. After that, he slept in the Lion Fortress and returned to the earth's surface the next day.

Filton, Bolam and Cecilia would stay in the Lion Fortress a few more days. After the airboat provided by Taixia Country for them to return to the Western Continent was full, they would return to the Western Continent; therefore, Zhang Tie left ahead of them.

On the early morning of July 15, Zhang Tie left his knight's tower. Closely after that, he went to the personnel affairs center to handle the formalities to leave Lion Fortress and submitted his identity plate to access to the Lion Fortress.

"After you leave, your meritorious points and consumption points in Lion Fortress will be preserved. As you've already been an earth knight, you could receive a new identity plate and enter the towers region of earth knights when you come to the Lion Fortress next time. If you're dead, your meritorious points and consumption points would be inherited by someone that you designated. If there's no designated inheritor, your meritorious points and consumption points would recover to zero..."

An oval-faced female military officer in the personnel affairs center explained to Zhang Tie with a glassy-eyed look. Zhang Tie touched his bald head as he felt that this female military officer really had a strong qi field. Although she was just a LV 7 captain, she dared look down upon an earth knight. Facing such a just female military officer in the fortress, Zhang Tie became speechless. Such 40-year odd virgins with eccentric temperaments were the trickiest female living being in the world. Therefore, Zhang Tie didn't care about her demeanors. Even he had to surrender to such a kind of people.

After explaining a lot of words to him, the female military officer asked Zhang Tie, "Are you sure that you're going to leave the Lion Fortress and cancel off your treatment as a Class II garrison knight?"

Zhang Tie replied with a grin, "I'm sure!"

The female military officer then took a seal and forcefully put it on a form. After that, she told Zhang Tie without raising her head, "It's okay, you could leave now!"

Touching his face, Zhang Tie turned around and left the lobby like being chased away as he couldn't afford rent.

'F*ck!'

Until he left the personnel affairs center did Zhang Tie shake his head and get out of the shadow caused by that powerful female captain. He then walked briskly towards the exit of the Earth-elements Realm.

Outside the exit, there was a logistics auxiliary base of the Lion Fortress. All the airboats that came to the Earth-elements Realm would park here, including the airboat of Taiyi Fantasy Sect.

Since he won the airboat from Feng Yexiao, Zhang Tie had not seen it until now. After losing their airboat, Feng Yexiao and the team of Taiyi Fantasy Sect had to wait a few more days to leave the Lion Fortress. After all, Taiyi Fantasy Sect had one more airboat. As long as Feng Yexiao sent a message, Taiyi Fantasy Sect would dispatch another airboat here in a short period.

What Zhang Tie felt a bit "guilty" was that Lan Yunxi's schedule was delayed.

However, because Lan Yunxi was going back to Taiyi Fantasy Sect to apply for being the nuisance "Goddess", Zhang Tie didn't mind delaying it.

This time, Zhang Tie knew that he had contracted enmity with Taiyi Fantasy Sect completely, 'My master killed the deputy head of Taiyi Fantasy Sect; I made a shadow knight elder of Taiyi Fantasy Sect embarrassed in the first collision between Taiyi Fantasy Sect and I and gained an airboat from Taiyi Fantasy Sect. In the future, if I grabbed Lan Yunxi away from Taiyi Fantasy Sect, the relationship between Taiyi Fantasy Sect and I is destined to deteriorate.'

However, Zhang Tie didn't mind having one more concern. As he had both offended the court of Taixia Country and demons, he didn't mind offending Taiyi Fantasy Sect.

Zhang Tie walked towards the logistics auxiliary base as he wondered, 'How could I not mind offending Taiyi Fantasy Sect? Is this the so-called confidence and growth?'

...

After a few minutes, Zhang Tie walked out of the Lion Fortress and caught sight of that floating airboat of Taiyi Fantasy Sect in the logistics auxiliary base outside the Lion Fortress.

Although he had seen airboats more than once and even paid a visit to the airboat of Golden Roc Bank and the Commander Cheng of Northeast Military Region, Zhang Tie still took in a deep breath at the sight of this airboat.

'Huge, it's too huge!'

This was Zhang Tie's first impression.

Previously, the largest airboat that Zhang Tie had met was that of Commander Cheng, which was longer than 500 m. However, this airboat was almost 600 m in length. From this point, Zhang Tie understood how powerful was Taiyi Fantasy Sect in Taixia Country. The traffic tool of one of the four elders of Taiyi Fantasy Sect could even match that of a commander of a military region in Taixia Country. What a terrifying power was Taiyi Fantasy Sect!

This airboat was not only huge but also very delicate. It was glittering a bizarre metallic luster and ruddy all over. It looked like a bird with a marvelous long tail. The head of the airboat was like that of Phoenix, one of the far-ancient immortal beasts worshiped by Hua people.

As dragon-shaped airboat was exclusive to the court and governments of Taixia Country, the airboats of major sects in Taixia Country were in other shapes.

At this moment, the airboats were still taking off and landing in logistics auxiliary base. Compared to those airboats which varied from dozens of meters to about 200 meters, this vermeil phoenix-shaped airboat was as brilliant and eye-catching as a super luxury car among a lot of average cars.

About 20 people in common military uniforms of Taixia Country were standing solemnly at the entrance of the airboat. Watching Zhang Tie coming here, one of these people walked towards Zhang Tie and gave a military salute to him.

"Mr. Cui, you're welcome, we're here to follow your arrangements at the order of High Chancellor Guan!"

What Zhang Tie had not imagined was that the one who talked with him was a familiar person, Major General Liu Xing, whom he had met in the Tiewei Mountain Theater of Operations a few months ago.

After Zhang Tie won the bet yesterday, Guan Qianchong said that Zhang Tie himself could not operate the airboat. Coincidentally, a batch of fighters was returning to the earth's surface from the Lion Fortress. Therefore, he told the batch of fighters to operate the airboat for Zhang Tie. That batch of fighters could serve Zhang Tie for a year.

Of course, Major General Liu Xing didn't know that Cui Li was the very knight in the black robe who saved his life in Teiwei Mountain. Even though, they were not strange to each other as he had met Cui Li when Cui Li came to the Lion Fortress.

Zhang Tie noticed that there was no epaulet or military rank on Liu Xing's shoulder although he wore the common military uniform of Taixia Country like the other fighters. This batch of fighters ranked from LV 6 to LV 9. Each of them had experienced bloody battles; therefore, they all looked steady, decisive and full of killing intent.

Compared to that a few months ago, Major General Liu Xing looked more steady and had changed sharply. The pupils under his sword-sized eyebrows turned profound.

"Major General Liu Xing, nice to see you again. Are you clear about the arrangement of High Chancellor Guan?"

"We're clear. We will follow your arrangements and orders for a year unless you tell us to leave in advance. During this period, all of these fighters will follow my orders!"

"That's good. Let's board then!" Zhang Tie waved his hand.

"Yes, sir!"

Liu Xing then led Zhang Tie towards the entrance of the airboat. After Zhang Tie boarded the airboat, Liu Xing made a hand gesture while all the other fighters followed them in one after another.

"Mr. Cui, do you want to look around this airboat?" Liu Xing asked Zhang Tie when he boarded. The others entered their own posts rapidly.

"Don't call me Mr. Cui. This Cui doesn't feel comfortable all over after hearing it!" Zhang Tie said before throwing a glance at the inside of the airboat. This airboat was as luxurious as that of Commander Cheng. Although it was not brilliant, it was unusual all over. This airboat was more low-key. However, it was also well-matched. The moment Zhang Tie boarded, he had seen a garden being covered with exotic flowers and grasses and a brook which was paved with cobblestones. There were some bizarre golden fish swimming in the brook. What unimaginable furnishings! All the airships were nothing but sh*t in front of this airboat.

"Just call me Fire Dragon Hermit or Hermit!"

In Taixia Country, earth knights could have a private appellation being suffixed with Hermit like Mountain Lifting Hermit. When he promoted to a shadow knight, he could call himself Immortal XX.

These appellations belonged to the culture of knights in Taixia Country. Hermit and Immortal indicated that knights in Taixia Country were pursuing eternal laws.

As the only living earth knight who cultivated the "Fire Dragon Sutra" in the world, it was reasonable for Zhang Tie to call himself Fire Dragon Hermit. Taixia earth knights or shadow knights always named themselves in terms of the name of their cultivation method and hermit or immortal.

After returning to the earth's surface, Zhang Tie was ready to heft the banner of Fire Dragon Hermit. Previously, Fire Dragon Hermit was already famous in Taixia Country, it would be too wasteful if he didn't inherit this invisible asset of the predecessor.

"Sure, we will call you Hermit from then on!" Liu Xing nodded.

"Oh, weren't you serving in the Lion Fortress? Why do you return to the earth's surface?"

After hearing Zhang Tie's question, Liu Xing looked a bit sad, "I've already retired. This is our last task!"

"You've retired?" Zhang Tie became a bit amazed...

"My elder brother Liu Yang was killed in a battle 1 month ago. As the only male youth in my family, I was forced to retire by the military..."

"What about the others?"

"Almost the same as me..."

After hearing this reply, Zhang Tie became sad inside too...

Although the battle flames of the holy war had not reached Taixia Country, many families in Taixia Country had already paid a high price for it. Someone lost their sons; some lost their brothers; some lost their fathers or husbands...

...

Chapter 1020: Holding Bones in Gold Coffin for the Name

The floating airboat moved very fast. Zhang Tie left the Earth-elements Realm on July 15th by airboat and returned to the Military Province in Taixia Country on the same day.

Compared to that when Zhang Tie came to the Earth-elements Realm alone three years ago, Zhang Tie returned with glorious honors. The "Phoenix" airboat in the scale of that of commanders of military regions in Taixia Country was already eye-catching, not to mention others.

Previously, the name of the airboat was "Phoenix". As Zhang Tie felt the name was very vivid, he kept it unchanged.

The airboat directly spurted out of the gloomy and deep tunnel through air flows from the Earth-elements Realm to the earth's surface like volcanic eruptions.

Standing alone in the huge crystal cabin of the head of the airboat, Zhang Tie felt like dreaming when he saw the blue sky, the white clouds and the hot sun above his head in a split second.

After thinking about it carefully, Zhang Tie found that he had spent most of the time in cultivation in the hieron ruins over the past 3-odd years. He just took a round in the first abyss and the Tiewei Mountain

and had not been to most of the places in the Earth-elements Realm. However, when he came out of there, he was already an earth knight.

It seemed that the Earth-elements Realm was really his fortunate land.

This might be called getting gold-plated.

At the sight of the blue sky and the white clouds, Zhang Tie felt as free as a bird returning to the sky or a fish returning to water at once.

Compared to the Earth-elements Realm, the earth's surface was more suitable to human existence.

As it was on the noon of a day in July, the sunlight shined the crystal dome of the "Phoenix" airboat, providing a sunbath for Zhang Tie...

Zhang Tie closed his eyes and slowly tasted the vitality brought by the sunshine which had been not seen for a long time.

At this moment, he heard Liu Xing's footsteps from his back.

"Hermit, we've returned to the Military Province on the earth's surface. Where are you heading for?"

"Where can I buy a coffin?" Zhang Tie opened his eyes while a shrewd light flashed across his eyes. He turned around and watched Liu Xing with a faint smile.

After hearing Zhang Tie's question, Liu Xing became stunned as he thought that he had misheard it, "Coffin?"

"Yes, the more advanced, the better. It'd better be a gold coffin!"

After thinking for a second, Liu Xing replied, "We could buy it in any Class A city in Taixia Country!"

Although gold coffins were rarely seen in other continents, they were usually used by major clans in Taixia Country. Of course, clans which could afford gold coffins would not be afraid of being stolen because they usually arranged people to look after their clan cemeteries.

"I plan to go to Liyun Mountain in the east of Qingzhou Province. I will buy a gold coffin in a Class A city on the way!"

"Sure!"

Major General Liu Xing left.

With a clear destination, the airboat slightly changed its direction above the entrance of the deep and gloomy tunnel and darted towards Qingzhou Province as fast as lightning bolt...

Even the fastest airships were as slow as snails in front of this airboat.

'From today on, I also have an airboat as my traffic tool.'

'Hahaha...'

After standing there for a while and feeling the rapid movement of the airboat in the air, Zhang Tie finally touched his bald head and revealed a smile before returning to his private room on the airboat.

There was a great learning about the flight of airboat. In order to avoid it from colliding against airships, airboat always flew higher than all the airships. Additionally, airboats would follow different routes strictly in case of collisions between airboats in the air.

...

A few days later, the "Phoenix" airboat approached Lianyun Mountain in the east of Qingzhou Province. Zhang Tie saw the white clouds and the mountain peaks in the clouds which looked like islands in the sea.

Zhang Tie looked at it from above and found that Lianyun Mountain was a bit immortal.

Zhang Tie came to the control room and guided them to slow down the airboat and hover it above the mountain peak where he buried Fire Dragon Hermit.

"Here we are. Just hover here..."

...

As it was steep here, the airboat couldn't land; it could only hover about 5-6 m above the ground of the cliff of the mountain peak.

This was an advantage of airboat over airship as the latter could barely complete such a difficult hovering action in the air.

At this moment, one side hatch door of the airboat was opened when Zhang Tie jumped off the airboat with a gold coffin about 2 m in length by one hand.

The especially extravagant gold coffin weighed over 3,800 kg. Its surface was covered with Hua dragons and phoenixes. Zhang Tie bought it in a Class A city in Suizhou Province on the way from Military Province to here. Even though he jumped off with such a heavy gold coffin, Zhang Tie could still land lightly like a plume.

Liu Xing and some guys also jumped off the airboat after Zhang Tie.

Walking along the cliff, Zhang Tie directly walked towards one side of a pine in the distance. There was a simple mound under that pine, which looked like a grave. However, there was not even a gravestone.

Zhang Tie came to the front of that mound. Letting out a deep sigh, he waved his arm and blew off the soil and stones on the surface, revealing a pile of white bones.

"This is my teacher, also the earlier Fire Dragon Hermit. When I came here by accident, I gained the "Fire Dragon Sutra" from him. When my teacher died, he sat crossed legs. I couldn't even find a coffin for him at that time. Therefore, I could only bury him here simply. Today, I'm especially here to put his bones in the gold coffin and bring them back to Fire Dragon Bounty Territory to bury them in a grand way!" Zhang Tie said emotionally. He was not disguising; Zhang Tie really appreciated Fire Dragon Hermit for his gift, which led him to a different world.

'I benefitted a lot from your "Fire Dragon Sutra". Therefore, I will hold your skeleton by the gold coffin so that I could spread your name to the world in the future. Although I gained this secret method by accident, I still treat you as my teacher. That's our destiny!' Zhang Tie mumbled to the skeleton inside.

After bringing Fire Dragon Hermit's remains back to Fire Dragon Bounty Territory with Liu Xing and the others, from today on, nobody in the world would doubt about Cui Li's background anymore. Therefore, his status as Cui Li would become legit and he would become the official successor of the earlier Fire Dragon Hermit. Everything was reasonable. This was why Zhang Tie came to the Lianyun Mountain.

The moment Liu Xing and the others wanted to help Zhang Tie hold the skeleton in the gold coffin, Zhang Tie had stopped them, "I will do that!"

Zhang Tie put down the gold coffin and carefully picked all the bones of Fire Dragon Hermit one after another. After cleaning the dust over them, he put them into the gold coffin. After doing all this, he covered the gold coffin and returned to the airboat with it.

"Go to the Fire Dragon Bounty Territory..." Zhang Tie turned domineering the moment he boarded the airboat once again.

When he realized that he could return to Youzhou Province rapidly, Zhang Tie felt extremely thrilled inside...