

U. Warlord 1051

Chapter 1051: The Former Ninth Prince

As the Zongming world's energy continued to increase, rainbow-colored lights appeared in the sky.

Zhang Lie expected that Li Zongming was currently infusing the seven superior worlds' worth of energy into the Zongming world, and chose not to disturb him. He left on the disaster-grade dragon's back and headed to the scaleman world.

Large changes had occurred to the scaleman world, the most major of which was its expansion in size. The disaster-grade dragon found itself barred by an alien.

The dragon howled. Zhang Lie walked out of the palace to see the alien stopping the dragon with a raised eyebrow. The alien cried out in shock, "Master?"

The alien was none other than the former crown prince of the scalemen.

The former crown prince called out, "Master, why didn't you inform us of your return? His majesty has been thinking of you for quite some time!"

Zhang Lie replied, "I just returned."

The former crown prince continued, "I was wondering just who was so arrogant as to—no, no, I mean, who would be riding on such a magnificent beast. Of course it had to be none other than you, Master!"

Zhang Lie replied, "Long time no see, Crown Prince. I'm here with urgent business for your king."

The former crown prince didn't mind that Zhang Lie had addressed him as the crown prince; after all, he knew Zhang Lie's combat abilities very well, and how important Zhang Lie was to his ninth brother. Even if Zhang Lie were to point at him and call him a dog, the crown prince could hardly express his displeasure.

"Is it related to our world's ascension into a superior world?"

"Yes, but also no."

The former crown prince smiled. "Master, your words are as abstruse as ever."

"I have urgent business to discuss with the king. Please guide me there, Crown Prince."

The former crown prince smiled. "Ah, I apologize. I was simply too happy to see you again, Master. Please, follow me."

The former crown prince led the way as he explained, "His majesty has been dealing with all sorts of matters after the evolution of the world, and he's been familiarizing himself with the environment. It's a particularly tiring job, and he wasn't able to sense your return on account of his inexperience. Please don't blame him, Master."

Zhang Lie waved a hand. "It's no issue at all. This is perfectly reasonable."

The former crown prince continued, "It's been a while since you last visited, Master."

"Is that so?"

The former crown prince nodded. "I haven't seen you for a long time."

"Is that so?"

"I even have a child now."

"Congratulations!"

Zhang Lie's responses were perfunctory; he didn't care much about the former crown prince's conversation—or rather, he was completely uninterested in the former crown prince. Zhang Lie's thoughts were entirely on the imminent war.

"May I show you my child, Master?"

"If I'm free."

The former crown prince's eyes were filled with hope. "Would you be willing to give my child a few pointers?"

Zhang Lie's tremendous success with the weak ninth prince was proof enough of his capabilities, and the former crown prince was well aware of them. If his own child could benefit from Zhang Lie's teachings...

As a father, the former crown prince truly wanted the best for his child.

"If I'm free." Zhang Lie didn't have the heart to refuse the former crown prince's fervent hope for his son directly.

The former crown prince quickly showed him to the palace, where he informed the guard, "Please send word that the grandmaster of the scaleman kingdom is here with me."

The guard made a face. "Your Highness, his majesty has just gone to sleep. If he were to be awakened now..."

The former crown prince shook his head. "His majesty won't blame you at all—rather, he'd be full of smiles that the grandmaster is here."

The guard scrutinized Zhang Lie carefully, but hesitated.

It was clear that he had been newly recruited if he were unaware of Zhang Lie, never having learned of him or met him before, and he didn't know just how important Zhang Lie was to the scaleman world.

The former crown prince frowned. "You don't believe me?"

The thought of the imminent war made Zhang Lie brusque and curt. He didn't want to waste time with this pointless issue of formality.

Zhang Lie stepped forward. "Let me in."

The former crown prince held him back. "Grandmaster! This is the royal palace—"

Zhang Lie rolled his eyes. "I fought here more than once. The number of people I killed in this palace, why, their blood could form a river."

The guard looked at him strangely. Just who was this man, to make such ridiculous boasts here within the royal palace? Wasn't he afraid of being called out?

Even so, the former crown prince didn't say anything. He was tacitly agreeing with Zhang Lie's claims.

The guard didn't know what to think. Either he really had done so, or he would face no repercussions upon saying so. In either case, he wasn't someone the guard could handle.

Despite the fact that he hadn't moved, the guard's forehead was beading with sweat.

The former crown prince urged, "Haven't you heard the grandmaster? If you wake his majesty up, you might be blamed, but if you make this grandmaster act, you'll surely be blamed!"

Upon hearing that even the former crown prince was addressing the man as "grandmaster", the guard understood that this man had to be so far beyond him in status that he had never heard of or seen him.

He hurriedly headed into the king of the realm's chambers to send word to the king, who teleported over in his pajamas.

The king cried out with excitement, "Master, are you here to see me?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "Better that you get dressed first."

The king laughed. "I knew you would appear after the scaleman world evolved! I'll get dressed immediately. Please don't leave, Master. I want to show you around this new world."

The king teleported back into his chambers. The guard goggled at the sight—this was the first time he had seen his king, who had achieved a grand deed none before him had ever done, reveal such a childlike expression.

"Alright, Master, let's go!"

The king got dressed ridiculously quickly, perhaps the fastest he had ever done so in his life.

Zhang Lie nodded. The king and Zhang Lie flew through the air, leaving the former crown prince behind. The guard asked, "Your Highness, just who is this grandmaster?"

"He's deeply connected to his majesty. Without his appearance, his majesty likely wouldn't have claimed the throne."

The former crown prince no longer cared to be king, nor that he had been a serious contender before Zhang Lie's interference. If Zhang Lie had never appeared, the king of the scaleman world might well be an alien puppet...

Chapter 1052: A Wealth of Knowledge

The guard sucked in a deep breath. "You mean that the grandmaster was responsible for putting his majesty on the throne?"

The former crown prince nodded. "You can interpret it that way."

The guard asked, "Why have I never heard of this man, Your Highness?"

The former crown prince smiled. "You must have recently been selected as a guard. You don't look like a scaleman."

The guard replied honestly, "Yes, Your Highness. I'm a foreigner."

"Then it's only natural that you haven't heard. Without the appearance of the grandmaster, the scaleman world would have perished before ever evolving into a superior world."

Only after this conversation did the guard realize just how instrumental a figure Zhang Lie was in the scaleman world. Not only had he cultivated the former ninth prince and put him on the throne, he had even saved the world—and multiple times, at that.

Zhang Lie and the king stepped through the air.

Zhang Lie smiled. "I haven't yet congratulated you for your world's successful ascension—and your growth into a superior king."

The king smiled. "Please don't make fun of me, Master. Others might not know, but you surely do."

Zhang Lie smiled.

The king continued gratefully, "My present accomplishments and the evolution of the scaleman world—all of it is thanks to you."

Zhang Lie asked, "Have you considered changing the name of the world?"

The king nodded. "I'm considering it. After all, there are lots of races present here, not just the scalemen."

It was evident that the scaleman king was very different from the draconian sage, who had likewise ascended by combining countless different worlds, but who had never considered changing the name of the draconian world.

To the draconian sage, the name of the draconian world was both a testament to its history and a memorial to countless generations of draconians who had protected the world with their lives, as well as countless draconian kings who had kept the world functional.

If the draconian sage were to change the name of the world, it would be as though he were burying this history and forgetting about the draconians and draconian kings who had given their life for the world.

The scaleman king, on the other hand, didn't care too much for history and tradition. He was relatively young, and hadn't had the same depth of experience.

Zhang Lie asked, "What do you plan on calling it?"

The scaleman king laughed. "How about Lie Jiu?" [1]

Zhang Lie was momentarily speechless. "You should probably change that name to include the character 'Lin', so that others can remember the past and know that this was once the scaleman world." [2]

"Perhaps I'll call it the Lie Lin superior world, then."

The appearance of the envoy from the Zongming world had made it known that the scaleman world was now a superior world.

Zhang Lie laughed. "Are you serious?"

"Lie Lin..." the superior king puffed out his chest.

Zhang Lie nodded wryly. "I'll leave the choice to you."

The king pointed before him. "The scaleman world's farm lies up ahead. I've modified the flow of time in the vicinity, spurring the growth of these lifeforms. With the evolution of the world, many fifth-level beasts were produced."

Zhang Lie closed his eyes and spread his senses out. Indeed, he discovered a large number of disaster-grade lifeforms. They filled the forests and the plains like stars in the night sky. Zhang Lie smiled. "Excellent."

The king asked, "Would you like to take some with you?" It was as though he were offering up a specialty of the world to Zhang Lie.

Zhang Lie mulled it over for a moment. "I'll happily accept."

The king and Zhang Lie walked a little further before the king pointed before him. "This is the town that I built with you, Master."

After a few years, that small town had grown into a large city that could harbor tens of thousands of people. It was crowded to the extreme, with long lines of people snaking in and out.

The king introduced, "As planned, Master, once we opened up a wormhole between this world and a neighboring world, the trade that resulted made the town prosper. In a decade or so, it'll likely become the most prosperous of the scaleman cities."

Zhang Lie asked, "You've been focusing on this city?"

Ever since the ninth prince became the king of the realm, he had clearly been steering the development of the small town—otherwise, it would never have evolved into its present state.

The king laughed. "This is a town that we worked hard to build together, Master. How could I give it up?"

Zhang Lie praised, "You've been working hard."

The king smiled at the praise. "It's all thanks to you, Master."

The king continued showing Zhang Lie around. At some point, Zhang Lie said, "I've seen enough of your world. It's time to explain what I'm doing here. Do you have a guess?"

"Isn't it to have a look around the scaleman world?"

"Partly, but not primarily."

The king thought for a moment longer, then excitedly replied, "Have you returned in order to assist me, Master?!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Unfortunately not."

"Then why have you returned, Master?"

Zhang Lie explained kindly, "Do you know how many superior worlds there are in this realm?"

The king shook his head. "I only learned of these superior worlds recently. The only one I've made contact with is the Zongming world.

Before this, none of the scalemen or the neighboring aliens knew of these superior worlds."

Zhang Lie continued, "In that case, let me explain these superior worlds to you. The reason none of you have ever interacted with one is that the superior worlds of antiquity are arrogant beyond belief. They treat the inhabitants of all other worlds like ants."

The king seemed rather concerned. "Perhaps I should be glad not to have interacted with them before, then."

Zhang Lie said, "As far as I know, there are now nine superior worlds in the third realm, just as there were in the past. Of these, six are superior worlds of antiquity: the unclean world, the world of blazing sun, the white world, the world of black fog, the king of keys, and the world of primordial chaos."

The king of keys was an extremely unusual existence—he was a world in his own right.

Zhang Lie continued, "The new superior worlds, who have recently evolved, are the Zongming world, the draconian world, and your world, the scaleman world."

The king remarked, "To think there are so many! But it's no surprise, I suppose. There are three thousand worlds in this realm, after all."

Chapter 1053: Certainly Not

Although the inhabitants of the third realm commonly assumed that their realm had three thousand worlds, just how many worlds there were precisely was still uncertain.

The "three thousand worlds" was a common turn of phrase, referring to their realm just as "the third realm" did, but "the third realm" was a phrase used by hunters from the Milky Way.

Zhang Lie replied, "Actually, if worlds were allowed to accrete naturally, there should be far more than just nine superior worlds. There might be thirty, ninety, even a hundred and fifty."

Of course, Zhang Lie couldn't be certain whether this was the case. The fact that there had been nine superior worlds and that there was now nine superior worlds spoke to more than coincidence, as though the third realm's resources were incapable of supporting more than nine superior worlds simultaneously. Zhang Lie hadn't been in the third realm for long, and couldn't be certain about the situation.

The king replied, "In that case, the three thousand worlds aren't developing naturally?"

Zhang Lie replied, "As I told you, among the three thousand worlds are the superior worlds of antiquity."

"By 'antiquity', do you mean that they've been present forever?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Nothing is eternal in this realm. They've simply been here for a long time, so long no one else remembers their history. Over the years, they've grown and grown—tens of thousands of years, hundreds of thousands, millions.

"By now, even the kings of those superior worlds may have forgotten how long they've lived. In truth, before some of these worlds were annihilated, many aliens believed that they could never be

defeated. Even the superior kings themselves believed this—but as things turned out, that was wrong."

The king nodded.

Zhang Lie continued casually, "There used to be a superior world here whose jurisdiction we were under, but I destroyed it."

The king gave Zhang Lie a thumbs up. "Amazing, Master!"

He wasn't shocked, merely excited. Although destroying a superior world was an impressive feat, the king didn't have the context to understand how impressive it was. No matter how strong the opponent was, however, the king had blind faith in Zhang Lie. He was certain there was nothing Zhang Lie couldn't accomplish.

"The superior worlds of antiquity treat the third realm like a cake. They cut apart slices for themselves, their jurisdictions, and farm out the worlds under their control. If a world in their jurisdiction were to evolve into a superior world, the superior worlds of antiquity would reap those worlds and claim them as their harvest."

The scaleman king understood immediately. "That's why you had our world ascend during the chaos of the death spirits' war, Master! The superior worlds would have been too tied up to react."

"You can understand it in that manner, but not completely."

"In what sense?"

Zhang Lie explained, "Even without the death spirits' war, no one would have stopped your ascension, but doing so during the war could have prevented unnecessary accidents."

The scaleman king recalled what Zhang Lie had said.

"Master, is it because of the superior world you destroyed?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Exactly. This was originally the jurisdiction of the xuluo world. Because they attacked the Zongming world, I retaliated, and the Zongming world is now responsible for this territory. It's an ally of mine."

The king continued, "Master, have you returned because of these superior worlds of antiquity?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "These worlds are about to attack us."

The scaleman king was shocked, but he quickly schooled himself.

Zhang Lie commented calmly, "You don't seem nervous at all. It's clear you've grown."

No king would panic even in the greatest of calamities. Zhang Lie hadn't expected that the formerly weak ninth prince could have grown to such an extent in just a few years.

The scaleman king shook his head. "You mistake me, Master."

The scaleman world had recently evolved, and the scaleman king had no information about these superior worlds.

Zhang Lie continued seriously, "Although I don't want to surprise you, you have to understand just how strong these superior worlds are. They each have at least two combatants with strength equivalent to that of a superior king."

The scaleman king replied, "I know they might be strong, but we have someone even stronger on our side!"

"Oh?"

The scaleman king laughed. "You, Master!"

Zhang Lie also began to laugh. "Haha, you really think highly of me, don't you?"

The scaleman king nodded. "I'm confident in your strength, Master."

Zhang Lie continued, "The superior worlds of antiquity are targeting the new superior worlds, who have recently evolved: the Zongming world, the draconian world, and your world, the scaleman world. I'm hoping that the scaleman world will be willing to form an alliance with the other two worlds to counter the superior worlds of antiquity."

The scaleman king nodded. "Very well."

Zhang Lie blinked in surprise. "Aren't you going to ask about the details?"

The scaleman king smiled. "I trust you, Master."

Zhang Lie grumbled, "If you keep behaving like this, you'll eventually be tricked!"

The scaleman king laughed. "I'll only ever believe you like this, Master. If you do end up selling me, well, I'll help you count your profit."

Zhang Lie patted the scaleman king's head.

Although his status had risen twice over, his attitude toward Zhang Lie didn't change. Once again, it felt as though they were just the ninth prince and his master.

"You'll have to make a trip to the Zongming world to discuss plans against the invasion."

"Very well."

Once the two of them finished, Zhang Lie and the scaleman king returned to his palace, whereupon they found the former crown prince and his son.

Upon seeing the young scaleman, who looked much like the former crown prince, Zhang Lie nodded sagely. "Very good. He'll surely be a leader of the scalemen."

The former crown prince quickly told his son, "Thank the grandmaster for his blessing!"

The former crown prince's son might be young, but he was clearly trained in propriety.

"Thank you for the praise, Master!"

"There's nothing I can teach this child. After all, our routes to strength are different. However, I would be happy to present him with this gift."

Zhang Lie handed over a peak-grade soulshard.

He had quite a few peak-grade soulshards in his possession, many of which were incapable of being used in fights at his level. The soulshards would be useful for him, but he could certainly use them as gifts.

The former crown prince's son was clearly very excited by the gift. Zhang Lie informed the scalemen, "It's time for me to be leaving."

The scaleman king sighed. "Won't you stay for a bit longer, Master?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "The invasion's about to begin."

The king didn't hold Zhang Lie back. Instead, he proposed, "Let me accompany you, then."

The former crown prince instantly jumped in shock. "You can't, Your Majesty! The world cannot be without a ruler for a single day, let alone a recently evolved superior world!"

Chapter 1054: Finally Freed

The scaleman king told his brother, "I have to go on this trip. Please take over my responsibilities for the time being."

The former crown prince replied, "Your Majesty, this is a tall order. The world has just evolved, and it needs you to support it."

The king replied, "Brother, if I don't go with my master, our world will be destroyed."

The former crown prince, clearly not having expected such a revelation, jumped up in shock. "What?!"

The king repeated, "Brother, our enemies are coming."

The former crown prince was bewildered. "What enemies? Haven't the death spirits been killed?"

The king replied, "The superior worlds of antiquity."

The former crown prince was stunned.

The king continued, "There are nine superior worlds in total, not just us, among the three thousand worlds. Of these worlds, six have existed since antiquity. They rear the other worlds like livestock, and slaughter them once they evolve into superior worlds."

The former crown prince's face turned serious.

Zhang Lie interrupted, "Most importantly, we're not dealing with just a single superior world of antiquity, but at least four of them. Countless years of building up strength—we newly evolved worlds can't compare to theirs."

The former crown prince began to panic. "How can this be? Our world just ascended!"

Zhang Lie finally smiled in relief upon seeing the former crown prince's antics. This was the normal response to the information he had revealed! The scaleman king had been very unusual in remaining so calm even when he learned of such news.

The ninth prince smiled. "Don't worry. My master is on our side."

The former crown prince came to his senses once more. "That's right! The grandmaster will surely have a plan, just like he did back then."

Back then, when all hope seemed lost, it was Zhang Lie's appearance who had saved the day.

Zhang Lie extended his arms. "The barest outlines of a plan, nothing more."

He sighed. "Our opponents are superior worlds that have existed since antiquity, and four of them at that. I have a strategy for dealing with them, but that doesn't mean I'll succeed."

The king informed his brother, "For the good of our world, I'll need to head toward the Zongming world in hopes of forming an alliance with the two other newly evolved superior worlds to deal with the superior worlds of antiquity together."

The former crown prince replied, "But you don't have to go there personally, do you? You're a superior king! Let me go in your stead."

The scaleman king smiled and shook his head. "Don't worry, Brother, nothing will go wrong. My master will be by my side, after all."

The former crown prince cried out, "But if anything were to happen to you, what would we do?"

The scaleman king retrieved a proof of kingship from his storage-type soulshard and tossed it over to his brother. "I'll leave our world in your safekeeping for the time being."

The king's brother was very shocked. "What are you doing, Your Majesty?!"

"It's only a precautionary measure, Brother. With my master by my side, I'll be safe and sound—and even if something were to happen, you'll still be here."

"Your Majesty, what if something really does happen?"

The king emphasized, "Nothing will happen with my master around. It's just a precaution."

"Please don't go, Your Majesty! I could never become a superior king in your stead."

The king rolled his eyes. "What in the world are you talking about, Brother? Are you really the crown prince who seemed poised to take the throne?"

The former crown prince sighed. "Over the years, I came to the realization that I really can't compare to you, Brother."

The king replied, "I have to arrange this alliance personally—not because I want to, but for the good of our world; not because I want to stay by my master's side, to accompany him to the Zongming world!

The Zongming king invited me, and I have to accept his invitation personally. This is non-negotiable."

The former crown prince replied, "I think there's room for negotiations."

The king shook his head. "We have to demonstrate our sincerity and determination. I must go personally."

The former crown prince advised, "I'm worried that the citizens will lose faith if you were to leave so quickly after the world's evolution..."

The king shrugged. "Compared to the destruction of the world, this is nothing in comparison."

The former crown prince sighed. "I suppose you're right."

The king continued, "While I'm gone, I'll leave the world for you to handle, Brother."

The former crown prince chuckled wryly. "I just don't know if I can do a good job of it."

The king patted the former crown prince on the shoulder.

"Of course you'll be fine, Brother. You're my brother, after all."

The former crown prince sucked in a deep breath. "You're right. I'm your brother, a lord of this land."

The king looked at the proof of kingship his brother held with a complicated expression.

"Actually, the throne should have been yours to begin with. If something were to happen to me, take over in my stead—"

The former crown prince broke him off. "None of that, Brother! No one can replace you in this realm. You have to come back safe and sound."

The king nodded firmly. In that case, I'll be heading out now."

The former crown prince replied, "No—you have to announce what you're doing in court!"

The king shook his head. "There's no time left. I'll be leaving immediately with my master. If we were to stay for court, my departure would drag out for another few days. The court officials are very difficult to deal with, and they'll surely try to stop me. By the time I leave, the superior worlds of antiquity will have attacked."

The former crown prince sighed. His brother wasn't wrong.

The disaster-grade multicolored dragon spread its wings and glided overhead. The king waved a hand. "In that case, I'll be going."

Zhang Lie and the king leapt into the air, onto the dragon's back. The king waved toward his brother. "Goodbye, Brother! Farewell!"

The former crown prince couldn't help but think that his brother's smile was as though he were eloping with his lover."

The moment they left the boundary of the world, the king slumped from his chair onto the table. "I'm finally free."

Zhang Lie handed him a drink. "It looks like you've been working very hard."

The king smiled wryly. "Isn't that so? It's rare that I can have such an opportunity to take a break from my responsibilities. I have you to thank for it, Master."

Zhang Lie asked, "It must be difficult to be king—no, forget I asked." Of course it was difficult; that much was obvious...

Chapter 1055: The Zongming Gathering

If governing a kingdom was like tending to ten thousand chickens, then governing a world was like tending to a hundred thousand chickens, clucking all day and night and giving its owner a headache that persisted from dawn till dusk.

The scaleman king spread his arms. "Before the evolution into a superior world, it wasn't so bad. At the beginning, everything was rough, but after I built up enough of a foundation and manpower, I grew used to it. After the world evolved into a superior one, however—even though I became a superior king as well, my mind and body couldn't handle the effort, Master."

"Is it that bad?"

"Isn't it?" The merger of dozens of worlds, dozens of cultures and traditions and races—there would undoubtedly be conflict, and monumental conflict at that.

The scaleman king sighed. "It's a miracle that I lasted so long. Worst of all, the kings of the various worlds haven't been helping me deal with these conflicts at all. They're all fighting each other, even trying to trip me up, in order to obtain as much of the treasure of this world as they can. I'd like to behead them all, myself."

None of the kings and leaders dared to directly go against the scaleman king, but they used all sorts of dirty schemes and tricks in their attempts to vie for power, and were even working together against the court officials of the scaleman world.

The scaleman king sighed. "To be honest, I've been growing more and more weary after the world's evolution."

Zhang Lie replied, "I'm sorry to have caused you such a burden. Perhaps I shouldn't have pushed you onto the throne—you would still have been the happy ninth prince, then."

The scaleman king waved a hand. "No, no, I'm not that weak! It's just tiring."

Even now, the scaleman king was immensely grateful to Zhang Lie for giving him an opportunity to change his fate.

"However, when I'm at my most tired, I keep wondering whether I would have been happier choosing not to become the king of the realm and following by your side instead."

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Perhaps so, but perhaps not. Who would know?"

"Indeed."

There was no going back now, and it was pointless to entertain the notion that he could have been happier. Before all else, he was the king of the scaleman world.

The disaster-grade dragon flew back toward the Zongming world. The moment it arrived, Li Zongming sent him a mental transmission to have him head straight to the palace, where the draconian sage and members of Team Zenith were already waiting.

Upon noticing Zhang Lie's unusual expression, the scaleman king asked, "Has the Zongming king contacted you?"

Zhang Lie nodded.

The scaleman king replied, "In that case, it's time for me to meet this new superior king, then."

Zhang Lie brought the scaleman king to the Zongming palace, whereupon they found Li Zongming and the draconian sage having a discussion over tea. Li Zongming looked over in excitement. "Zhang Lie, you're here! My discussions with the draconian king are going well. Hold on, this person by your side is..."

Upon sensing the scaleman king's aura and recognizing him as a fellow superior king, Li Zongming stilled.

Zhang Lie introduced, "This is the other new superior king I told you both about, the scaleman king."

The draconian sage hurriedly stood up and examined the scaleman king, while Li Zongming's eyes widened. "Zhang Lie, you really are impressive! I thought you had gone over to the scaleman world to discuss the alliance, but you stole the king right over!"

Zhang Lie was speechless. "I didn't steal him anywhere; he was willing to accompany me back."

Li Zongming laughed. "It's just a joke, a joke. Why didn't you tell me that he was coming?"

Zhang Lie grumbled, "How do you expect me to? I'm not a superior king, and this isn't my world! Only you would be able to do so within the Zongming world, not me!"

The scaleman king greeted the Zongming king. "It's a pleasure to meet you in person, king of the Zongming world. Your reputation precedes you."

Li Zongming replied modestly, "Haha, and you must be the new superior king of the scaleman world! You really are young—I wasn't even a king of the realm at your age."

The scaleman king laughed. "It was my master who helped me win the throne, and he who helped me evolve my world to a superior one. I couldn't have come so far so quickly without his aid."

The draconian sage stepped forward. "How should I address you?"

The scaleman king replied politely, "You can call me Lie Lin. You must be the superior king of the draconian world. Master brought you up many times in conversation on our way here."

Li Zongming asked curiously, "Your master? Who is he? I'm very curious who was able to foster a superior king."

The scaleman king smiled. "He's right by your side."

Li Zongming and the draconian sage glanced all around the palace before Zhang Lie finally raised a hand.

"It's you!"

"You again?" Li Zongming and the draconian sage cried out simultaneously.

Zhang Lie smiled. "I am indeed the master of this superior king."

Li Zongming grumbled, "I was wondering who this master could be—but it's you!"

The draconian sage recovered from the shock rather quickly. Almost as though he had expected it, he commented, "I suppose it's not unusual if you're his master..."

After all, all three superior kings present owed their kingship to Zhang Lie.

Li Zongming added, "It looks like all three of us are deeply connected to you." He patted Zhang Lie on the shoulder. "Becoming the master of a superior king just like that? It's more impressive than I could have expected."

Zhang Lie raised his head to the sky. "It's a coincidence, nothing more."

Hong Tianqi had hidden the map fragments he had accumulated within the scaleman world. Zhang Lie had arrived just in time to catch the death spirits' invasion. Because Zhang Lie had once known the scaleman king, he resolved the crisis and was able to collect a large quantity of the world's energy.

This series of coincidences led to the birth of the superior scaleman world.

Li Zongming beckoned the scaleman king over. "Please, scaleman king, join us!"

The scaleman king replied, "Master's had a long journey. He should get seated first."

The draconian sage and Li Zongming could easily see that the scaleman king deeply respected Zhang Lie.

"Captain, you're back! We knew it was you the moment we saw the disaster-grade dragon fly by," Sun Mengmeng exclaimed. The members of Team Zenith, Hong Xi, Zhang Hanxiang, Dong Mingxing, and Li Qianlin all walked over at this time.

Sun Xiaowu grumbled, "Sis, there's no need to rush so quickly even if it's the captain!"

Sun Mengmeng blushed. "Nonsense! Li Qianlin beat me here."

Yang Ze rolled his eyes. "Someone who doesn't understand the situation might think that the two of you were having a race within the palace."

Li Qianlin and Sun Mengmeng simultaneously lowered their heads as they blushed...

Chapter 1056: Hanxiang, Raring to Fight

Li Zongming suggested, "These are honored guests who came along with the draconian sage. I'm sure they won't be interested in chatting with older folks like me. Qianlin, why don't you bring Zhang Lie's friends and sister to tour the palace?"

"This is..."

The members of Team Zenith, Hong Xi, Zhang Hanxiang, Dong Mingxin, and Li Qianlin were all very curious about the scaleman king. Zhang Lie introduced, "These are my companions, student, sister, future wife, and her best friend respectively."

Zhang Lie continued, "Hong Xi, this is another disciple of mine, your junior brother. He's a newly evolved superior king."

Hong Xi was gobsmacked. "My junior brother is a superior king...?"

When the scaleman king heard that another of Zhang Lie's disciples was in the group, he was instantly curious about her.

"May I ask which of you is Senior Sister Hong?"

Zhang Lie pointed at Hong Xi. "That's Hong Xi, your senior sister, who became my disciple a few years before you."

Hong Xi bowed. "Greetings, Junior Brother."

Hong Xi knew what a superior king represented, so she felt particularly weird about the fact that she suddenly had one as her junior brother. She didn't know how to treat the scaleman king.

Fortunately, the scaleman king was very friendly. "Greetings, Senior Sister."

Zhang Lie said, "Since everyone's here, let's not waste time. We need to start thinking about how to resist the superior worlds of antiquity."

Li Qianlin motioned to leave. "Enjoy your meeting. Dong Mingxing and I will find you all later!" She pulled Dong Mingxing away.

Everyone prepared themselves for the meeting, their earlier levity gone. Li Zongming began, "Since everyone's familiar with Zhang Lie, let's drop the formalities. I'll get straight to the point. We'll be going up against the superior worlds of antiquity. As newly evolved superior kings ourselves, we need to work with each other to forge an alliance against their invasion."

The draconian sage and scaleman king nodded simultaneously. "Naturally."

Li Zongming asked, "Zhang Lie, do you have any plans?"

Zhang Lie glanced at them all, then said, "First, let me introduce you all to our future opponents: the superior worlds that we'll have to go up against. The Zongming king and I have discussed this topic beforehand. There are at least four kings that will strike, and possibly a fifth as well."

Li Zongming took over. "These worlds are respectively the world of blazing sun, the white world, the world of black fog, and the unclean world. The king of keys might also strike."

Zhang Lie continued, "The reason it's uncertain is because the king of keys is the most ancient of kings, with some amount of transcendence."

Li Zongming continued, "Only the king of chaos and his world of primordial chaos will be neutral in the conflict."

The draconian sage sighed. "Five superior worlds of antiquity attacking us..."

Even the scaleman king, who was unconditionally confident in Zhang Lie, couldn't help but turn serious.

"Three against five?" Three newly evolved superior worlds, versus five that had existed since antiquity... The three kings lost out in terms of numbers, reserves, experience, and forces.

Zhang Lie smiled. "There's no need to be so discouraged. The situation looks bad, but we can win—I'm certain of it. The most troublesome aspect of fighting against these superior worlds of antiquity is their combat strength, particularly for new superior kings like us. In general, the only combatants who possess the strength of a superior king in our worlds are ourselves."

Li Zongming continued, "On the other hand, the superior kings of antiquity have fostered subordinates that are on that level. For instance, in the xuluo world, there were three or more such combatants on that level."

The draconian sage sounded exasperated. "I'm not feeling any more hopeful..."

Zhang Lie continued, "I mentioned that the superior worlds' strongest aspect is their strength, but we're not weak, either. We have the members of Team Zenith around!"

The draconian sage hurriedly looked toward the members of Team Zenith.

Zhang Lie continued, "With the members of Team Zenith ready, there's nothing to fear from the superior worlds of antiquity. Everyone from Team Zenith has the strength of a superior king, and we're not far behind our opponents'."

The draconian sage and scaleman king instantly grew more relaxed.

"All of you, there's no need to fear the superior worlds of antiquity. It's true that they have millennia of reserves in their world, but that doesn't mean we can't defeat them. The Zongming king and I have killed one."

Neither the draconian sage nor the members of Team Zenith were aware of this fact, and they were all shocked.

"Incredible."

"As expected of our captain!"

"Zhang Lie, will you reveal your plan to us?"

Zhang Lie began, "My plan is very straightforward. Pure defense won't be enough. Since our offense isn't weak, we'll naturally want to take the lead and attack their worlds too. After all, a battle between superior kings will cause disaster no matter where we go."

The draconian sage cried out in shock. "Quite so, but wouldn't it be overconfident of us to go on the offensive instead of the defensive? They might take our worlds while we're occupied!"

Zhang Lie replied, "If we were to focus entirely on defense, we'd end up in a battle of attrition—and we shouldn't give up on defense entirely, either."

Li Zongming asked, "What's our overall plan?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Each superior king will take care of his own world. The superior kings of antiquity know of my existence, and they'll certainly think that I'm in the Zongming world. I showed off my strength to those kings, and they won't treat me lightly."

The Zongming king had earned quite a lot of spoils during the last meeting, and one item in particular was very attractive to all the kings present. They would surely focus their attention on the Zongming world.

Zhang Lie continued, "The Zongming king alone won't be able to defend against the invasion. I'll leave Gold Comet in the Zongming world. As for the rest of you, you'll focus on the offensive. Let me decide who should fight whom..."

Zhang Hanxiang raised a hand. "Brother, Hong Xi and I want to participate too!"

Hong Xi nodded. "We've consumed Potion #4, and we're far stronger than before."

Zhang Hanxiang punched forward a few times. "Brother, I want to test out my current strength!"

"It'll be dangerous."

Hong Xi remained steadfast. "I don't believe Hanxiang and I will lose even against a superior king."

Zhang Hanxiang added, "Hong Xi and I are aware of the danger, but we'd still like to do our part. Brother, you once told us that our combat experience and techniques aren't up to par, that we're behind Sun Mengmeng and the others. We'd like to rectify this deficiency!"

Chapter 1057: Settling Matters of War

Zhang Lie peered carefully at Hong Xi.

Hong Xi had caused a large disturbance when she absorbed Potion #4. Now that [Black Sun] and [Eclipse] had combined, she wouldn't lose out to the members of Team Zenith in terms of strength.

"If you insist, I'll have both of you participate as well." Zhang Lie continued, "The superior world of black rain is tattered, but it's still one of our spoils. I'm worried the superior worlds of antiquity will send their forces over to claim it."

The draconian sage asked, "Do we have the resources to be worried about our spoils?"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "The situation isn't bad enough that we shouldn't care about them. We should try to collect whatever we can."

This sounded somewhat greedy, but Zhang Lie had never been interested in winning a single match or battle—he wanted to win everything.

"Hong Xi, can I leave the defense of the world of black rain to you?"

Hong Xi nodded. "Of course, Master!"

Zhang Lie continued, "I'll send three people to the white world. Who's interested?"

Sun Mengmeng raised a hand. "I want to go."

"Sun Mengmeng, your framework is fire-attuned. Although it's somewhat of a bad fit elementally speaking, you'd do better against the ice queen than the solar king. Knowing this, are you willing to participate?"

The solar king's power derived from the sun. If Sun Mengmeng were to face him, she would be fighting an uphill battle against a higher-quality version of her own element.

Sun Mengmeng nodded. "It's important to learn how to fight in disadvantageous situations."

Zhang Lie nodded. "Very well."

Sun Xiaowu called out, "I'd like to go with my sister."

Zhang Hanxiang volunteered, "My framework is water-attuned, with a specialization in ice. It'll be a good environment for me to fight in. Let me go as well."

Zhang Lie glanced at her deeply, but he didn't reject her suggestion.

Zhang Lie warned, "The white world is perennially covered in ice and snow. Be careful."

Sun Mengmeng, Sun Xiaowu, and Zhang Hanxiang nodded seriously.

The draconian sage noted that Zhang Lie was very invested in this expedition, far more so than the previous one, in which the members of Team Zenith had chosen their respective targets by drawing lots. This time around, Zhang Lie was seriously valuing each combatant's ability and fit for their target world.

"We'll also send out three combatants to the world of blazing sun."

Yang Ze called out, "My framework is water-attuned. Let me go!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Your genetic energy will be suppressed by the environment and by the solar king himself. I intend to send you to the unclean world to scout around. Given your strength and abilities, it'll be easy enough for you to flee. Leave the world of blazing sun to Li Feng, Fang Yi, and Zhou Ying. Fang Yi, you'll be in charge of dealing with the solar king himself."

Li Feng, Fang Yi, and Zhou Ying all nodded.

Zhang Lie continued, "I'll handle the world of black fog myself. Once I finish up there, I'll head to the unclean world."

Once everyone's targets had been assigned, Yang Ze asked a crucial question. "Right, Captain, do you know where these worlds are located?"

"Somewhat." He had learned quite a bit during the war against the death spirits.

Yang Ze hurriedly followed up, "Then what about the parts you're unaware of?"

Li Zongming raised his hand. "I know roughly where these worlds are."

Zhang Lie turned to Li Zongming, who spread his arms. "After I participated in the meeting, I was given a map of the three thousand worlds, along with each king's jurisdiction."

Zhang Lie sighed. "Looks like we still need some information, after all."

Li Zongming asked, "From where?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Beyond the Zongming world—no, beyond all the superior worlds, there's someone surveilling us all. If we can ferret out this monitor from our surroundings, we'll be able to trade for the information we need."

The draconian sage and the scaleman king were both shocked. "A monitor?! From the superior worlds of antiquity?"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "All the superior worlds are being monitored—and some of them don't even know about it."

Yang Ze wondered, "Who ordered this surveillance? Some existence from a higher realm?"

Zhang Lie thought for a moment. "In some sense. He's the strongest among the three thousand worlds, the strongest king among the nine superior kings."

Li Zongming frowned. "You mean that we've constantly been under the surveillance of the king of chaos?"

"To be more precise, we've been monitored by one of his clones."

Li Zongming nodded. "It's no surprise, then. No one knows just how many clones the king of chaos has. I wouldn't be surprised if he had enough to form a troop composed solely of combatants on the level of superior kings."

Yang Ze gulped in shock. "This king of chaos isn't an enemy, is he?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Don't worry. If the king of chaos were an enemy, I wouldn't be trying to focus on offense and defense—I'd try to run away."

Sun Mengmeng sucked in a deep breath. "Even you can't handle it, Captain?"

Zhang Lie hummed. "It's hard to say. I've never exchanged blows with the king of chaos personally, but I've seen one of his clones attack. I'm confident I can deal with his clones, but I'm not sure about his main body. After all, if his clones are on the level of superior kings, just how strong would his main body be?"

The king of chaos would be someone to watch out for, but thankfully, he wasn't an enemy at present.

Li Zongming consoled, "Don't worry. The king of chaos wouldn't easily make a move. Even among the superior kings, he's the most transcendent of us all."

Zhang Lie continued, "The problem is to figure out how to ferret out the monitor in our vicinity..."

Li Zongming suggested, "How about we launch a full-scale search of the space in our environs?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "If the king of chaos wants to hide, he won't be found by any ordinary means."

Hong Xi timidly raised her hand. "Actually, there's no such need. We can figure out where the other superior worlds are."

Hmm? Everyone turned to Hong Xi, who quailed a little when met with the gazes of three superior kings and a whole group of people...

Chapter 1058: Scared Stiff

In the end, however, Hong Xi boldly made her suggestion. "When we headed to the death spirits' battlefield, we first assembled within the Zongming world. I'm sure that the alien troops elsewhere also assembled in their respective superior worlds before setting out in earnest. This location might not be within the superior world, but it's surely close to it. Furthermore, the Zongming king mentioned that he has a map with the various kings' jurisdictions marked."

Zhang Lie understood Hong Xi's intent immediately. "We just need to head to each jurisdiction and ask the aliens within where they had to gather."

The eyes of the members of Team Zenith lit up.

"Hong Xi, you really are intelligent! We'd never have thought of such a brilliant strategy."

"It really is amazing."

"We were all thinking about how we might be able to find the king of chaos' clone, but you jumped straight beyond that and suggested a strategy for finding the superior worlds' locations directly!"

Hong Xi smiled in embarrassment. "No, I simply know a bit more about the superior worlds thanks to my participation in the death spirits' war. If all of you had participated, I'm sure you would have come up with the same strategy too."

Upon their arrival in the Zongming world, the scaleman king and draconian sage marveled at how different the Zongming world was from their respective superior worlds. Zhang Lie didn't sense much of a difference; he simply found the Zongming world more comfortable. However, the scaleman king and draconian sage, who were superior kings in their own right, had far more acute senses in this respect.

The Zongming world, draconian world, and scaleman world were all superior worlds, but they were very different in terms of quality. This distinction made itself evident in the world's energy they possessed.

The Zongming world had been infused with seven superior worlds' worth of energy, and Zhang Lie wasn't at all worried about whether it would be able to repel the invasion of the superior worlds.

The increased strength and stability of the Zongming world transferred to its king, Li Zongming. The energy that Li Zongming gave off was already on par with those of the superior kings of antiquity.

"Is this one of the death spirits' weapons?" Now that the main matter of import was dealt with, Li Zongming turned to inspect what Zhang Lie had brought with him.

Zhang Lie nodded. "We call them battleships."

Li Zongming sighed. "It's a pity they've been destroyed to such an extent."

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Otherwise, no one on the battlefield would have been able to reclaim them safely. This is one of the more complete sets we have."

Li Zongming glanced at the cannon that was exposed by the hull of the battleship. "If there were sufficient energy reserves available, and if we were to clean up these remnants, would we be able to use this cannon in the invasion?"

Zhang Lie rolled his eyes. "I'm no expert on this front. You had better ask an expert."

Li Zongming frowned. "I just wonder if I really do have an expert in this area in the Zongming world..."

The Zongming world was large, but the death spirits' battleships represented such an advancement in terms of technology that Li Zongming really didn't know if he had an expert in the corresponding fields. At the very least, he couldn't think of anyone.

Zhang Lie shrugged. "This isn't my problem any longer. Don't forget about the trade you arranged with the draconian sage."

Li Zongming sighed. "Don't worry, I won't forget about it."

Li Zongming thought for a moment. "Let's try putting the black metal inside."

Zhang Lie turned to leave. "I'll be setting off, then."

Li Zongming couldn't help but ask, "What do you think are the odds of our victory?"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Before we start fighting in earnest, I can't say."

Li Zongming and Zhang Lie left the death spirits' battleship, where they found everyone gathered and prepared to set off.

The draconian sage and scaleman king had returned to their own worlds in preparation for the war.

"Let's set off." Li Zongming waved a hand and opened portal after portal, which the members of Team Zenith stepped through.

Just as they did so, and just as the draconian sage and scaleman king returned to their worlds, the enemies attacked.

Beyond the draconian world, golden radiance skimmed through the void. Sunlight vanquished all darkness. Hundreds of suns gathered beyond the outskirts of the world. The inhabitants of the draconian world shielded their eyes at the blinding light.

Countless chariots driven by golden birds charged forward, led by a golden warrior.

The invading forces numbered, shockingly, dozens of times more than were present for the death spirits' invasion.

The golden warrior shouted, "Inhabitants of this newly evolved superior world! Are you aware of your crimes?"

The draconian sage frowned, unable to find any combatant on the level of a superior king among the enemy forces.

"You have destroyed the equilibrium among the three thousand worlds. Today, on behalf of the world of blazing sun, you'll face divine punishment!"

The golden light formed a long river of radiance, and the golden warriors charged forth toward the draconian world.

Despite the protective boundary around the draconian world, the temperature within rose dramatically. The golden warrior shouted, "Come out and face me!"

The draconian sage called back, "Send your strongest combatant over. Someone like you doesn't deserve to talk to me."

The leading warrior laughed. "Would we need to do that against a newly evolved superior world? I think not!"

The golden warriors all began to laugh. "Are you underestimating us, or overestimating yourself?"

"Against a world like yours, we're far more than sufficient."

"Do you really think you're our equal just because your world has evolved into a superior world?"

This was the attitude of the inhabitants of the world of blazing sun, as well as that of the solar king.

The solar king thought the draconian world, the draconian sage, and Li Zongming beneath him. He hadn't even sent out a combatant on the level of a superior king along with his forces.

Of course, even if the draconian sage were to destroy them all, it would mean very little to the solar king, who could easily cultivate more soldiers at this level.

The draconian sage smiled and clapped. "Indeed? Very good, very, very good."

The golden warriors from the world of blazing sun looked at each other skeptically.

"Has this fellow gone mad?"

"He must be scared stiff by our forces—so scared he went mad!"

"As expected, these new superior kings can't hold a candle to our incredible ruler, the solar king! For a superior king to possess such inferior mental fortitude..."

"After all, this is a newly evolved superior world. How can it compare to our world of blazing sun?"

Chapter 1059: Stalling for Time

The draconian sage began to laugh. "I have to thank the solar king for underestimating me, then. It'll make the rest of my job far easier."

The draconian sage let out a loud roar and transformed into a multicolored dragon. His body was so huge that it spread out across the void. Upon sensing the aura of a superior king, the warriors from the world quaked and trembled.

A similar situation was taking place at the same time in the scaleman world.

Troops forged of ice and snow appeared over the horizon, forming a long river of frozen ice as they stepped into the scaleman world. A blizzard surrounded them, snow pouring through the skies. The temperature around these troops dropped dramatically as sleet began to fall.

The invading forces numbered, shockingly, dozens of times more than were present for the death spirits' invasion.

Leading these troops was the frost spirit commander, whom Zhang Lie would recognize immediately.

It was evident that the ice queen was impressed by her commander's ability to survive during the death spirits' war, and she had sent him on another expedition.

The frost spirit commander shouted, "Inhabitants of this newly evolved superior world! Are you aware of your crimes?"

Just like the draconian sage, the scaleman king was unable to find any combatant on the level of a superior king among the enemy forces.

Despite the poor relationship between the solar king and the ice queen, the fact that they had ended up enemies meant that they thought alike in some sense.

Just like the solar king, the ice queen believed that it wasn't worth sending any combatants on the level of superior kings against newly evolved superior worlds.

From the perspective of the superior worlds of antiquity, combatants on this level were the equivalent of starbreak annihilators in the Milky Way, who wouldn't be mobilized unless absolutely necessary. For Li Zongming to keep someone like Zhang Lie by his side all this time made him look like a fool who had won the lottery to the eyes of the superior kings.

To the superior kings of antiquity, combatants on the level of superior kings were a resource to be jealously hoarded, as well as a threat.

The scaleman king rose into the air, shielding the scaleman world behind him, as he faced the ice queen's troops.

The frost spirit commander called out, "You have destroyed the equilibrium among the three thousand worlds. Today, on behalf of the white world, you'll face divine punishment!"

The scaleman king laughed. "And what right do you have to speak for the divine?"

"We are the divine!" the frost spirit commander retorted.

The scaleman king taunted, "Save it. Send your strongest combatant over—I don't want to have to deal with the rest of you trash."

The frost spirit commander's face turned dark. "Do you refuse to acknowledge your wrongdoing? Your existence violates the law and order of the three thousand worlds. None of you can be spared."

The scaleman king snorted. "Ha! Your so-called "law and order" is nothing more than might makes right!"

"It's not too late to repent. Kneel now!"

The scaleman king refused to give in. "Say that over my dead body."

The frost spirit commander waved a hand. "Troops, march forward!"

Back in the Zongming world, Li Zongming had found a group of people to research the death spirits' battleships.

"The cannons can be activated with the black metal as the fuel, but the battleships themselves are in such poor condition that they'd likely fall apart after one burst."

Li Zongming and the researchers of the Zongming world had tried to activate one of the death spirits' cannons. A one-time use would be rather wasteful, but it could be a trump card in times of need.

Suddenly, he felt a superior king's aura coming from afar. Li Zongming raised his head. "They've come."

A golden pillar of light rose into the air. As a monarch-grade lifeform, Gold Comet's senses were particularly sharp. It had sensed the opponent's arrival before even the Zongming king.

With a spatial teleport, Li Zongming vanished from the spot. The next moment, he appeared beyond the Zongming world.

He arrived barely before Gold Comet did, only to find black fog filling the void. Within the black fog were countless figures.

Li Zongming frowned. "To think the king of black fog himself has come. Welcome, welcome."

A human face condensed out of the fog. "King of Zongming, I'd like to borrow something from you."

"And what might that be?" Li Zongming asked.

"A newly evolved superior world."

Li Zongming frowned, clearly displeased.

The king of black fog continued, "You have two, after all. Giving one up is no trouble."

Li Zongming countered, "King of black fog, have you heard of a joke that we inhabitants of the Zongming world tell among ourselves?"

The king of black fog replied imperiously, "I didn't come over to listen to one of your jokes."

Li Zongming ignored him. "You have two kidneys, don't you? Surely it's no big deal for you to sell one."

The king of black fog understood his intent. "You're unwilling, then?"

"Isn't that obvious?"

The king of black fog cried out, "Are you aware of your crimes?!"

"I have committed no crime."

"You've destroyed the harmony among the three thousand worlds, as well as the rules set out by the superior worlds, by attempting to ally with these newly evolved superior worlds."

Li Zongming laughed coldly. "If I remember correctly, according to the rules established by the superior kings, I can do whatever I want to the superior worlds that appear in my domain.

Both newly evolved superior worlds are in my domain, and what to do with them is my concern and mine alone. I explained during the meeting that my intention was to persuade them to combine with mine."

The king of black fog replied, "But you don't seem to have made a move."

Li Zongming shrugged. "Persuasion isn't something that can be carried out so quickly. You need to give me time."

In truth, both parties were stalling for time.

The king of black fog was waiting for news that the scaleman world and the draconian world had been successfully claimed by one of the other superior kings, whereas Li Zongming was waiting for Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith to finish off the superior worlds. Both kings were stalling because of their confidence in their allies.

To the king of black fog, the two newly evolved superior worlds would be easy prey.

Four superior worlds of antiquity were attacking simultaneously; their strength wasn't something the newly evolved superior worlds could match.

Unlike the Zongming world, which had evolved and rapidly ascended through the ranks thanks to the death spirits' war, the newly evolved superior worlds had no reserves at all to speak of. Even the king of black fog alone could easily take on both worlds and come out on top.

With four superior worlds in the fray, the outcome was obvious.

On the other hand, to Li Zongming, no one could overcome the might of Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith. He harbored absolute confidence in Zhang Lie, and knew that the members of Team Zenith were each as strong as superior kings in their own right...

Chapter 1059: Stalling for Time

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Four superior worlds of antiquity were attacking simultaneously; their strength wasn't something the newly evolved superior worlds could match.

Unlike the Zongming world, which had evolved and rapidly ascended through the ranks thanks to the death spirits' war, the newly evolved superior worlds had no reserves at all to speak of. Even the king of black fog alone could easily take on both worlds and come out on top.

With four superior worlds in the fray, the outcome was obvious.

On the other hand, to Li Zongming, no one could overcome the might of Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith. He harbored absolute confidence in Zhang Lie, and knew that the members of Team Zenith were each as strong as superior kings in their own right...

Chapter 1060: Diminishing the Fog

Both kings were stalling for time.

The king of black fog chuckled coldly. "Haha, I might want to give you some time, but I'm afraid the other superior kings won't let me."

Li Zongming knew what was going on, but he still asked, "What does this have to do with the other superior kings?"

The king of black fog, realizing that he had misspoken, hurriedly corrected himself, "No, it's nothing..."

Li Zongming had to work hard to feign ignorance. To be honest, he didn't feel as though he could keep it up—his opponent's acting skills were atrocious. He was barely able to hide his laughter.

After all, Li Zongming knew even more than did the king of black fog. If the king of black fog were on the first layer of understanding, Li Zongming was on the second.

The king of black fog felt as though he could layer another veneer of justification over his claims. "This decision was made jointly by the various superior kings."

Although he could directly attack the Zongming world, the king of black fog didn't want to do so. He could sense that Li Zongming's aura had grown even stronger than it had been during the meeting. It was clear that he had already digested part of the spoils he had earned during the meeting.

If they were to start fighting, the king of black fog, who was only a clone, might not be able to best the Zongming king. Furthermore, he hadn't seen any sight of Zhang Lie, so the king of black fog preferred to be more cautious.

There was no rush; he could take down Li Zongming once his allies had captured the two newly evolved superior worlds. This was something that the other superior kings had agreed to, as well.

The king of black fog continued, "Given your attitude, I assume you won't hand over one of these worlds, then."

Li Zongming shrugged. "Why should I hand over something that belongs to me by right?"

While the king of black fog and Li Zongming delayed each other, a beam of golden light slashed apart the air.

Even the king of black fog and Li Zongming could barely catch a glimpse of Gold Comet despite being superior kings. The golden scythes tore apart the face formed by the black fog.

"What's this?"

As Gold Comet slashed its scythes, the black fog scattered. The king of black fog cried out, "King of Zongming! What bastard is this?"

Li Zongming shrugged. "Who knows?"

The king of black fog was immediately incensed by Gold Comet's actions.

"You dare!" The black fog struck at Gold Comet.

"Let me help you, king of black fog." The image of a giant beast appeared behind Li Zongming's back. It had scales in six colors, with a pair of golden wings behind its back. It had a long, narrow mouth, with eight horns on its head like a golden crown. A ring of light glowed behind him as brightly as the sun.

Radiant light illuminated the void, scattering the black fog.

The black fog frothed, almost on the verge of exploding.

Li Zongming laughed. "My goodness! I'm sorry, that was a blunder!"

Although the king of black fog's brain was just fog, that didn't mean that he was stupid. "So you already knew of the plan. Who told you?"

Li Zongming feigned ignorance. "What are you talking about, king of black fog? I don't understand what you're saying at all."

The king of black fog's voice rose. "Even now, you're still trying to pretend you don't know anything?"

Li Zongming shook his head. "What could you be referring to? I'm not pretending—I simply don't know."

Gold Comet had continued scything at the fog during their conversation.

"Damned bug!" The king of black fog began to froth. As though the tides were rising, the void filled with black fog in the form of a tsunami.

"King of black fog, let me assist you!" With another burst of radiant light, Li Zongming blocked off the black fog's impending attack.

The king of black fog cursed, "Zongming king, I'm coming for you next!"

"King of black fog, what are you talking about? I was trying to help you, but we simply didn't coordinate! The opponent's too fast. We need to work together," Li Zongming cried out, even as he sent more beams of light scattering through the void and piercing the king of black fog's form.

Gold Comet's scythes crossed each other. It whirled in the void, forming a golden drill and penetrating the black fog from a different direction.

The black fog roiled as Li Zongming frowned. The king of black fog was a difficult opponent to deal with.

Li Zongming cried out again, "Sorry, sorry, king of black fog, I was mistaken!"

The black fog slowly condensed and formed a human face once more. "Li Zongming, you've already infused the seven superior worlds' worth of energy into the Zongming world, haven't you?"

"King of black fog, it's approaching again!"

Li Zongming yelled out. Golden light condensed. The king of black fog looked in the direction that Li Zongming was pointing, wary of an actual attack, only to find Gold Comet suddenly speeding into him and piercing him through from behind.

As the black fog continuously dissipated from Li Zongming and Gold Comet's attacks, it slowly lost more and more of its volume.

Li Zongming cried out, "King of black fog, I already warned you! Why were you so careless?"

"You!" If not for Li Zongming's sudden shout, Gold Comet's sneak attack wouldn't have succeeded. The black fog frothed and roiled, then exploded.

Li Zongming gasped. "King of black fog, did you explode out of anger?"

The fog began to rotate rapidly in the air, forming a pitch-black tornado. Gold Comet did the same, forming a golden tornado and smashing into the nascent black one.

Li Zongming struck at the tornado with beams of light, supporting Gold Comet and helping to dissipate the tornado. He called out, "King of black fog, it seems like you're struggling to deal with a mere insect! Do you need some more assistance?"

"Li Zongming, I'll kill you today!" The king of black fog even became unable to maintain his human face.

If not for Li Zongming's "assistance", the king of black fog wouldn't have fared so badly against Gold Comet. He didn't care about stalling for time any longer; instead, he struck with full force.

Meanwhile, Gold Comet's speed had grown to such an extent that its afterimages made it look as though there were hundreds of its clones attacking simultaneously.

The king of black fog couldn't help but be shocked. "Just what is this bug? Where did the king of Zongming find such a pest?"

As a superior king of antiquity, he was experienced and knowledgeable, but he had never seen the likes of Gold Comet before. An insect that was even faster than a superior king—it was shocking.

Gold Comet and Li Zongming struck simultaneously once again, diminishing the black fog further...