

# The Lord 61

## Chapter 61: Snow Fox

No matter if it was the restaurant or equipment shop, business was booming. Zhao Fu was naturally quite happy to see money flow into his pockets like water flowing through a river.

At the same time, he caught the attention of a few large families and factions. There were 6 large families in the Forest of Horrors, and they all wanted to make the Forest of Horrors the base for their development.

Because everyone was sent to random places in the Heaven Awaken World, the large families could only gather small groups of people in the Forest of Horrors, while their remaining forces would settle wherever they had been spawned, with the family's main development being in the Forest of Horrors. They all chose this place for different reasons: some thought that the competition would be weaker here, others thought that it would be a good place to develop, and others were here because the successors of their families had been spawned here.

These 6 large families were the Jiang family, Zhang family, Cao family, Yan family, Hua family, and Zhou family.

There were also 3 large factions created by players: the Holy Light Group, Soldier Alliance, and Demon Tree Gang. Based on their names, they seemed to be the largest factions in each of the 3 main cities. There were also some smaller factions that weren't worth mentioning.

Some of these factions were created by large financial groups working together in the real world, while others were formed purely by friends meeting in the Heaven Awaken World. Others were formed by a group of thugs led by an ambitious boss.

Before, they had taken the rumor hinting that Zhao Fu was a Legatee as a joke, but they now started to have suspicions. Putting aside whether Zhao Fu really was a Legatee or not, it was clear how powerful he was by the fact that he had such an abundance of Blue grade equipment that he would sell them, and he even possessed Silver grade equipment and Refined Martial Souls.

Even though opening 2 shops seemed quite simple, Zhao Fu had become a great threat.

.....

In the real world, Zhou Jie was kicked to the ground by his father. "You unfilial son, all you do is make trouble for me. Look at what you've done – we can't tell how powerful the man you angered is!"

Nearby was a young man who was a few years older than Zhou Jie. He was the Zhou family's Eldest Young Master Zhou Ming.

Zhou Ming watched his little brother be kicked a few times before walking over and pleading on his behalf, "Father, that should be enough. Little Jie has learned his lesson, and the situation is not as bad as you think. We have not developed irreconcilable hatred with that person, and now is the time for us to

be developing our forces. The Jiang family has already obtained a shop, and they have been earning at least 20 gold coins per day just from selling clothes.”

Zhou Shizhi coldly harrumphed and stopped kicking his son. Following this, he started to discuss some matters with Zhou Ming. Zhou Jie’s face was ashen as he slowly raised his head and looked at his father and elder brother with a trace of hatred in his heart.

Elsewhere, Zhao Fu was standing in front of the equipment store and hanging up a sign that requested for materials of Silver grade or above. Anyone who provided such materials would be able to trade them for items from within the shop. Right now, Zhao Fu did not lack Blue grade equipment at all, but he didn’t have many pieces of Silver grade equipment.

Right now, there were five Grey Dwarves in Rhode Village who could forge Silver grade equipment. Because Wang Dawu, the Great Qin Village’s Blacksmith, had not forged for as long as them, he was only at the boundary of being able to forge Silver grade equipment.

After taking care of matters here, Zhao Fu took some money and went to see what other properties he could buy for his remaining 7 lots of land. He took the money with him back to the Great Qin Village and then headed to Soldier Forest.

This was the first time that Zhao Fu had come to Soldier Forest, and after arriving, he found that it was similar to Holy Light City. It had large streets crammed with people, and the only difference was that Soldier Forest was much more military-like.

Zhao Fu went to the real estate office and bought another lot of land. Zhao Fu planned to build another Westfall Restaurant here and started to recruit people. However, he decided not to open an equipment shop here because he was barely able to meet the demand of the market in Holy Light City.

Zhao Fu did not want to sell any of the bronze concentrate equipment because he did not want to make his opponents too strong. Only when he had many pieces of Silver grade equipment would he sell them.

After ‘befriending’ Soldier Forest’s Minister of Internal Affairs, Zhao Fu obtained another 10 guards, and he prepared to open a restaurant. Afterwards, he also went to Demon Tree City and did the same thing.

Right now, he had 3 Westfall Restaurants, and after a few days, they began to bring in a steady revenue of 500 gold coins per day. Adding on an average 600 gold coins per day from the equipment shop, Zhao Fu now earned more than 1,000 gold coins per day. What’s more, this was with a shortage of equipment – if he could maintain a stock of equipment, he would be able to continuously earn this much money.

Since the profits were so great, Zhao Fu decided to create a second team to explore the passages in the region of bones. The team composition and skills of the team were the same as the first team: there were Goblin Warriors, Infantry, and Archers, and Zhao Fu supplied them with Holy Light type skills.

What was strange was that Li Wen and his team had not finished exploring even a single passage after such a long time. It was not because Li Wen was incompetent but because the passage was simply too long. Zhao Fu had only found the original passage due to the ground caving in, and part of the passage had been buried. As such, he had no idea just how long the passage was or where it led to.

Now that Zhao Fu had so much money, there were many things for him to consider. The first thing was the matter with the energy stones. It was a pity that he could not find a mine; each of the 3 main cities

controlled a small energy stone mine each, and they were able to produce 300-400 energy stones per day.

Just these energy stones alone would cost a massive amount of money. 1,000 energy stones cost 10,000 gold coins, and who knew how many he would need in the future?

In order to achieve his God-Refining Plan, Zhao Fu decided to go all out. He took with him Snow Fox fur from the Snow Fox that one of his teams had killed in the Forest of Horrors not long ago and headed out.

The Snow Fox was an Elite grade creature. Its fur was as white as snow and incredibly soft, and it did not have any foul smells. It was Blue grade, and if one was to turn it into equipment, it would be worth perhaps 500 or 600 silver coins. However, if it was turned into a luxury item, it would be worth many times more, and it could perhaps be worth thousands of silver coins – such things were liked by rich women.

Zhao Fu took the Snow Fox fur to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Because the largest providers of energy stones were main cities, Zhao Fu directly went to talk to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

The Minister had been paying attention to Zhao Fu's matters over the past few days. Zhao Fu was now quite famous within Holy Light City, and many upper-class members of society mentioned his name. Of course, they weren't interested in his equipment shop because most of them had Gold grade equipment. Rather, they were very much interested in his restaurant. The food there was incredibly eye-catching and mouth-watering, and these upper-class members of society were also humans and had to eat. The Westfall Restaurant's 12 private rooms and 4 VIP rooms were all usually booked out.

As such, the Minister's attitude towards Zhao Fu had greatly changed over the past few days. Now, he no longer acted all high and mighty, and he instead started addressing Zhao Fu as 'brother.' Zhao Fu found out that the Minister's name was Qin Nan, and despite looking very chubby, he was actually a Stage 1 expert.

## **Chapter 62: Heaven Prayer Platform**

"Big brother Qin! This little brother has come to visit you again," Zhao Fu said as he grinned and looked at Qin Nan.

Qin Nan was also quite excited because Zhao Fu would bring gifts every time he came. Qin Nan laughed as he replied, "Brother Zhao, quickly come in!"

Qin Nan enthusiastically received Zhao Fu before asking, "Brother Zhao, what have you come to find me for this time?"

Zhao Fu started off by handing Qin Nan the Snow Fox fur. After accepting it, Qin Nan gently stroked it, and based on how soft it was, he could tell that it was of exquisite quality, making him feel delighted.

Seeing the look on Qin Nan's face, Zhao Fu said, "Big brother Qin, I'd like to buy some energy stones."

Qin Nan lovingly stroked the Snow Fox fur and nodded, asking, "How many would you like to buy?"

“1,000!” Zhao Fu replied.

Qin Nan was given a big fright by the large figure. 1,000 energy stones 10,000 gold coins, so how could Zhao Fu have so much money? However, after thinking about it, he realized that just a few days of revenue from all of his shops would cover that amount of money. Even though Zhao Fu most likely had enough money, Qin Nan still felt quite troubled because it was not easy to obtain such things.

Energy stones were one of the most important and precious items, and many people wanted to buy them. Normally, the main cities only kept a portion of what they mined and sold the rest, which was why there were not that many energy stones in shops.

Qin Nan sank into deep thought before replying, “Brother Zhao, I can sell you 50 energy stones at most each day. Because it isn’t much, I’ll give you a discount and only charge you 8 gold coins for each of them.”

Zhao Fu nodded. If he was able to buy 50 energy stones per day, it would take him 20 days to gather the amount he needed. He was not in a rush to carry out the God-Refining Plan because there were many other things that he needed to prepare and spend his money on.

Seeing Zhao Fu agree, Qin Nan felt quite relieved.

“Big brother Qin, I have some matters to take care of, so I’ll be going now.” After concluding the matter, Zhao Fu decided to leave.

Qin Nan smiled and said, “Brother Zhao, feel free to come over whenever you’re free!”

“Of course, of course!” Zhao Fu replied before leaving.

Right now, Zhao Fu still had 4,680 gold coins. He started to go through the large shops, and even though there were many things that he needed to buy, there were very few things that caught his eye. He bought a pill recipe for Spring Return Pills, which could quickly heal injuries, and a few Silver grade materials. Apart from those things, there was not much else that he was interested in.

After returning to the Great Qin Village, Zhao Fu gave the materials and pill recipe to his subordinates. After taking care of most of the things that required his attention, he thought about his promise to Liu Mei and Asani. As such, he called them over and handed them a large cloak each.

“Liu Mei, you’d better not make any trouble for me. If you do, I won’t agree to any of your requests in the future,” Zhao Fu said to Liu Mei.

“Okay, okay, I understand,” Liu Mei said slightly unhappily. She dragged Zhao Fu off towards the teleportation channel and Asani excitedly ran behind them.

Following this, the 3 of them were sent to Holy Light City. Liu Mei couldn’t help but laugh in excitement when she saw so many people and all sorts of interesting and pretty goods on display, causing many people to look over at her. Zhao Fu nudged her, indicating for her to restrain herself.

This was also the first time that Asani had encountered such a scene, and she couldn’t help but feel excited. However, facing so many people, she couldn’t help but feel scared, and she pulled at Zhao Fu’s cloak.

At this moment, Liu Mei saw a candymaker and excitedly pulled Asani over. Seeing them in such high spirits, Zhao Fu slightly smiled and followed them.

“How much are these?”

Liu Mei asked the player making the candy as she held a mouse made out of candy.

The player was a middle-aged man and also a candymaker in real life. However, his business in the real world was quite mediocre, so he had the idea of bringing his trade into the Heaven Awaken World. Unexpectedly, it was extremely popular, and he earned quite a lot from it.

“That one’s only 3 copper coins,” the candymaker replied.

Liu Mei didn’t have any money on her, so she looked back at Zhao Fu. Zhao Fu understood, and he took out a few copper coins and handed it to the candymaker before telling Asani to choose one as well.

Asani chose a tabby cat shaped candy, and when Asani saw Liu Mei lick her candy, she also extended her little pink tongue and lightly licked the candy. It was quite sweet, making her quite excited. As a result, she couldn’t help but laugh, and her clear and pure laughter made everyone around her feel quite happy as well.

At this moment, Liu Mei discovered something else and pulled Asani over, and Zhao Fu slowly followed behind them.

Afterwards, they bought quite a few things. Liu Mei was then attracted over by a clothing store, and she dragged Asani and Zhao Fu over.

Jiang Rou was in the store, and when she saw three cloaked figures walk in, one of whom she was quite familiar with, she called out, “Zhao Xin!”

Indeed, this clothing shop was the one opened by the Jiang family. Hearing Jiang Rou’s voice, Zhao Fu nodded in response.

Jiang Rou walked over and said happily, “Who would have thought that such a busy person like you would have time to come to my shop!”

“Sorry, there have been many things to take care of, so I haven’t had the chance to visit,” Zhao Fu said apologetically. In actuality, he had never planned to come visit.

At this moment, Jiang Rou noticed that the hand holding onto Zhao Fu’s was clearly not a man’s hand, and she asked curiously, “They are...?”

In response, Zhao Fu decided to reply, “They’re my friends!”

“Hello!” Liu Mei laughed as she greeted Jiang Rou before dragging Asani over to pick out clothes for them.

“Thank you, Zhao Xin, for helping me buy this shop. This has finally given me the opportunity to take a breath and decide my own fate,” Jiang Rou said with sincere gratitude as she gently looked at Zhao Fu.

Zhao Fu knew that even though Jiang Rou was part of the main family, she was the third in her family and would not be able to inherit the Jiang family. As such, her only use was to be a tool to ally the Jiang and Zhou families through marriage.

She clearly did not want to be married to Zhou Jie, but from her family's pressure and Zhou Jie clinging onto her every day, she truly felt as if she could not breathe. Now that she had this shop, she became very valuable to the Jiang family and had more power.

Zhao Fu sympathized with her and lightly shook his head, saying, "It's nothing. The main thing is your Seven Arts Weaving Technique, which has made your business possible."

"I still need to thank you though!" Jiang Rou said determinedly.

Seeing Jiang Rou insist so persistently, he did not say anything. At this moment, Liu Mei pulled him to the side and asked him which outfit looked better. As such, Zhao Fu could only apologize to Jiang Rou and allow himself to be dragged over by Liu Mei.

Following this, with Zhao Fu's help, Liu Mei and Asani chose a few pieces of clothing. Zhao Fu wanted to pay, but Jiang Rou adamantly refused, so Zhao Fu did not insist on it.

Finally, Zhao Fu, Liu Mei, and Asani returned to the Great Qin Village. Liu Mei and Asani were incredibly happy from their outing and felt quite satisfied. Suddenly, a chain of system announcements sounded out in Zhao Fu's mind.

"System announcement! Congratulations, your village has levelled up to an Advanced Village."

"System announcement! Congratulations, you have received the acknowledgment of the heavens and the earth, and the special structure [Heaven Prayer Platform] has been unlocked."

"System announcement! The Great Qin's Nation Fate has awakened, and your people's fates have been blessed."

"System announcement! The Great Qin's Nation Fate has awakened, and you have awakened the dormant Nation Armament."

### **Chapter 63: Azure Dragon Emperor Light**

Zhao Fu did not have time to process those system announcements before a massive explosion sounded out.

BOOM!!

At the center of the Great Qin Village, the City Heart, the violet cube, started to tremble.

It suddenly exploded with a dark light that seemed to devour everything, and it broke through the roof of the Village Hall and shot into the clouds. Even the sky seemed to be pierced by it.

BOOM!!!!

As the black light stabbed into the sky, another shocking explosion sounded out. The black light turned into a black pillar of light, and in that instant, the wind and clouds froze; the sun dimmed; and the black pillar of light gave off a terrifying aura.

The blue sky was dyed black, and black wisps of air started to rise from the ground.

The black wisps of air looked like long dragons and shined with a crystalline light. After rising from the ground, they ascended towards the sky. All of Great Qin's villagers seemed to be drawn innately to this spectacle, and they started to kneel on the ground. Bai Qi and Li Si were no exception, and they too kneeled on the ground with an emotional look in their eyes.

Black clouds started to slowly form in the sky, forming a cloud layer that covered the surrounding 1,000-kilometer radius area. Those black clouds were not the same as normal thunderclouds. They were a pure black color and gave off a black light that seemed to want to devour everything.

From a distance, it seemed as if the entire sky was covered by those black clouds. One couldn't help but feel as if apocalyptic lightning was about to descend, making one's hairs stand on end and fear to take root in one's heart.

All living creatures under the sky felt an aura of suppression, and it was as if their hearts were grasped by a pair of large hands, making it difficult for them to breathe.

"ROARRRRR!" Suddenly, the powerful cry of a dragon sounded out, shaking the heavens and the earth. A berserk and domineering black dragon appeared amidst the black grounds, giving off the airs of an emperor.

A pure-looking woman in white in Holy Light City, a man donned in armor in Soldier Forest, an elder in a green robe in Demon Tree City, and a 1,000-metre-long flood dragon with dark scales and 6 blood-red eyes in the depths of the Forest of Horrors all stared into the distance with surprise at where Zhao Fu was.

At other places, Great Xia's Legatee, Si Ji; Great Shang's Legatee, Di Wutian; Great Zhou's Legatee, Ji Shenming; and Great Han's Legatee, Liu Ye, also stared in Zhao Fu's direction with surprise.

At this moment, above the Great Qin Village, a massive, savage dragonhead within the black clouds slowly emerged, and it gave off an overbearing and domineering intent as it looked down at Zhao Fu.

Everything had happened incredibly quickly, and Zhao Fu was at a loss as to what was going on. However, he realized that this was the Great Qin's true Legacy – this was Great Qin receiving the acknowledgment of the heavens and the earth.

Zhao Fu lightly breathed out and closed his eyes, slowly spreading out his hands. A dark-gold robe with dragons embroidered on it slowly descended from the sky and lightly fell on his body. A dark-gold dragon crown also appeared and descended onto his head.

As all of this happened, bricks started to appear beneath his feet, slowly raising him up until a stone platform that was 18 meters tall and 9 meters wide appeared beneath him.

Zhao Fu was in the center of the platform with his eyes slightly closed. With his arms spread out and the black-gold dragon robe and the black-gold dragon crown on him, he gave off the airs of an Emperor.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The sound of 12 swords clanging together suddenly sounded out, and it seemed to tear through the clouds, giving off a shocking aura. A tempest started brewing from this aura, and it spread out from the Great Qin Village. It seemed as if a disaster was about to occur, and sand and stones were blown into the air, destroying countless trees.

At this moment, 12 gigantic bronze men appeared in the sky, and each of them was around 100 meters tall. Their gazes were cold and all of them held a sword that pointed towards the sky, giving off boundless killing intent. The air in the surrounding 100-kilometer radius area seemed to freeze, and countless living creatures started to tremble.

At this moment, a multicolored light shined as the savage black dragon flew downwards and entered Zhao Fu's body.

Immediately, a powerful aura exploded out from Zhao Fu's body. This aura was filled with dignity, might, and a domineering sense that he controlled everything under the heavens.

Under this mighty aura, Liu Mei and Asani, who were next to the stone platform, knelt down, pressing their foreheads against the ground. Their faces were incredibly pale, and their bodies trembled – they had never felt such fear before, and it was as if they had been pushed to the boundary between life and death. As the saying went, 'A commoner's fury results in blood splattering five feet; the Son of Heaven's fury results in corpses for a hundred miles.' This was the majesty of an Emperor.

Luckily, this aura gradually disappeared and the abnormal sign in the sky also vanished. Only then were Liu Mei and Asani able to relax, their bodies covered with sweat as they powerlessly lay on the ground. The 12 bronze giants turned into 12 bronze lights before flying over to Zhao Fu and reappearing as 12 small bronze figures that floated around him.

On the stone platform, Zhao Fu slowly opened his eyes. A dark light flashed within them, and Zhao Fu's appearance slightly changed. Now, there was a hint of majesty in his youthful looks.

In Holy Light City, Soldier Forest, and Demon Tree City, the three people's gazes became serious, and they stared into the distance silently for a while. The 1,000-metre-long flood dragon also looked away and lay on the ground again. However, it felt quite uncomfortable and slightly shifted, moving away from where the Great Qin Village was.

Si Ji, Di Wutian, Ji Shenming, and Liu Ye's blood became restless, and a sense of fear assaulted their hearts. All of them understood that a powerful competitor had appeared. They had upgraded their villages to Advanced Villages not too long ago and received their true legacies. Even though they did not have as many subordinates who were native to the Heaven Awaken World as Zhao Fu, they still had many players supporting them.

Other Legatees had raised their villages to Advanced Villages and obtained their true legacies, but they hadn't made the four of them feel such fear before. All four of them realized that the only person who could bring them such fear and pressure was the Great Qin's Legatee, who had remained hidden this entire time.

Needless to say, Great Qin was one of the most powerful and warlike empires. It destroyed the other States and concluded 500 or so years of war, unifying all of China.

From the Fates of the empires, Great Xia represented the first Chinese dynasty, so its Fate was represented as a Golden Divine Dragon Light; Great Shang was famous for its divine sacrifices, so its Fate was represented by an Azure Dragon Emperor Light; Great Zhou divided and conferred different parts of China, so its Fate was represented by a Nine-Headed Dragon Light; and Great Han governed by Confucian principles, so its Fate was represented by an auspicious and gentle Yellow Dragon Light. On the other hand, Great Qin was warlike and domineering, so its Fate was represented by a Black Gold Dragon Light.

Perhaps someone in later times also had a Black Gold Dragon Light and achieved great things in chaotic times, but that person's simply couldn't be compared to Great Qin's Black Gold Dragon Light.

Regarding Nation Armaments, they were items created through massive Nation Fates and enormous populations. The Great Xia Dynasty had the [Nine Province Cauldrons], which could suppress Fates under the heavens; the Great Shang Dynasty had the [Star Plucking Tower], which could allow it to observe the stars; the Great Zhou Dynasty had the [Investiture of the Gods], which could be used to manage and bestow titles on subordinates; and the Great Han Dynasty had the [White Emperor Sword], which could slay divine dragons.

Only Great Qin's [Twelve Metal Colossi] were armaments forged from the gathering of soldiers and soldiers' killing intent.

## **Chapter 64: Mountains Of Corpses**

The four other Legatees couldn't help but fear Great Qin. Before, they had been somewhat happy that Great Qin's Legatee had not received the support of Great Qin because they thought that his or her development had been far slower than theirs. However, it seemed that they had been wrong: Great Qin had already started to bare its fangs at them, making them feel an incredible sense of pressure.

The four Legatees stared off into the distance, unable to calm down for a long time.

Within Holy Light City, He Xianru stood on the third floor of the Westfall Restaurant and looked into the distance. A violet light flashed in her eyes momentarily before she lowered her head. She saw that there was a trace of an aura around her that was invisible to the naked eye – the aura was black and looked like a dragon. He Xianru understood what this meant, and a faint smile appeared on her face.

.....

Zhao Fu opened his eyes and opened his stats page because he seemed to have received a title.

[Great Qin Emperor]: The Legatee of the Great Qin Empire and has the blessing of the Nation Fate.

After looking at the description, Zhao Fu still felt quite confused about 'Fate'. He looked himself over and saw the black gold dragon robe and black gold dragon crown. It seemed that they were not pieces of equipment because the system announcement had said that they were created from his Fate.

[Great Qin – Black Gold Dragon Embroidered Robe]: Can only be worn by the Great Qin’s Legatee, and it is the symbol of sovereignty.

[Great Qin – Black Gold Dragon Crown]: Can only be worn by the Great Qin’s Legatee, and it is the symbol of sovereignty.

The items only had descriptions, and they didn’t have stats. Afterwards, Zhao Fu looked at the little bronze men floating around him. He stretched out his hand, and they all flew towards him by themselves.

[Twelve Metal Colossi] (White grade): An armament forged by countless soldiers that can suppress a Nation’s Fate. (Note: Do not use it easily, as using the Twelve Metal Colossi consumes a great amount of Fate each time. However, it can be upgraded through obtaining a great amount of Fate).

It was Fate again. It seemed that Zhao Fu needed to increase his understanding of Fate in the future. Zhao Fu thought for a moment before looking at the stone platform beneath him.

[Heaven Prayer Platform]: A special structure of an Empire Legacy Village. It can level up with a village. Special Stats: Resistance to natural disasters +30%, Chances of spawning S grade or above villagers +15%.

The Heaven Prayer Platform was most likely something that would only appear in villages with an empire’s Legacy. It would be impossible for villages with the Legacies of normal families to have such a thing. It gave two important stats: resistance to natural disasters and better spawn rates.

There were many natural disasters. In the real world, there were droughts, floods, snowstorms, famines, and more. Right now, everything seemed quite calm, but it was difficult to say what could happen in the future. As such, the resistance to natural disasters would help greatly.

The second stat increased the spawn rate of S grade and above villagers. This was a stat that Zhao Fu greatly lacked. After all, the Great Qin Village had not spawned a single S grade villager yet. It was evident just how rare S grade villagers were.

After looking at these stats, Zhao Fu slowly walked down the Heaven Prayer Platform. Since it was his first time wearing the Dragon Robe and Dragon Crown, he was not very used to it.

After walking down the steps and seeing Liu Mei and Asani on the ground, he quickly went to help them up and gently asked them, “Are you hurt?”

Liu Mei and Asani shook their heads, but their faces were still pale. They still had not recovered from experiencing the terrifying might of an Emperor.

“Congratulations, Your Majesty! Felicitations, Your Majesty! You’ve obtained a Fate Legacy!” Li Si and a group of people came out with big smiles on their faces. They paid their respects to Zhao Fu before he could even speak.

Zhao Fu also slightly smiled and nodded before instructing them to take Liu Mei and Asani to rest. He went to the Village Hall and looked at the City Heart. After stretching out his hand, the Twelve Metal Colossi automatically flew to the City Heart’s side.

Seeing this, Zhao Fu returned to the real world and searched up 'Fate.' He found that it was linked to one's destiny and life.

The ancient text 'Curtailling Excursions Essay' noted, "I feel blessed by the harmony of Fate; I delight in the outcome of the work of time. Fate is luck, and luck is Fate." The author of the 'Dream Pool Essays' stated, "In smaller matters, like a person's health and lifespan, he or she will become stronger or weaker according to his or her Fate."

These ancient texts were expressing that one's circumstances, whether it was someone of noble birth or a commoner or if it was a single person or an entire nation, was dependent on his or her Fate. This profound and mysterious concept decided the destiny of a person or a country. When one's Fate was strong, everything would go smoothly for him or her; when it was weak, even simple matters would become near-impossible.

After coming to this understanding, Zhao Fu realised how important Fate was. Even though Fate may have been quantified in the Heaven Awaken World, it was still something that truly existed – it was something that was always close to him but could not be touched.

After reading up on Fate, Zhao Fu went onto the Heaven Awaken World forum to see if there was any news. He found that a power that had remained silent this entire time, which had been watched by countless factions, had finally started moving. It was modern China.

In terms of Legacies, the Legacy of modern China could not be compared to even that of a large family's. After all, those from large families could at least obtain a blue cube from their ancestor's Legacy. However, modern countries were unable to obtain any legacies.

Things were not too bad for modern China because there were others in worse states. For example, the United States had only been around for 200 or so years and was a relatively newer country. As such, it did not have any Legacies within the Heaven Awaken World. Most countries had long histories, so they could inherit some ancient Legacies.

In terms of Legacies, the United States, which was a modern superpower, suddenly became one of the weakest factions. In the real world, the United States madly used money to buy anything it could use to barely keep themselves afloat in the Heaven Awaken World.

Among the modern countries, the one that was doing the best was modern China. After all, much of the world's development during ancient times was due to China, and it was only during recent times that China had gradually fallen behind. As such, it could be said that China was the strongest battle region in the Heaven Awaken World.

In actuality, China had been split by countless large families, but China's backbone still existed. In terms of Legacies, it could not compare to a large family's, but in terms of resources, there was no family that could compare to it.

China did not care about what happened in the Heaven Awaken World, but it required everyone to maintain order in the real world. All the various factions did their best to comply with this because it was not in anyone's interests for the real world to descend into chaos as well.

As such, China seemed to ignore the Heaven Awaken World, but this was not necessarily the case. There seemed to be signs of China's military appearing here and there – this was clearly China developing in the Heaven Awaken World in secret, and its might was shocking.

China had wanted to develop in secret, allowing the large families to fight each other to the death before destroying them all and establishing modern China in the Heaven Awaken World. However, China had never expected that it would be discovered so quickly.

One of the higher-ranked generals made a statement about patriotism, supporting one's country, and creating a peaceful future.

"A peaceful future?" Zhao Fu couldn't help but laugh. Such a thing was impossible in the Heaven Awaken World. The future would only be filled with chaotic fighting, death, rivers of blood, and mountains of corpses.

### **Chapter 65: Corpse Examination**

After looking through these things on the forum, Zhao Fu ordered for some food to be brought to him. Now that he was Ying Xi's pawn, he had gained many benefits. In order to ensure his safety, he did not even have to go outside, nor did he have to worry about poison because there were strict systems in place to prevent food from being poisoned.

After eating, Zhao Fu returned to the Heaven Awaken World.

He was just in time to see today's villagers spawn. At the Origin, a golden light flashed as a system announcement congratulated him for spawning an SS grade villager. Zhao Fu was delighted and quickly went to look at that villager.

The Great Qin Village was now an Advanced Village, and it spawned between 45-50 people per day. The SS grade villager was a fair-skinned youth.

Name: Xia Ming

Grade: SS

Title: None

Profession: [Merchant]

Achievement Points: Commoner (0/200)

Race: Human

Age: 22 (100)

Loyalty: 80

Stats: Strength: 6, Intelligence: 10, Constitution: 8, Agility: 7

Cultivation: Stage 0

Cultivation Technique:

Skills: [Management]

Equipment: Coarse Cloth Clothes, Cloth Shoes, Coarse Cloth Pants

After looking through his stats, Zhao Fu chatted with the new villager for a while. Even though Xia Ming's stats weren't suited for the army, he was skilled at business management. At the same time, he was also a Merchant and had the [Management] skill, so he would be able to manage Zhao Fu's businesses for him in the future.

Business was booming for all of Zhao Fu's businesses in the main cities, but he was incredibly busy and lacked managerial experience, so it had become quite a mess for him. He decided to hand these businesses to Xia Ming to manage; he should be able to take good care of them.

The first high-grade villager that the Great Qin Village had spawned was SS grade, not S grade. Perhaps it was because the Great Qin Village had not spawned an S grade or above villager this entire time, and now that he had unlocked the Nation Fate and the Heaven Prayer Platform, the Great Qin Village had finally spawned an SS grade villager.

Following this, Bai Shan came over with an excited look on his face to report that they had finished researching the Corpse Examination skill.

“Is this the benefit of 'Fate?' So many lucky things have happened in such a short period of time.” Zhao Fu was overjoyed and followed Bai Shan to the Research Workshop, and when he arrived, he saw that there was a new stone stele.

Zhao Fu put his hand on it and obtained the F grade skill [Corpse Examination].

After learning the skill, Zhao Fu used it on a dead chicken nearby.

“System announcement! You have successfully used Corpse Examination. The grade of this corpse is F grade.”

This proved that the Corpse Examination skill truly worked. Because of this, the Great Qin Village's development would be greatly enhanced in the future. Zhao Fu planned to nurture many high-grade soldiers for the future. Zhao Fu couldn't help but lightly laugh when he thought about his soldiers sweeping across battlefields completely unhindered.

Seeing how happy Zhao Fu looked, Bai Shan also felt quite ecstatic. He then asked, “Your Majesty, what would you like us to research next?”

Zhao Fu thought about it and decided to have them research languages. He currently had subordinates of many different races, and there would be more joining him in the future. Because they all spoke different languages, communication was quite a hassle, so Zhao Fu wanted them to research languages to help with communication between races.

Bai Shan obeyed and went to start working.

Zhao Fu did not stick around and left the Research Workshop. He suddenly realized that he had not yet looked at the Great Qin Village's stats after it became an Advanced Village, so he went to the Village Hall.

Village Name: Great Qin Village (Legendary)

Level: Advanced (340/150,000)

Village Area: 15 square kilometers.

Village Territory: 750 square kilometers.

Residents: 8,950/36,000

Military: 4,340/12,000

Popular Support: 80

Village Special Stats: Territory Crop Output +50%, Territory Crop Growing Time -50%, Population Limit +30%, Residents' stats can randomly +3, Soldiers' stats +3%, Population Attraction +40%, chances of attracting higher grade population +40%

Subsidiary Village Limit: 24

Subordinate Villages: Logue Village, Jean Village, Dorun Village, Li Family Village, Wolf Village, Ferocious Tiger Village...

Its stats had once again risen like how they had after the Great Qin Village became an Intermediate Village, but the number of Subsidiary Villages increased by 3 times to a total of 24 villages.

Zhao Fu already had 20 villages, and over the past few days, his two teams had continued exploring the Forest of Horrors and had conquered another four Basic Villages, so he had exactly 24 villages now.

However, the EXP required to level up an Advanced Village to a Town was simply terrifying. It required 150,000 EXP.

Zhao Fu rose to Third-Ranked Baron a while ago and had the right to control a Town. Now, it seemed that it would still be a long before he would have a Town. Moreover, leveling up from Third-Ranked Baron to Second-Ranked Baron required 3,000 Achievement Points.

Zhao Fu temporarily called back his two exploration teams. He reorganized them and expanded them to have 2,000 members each. He gave them the Corpse Examination skill, and he also gave each of the generals a spatial ring to bring back many corpses.

Of course, they would not bring back corpses with ordinary grades. Since S grade and above corpses were quite rare, Zhao Fu decided that the minimum would be grade A.

Today was also the day for harvesting Little Spirit Grass. Because they had obtained more and more people, the rate at which they had planted Little Spirit Grass had also greatly increased.

After harvesting all of the Little Spirit Grass, they refined more than 90,000 Little Spirit Pills. Each of the 4,000 or so soldiers received 20 or so Little Spirit Pills for the month. Since the area devoted to Little

Spirit Grass was rapidly increasing, it seemed that everyone would be able to obtain at least 20 Little Spirit Pills every month.

Now, Zhao Fu truly understood the importance of Fate – everything went incredibly smoothly, and he had never felt so lucky before.

After dealing with all of the matters in the Great Qin Village, Zhao Fu took Xia Ming to Holy Light City and gave him the authority to manage all of his businesses.

“Your Majesty, congratulations on obtaining the Fate of Heaven and Earth,” a voice said to Zhao Fu while he was walking around to see what he could find.

Zhao Fu frowned and turned around to look at He Xianru, who still gave off a mysterious aura, and asked, “How did you know about this?”

He Xianru lightly smiled as she replied, “Your Majesty, have you forgotten already that this lowly one is skilled at Yin Yang Techniques? Of course, I would know of such a thing.”

Zhao Fu realized that she had most likely seen the Fate about him and nodded before saying, “In the future, don’t call me ‘Your Majesty’ in public – call me ‘boss’ or by my name!”

He Xianru did not mind Zhao Fu’s wariness and smiled as she replied, “I’ll just call you ‘Zhao’ then. Also, if there’s anything you don’t understand about ‘Fate,’ you can ask this lowly one to explain it to you.”

Zhao Fu thought about it for a moment. Since He Xianru seemed to understand some Yin Yang Techniques, he could ask her about it in the future. As such, he nodded and said happily, “Alright, I’ll have to trouble you in the future then.”

Seeing Zhao Fu start to warm up towards her, He Xianru inwardly felt delighted. She smiled before hurrying back to the kitchen and getting to work.

Zhao Fu went out to the street and walked around. From this, he obtained some important news. There was a large Merchant Alliance in the Forest of Horrors, and it was going to hold an auction tomorrow. It was said that there were many valuable goods, and it was rumored that there would even be Gold grade equipment – just those things were able to attract countless gazes. After all, this was the first time that a piece of Gold grade equipment would be displayed to so many people.

## **Chapter 66: Alliance of the Six States**

Almost all of the player factions were gathering money in anticipation for this auction, and of course, Zhao Fu was interested as well. He had a massive amount of money but had nowhere to spend it, and there were many things that he wanted to buy. However, Zhao Fu was not interested in anything sold in shops, so he would definitely participate in this auction. As such, he also started to make preparations.

The day passed quite quickly, and soon, Zhao Fu brought Bai Qi and went to a massive building. This was the Auction House of the Red Flower Merchant Alliance.

The Red Flower Merchant Alliance was undoubtedly the largest Merchant Alliance in the Forest of Horrors, and it had countless assets in the three main cities. In fact, its reach spread to even beyond the

Forest of Horrors, and its background was quite profound. Even Qin Nan warned Zhao Fu not to offend it.

The outside of the Auction House was crowded with people, and after hearing the 8 guards say that the entrance fee was 1 gold coin, countless players felt an ache in their hearts. 1 gold coin was equivalent to 10,000 copper coins, which was equivalent to \$100,000 in the real world. This caused many of the ordinary players to dispel any thoughts of going in and even taking a look.

The Auction House was big enough to accommodate thousands of people, so it had already earned thousands of gold coins just by holding this auction.

Zhao Fu brought along Bai Qi and paid 2 gold coins before walking in, attracting the admiration of many people in the crowd. The Auction House was about 1,500 square meters in area. Apart from the main hall on the first floor, there were private rooms on the second floor, VIP rooms on the third floor, and Sovereign rooms on the fourth floor.

There were 24 white, glowing gemstones embedded into the ceiling so that it was not dark at all inside the Auction House; instead, it seemed as bright as day.

The first, second, and third floors were open to everyone, but the fourth floor was only available to the truly powerful and influential figures, so most players didn't even think about going there. Zhao Fu did not have any dealings with the Red Flower Merchant Alliance, so he, of course, did not have a VIP card. However, he could at least pay some money to buy a private room.

The Auction Hall was currently packed with people. There were players and fairly well-off residents. It was chaotic with so many people in an enclosed space, and with everyone talking amongst themselves, it was quite noisy. Zhao Fu wanted to spend some money to hire a private room, but it was a pity that they were all full. As such, he could only ask if there were any VIP rooms, but they were also full. Zhao Fu was dumbfounded – there were that many powerful and rich people here? He felt the feeling of having money but no place to go, and he could only resign himself to pushing through the crowd. When he saw the iron-wall like crowd, he couldn't help but sigh and start to squeeze through.

"Fudge! What are you squeezing in for, you poor sod?" the player in front of him cursed just as Zhao Fu started pushing through.

"I..." Zhao Fu was speechless. He most likely had more money than everyone in this crowd combined, but he had been taken to be someone who had no money and had just come to watch a good show.

Bai Qi's expression became cold. Even though he wasn't sure what that player meant, he could tell that he was insulting Zhao Fu. Just as he was planning to teach him a lesson, Zhao Fu grabbed Bai Qi – Zhao Fu didn't want to cause any trouble, so he and Bai Qi went to a corner at the edge of the crowd.

Following this, a beautiful, alluring woman in a red dress walked onto the stage and announced that the auction had officially begun.

The first item was an Exquisite Blue grade weapon. It was a large saber that gave three stat points and had a reserve price of 800 silver coins.

As soon as the beautiful woman announced the reserve price, someone immediately shouted, "900 silver coins!"

In the next second, someone outbid him, and was, in turn, immediately outbid by someone else. The price of this Exquisite Blue grade weapon continued to climb until it was finally sold for 3,800 silver coins.

In the end, it was sold for more than what ordinary Silver grade weapons would have sold for. This high price caused the atmosphere within the Auction Hall to become more intense, and everyone started to feel more excited.

Of course, Zhao Fu was disinterested in this item, so he did not participate. Everyone who shouted out bids was on the first floor, and there was no noise at all from the second, third, and fourth floors.

Following this, a bottle was brought up, and it contained some kind of medicinal pill. The beautiful woman's hips swayed as she walked, and she took this item to the center of the stage. Her mature curves were barely hidden by her red dress, and the large patch of white flesh on her chest caused many people to cry out and whistle. After everyone settled down, she said, "This is a bottle of Little Spirit Pills, which can increase cultivation speed by 200%. There are 50 pills in this bottle, and the reserve price is 2,500 silver coins."

"3,000 silver coins!" someone yelled.

Zhao Fu's people had already refined over 90,000 Little Spirit Pills, so, of course, he was not interested in that either. Seeing everyone shouting out prices, there started to be some interest from the second floor. In the end, the bottle of Little Spirit Pills was sold for 6,000 silver coins.

Following this, the third item was brought up – it was a blueprint.

"This is a blueprint for forging Everlight Armour, a Blue grade armor. Reserve price is 4,000 silver coins!" the beautiful woman announced.

Zhao Fu had long since obtained something similar for free. After conquering Rhode Village, his people had been able to forge Blue grade armor.

Many people started to fight over the blueprint. There were many people on the second floor who were interested in this blueprint, and those on the first floor could only stand by and watch. In the end, it was mainly those from the second floor who were bidding, and the price soon reached 10,000 silver coins.

Zhao Fu could tell that most of the people bidding from the second floor were players – residents did not value the blueprint at all. Zhao Fu could have easily bought the blueprint to deny others from obtaining it, but after seeing how intense the scene became, he realized that he would draw too much hatred.

As such, Zhao Fu did not participate – first, this was not something he lacked, and second, since he did not have the strength to destroy others, he could not afford to be hated. If he was viewed with enmity and seen as a threat by everyone else, he would be doomed. After all, many heroes throughout history had died from a pack of wolves. There were no benefits to making enemies.

Zhao Fu did not dare to think that he was the main character of the world simply because he had run into some good luck. There were countless 'main characters' in the world, and although a strong person could take on 2 or 3 people, how could someone defeat 30 or so people? Zhao Fu was not like an overpowered main character from a novel who could mock everyone he met and still be fine.

In reality, if someone did such a thing, that person would have long since been buried in his or her grave, and that person's enemies would come and trample on his or her grave, mocking him or her for his or her stupidity.

Of course, Zhao Fu did not fear anyone; however, it was not the right time to burn bridges yet. Sometimes, revealing one's strength too early was detrimental.

Back then, the State of Qin had been incredibly powerful, and it didn't retreat when facing the Alliance of the Six States. In the end, it had to let go of its pride and keep its enemies close, destroying the alliance. Since ancient times, those who laughed at the end were not necessarily the strongest.

This blueprint would definitely benefit whoever obtained it, but it was only a Blue grade blueprint and was not very rare. Even if he denied someone from obtaining this blueprint, there would still be many other people who would still be able to obtain blueprints, and he would not be able to stop them.

Moreover, if a faction became too powerful, Zhao Fu could pretend to be weak and ally with others to attack that faction. In the end, development was the true priority, not showing off.

### **Chapter 67: Six Wood Absolute Barrier**

Among those competing for the blueprint, apart from the six large families and the three main player factions, there were two other unknown factions who were participating.

The price of the blueprint became higher and higher, and soon, it reached 24,000 silver coins.

Within a private room, a few people were sitting around a table. One of them was Jiang Rou, and there was also a young man a few years older than her sitting next to her. The man was Jiang Feng, her eldest brother and the successor of the Jiang family.

"The Jiang family must obtain this blueprint. Luckily, Rou'Er has her clothing store; otherwise, we wouldn't dare to make such a high bid," Jiang Feng said as he grinned at Jiang Rou.

Jiang Rou lightly nodded her head and did not say anything in response. Even though they were brother and sister, their relationship was quite distant, and within the entire family, the only person who she was on good terms with was her second brother.

When Jiang Rou was told to marry Zhou Jie, her second brother had opposed it – he knew what sort of person that Zhou Jie was and knew that Jiang Rou would live a miserable life if she married him. However, the eldest brother had not only not opposed it, but he had also tried to persuade Jiang Rou to marry Zhou Jie. He tried to do this by telling her to sacrifice a bit and to think of the family.

This was because Jiang Feng was the successor of the Jiang family, and if his little sister married into the Zhou family, their families would come together through a marriage alliance. This would be of great benefit to him in the future – after all, he was quite ambitious, and he did not just want to be a member of a large family. Rather, he wanted to one day become a king, and he was willing to sacrifice his little sister to do it.

The bidding was completely dominated by the Jiang family, causing the other factions to feel quite glum.

Within a private room, the Zhou family's successor, Zhou Ming, coldly said, "The Jiang family isn't giving the Zhou family any face at all."

If it was in the real world and these factions were competing so intensely over something, they may have yelled something at each other. However, they were nothing in front of the system's factions – yelling at each other would make them look like clowns in front of those factions.

As such, they suppressed the fury in their hearts and did not say anything.

In the end, the blueprint's price rose to 32,000 silver coins. Within a private room, there were two men sitting with their backs incredibly straight against their chairs, and they gave off the airs of military men. Both of them looked incredibly serious and were part of one of the two mysterious factions. One of the two men, a young man, looked at the other man and asked, "Captain, should we continue to bid?"

The 'captain' let out a long sigh and said, "This price is too high; let's forget about it. We won't be able to compete against the Jiang family."

The young man nodded and did not continue to bid.

In another room, a middle-aged man with a small beard and a youth playing with all kinds of wooden objects were sitting together. They were the second of the mysterious factions, and when the middle-aged man heard the price, he also decided to give up.

The other factions were of the same mind. In the end, the Jiang family obtained the blueprint, and Jiang Feng let out a breath of relief. He was not just worried about the pressure from the other large families – he had been praying that a certain person would not act. Even though the Jiang family now had more money than all of the other families, what they had was nothing compared to that person's wealth.

Jiang Feng had been filled with anxiousness from the beginning to the end, and he had been praying that the person would not be interested in the blueprint. Only when the blueprint had been sold to him was he able to finally relax.

The other factions were quite displeased that the Jiang family had been able to obtain the blueprint, but they were also quite curious as to why that person had not participated in the bidding. He had definitely come to such a large auction, and he was most likely sitting in a VIP room.

Who would have thought that Zhao Fu was not in a VIP room or even a private room? He was within the crowd on the first floor being squashed to death.

All of the factions wondered why Zhao Fu had not bid on the blueprint. With his wealth, he should have been able to easily outbid all of them and suppress them, yet he had not made a single bid. Some of the factions decided that Zhao Fu was trying to be friendly with them, and their enmity towards Zhao Fu slightly lessened.

The fourth item up for auction was a skill book, which Zhao Fu was not interested in. The skill book was sold for 6,000 silver coins in the end.

Zhao Fu was not interested in the fifth, sixth, or seventh items either, so he did not participate. The eighth item was a Superior quality Silver grade material and had a reserve price of 3,000 silver coins.

Everyone started to bid for it, and Zhao Fu had a slight interest in it. Just as he was about to make a bid, a girl next to him, who looked around 17 years old, made a bid, saying, “8,000 silver coins!”

The young girl was quite short, but she was cute-looking and had a sweet voice. Zhao Fu looked over at her and decided to give up on the material. The Silver grade material was not worth that much – after all, normal Silver grade materials cost around 5,000 or 6,000 silver coins, and only Exquisite quality Silver grade materials were worth 8,000 silver coins. Moreover, even if he had made a bid, with how that girl had just outbid the previous person by 5,000 silver coins, the price might go up to 20,000 or 30,000 silver coins in the end.

Zhao Fu was a rational person, so he decided to give up on the material. In the end, the Silver grade material was sold to the girl.

The next few items did not attract Zhao Fu’s interest at all. However, some people from the VIP rooms started to make bids, and they were abnormally intense with their bidding.

The twentieth item was 6 wooden sticks that were all 2 meters long. The wooden sticks were slightly white, and both ends were quite sharp. There were many runes carved onto the wooden sticks, making them look quite extraordinary.

The beautiful woman started to introduce them, saying, “Six Wood Absolute Barrier, an advanced barrier formation that can seal all spatial equipment and skills, including teleportation channels.”

Zhao Fu became quite excited. He had been thinking about the God-Refining Plan, and he had considered the possibility of the clone of the godly spirit escaping. As such, he wanted to prepare a barrier.

Right now, normal barrier formations were useless to most people, but they would be useful in city battles in the future. They could make it so that one’s enemies would not be able to use their teleportation channels, and although they were fairly cheap to him, around 20,000 silver coins, Zhao Fu was not interested in ordinary barrier formations. However, the Six Wood Absolute Barrier caused his eyes to light up.

The reserve price for the Six Wood Absolute Barrier was 180,000 silver coins. It was useless to most people right now, and for most of them, even if they sold everything, they would not be able to afford it. Even the system’s factions weren’t very interested in the item.

As such, the appearance of this item caused the atmosphere to die down, and seeing this, the beautiful woman inwardly sighed, “\_This item hasn’t been auctioned off even after several auctions. The reserve price of 300,000 silver coins has already been reduced to 180,000 silver coins, and from their reactions, it looks like this price will continue to go down, or we’ll be forced to just keep it in the Storehouse.”\_

“Would anyone like to make a bid?”

The beautiful woman asked this twice, but she was met with silence. Just as she was about to disappointedly call people up to take the wooden sticks away, someone finally spoke.

“180,500 silver coins!”

The speaker's soft voice was extremely loud in the silent auction house, causing discussions to break out. Everyone looked over to see who was willing to spend so much money for something so useless.

## **Chapter 68: Heavencraft Ink Eyes**

Everyone looked at the corner on the first floor, where a cloaked figure was standing. It was Zhao Fu who had made the bid of 180,500 silver coins.

The cute young girl by Zhao Fu's side also stared at Zhao Fu with wide eyes filled with curiosity.

After becoming the center of attention, Zhao Fu continued to stand there calmly. After receiving the Fate Legacy, his mental state had greatly changed as well.

When many people heard his voice and saw his attire, they were able to guess his identity. They couldn't help but sigh – he was indeed quite a wealthy man. At the same time, they felt quite confused – why was such a grand figure squeezing in with everyone down on the first floor? They could only inwardly think, “\_The way rich people think is quite different.\_”

There were also quite a lot of people who did not know who this cloaked figure was, so they asked the people around them to sate their curiosity.

Many of the player factions started to feel nervous when they saw that Zhao Fu had finally started bidding. No player faction had the resources to bid over 180,000 silver coins on a single item.

Jiang Rou revealed a trace of a smile and left the private room when she heard Zhao Fu's voice. Jiang Feng did not stop her, and he also smiled. Zhao Fu was definitely more powerful than the Zhou family.

The beautiful woman couldn't help but charmingly smile and say, “This sir has made a bid of 180,500 silver coins. Would anyone else like to make a bid? If not, the Six Wood Absolute Barrier will go to this sir.”

No one else made a bid – who else could afford 180,000 silver coins? The system's factions were not very interested in this item either, so Zhao Fu obtained it easily.

“Zhao Xin!” Jiang Rou walked to the first floor and smiled as she called out his name.

Zhao Fu turned to look at Jiang Rou and nodded. She walked over to his side and started to chat with him.

In a private room, Zhou Ming's gaze became cold upon seeing this. The marriage between Zhou Jie and Jiang Rou wasn't something that had been formally settled by their families, and it had been something privately agreed on. Seeing Jiang Rou act so warmly to another person, wasn't this simply slapping the Zhou family on the face?

Moreover, Zhou Ming understood what the Jiang family was trying to convey when Jiang Feng had not given them any face when obtaining the blueprint. Even though he was furious, he endured it because he understood the situation. Right now, his side was the weaker side, so if their families started to fight, with many wolves watching from the sidelines, it would only be detrimental to the Zhou family.

Following this, another item was brought up. It was another bottle, and the beautiful woman introduced it, saying, “These are [Explosive Spirit Pills], a Stage 3 medicinal pill that can cause all of one’s power to explode out. However, the side effect is that the user will feel weak for the next few days. There are 20 Explosive Spirit Pills in this bottle, and the reserve price is 80,000 silver coins.”

Many people were quite interested because those pills could be used as a last-resort to save their lives. However, they were not things that could be bought by ordinary players, and it was mostly the system’s factions bidding over it. In the end, it was bought by Zhao Fu for 120,000 silver coins.

In just a few minutes, Zhao Fu had spent 300,000 silver coins. Seeing how relaxed Zhao Fu seemed, the players around him were incredibly shocked.

Following this, an A- grade skill, Holy Ring Light, was brought up. It could summon 7 angelic rings of light to attack, and it had a reserve price of 200,000 silver coins.

This skill drew many people’s attention. Just from its A- grade alone, it was not something that ordinary people could possess, and the ‘7 angelic rings of light’ sounded quite powerful.

The main people competing over it were those from the VIP rooms. The people in the private rooms and on the first floor could not join in at all, and they could only excitedly watch those grand figures fight over it.

The price of the Holy Ring Light continued to climb, and soon, it reached 320,000 silver coins. People started to gradually drop out from the competition, but there were still 5 people vigorously fighting over it. By now, it had reached 400,000 silver coins.

Hearing this price, everyone present gulped.

“Zhao Xin! Who do you think will obtain this skill?” Jiang Rou asked Zhao Fu in curiosity and excitement.

Zhao Fu smiled and said, “450,000 silver coins!”

Jiang Rou stared in shock, and it took her a few seconds to realize that Zhao Fu was making a bid, and he had outbid the previous person by 50,000 silver coins.

As Zhao Fu made this bid, countless people on the first floor looked towards him again, silently thinking, “\_This person is far too rich. He already spent 300,000 silver coins before, and now he’s bidding 450,000 silver coins. What a godly tycoon! It’s possible that even all of the player factions combined aren’t as rich as him.\_”

Within the private rooms, the various large families and factions stared at Zhao Fu on the first floor and felt incredibly powerless.

Jiang Feng’s smile became brighter. By now, he had already given up on the Zhou family and had put all of his attention on Zhao Fu. Now, he was hoping that Jiang Rou could win Zhao Fu’s heart – that would simply be perfect.

Zhou Ming’s expression became incredibly ugly. Back then, his hedonistic little brother had offended this fellow. If he became stronger, he would definitely take revenge on the Zhou family. Now, Zhou Ming felt a deep sense of danger from Zhao Fu.

In another private room, the young man said, "Captain, that man called Zhao Xin has so much money, and it's said that he might be a Legatee. I wonder where his Legacy is from – China had so many empires, nations, and states, and if it's one of the lesser-known ones, it'll be quite difficult to find out if he doesn't reveal the information."

The captain nodded and stared at Zhao Fu as he said, "He's quite useful to the country. We must make him join us and work for the country."

Hearing this, the young man's expression became serious and saluted as he replied, "Yes!"

In another room, a middle-aged man pointed at Zhao Fu through the window and said to the youth in the room, "Hun'Er, have a look at that person."

"Okay, Uncle Lin," the youth replied as he went to the window. His eyes widened as a formless energy spread out from his eyes. In that instant, the youth's eyes turned pure-black, and there seemed to be countless gears turning within them.

"Uncle Lin, I can't see anything!" The youth looked at Zhao Fu with his pure-black eyes, but he felt that he could only see darkness.

"Really?"

The man that the youth had called 'Uncle Lin' thought for a moment before saying, "Hun'Er, since even your Heavencraft Ink Eyes can't see anything, there must be an expert interfering. This matter isn't simple at all, and we should definitely report it."

The youth nodded and returned to playing with the wooden objects on the table.

Because of Zhao Fu's bid of 450,000 silver coins, the auction house once again became silent, and even those in the VIP rooms started to hesitate.

On the stage, the beautiful woman lightly laughed before asking, "Is there anyone else who would like to make a bid? Otherwise, such an excellent skill will be going to this sir!"

## **Chapter 69: Sword of Sovereignty**

Even though the beautiful woman asked for more bids, no one from the VIP rooms was willing to make a bid. In the end, the A- grade Holy Ring Light was sold to Zhao Fu.

Everyone looked at Zhao Fu with envy and admiration before looking at the next item.

Zhao Fu did not make any bids for the next few items, and the system's factions started to display their might. Several items that attracted the players were bought by the system's factions at high prices.

Just like that, Zhao Fu did not participate for another 20 items, and he silently stood in his corner. Everyone's attention had long since been turned to the system's factions.

The auction was starting to reach its end, and the last few items were slowly brought out.

The first of these items was an ore-like rock that was about as big as a fist and gave off a faint yellow light. Even though it was only as big as a fist, it required four large men to carry it up – this showed just how heavy it was.

The beautiful woman started to introduce it, saying, “This is a Hardearth Rock, a Gold grade material that can be used to forge Gold grade equipment. The reserve price is 300,000 silver coins.”

A Gold grade item had finally appeared. Everyone stared at the Hardearth Rock with excitement and discussed among themselves, causing the auction hall to become quite raucous.

The first bid was a bid for 320,000 silver coins, and it was immediately outbid by other people. Soon, the Hardearth Rock’s price reached 400,000 silver coins, and those who were fighting over it showed no signs of stopping.

Suddenly, a man’s voice came from a Sovereign room, saying, “500,000 silver coins!”

After this voice sounded out, the auction hall once again fell silent. This was the first time that someone from a Sovereign room had spoken, and everyone knew that he was a truly grand character. Those who had been fighting over the Hardearth Rock also fell silent.

The cute-looking girl beside Zhao Fu stared at the Hardearth Rock, her eyes brimming with light. However, it was a pity that she did not have much money, so she could only hang her head down and sigh.

Zhao Fu was also tempted when he looked at the Hardearth Rock. Even though his villagers were unable to forge Gold grade equipment yet, he could store it until they were able to.

However, even though Zhao Fu wanted to buy it, considering the status and power of the person in the Sovereign room, Zhao Fu knew that he couldn’t afford to offend such a person. Offending such a person over a Gold grade material simply wasn’t worth it because he relied on his businesses in Holy Light City. If the grand figure could shut down his businesses, it simply wouldn’t be worth it.

Many people understood this, so the auction hall settled down, and not a single person was willing to make a bid.

The lively auction hall suddenly fell silent, and the atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

“Old Wu! You’re using your power to oppress others again. With your status, do you really lack Gold grade ore?” a woman’s voice called out from another Sovereign room.

Hearing this, the man addressed as ‘Old Wu’ realized how cold the atmosphere had become and clearly and brightly laughed, saying, “I’ve been sitting here for so long and just wanted to have some fun. Don’t worry about my status; I promise I won’t take revenge if you outbid me.”

Upon hearing the man’s words, everyone was speechless. Even though ‘Old Wu’ said not to mind his status and that he wouldn’t take revenge, who would risk such a thing?

Seeing how quiet the scene had become, the beautiful woman on the stage awkwardly asked, “Is there anyone else who would like to make a bid?”

Zhao Fu sighed and decided to give up on the Gold grade ore. Ruining his future earnings for an ore was simply not worth it.

The cute-looking girl looked over at Zhao Fu and tilted her head as she seemed to think of something. She jumped over towards Zhao Fu.

“550,000 silver coins!”

A sweet and tender voice sounded out, and everyone breathed in a cold breath of air. Who was the suicidal fool who dared to offend such a grand figure?

Everyone once again looked at the familiar corner and saw a cute-looking girl tightly hugging onto a cloaked figure like she was an octopus.

At that moment, the cute-looking girl added, saying, “I’m his friend; he’ll be paying for me!”

“\_What the hell?!\_” Zhao Fu silently cursed. When the girl leapt at him, he stared at her with a surprised expression on his face, and when he heard what she said, he realized that he had been screwed over by her. He wanted to push her away because he didn’t even know her, but she stuck onto him like gum. No matter how hard he pushed, he couldn’t extricate himself from her.

“Very well! If no one else wants to make a bid, this ore will be sold to this sir,” the beautiful woman on the stage said with an amused expression on her face. She was satisfied with Zhao Fu’s price.

Moreover, she knew Old Wu’s status. To him, Gold grade material was truly nothing, and he really was playing around. Even though he was only trying to have a bit of fun, when someone of his status spoke, it always caused the atmosphere in the auction hall to die down. Now, someone had finally outbid him and increased the bid by 50,000 silver coins. She was very happy with this.

Just as Zhao Fu opened his mouth in protest, a small and tender hand covered his mouth, and immediately after, another item was brought up, destroying Zhao Fu’s chances of rectifying the situation. All of the factions and powers looked at Zhao Fu with a hint of schadenfreude.

The girl finally let go of Zhao Fu, stood by his side, and grinned at him dumbly. For some reason, she had drool coming out of her mouth.

Zhao Fu sighed and turned to look at her, asking, “Who are you?”

The cute-looking girl smiled at Zhao Fu and replied, “I’m called Gongsun Lin. You don’t need to be courteous. Just call me by my name.”

“.....” Zhao Fu was speechless. This little girl did not seem to feel any guilt at all, and he said, “You know you just screwed me over, right?”

Gongsun Lin grinned and did not seem to mind, and she said, “I think that uncle was really just playing around; you’ll be fine. Plus, I won’t take your Hardearth Rock, and I’ll even forge Gold grade equipment for you. You’ve made a big profit, but you don’t need to thank me – it’s my own fault for being such a good person!”

Zhao Fu was even less sure of what to say. Who would believe that a girl like her could forge Gold grade equipment? None of Zhao Fu's subordinates could forge Gold grade equipment, so how could a player like her?

Sensing Zhao Fu's doubt, Gongsun Lin angrily pouted, saying, "Don't look down on this girl's abilities; my family is the Gongsun family, the one that forged the Scarlet Firmament Sword."

"Scarlet Firmament Sword?"

Zhao Fu felt that the name sounded familiar, but he couldn't place it.

At this moment, Jiang Rou smiled and explained, "The Scarlet Firmament Sword is ranked third out of the Ten Great Ancient Swords. It's ranked below the Regulus Sword and the Clear Sable Sword. Legends say that Emperor Gaozu of Han, Liu Bang, obtained the Scarlet Firmament Sword and slayed a white dragon, which drew him onto the path of an Emperor. That's why the sword is also called the Sword of Sovereignty, and it was forged by the Gongsun family."

Zhao Fu realized why that name sounded so familiar now. It seemed that this girl had quite a background, and perhaps she really would be able to forge Gold grade equipment. No wonder she seemed so infatuated with high-grade materials.

## **Chapter 70: Dragon Egg**

After listening to Gongsun Lin and Jiang Rou, Zhou Fu nodded and introduced himself, saying, "I'm called Zhao Xin!"

Gongsun Lin cutely smiled and nodded, committing his name to memory.

By now, everyone had turned to look at the next item. It was a long spear that was a silver color. There were many delicate and fine decorations carved onto it, and the sharp spearhead gave off a cold glint, making everyone feel a chill within his or her heart. That sort of sensation made them want to stay away from the spear, which was clearly a Gold grade weapon.

The beautiful woman started to introduce the spear. It was called the Hundred Flower Silver Spear, and it was a Gold grade weapon forged from Superior quality Mysterious Silver. The reserve price was 800,000 silver coins.

Because the spear's stats were revealed to everyone, Zhao Fu was able to take a look. It was slightly inferior to Bai Qi's Star Slashing Sword, which had been enhanced. If the Star Slashing Sword hadn't been enhanced, its stats would have been inferior to this spear's stats – after all, it hadn't been taken care of and became rusty after a long period of time

Now, the truly exceptional figures started to make bids. Everyone could only stand by and watch, and this was the same for Zhao Fu. After buying the Hardearth Rock, he had spent all of the money that he had prepared to spend.

In the end, the Hundred Flower Silver Spear was sold for 4.1 million silver coins – this was an astronomical price, and everyone in the crowd could only sigh in amazement.

Following this, the next items were brought up. They were eight rocks of uneven appearance that gave off traces of fire aura – they were Fire Strengthening Stones.

The beautiful woman introduced these items, saying, “Everyone knows that Strengthening Stones are difficult to come by, and the Red Flower Merchant Alliance was only able to gather these eight Fire Strengthening Stones with great difficulty. They can be said to be extremely rare, and they can help equipment go through the fourth strengthening. Their reserve price is 1.2 million silver coins.”

“Fourth strengthening?” Zhao Fu realized that equipment could be strengthened many times, but the number of Strengthening Stones required for each subsequent strengthening was different.

With how rare Strengthening Stones were, gathering eight Strengthening Stones of the same attribute must have been incredibly difficult. No wonder their reserve price was much higher than that of a Gold grade equipment’s.

After an intense bidding war among the people in the Sovereign rooms, the eight Fire Strengthening Stones were sold for 5.8 million silver coins.

This sort of figure made countless people look up to those in the Sovereign rooms, and they simply could not even imagine possessing so much money. However, watching those grand figures engage in bidding wars was quite exciting to watch.

The final item was carefully carried up by six big men. It was a giant egg that was 1 meter long. The eggshell was a faint azure color, and it gave off a faint sense of might. Those who saw it realized that it was definitely not an ordinary egg. It was definitely an egg from an extremely powerful creature.

The beautiful woman on the stage faintly smiled and said mysteriously, “Does everyone know about dragons? Even a single one of those terrifying creatures is able to cause a massive disaster. Their names are synonymous with nightmares, and perhaps some of you have already made guessed the answer – that’s right, this is a Wind Dragon egg!

“Do you want to possess an incomparably powerful dragon? Do you want to ride it and soar through the sky? Do you want to reign above a nightmare? If you do, please bid for this Wind Dragon egg. The reserve price is 8 million silver coins.” After the beautiful woman finished with her introduction, countless people were stunned into silence because they hadn’t expected the egg in front of them to be a dragon egg.

Zhao Fu was also quite shocked. Even drakes, which did not have pure dragon bloodlines, were Stage 4 creatures. Some purebred flying dragons were Stage 5 creatures, and purebred dragons like Stone Dragons, Earth Dragons, and Poison Dragons were Stage 6 creatures. Wind Dragons, Fire Dragons, and Ice Dragons were Stage 7 creatures, while Light God Dragons, Dark God Dragons, Fairy Dragons, and Crystal Dragons were Stage 8 creatures. Finally, Chaos Dragons were terrifying Stage 9 creatures.

The above dragons were all western dragons, and Chinese Spiritual Dragons were at least Stage 8. However, they were quite rare, and there were more western dragons than Chinese Spiritual Dragons.

No matter what faction it was, every faction was like a speck of dust before a dragon. Let alone a Stage 9 dragon, even an Earth Dragon would be able to cause a catastrophe for a faction.

No one could have imagined that the Red Flower Merchant Alliance would have been able to obtain a Wind Dragon Egg. Putting aside how they obtained it, to be able to obtain one at all was already a miracle at this point in time.

When Zhao Fu saw the dragon egg, he felt an extreme desire for it, but it was a pity that he did not have that much money. Even if he did, he would not be able to protect the Wind Dragon Egg.

Dragons had extremely long lifespans, and it would most likely take this dragon egg at least 2-3 years to hatch. It would also take many more years to raise and train it.

“10 million silver coins!”

As Zhao Fu thought to himself, someone in a Sovereign room had already made a bid, instantly raising the price to 10 million silver coins. However, that person was immediately outbid.

Slowly, the Wind Dragon egg’s price reached a level that caused normal people to feel despair.

“42 million silver coins!” a hoarse voice said from one of the Sovereign rooms and then shouted, “Everyone, please give Demon Tree City some face and allow me to purchase this Wind Dragon egg.”

The Wind Dragon egg had already reached an astronomical price, and even the grand figures couldn’t help but start to hesitate. This person had to let go of his pride and ask the people from the other two main cities to step down.

A deep sounding voice said from another Sovereign room, “Apologies, 45 million silver coins.”

This Wind Dragon egg would be important to any main city, so how could they allow someone else to take it? As such, the person from Soldier Forest made a bid regardless of Demon Tree City’s plea.”

The person from Holy Light City, the one referred to as ‘Old Wu,’ clearly and brightly laughed as he said, “I apologize too; 50 million silver coins!”

When the person from Demon Tree City saw that the other two main cities were not giving Demon Tree City any face, the person sighed. Even though he felt quite angry, he understood just how important this Wind Dragon egg was, so he yelled, “52 million silver coins!”

The three factions continued to furiously fight over the dragon egg, and everyone else watched in awe. The auction hall fell silent except for those three voices.

In the end, because this Auction House was within Holy Light City, Holy Light City had a big advantage over the others and bought the dragon egg for 72 million silver coins.

Following this, the auction ended, and countless people left with excited expressions. Even though most of these people had not bought anything, after seeing so many valuable items and intense bidding wars, they felt quite satisfied. After going back, they could proudly say that they had seen a Wind Dragon egg with their own eyes!

Zhao Fu and Gonsun Lin went to the back of the Auction House and received their items after paying for them.

After returning to the Westfall restaurant, Gongsun Lin lay on a table and looked at the Hardearth Rock on the table, giggling in a silly manner to herself. She looked just like a child who had obtained a toy that she wanted.

After a while, Zhao Fu couldn't resist anymore and said, "You can make a piece of Gold grade equipment now, right?"