

Blood Warlock: Succubus Partner in the Apocalypse

- Chapter 1232: Eduard Valentinovich's fate

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The body of Eduard, the man who had once led and ruled over Russia not only after the apocalypse but also before, was in such a terrible condition that Bai Zemin doubted whether what he was looking at was really a human being.

To call it simply a mere, disgusting piece of meat would probably be better, he thought to himself.

"For God's sake..." Nangong Yi turned to face the door through which he had entered with his face now pale.

He had seen several bloody scenes, at the end of the day, Nangong Yi was a top-tier soul evolver who had been fighting on the front lines since the very beginning of the apocalypse. However, this level of torture was extremely rare even for him.

"Are you okay watching that?" Nangong Yi noticed out of the corner of his eye that Bai Zemin's expression was quite calm even as he watched and listened to the writhing mass of flesh.

Bai Zemin did not respond, as the only reason why what he was seeing was tolerable was because he had tortured Liang Peng in an extremely cruel manner in the past.

It was just that Evangeline had taken that level of torture, which Bai Zemin saw as extremely cruel, to a whole new level.

About twenty minutes later, Eduard fainted and his screams stopped.

Despite Evangeline injecting him with some kind of serum several times, the man simply did not wake up and it was as if his brain had completely shut down to preserve itself.

Perhaps realizing that for today this was all she would get, Evangeline walked over to a small iron table located to her left. She began cleaning her "tools of the trade" as she softly said, "Most ants are too big because of mana and evolution, but evolution brought a new branch of ants that are still very small. Because they are small and bite really hard, our New Life Research team called this species Flea Ant."

"That explains a few things." Bai Zemin looked at the former Russian Leader's body and finally figured out how the wounds had been caused where both his skin and his flesh and muscles had been torn rather than cut.

"Ants love sweet things. It was that way before evolution and it's still that way today." Evangeline continued, as if talking to herself, "Honey is a scarce resource and quite precious today because only soul evolvers above level 25 willing to risk their lives could get it from the huge honeycombs. I had to spend half a month of my salary buying honey this time."

Evangeline's salary was naturally very high. She was one of the top ten highest paid people in the entire Transcendent faction; money in the new currency approved by the new government, Soul Stones for her skills, skill scrolls, system treasures, and more.

"... Don't tell me you spent all that money on honey to torture this old thing." Bai Zemin pointed in disbelief.

"Why not?" Evangeline finally looked him in the eye. There was no joy or sadness in her gaze, "Eduard Valentinovich spent a lot more than that to tear my family apart, don't you think he deserves at least a share of his goodwill? Besides, I also took care of that man called Roman, don't thank me."

"What you do with what you earn is none of my business." Bai Zemin shook his head, and as he looked at the flesh mass bound by the chains he had personally made, he remarked, "I also don't care how you treat our enemies. Besides, I promised you this when you agreed to follow me back then."

It was that dark fatal night almost two years ago that Evangeline appeared to attempt to kill Bai Zemin and his team after being tricked by the Leaders of one of the camps taken down by the Transcendent faction while it was still in its initial stage. It was also then that Bai Zemin saw the terrifying potential Evangeline possessed and decided to do anything for the sake of bringing her to his side.

"Then we're good." Evangeline nodded and walked past Bai Zemin and Nangong Yi with the intention of leaving, "I'll try to get some rest... I think he won't wake up for the rest of the day anyway."

"So it's not over yet..." Nangong Yi muttered in shock.

Bai Zemin turned to look at Evangeline's back, and the more he looked at her the more sadness he felt in his heart.

Evangeline's body was so small, and her back looked so vulnerable... Who would have thought that such a young and beautiful girl had actually been carrying such a past for 3/4 of her life?

A past that she would carry for eternity... Because if there was something that could not be changed even by the strongest being of all, it was precisely the past.

"What should I do now..."

As Nangong Yi looked at Bai Zemin in worry and confusion, the latter's sigh accompanied the silence in the bloody dark room.

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A week later, Russia's former leader Eduard Valentinovich finally gave his last howl of pain.

This man that had ruled Russia for over thirty years and who did what even beasts would hesitate to do for the sake of preserving his position finally succumbed to his fate, dying.

His death was not honorable, and he was not even killed by a human being.

Eduard Valentinovich's records were absorbed along with his flesh and blood by millions of tiny ants while Evangeline watched everything closely. She took it upon herself to inject him with all sorts of evolved and mutated drugs to keep him alive most of the time and even made sure to feed him using extremely expensive potions just to make this man she hated so much breathe for even one more minute.

"This snow just won't stop."

The woodstove was burning and the sound of small tree trunks and branches being incinerated by the blue flame inside echoed for a long time throughout the spacious hall of the castle that once belonged to the previous Russian Leader but now belonged to the highest leader of the Transcendent faction.

The one who spoke earlier was Shangguan Bing Xue. She was wearing blue jeans tight to her body and a long sheep's wool coat that was even whiter than her own hair. She looked extremely beautiful and even cute in her current clothes.

"I thought your favorite season of the year was winter?" Standing in front of the large floor-to-ceiling window, Bai Zemin watched the scenery outside with a frown.

"Thanks to my skills and level, this kind of temperature is not enough to freeze me." Shangguan Bing Xue remarked while looking at the small ripples in the liquid inside the teacup she was holding, "It's just that because of the low temperatures, some people are dying even if we feed them properly... We need the weather to improve before the clothes made in mainland reach Moscow."

Bai Zemin nodded without saying anything.

In fact, not only were there more than 200 survivors dying every day because of the low temperatures and shortage of proper coats to withstand it, but even the work of Wu Yijun and the others to hold on tightly to the hearts of all Russians was also undergoing difficulties.

At first, it was estimated that only a month would be necessary for Wu Yijun to ensure that the Soul Record would accept and confirm Bai Zemin's reign over this newly conquered territory, however, that time would probably be extended by another month if things did not improve soon.

"By the way, regarding that girl named Sylvia you brought." Shangguan Bing Xue suddenly thought of something, and while looking at his back she commented with a tinge of surprise in her voice, "Zemin, how did you meet her in reality? This Sylvia girl's skill has a really terrifying growth potential to the point where I don't understand how you let her live."

"We don't kill just because someone might threaten us someday." Bai Zemin shook his head and pointed, "Xia Ya, Kali, Shilin, Xiao Xiao... They all have mysterious skills that even today we cannot comprehend in depth. Kali's capacity to comprehend and draw runes capable of damaging even soul evolvers above level 200, Xia Ya's skill to connect to other people's records and potentially damage them, Xiao Xiao's skill to communicate spiritually that could evolve into a spiritual attack impossible to prevent, Shilin's physical strength which is even higher than mine and probably that of any living being on Earth..."

Shangguan Bing Xue thought about it for a moment before nodding as she realized that Bai Zemin was right. Suddenly, she realized something and while looking at the surroundings puzzled she asked, "By the way, where is she?"

"She?"

"You little succubus was it? Whatever." Shangguan Bing Xue rolled her eyes.

"Ah." Bai Zemin nodded with understanding, and with his eyes still on the white landscape, he explained, "Lilith is with Shilin and the twins right now. She wanted to explore a little deeper into Hero City and see if she could discover something that would help her to get stronger."

Hearing that Lilith was in Hero City, Shangguan Bing Xue couldn't help but frown. After a moment of hesitation, she carefully pointed out, "Zemin, I understand that you love Lilith... and now I know that sometimes love makes us act or do things that we wouldn't normally do. But, are you really sure it's a good thing when a member of an enemy faction is digging up the secrets of the most powerful weapon in our entire faction?"

Shangguan Bing Xue's concerns were undoubtedly reasonable and logical, Bai Zemin was aware of that.

"Don't worry." He shook his head again, "Although Lilith and I have only known each other for a little over two years, a short time compared to the total of her life and experiences so far, I am completely sure that she won't stab us in the back like that."

"Is it because you love her and she loves you?" Shangguan Bing Xue asked, feeling that those reasons were unreasonable.

"That is part of the reason." Bai Zemin replied calmly and somewhat mysteriously, "If she is who I think she is then it will be okay to show her everything."

Shangguan Bing Xue felt that his words were too vague but somehow implied too much, but just as she was about to press for more her expression changed slightly and turned into a blur as she stood up.

In less than a second, Bai Zemin heard the wind howl behind him, felt the temperature of the entire room plummet as the flame in the fireplace froze, and also heard the sound of metal clanging against metal followed by a small grunt.

"How did you catch me?"

Bai Zemin looked over his shoulder with no change in his expression, and seeing that the person he had been waiting for all this time finally appeared he simply nodded.

"I see you made up your mind to show up, Khristina."

Shangguan Bing Xue whose ice sword was trying to press lower the body of the crystal woman in front of her who was defending herself using a beautiful pair of crystal daggers stopped, surprised that Bai Zemin and this person knew each other.

Khristina, still shocked at being discovered so easily by Shangguan Bing Xue, exclaimed, "Now tell her to stop it at once or all the energy in the castle will be gone!"

It was precisely beneath this castle that the former Russian Leader found ruins of ancient times, and it was also thanks to this that the entire castle was still standing even after all the old structures collapsed. However, the power of the runes also had its limits and would eventually run out of energy after absorbing continuous shocks.

Just as Bai Zemin sighed in relief as he did not know what to do about Evangeline and Khristina, Shangguan Bing Xue looked at the woman in front of her with a tinge of anger in her blue eyes.

Khristina grimaced at the way she was glaring at her, and quickly pointed out, "Don't worry, I won't steal him from you."

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A/N: Sorry for not posting for the last few days. I was and still am going through a very bad time in my life, so I'm doing the best I can. Those of you who follow me for a long time know that I never miss an update day unless it's for something extremely important... Thank you for all your support and understanding, from the bottom of my heart <3

Those who don't understand that we authors also have lives and problems to deal with and don't like my way of doing things are more than welcome to stop reading, like you: kiai_kaalele

I'll upload another chapter today and one more before the next reset.

PD: This message is not 200 words long so you're not paying more for it >.>

Chapter 1233: Two versions of the same story

A few minutes later, in the hall of the castle that after the fall of the Russian faction became part of Bai Zemin's personal property.

Bai Zemin waited for Zhong De's mother to finish pouring tea for him and the two beauties before speaking.

"Auntie, really thank you for everything. You keep doing this kind of chore even though you don't need to..."

"You have to thank me for something like this? Besides, what do you mean by this kind of chore? This is a very worthy job, little man." She looked at him with eyes much brighter than in the past as she picked up the silver plate with intention of leaving the room, "You're the only reason I'm still alive, and you know it don't you? Seeing you get stronger from up close gives me more motivation and hope to see my son again someday."

Bai Zemin looked into her eyes for a few seconds and nodded slowly but firmly, "Definitely."

Zhong De's mother bowed slightly to the three people in the room and then silently stepped back, closing the door before completely leaving the area to ask the other maids already working here to stay away from the room on Bai Zemin's own orders.

"So..." Bai Zemin finally turned to look at Khristina. His expression was extremely complicated as he sighed softly, "What will I do with you now..."

Khristina's expression was usually taken up by a faint playful smile and sparkling eyes. At this moment, however, her mouth was very slightly open and her eyes were bigger than usual as proof of how surprised she was.

After a long time, she finally mumbled a few words, "You... You really took that man down."

"It was your sister and Feng Tian Wu." Bai Zemin pointed out still feeling a big headache as he didn't know how to get out of the trouble he was in, "Why do you attach so much importance to something so simple?"

"Simple?" Khristina murmured in amazement before smiling sadly, "I wasn't lying when I said that Eduard Valentinovich had never lost in his life; not even in something as simple as a game of chess. It's not only about sheer strength, he also used to be more cunning than foxes which is why he even distrusted his own family not to mention others."

Only Khristina herself knew all the effort she had to make and all she had to sacrifice in order to get where she did with the former Russian Leader. No one but herself knew that she had to give up her happiness, her pride, and every shred of dignity that any woman or human being could have.

"I lost many times in my life. I was also fooled repeatedly." Bai Zemin stared at her before slowly saying, "But since the apocalypse began I never lost in anything to anyone. Only one of all the battles I fought could be considered my defeat as my opponent, unfortunately, could no longer give his all."

Bai Zemin did not get to know the former Russian Leader because he never had the need to show himself in person to finish him off. Therefore, he also did not know what kind of an amazing person he was, according to Khristina.

From the very beginning, even before arriving in Russia, Bai Zemin was absolutely certain that Eduard Valentinovich would fall; and this certainty only grew to 300% after learning from Khristina that his enemy had never been defeated before.

Didn't Xuanyuan Wentian experience the same thing before?

"We learn more from defeats than from victories." He said with closed eyes and calm voice: "In contrast to victory, every defeat becomes an experience. Our defeats stare at us daily, poking at us to remind us that they are there and watching, waiting for the moment to devour us or those we care about... I know what it feels like to lose, and I know that if I lose even once now I won't be the only one affected by it."

Unlike the former Russian Leader who fought solely for himself, Bai Zemin had people for whom he cared as much or perhaps more than he cared for himself.

"The power of friendship and love." Bai Zemin chuckled as he remembered how stupid those words sounded to him every time he read a novel in the past, but now he understood that it was not about "friendship" or "love" but about protecting even at the cost of losing teeth and fingernails in the process.

Although Bai Zemin felt his words were very easy to understand, Khristina shook her head silently.

She had spent most of her life like this, under the foot of someone whom with all her heart she tried with all her might to crush; someone who even knowing it allowed her to stay by his side because he never saw her as a real threat... Given all this, how could she accept Bai Zemin's words regardless of any logic or sentiment behind them?

Shangguan Bing Xue sipped her tea in silence as she watched the reactions of the beautiful black-haired, blue-eyed woman. When she heard Bai Zemin say "your sister and Feng Tian Tu" the hand with which she held the small porcelain cup flinched and a flash of surprise shone in her eyes.

If she was Evangeline's sister... Then now it all suddenly made sense.

Shangguan Bing Xue had been present that night when Evangeline joined them. In fact, only four people including her and Bai Zemin knew about Evangeline's request; Nangong Yi and Nangong Lingxin were the other two.

"So this is why you've been frowning all week." She leaned over to set the cup down on the table as she looked at Khristina with indifference even though her words were directed at Bai Zemin, "What I don't understand is... What's going on here?"

Shangguan Bing Xue knew Bai Zemin's character perfectly well.

He was someone who always kept his word and usually tried to avoid doing anything that would somehow get in the way of keeping his promises. It was precisely for this reason that Shangguan Bing Xue could not believe that he and someone he should capture at all costs were chatting and drinking tea.

Khristina really wanted to ask how it was possible for Shangguan Bing Xue to spot her, and even Bai Zemin was secretly shocked by this since even he did not notice Khristina's existence until the moment she was forced to defend against Shangguan Bing Xue's sword. However, they both knew that in order for things to move forward they would have to temporarily put that aside.

"Actually, it's all a bit simple to explain except for a few points..." Bai Zemin hesitated a bit, and after further thought decided temporarily not to talk to anyone about the existence of other dimensions parallel to the one they were living in.

Khristina naturally caught on this little point, therefore, she didn't say anything about it either. Besides, she no longer had any faction to call home and her situation was not particularly enjoyable regardless of her immense personal strength and ability.

A few minutes passed, and after listening to the last word he said, Shangguan Bing Xue slowly nodded to herself, "I still feel that these confusing points you avoided touching on are very important... But right now, I'm curious about something else."

She looked at Khristina and asked directly, "Why did you save Bai Zemin's life at that time? You used to be the right hand of the former president of Russia didn't you? In that case you should know better than anyone else about the unbreakable feud between the two sides... Particularly after we proved that we meant to continue invading Russia no matter what."

Bai Zemin also watched Khristina silently, waiting for an honest and logical explanation, "I also want to know why you did that. I know Evangeline's past, and I know her name was originally Ludmila Ilyinishna so avoid lies, or don't blame me for not being polite even if you helped me before."

He was tremendously grateful to Khristina for saving his life when he was under the spiritual attack in the illusion that the Throne of Creation had submerged him without him realizing it. Had it not been for her, that female dragon of the Dragon God Realm definitely would have had her way and Bai Zemin would not be standing or existing right now.

However, somewhere in his heart Bai Zemin also felt some frustration as it was that the thing that made him not know what to do at present.

He always thought that if he ever found Evangeline's older sister he would simply capture her and hand her over for Evangeline herself to handle... But once again, fate and life proved that not everything would turn out the way he would have preferred.

In the past, Bai Zemin viewed Khristina as an extremely sinister and manipulative woman; a vicious bitch beyond anything else, capable even of betraying her family.

Now, however, although his opinion of her was still negative, Bai Zemin considered Khristina as a mysterious woman. Therefore, he needed to know more in order to know what to do next.

Besides... every story always has two different sides and points of view.

Khristina slowly closed her eyes and nodded. Then, in a soft, low voice, she responded, "Ok... I'll tell you then. My own version."

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Thank you all for your words of encouragement and understanding, from the bottom of my heart <3

Probably another chapter before reset

Chapter 1234: Khristina's story

Khristina took at least a few minutes to think and better organize her next words, however, once she started telling her own story she didn't stop.

"As you should already well know after hearing about our family's past from my younger sister Ludmila, you could say that while our parents were alive the Ilyinishna family was quite prosperous in economic matters."

"Working in the most private and secret laboratory in all of Russia as well as one of the most secure facilities on all of Earth, attacking my family was practically impossible so both my safety and Ludmila's were mostly guaranteed except for the rivals of the government group my father worked for." Khristina looked at Bai Zemin and remarked in a matter-of-fact rhetorical voice, "That's what you would normally think, wouldn't you?"

Without waiting for a response from him, Khristina pulled out a small pink flash drive that had a bunny sticker on it. Judging by the condition of the flash drive and the bunny sticker, the USB drive was definitely quite old.

"Do you have a computer?" she asked in her particular baby voice as she looked into his eyes.

Bai Zemin looked deep into her eyes, and after a long moment nodded.

Khristina took the laptop computer that Bai Zemin took out of his space storage ring and turned it on. A few seconds later and after pressing a few keys, she stood up with the laptop in her hands.

After setting the hand-held laptop down on the table so that both Bai Zemin and Shangguan Bing Xue could see the images she was about to play, Khristina pressed the enter button.

A golden-haired, blue-eyed man in his 30s who before the apocalypse would be considered extremely handsome was sitting in front of a desk with a large pile of documents to his left and another to his right. He looked directly into the camera as he spoke in a surprisingly magnetic voice.

"My name is Mikhalev Ilyinishna. This video is being recorded on the 7th day of September in the year 1994 and is the 19th record since the beginning of the secret study under the code name God among humans."

"My only daughter, Khristina Ilyinishna, became old enough to take the genetic surgery two months ago. It was a complete success! Although we knew that the odds of success would increase exponentially after the subject received the Superhuman Serum injection, we are still in the early stages of the project so at best there is only a 10 to 20 percent chance of success. After seeing that even such a young girl could handle the dangerous genetic modification surgery, it is likely that more soldiers will dare to undergo it... The day when our side will take the reins of leadership of the country is near."

The man looked extremely excited and happy when the video stopped.

As Bai Zemin stared at the dark screen with an ominous feeling in his chest, Khristina moved forward and in a few seconds opened a different file that was also inside the small flash drive.

Again, the blond man reappeared. However, there were some changes in the room and his appearance had also undergone some changes that could only come with the passage of a few years.

"Failure. It's a total failure!" The man banged his fist on the hard surface of his wooden desk as he said through gritted teeth, "It's been three years since my daughter Khristina succeeded in undergoing genetic surgery to create an artificial God. I thought that would be enough to make the rest of them brave and fearless, but they are all just a bunch of useless cowards! So what if the mortality rate is 85% or a bit more? Doesn't this mean that they all have a 15% chance of becoming a god among humans?!"

The man named Mikhalev Ilyinishna not only looked frustrated and furious, but Bai Zemin also noticed a distinct glimmer that he had only seen in a few people since the apocalypse began until now; madness.

"The enemy party is getting closer and closer. Once they find out what we have been doing they will definitely wipe us out... There is still a little time and a little hope though."

It was at this point that both Bai Zemin and Shangguan Bing Xue realized that even without watching more they would know what the person in the video was going to say.

"Two weeks ago my second daughter was born... Her name is Ludmila, a beautiful little girl that inherited the color of my hair and her mother's emerald eyes... I am sure that she would also succeed in accepting the surgery to create God in the same way as her older sister Khristina, but I am afraid that this time I will not be able to afford to wait until Ludmila reaches the required age... Although her chances of success will probably be

5% at best, a member of the Ilyinishna family definitely won't give up even with everything going against her!"

After a final slam of the man on the desk as if to prove his frustration, the camera fell and the video cut off abruptly.

Bai Zemin and Shangguan Bing Xue looked at each other in silence as Khristina took her flash drive and put it away.

"Here you go." She stared Bai Zemin in the eyes as she extended the laptop in his direction, and once Bai Zemin took it she sat down and continued matter-of-factly, "I found those two videos when I was about 10 years old. It was an accident, or maybe it's more correct to call it a coincidence."

At the age of 10, children's minds were not yet fully developed to understand things like percentages and probabilities of success or failure. However, there were always exceptions to every rule... and Khristina, who had undergone a bizarre surgery to turn her into a superhuman was definitely a major exception to the rule.

"That surgery my father talked about in those videos not only gave us tremendous physical strength, monstrous endurance, immunity against deadly diseases, and even the ability to fight against low temperatures... It also gave us great analytical and processing capabilities." Khristina explained calmly and softly, "It didn't take me long to realize that my own father submitted me to a freak surgery without my knowledge even if it meant that his own daughter would have more than an 80% chance of dying in the process."

"You..." Bai Zemin looked at her with wide eyes as he finally understood what was going on here.

"I was only a ten year old girl, there was little I could do back then." Khristina regretted as she closed her eyes. Her voice became softer, as if she was immersing herself in those painful memories: "I always wanted to be a big sister. It was my lifelong dream.... So when Ludmila was born I was so happy that I joyfully gave her all my favorite toys so that she would never cry. I know that usually siblings fight for their parents' attention when they are little, but not me. I loved my little sister more than anything in the world."

She opened her eyes, and with a coldness that Bai Zemin had only seen once before in her sweet eyes, she remarked, "I hated my own weakness, so I did what I had to do to increase my little sister's chances of survival. I threw away my dignity, my pride, my purity, my everything... Everything just to increase that 15% to 30%... And I succeeded, regardless of anything else, I succeeded."

Bai Zemin's heart trembled violently. At this moment he was not looking at the Khristina in front of him but rather at that 10-year-old Khristina who in order to protect her little sister had to do things unimaginable to anyone.

Yes, it was true that even after doing what she did there was no way for Khristina to fully or largely ensure the safety of the person she wanted so badly to protect even at the cost of her own life and dignity as a human.

However, she was only 10 years old back when it all started!

What was such a little girl supposed to do but give her all using what little time she had left?

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Chapter 1235: Stepping on the pedal: On the way to Emperor!

A few minutes later, Evangeline's older sister left.

When Bai Zemin asked her where she was going and what she was going to do, she simply said that she would try to give her own version of the events to the person who from her point of view had suffered the most; Evangeline, who was formerly called Ludmila and her younger sister.

As for her idea of taking charge of the situation, Bai Zemin was honestly relieved somewhere in the corner of his heart.

What else could he do? There was no way Bai Zemin would make a move to kill Khristina Ilyinishna after hearing and seeing proof of her own version of the story.

However, he couldn't just leave things as they were either since he had promised Evangeline to help her "take care" of her sister... Under such circumstances that left him with his hands and feet tied, Bai Zemin could only hope for the best and that the two sisters would settle their family problems with each other.

"We all are the villain in a half-told story." Bai Zemin stood up and walked towards the exit while leaving those words behind.

Shangguan Bing Xue watched his retreat in silence, and after a long time turned to look at the winter scenery outside the large window.

A deep sigh from her emotionally charged heart slipped from her lips as she whispered something to herself.

She knew that, somehow or other, Bai Zemin felt compassion and pity for Khristina Ilyinishna. In fact, Shangguan Bing Xue was more than clear about one point... and that

was that both Bai Zemin and Khristina were and to this day are villains of poorly told stories.

However, there was one big difference between the two of them.

"Evangeline might forgive her sister, which would mean that while Khristina's past is unfortunate her future might not be. But you..."

Bai Zemin's past was not even worth mentioning in the face of the harshness and cruelty the two Ilyinishna sisters experienced during their childhood and teenage years. However, his future would hardly be fixed in some ways.

This was because, in the hearts of many, Bai Zemin still was and probably always would be a cruel and bloodthirsty tyrant.

* * *

Two weeks later.

Bai Zemin did not see Khristina again, nor did he see Evangeline.

Although he didn't know if Khristina was still alive, he knew for sure that the younger sister of the two was still alive.

As long as Bai Zemin did not get notification from the Soul Record that his Loyal Follower Evangeline had died, Bai Zemin felt that everything would be okay somehow.

After staying in Russia for another week, Bai Zemin left Nangong Yi and Shangguan Bing Xue behind to take care of and assist Wu Yijun in the ruler change process.

Due to the invasion of the Transcendent faction to wipe out the Russian faction, Russia was land that needed to be worked; the survivors needed to leave Moscow and return to other bases located in different areas of the country to take advantage of Earth's natural resources, the troops needed to re-install outposts that had been destroyed before during the war, technology comparisons needed to be made and new technology needed to be mobilized by either side, etc.

In the meantime, he stayed in China for seven days.

During the seven days that passed, he not only spent some time with his family but also spent a great deal of time helping his faction's scientific and magical development team to speed up the process of building several teleport gates.

Thanks to all the space-related skills Bai Zemin had, as well as his knowledge gained after briefly connecting with the universal space law gate, team leader Lie Shun assured that within 12 months there would be major breakthroughs and that within 2 years at the

latest the entire faction would enjoy the privilege of being able to teleport with almost total freedom between each of their bases when the situation called for it.

While 1-2 years was an enormous amount of time, there was little that Bai Zemin could do about it. This was because not only were the resources needed to build the gates scarce on today's Earth, but also because great care had to be taken with this new technology. Were it not for the fact that the Russian faction had found some functional gates in the ancient ruin they would never have been able to use this type of technology so soon.

Then, the day of departure finally arrived.

The survivors of the main base located in Beijing looked up at the sky. Most of them looked at the great floating city with reverence, awe, and also a hint of fear as well as curiosity.

That huge city had appeared in the sky exactly half a month ago, frightening and terrifying not only the normal survivors but even the soldiers panicked. It wasn't until later that a great piece of news that stunned everyone spread like wildfire through each of the faction's bases.

"What?! That big city in the sky is where our King lives?!"

"How can this be possible? A flying city? Isn't that a bit too much?"

"What world do you live in? Are you stuck in the past or something? Have you forgotten that the strongest can make rain and storms with a wave of their hands? Making a city float permanently must be a simple thing for someone as powerful as him!"

All kinds of rumors and theories spread throughout China.

No one knew who was the first, however, to Bai Zemin's ears came the new name Hero City had been baptized with by his people.

"King City?" Sitting on the Throne of Creation inside the Sky Emperor Palace, Bai Zemin smiled bitterly after hearing Lilith's words, "I don't know which of the two names makes me more uncomfortable between Hero City and King City."

Lilith chuckled as she played with his hair sitting on his lap, "The funniest thing of all is that name will probably change again soon."

"Ah?" He looked down and his confused eyes met her playful gaze.

Lilith pointed with sparkling eyes: "It will be soon, won't it?"

The curiosity in Bai Zemin's eyes slowly disappeared. His face gradually became serious as he turned his head slightly to look at the beautiful scenery and blue sky beyond the huge window to the left of the throne room.

"Mhm. Soon."

His voice rang inside the room for a few seconds, and since they were alone no one but they heard it.

"Emperor, uh..." Lilith's eyes shone with longing, sadness, and some joy as her delicate voice rang out in the desolate hall, "It feels like this all started yesterday but look at you, about to become the sole absolute ruler of a world in its Third Stage. A world as anomalous as Earth at that."

"It's been over two and a half years since the apocalypse started, but I understand what you mean." Bai Zemin nodded gently, "I know it makes no logical sense to have accomplished so much in only a little over 18 months, I know since I've been to other worlds and learned a bit of their histories. Taking Eventide World as an example, despite having been evolved for thousands of years, there was still no Emperor and even Oblon World didn't have a real Emperor."

"And now, that skittish little boy who out of pure instinct used a wooden chair to kill a mutant bee is about to become an Emperor recognized and approved by the Soul Record. All in less than 3 years." Lilith smiled as she recalled her first interactions with him, "You know, part of me misses how cute you used to be. Now you're a big shameless prick who doesn't even blush no matter what I say."

"Tell me who you hang out with and I'll tell you who you are." Bai Zemin replied in a voice filled with righteousness.

"Hey, what's that supposed to mean?"

Lilith raised her head and looked at him with a cute pout, but just as Bai Zemin planned to reply to her the doors of the hall slowly opened from outside, successfully interrupting the two's moment.

Those who entered were Sun Ling, Wu Yijun's mother, and Bai Shilin.

"Well, well, what do we have here..." Sun Ling's eyes slowly wandered between Bai Zemin and Lilith as she said with a beautiful smile, "While the subjects work, the King and Queen rest and flirt... I guess I should say, worthy monarchs."

"Ah!" Bai Shilin directly started running towards the throne when she saw the situation.

The little princess' body turned into a blur, appearing in an instant on Lilith's lap as the latter continued to sit on Bai Zemin's lap.

"Lilith Mom, you can't keep the father all to yourself!" Bai Shilin glared at Lilith with tears in her eyes as she tried her best to remove Lilith's arms that were around her beloved father's neck, "Shilin was working hard but this is what you do?"

"You, little vermin..." Lilith was speechless as her place and position were stolen.

As Bai Zemin burst out laughing, Wu Yijun's mother couldn't help but shake her head with a wry smile on her face, "What an interesting family..."

Once the laughter and not so joking jokes stopped, Bai Zemin slowly turned back into a serious Leader.

"All ready?"

Sun Ling's expression also changed to one of higher seriousness, but there was still a hint of a smile at the corner of her lips as she nodded firmly.

"Chen He has really grown as a soul evolver and as a man. You should say a few good words to him later when this is all over once and for all."

"I'll take care of that." Bai Zemin nodded, and at the same time as his eyes narrowed, he ordered, "Let everyone stay on standby temporarily... Our first destination is the United States of America."

Sun Ling bowed with a chuckle before turning around. Her hips swayed charmingly as she retreated, and before completely closing the door behind her she looked back and winked her eye, "Should we call you Little Emperor for now?"

Bang

When the doors closed with a bang, Bai Zemin closed his eyes slowly and let his neck rest on the back of the throne.

This time, none of them would return home until each and every faction scattered across the Earth, from the largest to the smallest, was subjugated.

'The next time I return home there will be no more threats to me or my family. Earth will be our rightful home, and the apocalypse on this world will finally end.'

Right... The next time Bai Zemin gets home, he will no longer be King but Emperor!

* * * * *

A/N: Everyone, 1 chapter more later and 1 more before reset so... 3 chapters in less than 24 hours.

Chapter 1236.1: A new kingdom (Part 1)

A group composed of fifteen men armed with modern machine guns, fifteen soul evolvers above level 25, and a war tank were in charge of guarding the north gate of the main base located in the central district of the city of Beijing.

This team was in charge of dealing with the straggling zombies that somehow managed to slip between the various patrol points that the government and the military had placed 20 kilometers around the entire base. However, it was rare to see a zombie these days so their main function was to make sure that in case a survivor or soul evolver appeared looking for help they would not cause problems.

Staring at the huge floating city that was even bigger than the base itself slowly moving away and about to disappear into the horizon, the leader of the group who happened to be a war veteran nodded reverently, "Looks like something big is about to happen."

One of the soul evolvers replied, "Ah, Xiao Mei told me that when she took that little mutant beast she took as a pet for a walk she saw Commander Chen organizing some troops today morning. I think our Leader will probably take down someone big this time, else he would have no reason to go personally."

"Xiao Mei saw Commander Chen in person and didn't fall surrendered at his feet? Hahaha, you should be thankful to heaven, Luo Lei!"

"Hahahaha!"

"You little sons of your mothers..." The soul evolver named Luo Lei wanted to cry but had no tears to shed as he looked at his teammates.

"But, what Luo Lei said is reasonable." The old team leader sighed, "I don't know how big it will be this time since people like us are pretty far down the giant pyramid, but something tells me that many things will change after today."

The group of thirty watched in silence and with somewhat reverent expressions until the giant city disappeared into the distant horizon.

This group of soldiers was not the only one, many other groups of soldiers and even more survivors stood watching the sky for a long period of time before resuming their daily duties; some had to go to work, others would accompany their children to school where they would not only be taught knowledge of the old world but also instructed in the ways of magic and martial arts, and others would simply go for a walk through the many commercial streets.

Standing on top of the central building of the base, Wu Yijun's father patted the shoulder of the person next to him after the floating city disappeared, "Don't worry... By next time it will be your time to shine."

Bai Delan smiled bitterly as he nodded, "With Zemin there I'm not too worried about Linger's safety nor Qi'er's... It's just that I feel a bit useless now."

Wu Yijun's father looked at Bai Zemin's father with an expression of understanding, yet he shook his head, "For better or worse, you are already a Third Order soul evolver while I am still stuck at the top of the Second Order... But don't worry, even if Zemin didn't take you this time he surely will in the future."

"I hope so..." Bai Delan sighed, "I don't want to be a useless father of a family, no offense."

"Haha, don't worry about it... Also, Delan, remember that with your son's ability it's only a matter of time and patience before our levels and Orders skyrocket. Isn't your wife proof of that?"

For the war to come, Bai Zemin decided to leave his father Bai Delan behind.

This was because Bai Delan's level had stagnated at 135 and he was finding it difficult to level up. Of course, this was because the number of high level enemies was no longer particularly high in China which meant that everyone required a greater amount of time to level up.

The problem was precisely that Bai Zemin could not afford to waste something as precious as time, and since his father had neither the sufficient level nor the purity of Soul Power required to ensure his safety in what was to come, Bai Zemin decided to leave him behind this time.

"I hope so..." Bai Delan sighed again, and as he looked towards the horizon he pleaded in his heart, 'Zemin, please take care of them... And take care of yourself.'

* * *

Hero City, Sky Emperor Palace.

"In summary, the number of soul evolvers above level 150 here in Hero City add up to around 32 while those below level 150 are over 100." Standing under the stairs leading to the throne in the throne room, Chen He reported everything to Bai Zemin with a serious expression on his face.

Sitting on the Throne of Creation, Bai Zemin stroked the hair of Bai Shilin who refused to move from his lap, "Chen He, you really managed to set everything up in such a way that none of our bases lost much in terms of defense even though we took out most of

the Third Order soul evolvers that were protecting each territory... You've grown up a lot."

"I don't know if you're praising me or insulting me..." Chen He smiled wryly after hearing Bai Zemin's words, "It wasn't easy though... But it wasn't impossible to do either. Compared to what you have done this is nothing."

"Don't put yourself down." Bai Zemin rebuked in a serious voice as he looked at him, "Chen He, I know you compare yourself with me.. and I won't be a hypocrite, but I hope you'll stop doing that. I consider you a friend, and have for some time now. You don't need to compare yourself to your friends, do you? You're one of the most talented soul evolvers I've met so far, even above Angelo from my personal point of view."

"Friends..." Chen He stared at him in surprise as he did not expect Bai Zemin to say such words. However, he suddenly chuckled and nodded as if it was natural, "Of course... We have been fighting together for more than two years and the tip of our spears point to the same target."

Then, Chen He suddenly raised a finger and pointed, "However, even if we are friends you don't need to lie to me to make me feel better."

"Lie?" Bai Zemin looked at him with genuine surprise, "What do you mean?"

"Angelo has been able to deal with Fourth Order dragons by himself for months now, but I doubt I'd be able to accomplish such a thing on my own." Chen He sighed and his shoulders dropped, "Fighting Fourth Order soul evolvers below level 210 should be fine but beyond that and my head would surely roll in the sky."

Bai Zemin stared at him for a few seconds before closing his eyes and slowly saying, "Chen He, give time to time and you'll see... After this war, we can have this conversation again if you want, and then we'll see if you can still keep saying the same thing."

Chen He chuckled as he nodded. He turned to leave as he said without looking back, "You've always liked to act mysterious haven't you? Ever since university. Be thankful this isn't a light novel or the readers would want to kill you."

Bai Zemin was dumbfounded looking at Chen He's withdrawal. His hand that had been frozen went back to work on the hair of the little princess in his lap as he muttered to himself, "This guy has gotten pretty good with words..."

Suddenly, Bai Zemin thought of something and tried to act calm as he asked feigning composure, "Little princess, you know you can always be honest with me don't you?"

"Em. Shilin knows." The beautiful little girl nodded as she combed the doll in her hands the same way Bai Zemin was combing her hair.

Bai Zemin held his breath as he asked softly, "In that case, is there any guy that Shilin thinks is nice and likes him?"

"Shilin thinks father is beautiful and I like him very much!"

"No... don't say beautiful but handsome... But, anyone else besides the father?"

"Grandpa!"

"... Besides grandpa?"

"Mmm... Uncle Wu often gives me candy on the sly!"

"Wu Keqian, you little bastard... Just wait until I tell your wife about this."

"Eh? What does Aunt Sun have to do with it, father? She'll scold Uncle Wu for giving Shilin candy?"

"About that..."

As Bai Zemin began to worry that his princess might like some man since she couldn't be considered a baby despite her real age, Hero City took to the skies and moved in a westerly direction.

Although Hero City had enough energy to move for two years all over the Earth at high speeds, Bai Zemin who had no way to feed the city's core with Higher Existence Soul Stones decided not to push too hard and save as much as possible.

Actually, everyone was puzzled as to why he took out Hero City. From everyone's point of view, including Lilith and Fire Sorrow, the wise and prudent thing to do would be to save Hero City only for times of emergency since replenishing the consumed energy would be a big headache.

However, Bai Zemin who knew the truth did not think like them.

The universe could come to an end in less than 5 years, what was the point of saving now? He might as well give it his all and use everything he had to speed up his empowerment.

If in 5 years everything would be over, Bai Zemin felt there was no need to think too far ahead. For now, his next goal was obvious to the 200 or so people who came to Hero City with him for this operation.

* * * * *

Chapter 1237.2: A new kingdom (Part 2)

Several hours later, North America.

The walls of the mega base built in Washington D.C. were firmly protected by hundreds of heavy machine guns, four large goblin cannons, and more than ten thousand soul evolvers whose mission was to contain the sea beasts that occasionally came off the coast with malicious intentions.

Just as the soldiers were relieved that during the last week they had only been attacked on one occasion, the face of one of them and the bearer of an eye skill called Extravision turned pale as he gazed off into the distant horizon.

"Mike? What do you see?"

The captain in charge immediately realized that something was wrong, and instead of taunting as some of the younger soldiers did, he immediately made a gesture of silence.

"E-Enemy approaching from the east!" the soul evolver with Extravision howled as he gripped his crossbow with strength he didn't know he had: "Big... Something huge is coming our way! I think it's as big as the red dragon the Leader killed before!"

The expression of the captain in charge immediately paled and the others nearby also realized that this was not a good time to joke after seeing the trembling in their companion's hands.

The captain waved his hand and unsheathed his sword as he roared fiercely: "Get the cannons ready! Enemy incoming from the east!"

Those in charge of readying the cannons looked at each other in shock.

Usually, they would fight for a long time before using the cannons or simply would not use them at all as they consumed too much energy with each shot. However, this time they were ordered to ready the cannons straightaway.

None dared to delay now that things seemed about to get more difficult.

Just as the captain was planning to sound the alarm, a group of people approached from the ladder connecting the ground to the top of the wall.

"L-Leader!"

"His Majesty Angelo!"

The old captain sighed in relief as he saw that the heavy knighthood arrived without needing to be summoned. He hurriedly moved forward but just as he planned to speak he saw Angelo calmly waving his hand.

"All right, all of you. Lay down your weapons and don't panic."

Angelo looked towards the horizon where he could already see a tiny black dot getting bigger and bigger with each passing second: "... That's not an enemy."

"Not an enemy?" The old captain stared at him with wide eyes.

Something that big was not an enemy? Could it be a giant human? Because within the old captain's knowledge, there were no dragon allies of his America.

"I-it's a city...!" Mike, who possessed the skill that allowed him to see up to hundreds of miles away naturally, gasped when he finally got a better look at the approaching object.

"What?"

"A city?"

"A city in the sky?"

"Don't fool around!"

Andrea looked up at the horizon with a complicated expression before glancing at Angelo with some concern. She whispered softly, "Angelo, really... you....?"

"Do we have any other choice?" Angelo sighed, knowing what Andrea was referring to even if she didn't finish her words, "You also saw him a while back when he fought that nine-headed dragon... Besides, that guy has gotten a lot stronger since then."

"But..." Jack clenched his fists so hard that his palms began to bleed. His eyes were bloodshot as he looked down at his feet and muttered helplessly, "We really have to hand everything over to someone else who didn't work for it? He's not even American...!"

"Why are you crying as if you were unaware of the way the world works? Don't be a little girl will you?" Eleanora glanced at Jack in disgust as she said coldly, "You come from a prestigious family don't you? You should know better than anyone that the strong take while the weak give up without being able to do anything but submit."

"Eleanora, you!" Jack glared at her and even raised his fist with the intention of hitting her. His hand trembled in the air as he stared at her gasping, "Could you be a little more understanding of your own team? For God's sake! Do you have to be a hateful woman even in this kind of circumstance?! Holy fuck!"

"Keep crying, little girl." Eleanora sneered mercilessly and fearlessly.

"Enough." Angelo looked at Jack first before looking at Eleanora, "Both of you."

Eleanora might not care about anyone on her team but she still cared and respected Angelo. Seeing him intercede, she took a step back without another word.

The flying city stopped about two kilometers away, hovering motionless in the sky and projecting its large shadow on the ground.

"I'll go first." Angelo didn't wait for someone's response but directly activated his wings and launched himself towards the city at lightning speed.

...

In the throne room of the Sky Emperor Palace, Bai Zemin was about to stand up when Lilith put her hand on his shoulder and stopped him with a shake of her head.

"What's wrong?" Bai Zemin looked at her in confusion.

"Zemin, I understand that you see Angelo as an ally and perhaps even a potential good friend. Yet, remember that your subordinates are in the Sky Emperor Palace and are watching your actions." She patiently explained as she looked at him with her ruby eyes brimming with affection and deep appreciation, "Soon you will be the emperor of this world, so even your smallest action will have consequences. Right now Angelo's position is no different from yours from the point of view of the vast majority, and even the Soul Record sees you both as equal Kings. For now, what you have to do is to show that you are above all, yes? This will save you a lot of trouble in the long run."

Bai Zemin hadn't given it much thought as he didn't think something as simple as going to greet someone would carry so much weight. However, after listening to Lilith's explanation and thinking a little deeper, he was quick to realize that she was right.

"I understand."

Seeing him nodding obediently, Lilith caressed his face with a beautiful smile, "Good boy..."

And just as the doors opened from the outside, Bai Zemin felt the practically ignorable weight in his lap disappear completely as did Lilith's presence.

Angelo walked into the throne room with a serious expression. His eyes which had been wandering in shock throughout the palace immediately focused on Bai Zemin when the double doors opened.

Cai Jingyi leaned against the wall as she watched everything with a smile. She had escorted Angelo here and although her task was complete she had no plans to retire anytime soon anyway.

Angelo stopped a couple of feet from the stairs to the throne. His eyes looked at the young asian man in front of him but towering from his current position, and after a long time he finally sighed.

"I knew this day would come eventually, but somehow I hoped it wouldn't be this soon."

Bai Zemin opened his mouth and was about to say something but Angelo beat him to it.

"Can you promise me that you will not be unfair in any way to my people?" He looked at Bai Zemin almost pleadingly, and even went so far as to try to kneel down, "Take it as me begging you if you want... Or do it for the times we fought together at least."

Even though he was astonished in his heart, Angelo kept trying to kneel down while some kind of invisible and impenetrable wall did not allow his knees to descend to the ground.

"Can you stop doing that?" Bai Zemin frowned as he said in a firm voice, "I am not a racist nor do I see the Chinese as a superior race or species you know? All I want and intend to do is to bring humanity together to fight whoever tries to destroy us. Nothing more than that."

Angelo finally stopped trying after a few seconds, and after hearing Bai Zemin's words and seeing the sincerity in his black eyes, he finally sighed feeling relieved.

"In that case... I guess it's okay."

Angelo naturally did not want to surrender his position.

Besides, although Jack's words were somewhat harsh, Angelo agreed that handing over everything he and the rest had built to someone who had done nothing to help wasn't particularly enjoyable even if Bai Zemin had helped them in the war against the dragons.

However, many times it was not enough to simply be unwilling but one had to be strong enough to resist.

"You Chinese have a saying... What was it like?" Angelo thought about it for a moment before nodding, "Right... The winner is the king and the loser is the thief. Your fist is stronger than mine so, for everyone's sake, this is for the best."

Bai Zemin said nothing but watched silently as Angelo slowly knelt on his right knee and lowered his head.

"I hope you keep your word..."

Previously Angelo was going to kneel to beg, but Bai Zemin would never let an ally and someone who could potentially be his friend in the future kneel to beg him for something.

However, this time he did not stop Angelo.

This was because Angelo was not begging this time but was kneeling to show his respect to someone stronger as well as his submission to the one who would rule them.

[King Angelo of the 'United States of America' has submitted to you and has become your Loyal Follower of his own free will].

[The faction 'United States of America' is dissolved and is now part of your faction].

[The number of kingdoms under your rule is increased by 1.]

[Choose a name for your new kingdom.]

'United States of America.' Bai Zemin thought silently.

[The new kingdom has been established under the name United States of America.]

"What now?" feeling himself getting weaker, Angelo looked at Bai Zemin with some bitterness in his eyes.

"Nothing." Bai Zemin stood up with a smile and walked down the steps until he came in front of the kneeling Angelo. He held out his hand in a friendly manner and said calmly, "Nothing will change. You will remain the Leader of the United States and do what you have been doing... I will send some people to supervise you, but nothing will really change if you do what you should do. You will still be the king of this kingdom and the United States of America will still be the United States of America."

Angelo blinked, and as he looked at Bai Zemin's outstretched hand a single word came out of his mouth.

"Eh?"

* * * * *

A/N: Yesterday I was going to upload a chapter but I had a fever... late but here it is, 3 chapters in less than 24 hours as promised.

Chapter 1238: The true beginning of the end of the apocalypse

Watching the huge floating city slowly moving away but gradually gaining speed until its total disappearance, the soldiers and soul evolvers stationed on the most dangerous wall of the entire Washington D.C. base finally looked at each other in dismay.

What happened?

The captain of the troops stationed there for the purpose of stopping the ferocious sea race that never seemed to tire of launching attacks towards the surface looked back at the person who was even now staring into the sky even though the floating city was no longer there.

The only person who knew what had happened was precisely this man, the Leader of them all.

Angelo could feel many eyes on him.

Curiosity, puzzlement, amazement... He could feel them all.

"Back to your stations." Angelo turned and began to walk away as he waved his hand as if shooing away flies, "If you have free time to croak then use it to work and earn your living."

Jack looked at his best friend's back with wide eyes. After a last glance at the sky, he and the others quickly followed Angelo.

"Hey, Angelo!"

"What's wrong, Jack."

"What's wrong...? What's supposed to have just happened up there? Don't tell me... Don't tell me Bai Zemin agreed to leave in exchange for Andrea and Eleanora..."

Angelo stayed in the floating city for a little over half an hour before returning. However, the most amazing thing of all was that when he returned, he asked both Andrea and Eleanora to accompany Bai Zemin and his faction for a while.

Dylan, the African-American man whose size stood out above most of the main team, whispered to avoid being overheard by others, "I understand Bai Zemin targeting Eleanora... Those two seem to have built some kind of relationship after all. But why Andrea? I mean, they both have chewable asses but even then... Bai Zemin has a lot of beauties on his side, particularly that little white-haired lady."

Angelo rolled his eyes as he listened to his team theorizing and babbling all the way back to the center of the base, yet he didn't say too much nor did he stop them from having their own thoughts on the matter.

Even he was amazed by everything that was going on, and he knew he would need time to come to terms with it. However, there was one thing Angelo was absolutely sure of now.

'Bai Zemin... What an interesting dude.' Angelo chuckled, feeling infinitely more relieved.

...

Hero City, throne room.

Andrea felt apprehensive as she eyed the young man sitting on the stone throne warily. Although she obeyed Angelo and entered Hero City to follow Bai Zemin, the reality was that she couldn't help but feel like a little rabbit running into the big bad wolf's lair.

On the other hand, Eleanora was calm and her indifferent expression to the situation was the best proof of that.

Bai Zemin carefully watched the two beautiful women in front of him for a moment before looking only at Andrea, "Don't be so nervous, I won't eat you."

"I wonder about that." Andrea smiled slightly but the slight frown on her face and the trembling in her eyes gave away her true feelings.

Bai Zemin simply shook his head. He really was curious about what kind of thought or image the others had of him, but at the same time, he didn't care too much either.

He got straight to the point: "Andrea, the reason I asked Angelo to send you with me is because I and my faction will need your help in the mission we will be carrying out soon."

"My help?" Andrea couldn't help but raise an eyebrow in surprise, "Is there something I can do but you can't?"

"Something like that." Bai Zemin didn't explain too much but waved his hand freely, "For now rest. We'll need your defensive skills later... Also, I'll have someone explain a bit of what's going on so you won't feel this lost."

Andrea sighed as she glanced sideways at the smiling Cai Jingyi who was looking at her curiously from the side. She nodded as she muttered to herself, "I'd appreciate it."

Not long after, Andrea departed with Cai Jingyi playing as her personal guide.

Eleanora watched over her shoulder until the doors closed behind her with a slight bang. Suddenly, she felt an object flying towards her but far from feeling fear the corner of her lips lifted slightly upwards.

Reaching out her right hand and catching the small object with ease, Eleanora turned her head to look at Bai Zemin before looking at what she had just caught.

"Just as we agreed before." Bai Zemin rested his chin on his right hand as he looked at Eleanora curiously about her next action, "That key will guide you to your new residence here in Hero City and it's also the only one that can open or close the doors of the place. Even I wouldn't be able to get in unless the power of the runes ran out completely."

Eleanora looked at the small golden circular key covered in strange engravings at the same time as Bai Zemin's words filtered down to her heart. Finally, she averted her gaze to look at the red-hued black-haired young man and asked, "How many people will be able to live here?"

"Mmmm... I think about a hundred thousand to keep the place from looking like an anthill." Bai Zemin slowly explained, "Each of the residences here in Hero City will be given as awards to those people who have made great contributions to the Transcendent faction."

Hero City would eventually become the safest city of all. Not only would the most powerful soul evolvers live there but even Bai Zemin himself would be staying most of the time in the Sky Emperor Palace.

A huge, all-terrain, mobile city with supreme amenities.

Eleanora glanced again at the small key in her hand before slowly saying, "So... Our partnership ends here?"

"You don't want that?" Bai Zemin wasn't really surprised but feigned ignorance as he remembered, "Our agreement was that I would give you an important position as well as one of the best residences in Hero City in exchange for your help in keeping my faction and your faction from clashing, we haven't talked beyond that have we?"

Eleanora was a very cold and indifferent person when it came to the death of others; even if they were her compatriots or teammates, she didn't particularly care about anyone. She simply respected and felt some appreciation for Angelo because he helped her in the past, but that was the limit of her kindness.

It was precisely because of this that as Eleanora witnessed with her own eyes Bai Zemin's simply colossal strength she understood something that all the other members of her team refused to believe or accept.

'Eventually, the Transcendent faction will swallow the United States of America.' Such a thought popped into her head naturally, and the more she thought about it the more Eleanora understood the circumstances she and everyone else was in.

Therefore, in order to avoid a meaningless bloody war, she and Bai Zemin cooperated.

Not long ago, Eleanora's mind reading skill evolved. Now she could not only read minds but, in a very subtle way, she could also influence the thoughts of others using words.

For many months, Eleanora continued to try to persuade Angelo to surrender his position to Bai Zemin without a fight. She talked about the difference in strength but in a subtle way and even exaggerated some of the things she had seen; all this with two goals in mind.

First, to prevent the death of many people.

Second... To personal advantage.

In some people's minds, Eleanora would be considered a traitor if they knew what she had been doing. However, Bai Zemin did not see it that way.

If not for her, Angelo might have put up resistance and this would have led to Bai Zemin being forced to act with severity.

How many would have died in vain? Right now, Bai Zemin needed humans to unite to fight outsiders instead of fighting each other. For that, he was grateful to Eleanora.

"What is your goal really..." Eleanora looked at him with an extremely complicated expression. Her soft voice echoed inside the empty room, "It's clear that you have no intention of ruling over America, but then what do you really want to do...?"

If Bai Zemin wanted to lead and rule over America the first thing he would have to do was to remove Angelo and his trusted men from their current positions. However, he did nothing of the sort.

In fact, nothing really seemed to have changed.

Bai Zemin looked at her silently for a moment before closing his eyes.

"Did you forget?"

"Eh?" Eleanora blinked in astonishment when she heard his voice.

He looked at her again and remarked, "I told you... I'll be on top of the universe eventually, Eleanora. You didn't believe me then, but now that you know about the Higher Existences and their identities maybe you don't think the same way anymore."

Eleanora's sweet little mouth opened slightly but no sound came out of it. Her eyes trembled softly as she remembered the conversation she and Bai Zemin had a long time ago, a conversation in which she ended up mocking and scorning him for his crazy thoughts.

"Who said that one person needs to be in charge of everything and in everything? All the Emperors of the past fell, and I think I know why."

Bai Zemin's voice was the only thing Eleanora could and wanted to hear.

"Who said an Emperor can't have Kings working for him? China, America, Russia... Every country on Earth will be a different kingdom, regardless of whether some larger smaller countries should merge with others. I will be the highest authority, but I will not be there for everyone at all times... Earth is just the starting point in my eyes, Eleanora. I will soon be gone and I don't know when I will be able to return, so before that happens I will make sure to leave capable and trustworthy people who can make each realm prosperous for the imperial colossus I will eventually build."

After a long time, Eleanora couldn't help but sigh and close her eyes.

"You really are crazy in the head."

Although she said that, a faint smile had formed on her lips.

It was obvious that, after seeing everything she had seen, Eleanora no longer thought Bai Zemin was a lunatic for saying that he would eventually be on the peak.

Even the Biblical God was forced to back down for him even though he was still so small, what else could stop him then?

...

A few hours later, Hero City stopped in the sky over a large human base stationed south of Mexico.

That was the real beginning of the union of the Earth, as well as of a huge bloody war between races that took place not only on land but also under deep water.

* * * * *

Chapter 1239.1: Conquering Sea and Land (Part 1)

The world was definitely not what it once was.

Most of the lands were still mostly occupied by zombies, giant mutant beasts went rampaging everywhere making it hard to know when a seemingly safe building would collapse, and to top it all off, the old seeds were no longer sprouting in a world ruled by mana.

Not to mention the survival of ordinary humans, even first-rate soul evolvers would have extreme difficulty surviving for long in solitude.

Precisely because of this, it was necessary to have a base with more people.

A lone human certainly could not survive for long in the cruel environment of the planet these days, however, it was a different story when thousands of humans joined together as a team to cover each other's weaknesses.

Although building large bases was much better compared to living outside and alone, the security these bases conveyed was mostly false. Even if no one wanted to think about huge waves of zombies surrounding the place or giant mutant beasts charging towards the walls, everyone knew in their trembling hearts that the odds of such things happening were not particularly low.

However, one thing the survivors stationed in southern Mexico never thought or imagined was precisely the sight in front of them at this very moment.

Standing at the edge of one of Hero City's walls, Bai Zemin watched with an unreadable expression on his face as the several thousand survivors moved like ants in an uproar at the appearance of the huge flying city.

"Mhm." Bai Zemin nodded to himself before looking at Meng Qi who was standing to his right with an extremely confused expression, "Hey, Meng Qi... What the hell are they saying?"

Bai Zemin knew how to speak his native language and was also competent in English, but as for Spanish... In all honesty, he didn't know anything at all.

Meng Qi frowned as she glanced at the humans below them, and judging by the expression on her face Bai Zemin realized that what the Mexicans said were not particularly friendly words.

"Are these people really idiots or do they have worms in their heads?" Meng Qi whispered to herself before looking at Bai Zemin: "Big brother... You just need to know that they are definitely not calling you handsome nor are they bowing down to you."

"I guessed as much." Bai Zemin winced but finally decided not to press his sister to translate offensive words.

He watched as the survivors pointed to the sky while shouting a few things. Some even grabbed whatever objects they had nearby and threw them stupidly skyward as if they really believed they could hit the city more than 500 meters up in the air.

"I don't know whether to say they are brave or too stupid..." Bai Zemin shook his head before waving his hand, "Jingyi, exercise some moderation."

Bai Zemin's voice had barely fallen when a gust of wind blew past him at the same time as a shadow leaped off the high walls and ventured into a half kilometer high free fall.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!....

"Hahaha!" Cai Jingyi laughed with amusement as the soldiers below began to shoot at her.

Far from panicking, her small but charming body twisted and two tiny silver-colored daggers appeared in her hands.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!...

As the sky filled with golden sparks and sounds of metal clanging metal, Andrea couldn't help but grimace, "That girl's right in the head? I don't see any fun in fighting ordinary humans."

"She's different in that aspect." Bai Zemin explained without looking back. In his dark pupils, the image of Cai Jingyi moving at stupidly high speeds even without using any active skills was constantly reflected, "For us, there's nothing fun about fighting someone who can't fight, but Cai Jingyi enjoys mocking her enemies to the point of making them despair at their own weakness."

Meng Qi didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Big brother, you are really mean. You could have sent someone else but you actually sent her."

Bai Zemin's expression remained unperturbed as he watched the scene below.

Cai Jingyi's two feet had already touched the top of the wall safely and was currently unleashing the greatest chaos among the enemy soldiers.

She did not kill anyone but cut their weapons to pieces just as she did with every bullet that flew in her direction, and also made sure to viciously beat the gunmen to the point of knocking them unconscious.

Although there were soul evolvers rapidly approaching, Cai Jingyi's speed skyrocketed to triple what it already was and she easily took care of all of them without even taking a scratch.

"Being diplomatic might be the right way so to speak, but I don't have the time or patience to play that game. Someone let me know when the opposition surrenders... If possible let it be before the sun is at its highest point tomorrow." After a last glance, Bai Zemin turned to leave after saying those words.

Feng Tian Wu glanced at Bai Zemin's back before turning to give a last glance at the one-sided battle raging below.

Only about ten minutes had passed and although she wasn't even giving her 50% Cai Jingyi had already taken down all the forces on the north wall and was currently heading for the west wall, clearly intending to take down those above first before advancing deep into the Mexican base.

"Meaningless and stupid."

After saying such words rather coldly, Feng Tian Wu followed in Bai Zemin's footsteps and left.

Meng Qi forced a smile after hearing Feng Tian Wu's words. Chen He's voice sounded beside her, "She is really hard to approach don't you think?"

Meng Qi looked at him for a moment before looking sideways at Feng Tian Wu's retreating back. Finally, she shook her head and remarked, "I'm not interested in getting close to her so I'm not too sure about that."

While it was true that her brother had already forgiven Feng Tian Wu, Meng Qi was a different story.

Chen He silently looked at Meng Qi before nodding without saying anything else. He was really curious about Feng Tian Wu and Bai Zemin, but since no one said anything he did not ask about the matter either.

Time passed quickly, and in an instant, it was more than 6 hours since Cai Jingyi descended to have some fun. In fact, she was having so much fun crushing the soul evolvers inside the base that she completely forgot what she actually had to do.

First Order, Second Order, and even the two Third Order soul evolvers that advanced to attack her; all of them were completely overwhelmed, the only difference was that the 2 Third Order soul evolvers caused a lot of destruction and some casualties before being defeated by a completely unharmed Cai Jingyi.

"I can't watch this anymore."

Meng Qi finally had enough as midnight passed. She stepped forward and drew a huge magic circle in less than two minutes, making everything several kilometers around

shimmer as countless purple lightning bolts crackled noisily over the giant magic circle composed of what seemed to be tens of thousands of runes.

"Ah?" Cai Jingyi kicked the Second Order soul evolver that was unsuccessfully trying to tear her apart with his sword and looked up at the sky. She didn't understand at first but when she realized what was going on she couldn't help but panic as she muttered to herself, "Damn it... I screwed up."

...

One hour later, the enemy Leader who happened to be one of the two Third Order soul evolvers that Cai Jingyi had taken down long ago was brought to his knees in front of Bai Zemin.

"So..." Bai Zemin did not look at the horrified man but instead looked at Cai Jingyi. The corner of his mouth twitched as he asked just to make sure, "According to what you're telling me, you forgot what you were doing in the middle of the fight so you just kept slashing your daggers and kicking people. Do I have it right?"

If Cai Jingyi had rabbit ears they would be falling down right now. She had both hands behind her back and was staring at the ground like a criminal as she nodded sheepishly, "Sorry..."

"Haaah..." Bai Zemin let out a loud sigh and plopped down on the back of the Throne of Creation, "That passive skill of yours is really troublesome when these things happen."

"I'm sorry... I'm trying but I can't control it. It's stronger than me." Cai Jingyi apologized again with a regretful expression.

Bai Zemin sighed noisily again as he stared at her not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Fu Xuefeng was considered a very rare and valuable existence as he had a Special class as a job. He would be considered a treasure by any faction in the universe without a doubt.

However, Cai Jingyi was different. She was one of the extremely few people within Bai Zemin's circle of power who possessed a Unique class; a path uniquely made for her and her records to walk.

The problem was that with such a powerful class, the passive skill Blood Fanatic was active at all times. While this skill allowed Cai Jingyi to become a lot faster and sharper as the battle dragged on, it was the one that sometimes made her giggle like a lunatic as she cut down enemies with a happy smile on her face.

"Forget it." Bai Zemin waved his hand as if shooing away flies, "Leave three of our men behind to guard Mayor Lu. Ask Mayor Lu to do a specific survivor count and depending

on the number we could move them to China and let the United States fuse with Mexico."

It was exactly ten hours later when just over thirty-two thousand Mexican survivors walked into Hero City.

Bai Zemin, who had spent an affectionate night with Lilith away from everyone else, stretched out now energized as his partner slept heavily on the giant bed in the room that had once belonged to the former Sky Emperor.

"Next... Brazil."

Bai Zemin whose goal was always to unify humanity and end the apocalypse on his world had been collecting information about the locations of the vast majority of unhidden human bases, and thanks to the orbiting satellites, it was not difficult for him to find numerous of them.

Now that he was completely confident about his strength, he could finally use that information to end it all in record time.

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A/N: Everyone, I will do my best to post 2 or 3 chapters more before reset, meaning 3-4 chapters in less than 24 hours.

Chapter 1240.2: Conquering Sea and Land (Part 2)

Two months later.

It had been two months since Bai Zemin and his army of just over two hundred soul evolvers left their homes to venture out on one of the wildest and most fanciful goals any human being could ever think of.

Conquer the world!

How great did those words sound when put together in the same sentence? In the mind of a human being, those words were unbeatable in many ways. This was because they only had one world to live in, and if someone could really control it all, there was basically no one who could say no to the most ridiculous of their requests.

The person who conquered the world would have absolute power over everything and everyone. However, this would only be the case if that someone really had overwhelming power to conquer over everyone else.

...

Sitting on the Throne of Creation, Bai Zemin let his head tilt slightly to the right while using his right fist to hold it up.

Below the seven stairs leading up to the throne, a total of ten people were standing looking up at him. Nine of these ten were silent while only one of them reported.

"Russia finally became part of our territory and faction. As you ordered, we sent Sir Wu Keqian to temporarily become the King of the new territory until someone better qualified or more rightful to such a position comes along. Lady Wu Yijun said that although she wanted to come to the front to support you, she will wait a little longer with her father to explain his new role. On the other hand, Lady Shangguan Bing Xue is on her way here and should not be long in arriving."

Bai Zemin waited a few seconds, and when the person who was giving him the report stopped speaking he nodded, "Next."

"Regarding the United States." A new person advanced with a tablet in her hand, and after sliding her fingers over the screen a couple of times she began, "We received a report from young miss Luo Ning. According to her descriptions, Sir Angelo is performing his position as King perfectly in America. After two months of work, not only have the overall survivors reached an average level of 10, but the main team of America has already firmly set foot on territory that previously belonged to Mexico. According to Sir Angelo and Young Miss Luo Ning's estimation, within another 6 months half of Mexico will be reclaimed by the United States."

Bai Zemin nodded in satisfaction after hearing that Angelo had not disappointed him. He really wasn't wrong after all: "Next."

"Yes."

A new person stepped forward. She was Sun Ling, Wu Yijun's mother.

She looked at the tablet in her hand with a faint smile at the corner of her lips, and after a long time slowly raised her head to look at Bai Zemin. Her beautiful eyes sparkled as if thousands of stars shone for an instant in her pupils.

"We're done."

"Ah?" Bai Zemin subconsciously straightened his posture. His heartbeat began to quicken as he asked with wider eyes, "What do you mean?"

Sun Ling looked again at the tablet in her hands and, in a voice somewhat trembling with emotion, read, "United States, Russia, China, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Vietnam..."

After saying the names of approximately 16 countries one after another, the tremor in Sun Ling's voice added to her now trembling hands as she stared at Bai Zemin: "A-All countries with notable human population and bases are within our control now."

Bai Zemin stared at Sun Ling but in reality his eyes were not looking at her. His mind went blank for several seconds and only awoke after hearing a series of gasps coming from the people below.

Done?

All the countries with humans standing had finally united?

Bai Zemin did not notice but slowly stood up from the throne while staring at a fixed point of no particular importance.

During the past two months, everyone had given their best and there were two level 143 soul evolvers who lost their lives to four giant mutant beasts whose levels exceeded 190.

They were attacked by more than 2 million mutant beasts when they arrived at the Amazon River in Brazil, and many of those mutant beasts turned out to be poisonous so that for 3 days half of the army was unconscious even after they were injected with antidotes and magic was used on their bodies.

When Hero City arrived in Germany, what greeted them were two nuclear missiles that required personal care and attention by Bai Zemin and when they arrived in Vietnam they found a King who not only didn't care about those under him but literally enslaved and ate whoever he wanted when he wanted.

It was not easy. It was not easy at all.

But no one complained out loud... They all had the possibility to refuse to come on this mission because they were given the freedom to choose. Even then, everyone who decided to follow Bai Zemin to Hero City to venture on a mission that many would consider suicidal knew what they were getting into.

So, even though it was hard and rough, no one complained.

And yet, without anyone noticing the passage of time or how many difficulties they had crossed so far, they had finally reached the finish line.

Bai Zemin had a blank look on his face as he recalled the past.

In the beginning, all he wanted was to meet his family. He was just a young man looking out for the safety of his parents and sister, nothing more than that.

However, to achieve his first goal it was imperative to build a faction and a powerful army. This was because the Bai Zemin of that time was not nearly half as strong as the current one, and therefore, he had no way to cross such distances and fight against millions of enemies alone without tiring himself to death.

To achieve his first and foremost goal, Bai Zemin could only oppose the government. This would eventually lead him to conquer his country of birth.

Then came Russia's interferences, the forced trip to another world, the dimensional rift that dragged Bai Zemin to America instead of China... And, of course, the ultimate mission of the Soul Record.

All of the above came together in a colossal ball that forced Bai Zemin to become the total and unique authority on Earth. In addition, the appearance of the Higher Existences who arrogantly believed they could take over everyone and everything pushed Bai Zemin even further, thus increasing his determination.

Looking back, Bai Zemin felt that he was truly incredible.

His story was incredible in itself.

A young man from an ordinary family suddenly becoming the most powerful human of all, ruling humanity with absolute supremacy... A story that only happened in light novels, indeed.

It was at that moment that the doors to the throne room opened from the outside, and a light chuckle followed by a series of cotton-smooth footsteps brought Bai Zemin out of his inner world.

"My dear brother Emperor, congratulations on your new title and position."

Bai Zemin raised his head and saw Meng Qi and his mother Ye Linger with Bai Shilin walking in the center.

Meng Qi had a proud smile on her face not at all surprised. It was as if she had always known that this was how everything would turn out, even before the apocalypse.

On the other hand, Ye Linger looked at her son with the same pride that Meng Qi had in her gaze but there was also some pain and sadness. As a mother, knowing that her son walked on lava and sharp rocks to the point where the skin on his feet was forced to transform into an armor was not particularly pleasant but hurt infinitely.

Only the sweet and beautiful Bai Shilin was smiling nonchalantly. In her eyes, her father had always been an emperor so nothing had really changed.

Precisely, it was the word Emperor that woke Bai Zemin up completely.

"Emperor..." He looked at his records and, not to his surprise, there was no change in his status window, "No... Not yet."

Bai Zemin's expression slowly turned cold, causing Sun Ling and everyone else to look at him somewhat apprehensive that they didn't know what was going on.

He slowly returned to his seat and, after taking a deep breath once, gave what would be his last order as King.

"Once Shangguan Bing Xue arrives in Hero City we will head straight for the East Sea... We will join Queen Xian Mei'er to conquer the oceans."

And that was the last great war fought in the Earth's atmosphere.

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