

## **U. Warlord 1091**

Chapter 1091: An Overwhelming Stench

Yang Ze learned about the king of evil's atrocities from the fleeing aliens who had returned to the vicinity of the unclean world, which enraged him to no end.

He decided to strike before Zhang Lie could return.

However, he wasn't so foolish as to strike without any preparation. Instead, he had hung out beyond the borders of the unclean world to amass his strength, creating crystalline lotuses one after another, until he had a hundred thousand of them.

With his army of a hundred thousand crystalline lotuses, Yang Ze swaggered into the unclean world. The lotuses filled the skies.

"King of evil, your judgment has come!"

There were countless abyssal trenches criss-crossing the unclean world. Green gaseous vapors emerged from them.

Yang Ze was very suspicious of these abyssal depths, and he was certain that exploring them himself would be a foolish act.

He didn't understand why the characters in horror flicks tried to investigate something they knew was dangerous, mysterious, or somehow problematic. Wouldn't it have been better to call the police, or if not, to turn around and leave?

Why did they explore on their own? Weren't they afraid of dying?

Yang Ze naturally wasn't a character in a horror flick, and he had no interest in investigating what lay within the abyssal trenches.

He directed ten thousand of his crystalline lotuses into the trenches, forming a crystalline river.

Nothing happened after ten minutes, but Yang Ze remained patient.

When nothing happened after twenty minutes, Yang Ze continued to remain patient.

When nothing happened after thirty minutes, Yang Ze began to doubt himself.

When nothing happened after forty minutes, Yang Ze finally lost his patience.

"Could there be nothing within these trenches?" No, that was a dangerous thought—and a foolish one.

If there weren't anything within the trenches, then the ten thousand crystalline lotuses should have erupted in a mess of ice and water-attuned genetic energy. The fact that they didn't, then, meant that something was fishy.

Yang Ze was deliberating whether or not to release thirty thousand more crystalline lotuses into the trenches when something finally happened.

The entire unclean world shuddered, and huge quantities of green gas erupted from the trenches.

Yang Ze clapped. "Haha, this is exactly what's supposed to happen!"

Deep within the trenches, something seemed to be rising. When more and more green gas spawned, Yang Ze couldn't help but be concerned. "What's going on?"

Huge quantities of noxious gas flooded the unclean world, causing Yang Ze to pinch his nose shut and regulate oxygen intake using his genetic energy. Who knew whether that green gas was poisonous?

Yang Ze quickly obtained the answer to his question. The moment his skin touched the green gas, he felt a stinging pain, followed by a sizzling noise from his skin. The gas was corroding his skin, and it appeared to be stronger than even concentrated acid.

After all, Yang Ze was no ordinary human. He was a genetic hunter, one who possessed monarch gene fragments, who had maxed out his disaster gene fragments, and who possessed peak limit fragments. He had been classified as a disaster-grade lifeform upon ascending to the third realm.

Yang Ze was far beyond ordinary genetic hunters in terms of physical specifications, and his skin was harder than steel.

The fact that his skin was being corroded despite these advantages...

Yang Ze immediately formed a membrane of genetic energy around himself to protect his body from the green gases, but even so, they continued to eat at his membrane.

Even before coming into contact with the king of evil itself, Yang Ze felt as though he were on the losing end of things. Was this what the superior kings of the third realm were like?

Indeed, trying to take down a superior world of antiquity was a dangerous task. Yang Ze felt as though he should have done even more preparation.

The stench in the air grew thicker as a huge wave of green gas billowed up from the trenches. Yang Ze flew higher and higher in order to avoid it.

Suddenly, a deluge of amorphous gray fluid emerged from within the trenches, erupting from them like an inverted avalanche.

The fluid quivered and swelled, as though it were the source of all filth and waste.

The fluid that made up the king of evil's body roiled. More and more mutated growths and abominations were visible within the main body's flesh, crying out shrilly. They tried to escape—before they were swallowed back into the interior of the fluid and digested.

This was the king of evil! Yang Ze had heard about the king of evil's appearance from Zhang Lie, and he recognized it immediately. "King of evil, I've been waiting for you for a long time. Goodbye!"

Yang Ze tossed the remaining ninety thousand crystalline lotuses at the king of evil, then turned to run without even looking back at their effect.

From his perspective, if the ninety thousand crystalline lotuses were able to get rid of the king of evil, there was no need for Yang Ze to do anything more, and on the other hand, if they couldn't do

anything against the king of evil, then the king of evil wasn't an opponent he was currently equipped to handle. Running away would be the most intelligent choice here.

The ninety thousand crystalline lotuses landed on the pale gray fluid with the sound of exploding fireworks. Water-attuned genetic energy gushed out furiously, forming the image of a beautiful, gigantic lotus.

Crystalline shards flew through the air. Water-attuned genetic energy swamped the gray fluid like the tide, smothering it.

Yang Ze couldn't resist peering back to see what destruction he had wrought. He was very curious just what the effect of so many lotuses would be. He couldn't help but gasp as he turned around—but that curiosity stripped him of his ability to run.

The gray fluid, and the malformed monstrosities trapped within it, had been frozen solid, turning pale white with frost. Before Yang Ze could become excited, however, the unclean world shuddered again, even more intensely than before.

The frozen fluid shattered. Huge quantities of gray fluid welled up from the abyssal trenches, like the eruption of a volcano.

Yang Ze's eyes widened as he tried to flee, but the gray fluid formed a huge palm that slammed down over him...

Chapter 1092: Zhang Lie's Arrival

Yang Ze retaliated with a sword technique. "[The Boundless Blade: Shark Frenzy]!"

Waves suddenly appeared in the sky, shimmering like a mirage. Spatial fluctuations rippled as Yang Ze activated [Mirrored Refraction]. However, the palm formed of gray fluid crushed the technique in an instant.

It tried to grab at Yang Ze, only to pass through his body harmlessly.

At some point, Yang Ze had flown out of reach, leaving nothing more than a mirage behind.

"You'd better practice harder if you want to catch me!"

Thanks to the explosion of ninety thousand crystalline lotuses, there was plenty of water-attuned genetic energy at Yang Ze's feet. He manipulated that energy into mist, then summoned sharks within that mist.

To the sharks, the mist was like water.

The pale gray fluid was different from any enemy Yang Ze had fought to date. Huge numbers of malformed monstrosities were birthed from within the pale gray fluid. They bit and tore at the sharks, almost as though this were a fight between summoner and summoner.

Huge quantities of gray fluid emerged from the abyssal trenches. They coalesced into huge palms.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!" Yang Ze struck again. His sword flashed with ripples and slashed apart one palm. The other palms continued grasping at him, coming from all directions, leaving him no room to make a mirage and flee.

Even so, they didn't manage to catch Yang Ze. Yang Ze's body rippled as they tore through him.

Yang Ze laughed. "Haha, how's that?"

This was the effect of [Reflected Sight, Refracted Vision], a technique that combined spatial force and water-attuned genetic energy.

As expected of a superior king of antiquity, the king of evil quickly recognized what Yang Ze was doing and locked down the ability to distort and manipulate space within the vicinity of the unclean world.

Yang Ze grew infuriated. "What am I supposed to do now?!"

The pale gray fluid formed more palms that tried to catch Yang Ze.

As Yang Ze dodged, he shouted, "Asshole! Let me attack you with all my tricks if you dare!"

Even more palms formed.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea]!" Yang Ze invoked his authority over space, which combined with his water-attuned genetic energy and formed circlets around his arms.

As he punched forward, ripples spread out all around his arm, disrupting the gray fluid that made up the manifold palms.

Subsequently, all those palms burst apart in front of him in a rain of fluid. Yang Ze hurriedly dashed back.

The green gases that the fluid gave off were already very corrosive; it was apparent that the fluid would be even worse.

Yang Ze waved the sword in his hand. A current swirled around the sword, deflecting all gray fluid that came his way. Yang Ze was very adept with his sword, and the gray fluid was unable to get close to him.

However, he didn't notice that the gray fluid beneath him had suddenly erupted. Deflecting all the fluid around already required a huge consumption of mental stamina, and he was caught unawares by the eruption from beneath.

Even so, the king of evil was flabbergasted to see the gray fluid slide harmlessly past Yang Ze.

Yang Ze began to roar in laughter. "Haha, you didn't expect it, did you? Do you really think I dared to enter a superior world of antiquity without any preparations?"

Yang Ze had expected to encounter the king of evil, after all. "Of course I'd prepare a trump card beforehand!"

Yang Ze's trump card was the combination of karma and fate. Ever since he had imbibed Potion #4, Yang Ze had felt a tenuous connection to karma.

If Zhang Lie were present, he would call Yang Ze's power an inversion of heaven's might. Yang Ze's dodging ability reversed cause and effect.

The next moment, as though the entirety of the unclean world were about to explode, even more gray fluid emerged from the abyssal trenches. Yang Ze could hardly have imagined that all this fluid could fit within.

"What, you can't take a joke?"

Yang Ze was able to dodge any attack where he had even the slightest possibility of dodging it, but if the king of evil were to launch something coming at him from all directions, his boon might very well be nullified.

With all his tricks spent, Yang Ze wasn't certain exactly how to react to this next attack.

Suddenly, however, water-attuned genetic energy erupted from above him, a boundless ocean's worth. Yang Ze didn't have genetic energy of this magnitude. To the best of his knowledge, only one person did.

"Captain!"

A frightening aura descended on the world. The skies began to darken, and a fish the size of a whale materialized in the air.

A howling gale swept over the unclean world. As more and more genetic energy gathered around Zhang Lie's arms, it looked as though he were at the heart of a whirlpool.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Soar]!" A huge wave soared into the air. As Zhang Lie punched forward, the fish slammed its huge tail on the ground and sent a torrent of water surging into the air.

Ripples of energy spread out from Zhang Lie, warping the space around him. The towering waves looked like enraged black dragons, and they swamped the abyssal trenches.

The genetic energy swamped and nullified the effect of the gray fluid. The ground cracked, and huge holes were formed in the abyssal trenches.

Yang Ze raised his head to see Zhang Lie descending like a god from the heavens.

"Captain, you're finally here!" Yang Ze called out, waving madly at him.

Zhang Lie slowly landed beside Yang Ze.

"Captain, I thought I might never see you again!" Yang Ze hugged Zhang Lie's thigh tightly.

Zhang Lie pushed him off and grumbled, "Didn't I tell you that you were only supposed to scout?"

Yang Ze fibbed, "I did come here to scout, but the king of evil discovered me! Of course I had to retaliate once he started launching blows my way."

Yang Ze didn't even blink when he lied.

Beneath them, the trenches exploded with gray matter once again.

Yang Ze patted his chest. "Now that my captain's here, I've nothing to fear from you! [The Boundless Blade: Dragonwhale]!"

In the blink of an eye, Yang Ze was surrounded by a patch of ocean.

The lapping of waves echoed through the battlefield. They grew and grew, reaching a crescendo and rising into the sky like a tsunami, manifesting in the form of a huge whale. crescendo

The whale's body was long and streamlined, with long whiskers and scales patterning its body. It squashed the gray fluid as it fell to the unclean world, concentrated water-attuned genetic energy exploding forth in the form of waves amidst the gray fluid...

Chapter 1093: Many Hands

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!" Zhang Lie extended his pointer finger like a sword, and water-attuned genetic energy gathered around it. As he waved his finger, sword energy erupted like a wave, accompanied by a giant shark.

Yang Ze released a second gigantic dragonwhale. The pale-blue dragonwhale merged together with the sharks, forming an unusual combination that possessed the unique features of each lifeform.

The attack pierced through the gray fluid and exploded deep within the abyssal trenches, sending pale blue genetic energy surging. A huge hole formed in the trenches, from which more gray fluid poured out.

"[Ninecarp Transformation]!" A black serpent materialized behind Zhang Lie, by now so large and so developed that it resembled the world-swallowing serpent Jormungandr. It let out a threatening hiss as its scales clicked together.

Just as Zhang Lie was about to attack, Yang Ze stopped him. "Captain, please let me handle it!"

Water-attuned genetic energy surged forth from Yang Ze, like a roaring sea. "The Boundless Blade: Sea Serpent]!"

With a wave of Yang Ze's sword, water-attuned genetic energy manifested in the form of a giant serpent, pale blue in color, with gills on either side of its body, its scales like crystalline shards of ice. It surged forward, swiping its claws. Genetic energy burst forth, scattering the gray fluid before it.

Even so, the gray fluid continued pouring out of the abyssal trenches, seemingly in limitless portions.

Yang Ze frowned. "Can the king of evil really be killed?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Your attacks aren't strong enough. Would you like some assistance?"

Yang Ze wasn't so stubborn as to refuse help. He accepted immediately.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Fade]!" Zhang Lie punched forward, and the black serpent behind him shot forth.

At the same time, Yang Ze sent out his sea serpent. The two serpents shot forward, piercing through the gray fluid and exploding amidst the abyssal trenches.

As the gray fluid flew through the air, Zhang Lie and Yang Ze both shielded themselves with an arm. Zhang Lie flashed forward and charged toward the abyssal trenches, and Yang Ze hurriedly followed suit.

The depths of the abyss were so filled with concentrated stench that an ordinary hunter might have fainted from it. Gray fluid squirmed within.

The fluid that made up the king of evil's body roiled. More and more mutated growths and abominations were visible within the main body's flesh, crying out shrilly. They tried to escape—before they were swallowed back into the interior of the fluid and digested.

That gray fluid surged forth from all around them, as though trying to swallow Zhang Lie up.

As Zhang Lie activated his blood ant and dragonwolf soulshards, he transformed into a dragonwolf with russet fur and limbs covered with dragons' scales. His aura became magnified as a hurricane of blood spawned around him.

Zhang Lie's punches, imbued with genetic energy, caused the gray fluid approaching from all directions to explode.

Zhang Lie began, "I haven't seen any other combatants around. Could the only living entity in the unclean world be the king of evil?"

Zhang Lie was deep within the abyssal trenches; the king of evil should have dispatched his strongest forces by now, if any existed.

Zhang Lie hypothesized, "Could the king of evil have devoured them all?"

Yang Ze's face turned pale. "Don't say something so disgusting. It really might be possible!"

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Fade]!" As Zhang Lie punched forward, the blood dragon roared in outrage and shot forward.

The blood dragon smashed apart layer after layer of gray fluid, but even more poured out of the abyssal trenches to replace what was lost. The blood dragon ended up being encased by the fluid.

Subsequently, a wave of annihilation exploded around the dragon. Pitch-black energy swallowed everything in the vicinity like a storm at sea, causing the gray fluid to explode.

The pitch-black energy formed a black hole that devoured its surroundings. The gray fluid was sucked in completely. Large numbers of the malformed creatures within cried and screeched, but no matter how they struggled, they were unable to break free from the destruction caused by the energy of annihilation.

As that energy continued to spread outward, even Zhang Lie and Yang Ze were forced to step back.

The energy of annihilation swallowed up the abyssal trenches. It devoured everything in sight, including ancient rocks and boulders. Everything appeared powerless in comparison.

The king of evil tried to prevent its spread, but the energy of annihilation was more intense than even it had given it credit for. The gray fluid continued to be sucked up and devoured, canceling out the king of evil's millennia of growth and evolution.

The king of evil continued creating more of the gray fluid, birthing even more malformed creatures, trying to exhaust all the energy of annihilation, without realizing that the energy of annihilation couldn't be satisfied.

The unclean world was steadily trending toward destruction. Without any other recourse, the king of evil was forced to flee from the swelling waves of energy—but Zhang Lie and Yang Ze weren't about to let their prey escape so easily.

"[The Boundless Blade: Nine-Headed Hydra]!" Genetic energy exploded from Yang Ze and manifested in the form of a nine-headed hydra, each head breathing out a beam of sword energy to prevent the king of evil's escape.

The malformed creatures continued to screech.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Hundred Dragons Soaring]!" A horde of over a hundred black dragons launched out of Zhang Lie's left arm as he expended half his genetic energy in one supercharged attack.

Howling with the force of thunder, a horde of over a hundred blood dragons flew toward the king of evil, directed by Zhang Lie's punch. They were fierce and domineering, and all hundred of them boasted the power of annihilation.

The storm caused by the energy of annihilation spread further and further inland. Zhang Lie and Yang Ze had brought destruction and calamity to the unclean world, causing the entire world to be encapsulated by a pitch-black storm, which had continued to spread more and more rapidly.

The attack left a huge pit in the ground of the unclean world, so large it might as well be a basin.

No longer did gray fluid continue to well up from the abyssal trenches. Zhang Lie and Yang Ze landed on the ground to find remnants of gray fluid still squirming around, with malformed creatures within trying to break free.

Zhang Lie unsheathed Guicang. "We'd better clean up."

Yang Ze gathered his water-attuned genetic energy, turning the air ice-cold. Crystalline lotuses formed all around him, freezing the gray fluid solid. Subsequently, he cleaned up the frozen chunks. Meanwhile, Zhang Lie took a chunk of fluid and infused his genetic energy into it to identify where the other remnants were.

After all, the gray fluid formed part of the king of evil's body, and it would be possible to sense the rest of the king of evil through it. However, there were quite a number of morsels of gray fluid around, and they were all hiding in difficult-to-reach places. Dealing with them all would be no small task.

Chapter 1094: Somewhat Interested

Unfortunately, there was no other choice but to clean up after the king of evil. If Zhang Lie and Yang Ze were to leave now and dispatch hunters to the scene when they returned to the draconian, Zongming, or scalemen worlds, the gray fluid would likely have reproduced to such an extent that they would have to deal with a reformed king of evil. Although Zhang Lie was confident he would be able to do so, there was no need for the hassle.

It would be most straightforward to deal with the king of evil now and clean up all the gray fluid that remained.

Yang Ze summoned white fog once more. Thanks to Zhang Lie and Yang Ze's continued attacks, the unclean world's atmosphere was filled with water vapor. It was straightforward for Yang Ze to manifest white fog, even over an extremely large region.

Shark hordes appeared within the fog, but the individual sharks weren't particularly strong. They tended to be defeated by the malformed creatures from the gray fluid, but they could easily re-manifest from the white fog.

Upon witnessing Yang Ze's actions, Zhang Lie thought of a good idea. "[The Boundless Blade: the River Lethe]!"

As black genetic energy surrounded him, the temperature of the unclean world dropped to sub-zero values, and a strong wind buffeted everyone present. Blood-colored frost appeared around them all.

An underworld river materialized in the sky, one so vast the entire world could see it. As though the doors to hell had just been thrown open, tens of thousands of serpents rushed out in a flood, consuming every bit of gray they could see.

Upon doing so, they exploded into pitch-black fluid.

The serpents were unable to withstand the might of the gray fluid—which were, after all, fragments of a superior king of antiquity—but they were likewise able to reform on the spot.

The combination of the sharks and serpents significantly cut down on the effort Zhang Lie and Yang Ze had to make to scour the world clean of the gray fluid.

The blood rain that poured from the skies signaled that Yang Ze and Zhang Lie's task was complete. Zhang Lie retrieved the proof of kingship from amidst the last of the gray fluid.

The proof of kingship was itself gray fluid. If not for the fact that all the gray fluid had now been destroyed, it would have been difficult to detect it.

Zhang Lie drained away the superior world's energy via the proof of kingship.

"As expected of a superior world of antiquity..."

The world of black fog had been rich, and so was the unclean world. The superior worlds of antiquity really had stockpiled a lot of treasures over their millennia of existence.

Even in its rundown state, the world of black fog had possessed five or six superior worlds' worth of energy, whereas the unclean world had ten superior worlds' worth.

Comparatively, the Zongming world, which had managed to obtain seven superior worlds' worth during the superior kings' meeting, was truly a world that had struck the jackpot.

After absorbing all that world's energy, Zhang Lie and Yang Ze flew out of the unclean world. Suddenly, Zhang Lie stopped in his tracks.

Yang Ze glanced at him. "Captain!"

Zhang Lie called out, "You've been watching for a long time, haven't you? Isn't it time for you to show yourself?"

Yang Ze glanced all around him, but didn't spot anyone.

Zhang Lie continued, "To think the strongest king of the third realm would just be a spying thief! Or do you have some other intention, king of chaos?"

Upon hearing the words "king of chaos", Yang Ze couldn't help but widen his eyes in shock.

He had first learned of the king of chaos from Zhang Lie, who told him that he was the strongest superior king in the third realm, whom Zhang Lie couldn't see through completely.

As Yang Ze warily glanced around him, the space around him split up into twenty-four segments. A man wearing a white lab coat walked out from behind those segments, which were layered so perfectly Yang Ze wasn't surprised he had missed them.

"A human?" Yang Ze was shocked by the identity of the man in a lab coat. For the strongest king of the third realm to be a human... Yang Ze simply couldn't believe it.

Zhang Lie shook his head. "The king of chaos isn't a human. What he is, I don't know myself. His appearance as a human is simply an illusion.

Nightdemon, the Shining Trapezohedron in his hands, walked out from behind the layered space. "You're undoubtedly the man who managed to kill two superior kings, to have been able to detect me instantly."

Zhang Lie asked, "Did you enjoy the show?"

"It was very interesting. To think that you had such an ace up your sleeve—all the other superior kings fell prey to it." Nightdemon glanced at Yang Ze with interest.

Zhang Lie asked, "Don't you have anything else to say?"

"Not at the moment... Ah, I suppose there's one thing. You had better return to the Zongming world quickly."

Zhang Lie frowned. "Is something the matter?"

Yang Ze asked urgently, "Has something happened to the Zongming world?"

"You'll see once you return." Nightdemon didn't clarify. His white coat, stained by blood, turned a dark-red color. The red of Nightdemon's coat deepened and darkened until it was almost black. Then, it flashed and opened wide, transforming into a pair of bat's wings.

The black wings wrapped around Nightdemon as he took to the sky. When they unfurled again, he had morphed into a gigantic bat with a brilliant white smile the shape of a crescent moon, as though he were mocking the entire world.

A fiery-red eye widened, then split into three. Everyone nearby felt a deathly sense of fear. He flapped his wings and left.

The king of keys was currently traveling through the void among the three thousand worlds of the third realm. He suddenly sensed an imbalance among the worlds.

"The unclean world, destroyed; the world of black fog, destroyed... We've truly underestimated the Zongming world, haven't we?"

A spatial fluctuation appeared before the king of keys. "You've returned?"

A fellow with a planet for a head appeared before the king of keys.

"Has the king of black fog been destroyed?"

The planet-headed scout nodded. "The Zongming king's more tricky than expected. His forces seem to have recovered the death spirits' weapons of war, and they're in the process of researching them. I had a little setback, but thankfully, I have something to show for my troubles."

"Don't worry—I'm hardly affected. What did you bring back?"

The planet-headed scout replied, "I encountered an interesting beast near the outskirts of the Zongming world. I thought you might be interested, Your Majesty, so I brought it back with me."

Meanwhile, Zhang Lie and Yang Ze hurriedly returned to the Zongming world...

#### Chapter 1095: An Unexpected Situation

The outskirts of the Zongming world were wildly fluctuating with energy, and it was clear that a big battle had taken place.

Upon stepping into the world and seeing that everything was in order, Zhang Lie let out a long sigh of relief. After hearing Nightdemon's words, Zhang Lie had been truly worried about the Zongming world.

Yang Ze asked dubiously, "Was the king of chaos just trying to scare us?" But why?

Zhang Lie frowned. "I don't think the king of chaos would do that. There's no reason to, and no benefit to doing so. Of course, it's possible that Nightdemon did it as a prank, but I don't think that's likely. At any rate, let's go find Li Zongming and ask him what's going on. The calmer everything looks, the more likely it is that something has happened."

As they entered the Zongming palace, they found Li Zongming fretting.

Zhang Lie hurriedly asked, "What's going on?"

Li Zongming sighed. "I'm sorry, Zhang Lie."

Yang Ze asked, "What happened?"

Li Zongming sighed again. "That Gold Comet you were raising was taken away by the king of keys' henchmen."

"What?!"

Li Zongming explained what had happened.

Li Zongming and Gold Comet, working together, had easily suppressed the king of black fog's avatar. However, the king of keys had sent a subordinate over to deal with Li Zongming, and Li Zongming and Gold Comet were hard-pressed to deal with both combatants simultaneously.

Thankfully, Zhang Lie had slain the king of black fog, and his avatar was dispelled mid-fight.

Li Zongming continued apologetically, "We thought that the fight would be over the moment the king of black fog's avatar vanished, but the king of keys' subordinate kidnapped Gold Comet!"

Yang Ze asked, "Why?"

Li Zongming replied, "He seemed to have been very interested in Gold Comet, for some reason."

Zhang Lie pursed his lips. "The king of keys, hmm? This matter isn't over yet."

If he were going to meddle in Zhang Lie's business like that, Zhang Lie wasn't going to let him get off scot-free.

Li Zongming apologized again. "I really am sorry for both not being able to stop the king of keys' subordinate and for allowing Gold Comet to be captured."

Zhang Lie waved a hand. "It's not your fault. You've already worked very hard to secure the Zongming world, and there was little else you could do. In terms of responsibility, I do take some responsibility for not dealing with the king of black fog quickly enough. Rest assured, I'll be heading to the king of keys' domain to reclaim Gold Comet."

Zhang Lie made up his mind right then and there.

Li Zongming also nodded. "I'll support you as much as I can."

Zhang Lie waved a hand. "Let me see how the other two superior worlds are doing right now."

Right after Zhang Lie and Yang Ze finished their discussions with Li Zongming, Sun Mengmeng and Zhou Ying's groups returned from their respective worlds.

Sun Mengmeng's eyes lit up. "Captain, you and Yang Ze are back already?"

Sun Xiaowu asked, "How did things go with the world of black fog and the unclean world?"

Yang Ze's chest puffed up. "Is there anything our captain can't handle? Of course not!"

Everyone in Team Zenith nodded, agreeing with the sentiment.

Upon seeing all the members of Team Zenith gathered back here, Li Zongming asked, "Have you all succeeded?"

Li Feng smiled. "We would be too embarrassed to return if we didn't."

"We killed all the superior kings we were responsible for," Sun Mengmeng replied, nodding.

Even though Li Zongming had been prepared for this, he couldn't help but be shocked. The eight young men and women in front of him had made history in the third realm, setting an astounding record by vanquishing so many superior kings of antiquity at once.

The destruction of even a single superior world of antiquity was a major affair, and yet they had dealt with four of them in rapid succession. It was no surprise that Li Zongming was so shocked.

The members of Team Zenith ignored Li Zongming's stupefaction. Zhang Lie glanced at Sun Xiaowu, Sun Mengmeng, and Zhang Hanxiang.

"All of you seem to have grown stronger than before."

Sun Mengmeng smiled. "I knew we wouldn't be able to hide it from you."

Sun Xiaowu scratched his head in embarrassment. "We encountered two monarch-grade lifeforms in the white world. After we slew them, we consumed them."

Zhang Hanxiang smiled. "We each managed to get ten more monarch gene fragments than we started with! Brother, aren't we amazing? Praise me!"

Zhang Lie reached out and patted Zhang Hanxiang on the head.

"Well done. You've all worked hard."

The other members of Team Zenith weren't jealous. This was a rare opportunity, and they could hardly begrudge the hunters for taking advantage of it. In addition, the monarch-grade lifeforms' flesh would only grant gene fragments to those who killed it.

Zhang Lie turned to the other three. "But Zhou Ying seems to have grown stronger than all three of you combined."

Zhou Ying had a gentle smile on her face. "I was lucky enough to encounter a similar lifeform. After absorbing its strength, although I didn't gain any gene fragments, I was able to enhance my biological status. It allowed me to shore up my weaknesses."

Li Feng sighed. "Why couldn't we have gotten as lucky?"

Yang Ze patted him on the shoulder. "I know just how you feel, don't worry."

While the hunters were chatting, a huge black shadow appeared beyond the Zongming world.

Sun Mengmeng instantly grew alert. "What's that?"

As the huge shadow appeared over the Zongming world's airspace, the members of Team Zenith all looked up. Could it be another superior world?

Li Zongming smiled. "Don't worry. The world of black rain has finally arrived."

Zhang Hanxiang's eyes lit up. "Hong Xi's back, then?"

Li Zongming teleported everyone beyond the Zongming world, where they saw the world of black rain steadily moving toward them.

However, the world of black rain was in tatters. Li Zongming frowned. "The damage is worse than anticipated..."

When Hong Xi sensed the members of Team Zenith, she immediately waved toward them and flew over.

"I'm back, Master!"

Zhang Lie nodded. "You've worked hard."

Hong Xi beamed.

Zhang Hanxiang hurriedly stepped forward to grab her hand. "How was the journey?"

Hong Xi shook her head. "It was terribly boring. Except for the start, where I had to deal with the king of evil's clone, I spent the rest of the time zoning out on the world of black rain, waiting as it slowly moved toward the Zongming world. I was contemplating whether or not it would be possible to push it from behind. How about you?"

Zhang Hanxiang smiled. "I had a great time! I obtained ten monarch gene fragments!"

Hong Xi didn't get jealous. She was very impressed by her friend's fortuitous gain, and her smile was genuine.

As Zhang Lie watched the two young women chat, he couldn't help but smile as well—for his student, and for his sister, for having found such good friends in each other...

Chapter 1096: The State of the Worlds

Sun Mengmeng walked over. "Why are you watching Hong Xi?"

Zhang Lie blinked, breaking out of his reverie. "That's my student."

"Is that so?" Sun Mengmeng responded casually.

Sun Xiaowu rushed over to smooth things over. "Captain, we've already dealt with all the major combatants of the white world, but we're waiting for you to decide what to do with the world itself."

Li Feng also walked over. "Same for us."

Zhang Lie hummed. "We'll have to wait and see how the other superior kings respond to decide what to do."

Zhang Lie sought out Li Zongming. "What do you plan to do with the world of black rain? Do you really intend to merge it with the Zongming world?"

Li Zongming shrugged. "I'm still contemplating what to do. If I do so, it'll likely take quite a fair amount of superior world's energy."

The Zongming world wasn't particularly large, but it possessed significant reserves of a superior world's energy. In fact, it was even smaller than the other newly evolved superior worlds, let alone the superior worlds of antiquity.

Absorbing the world of black rain would cause the Zongming world to grow larger, but it would take a fair amount of energy to terraform and repair the world of black rain beforehand.

As is, the terrain and environmental conditions of the world of black rain were hardly conducive to most lifeforms, and this was a conundrum to Li Zongming as well.

Li Zongming murmured, "I could also just merge large worlds into my world to expand it. It might cost about as much as fixing the world of black rain and merging that..."

It would cost a certain amount of superior world's energy to deal with the difference in status between a large and superior world.

"On the other hand, if I merge the world of black rain, that's equivalent to trying to merge one or two dozen large worlds..."

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Well, let me know when you figure it out. I'll be leaving with the others first."

Li Zongming hurriedly grabbed Zhang Lie's sleeve. "Don't leave just yet! I'd like your opinion."

Zhang Lie shrugged. "There's no big difference either way. You decide."

If Li Zongming chose not to merge the world of black rain, he would be able to save some superior world's energy.

On the other hand, if he did merge the world of black rain, he would be able to get significantly more landmass. The cost and benefit were both relatively balanced.

The Zongming world wasn't particularly lacking in superior world's energy, but no superior king would be upset at having more of that rare resource.

The more superior world's energy a world possessed, the more numerous the citizens' talent, and the faster they would develop. Neither was the Zongming world particularly lacking in terms of landmass.

The Zongming world had recently evolved to a superior one, and there wasn't a pressing need for more land.

In other words, this choice really depended on the direction in which Li Zongming wanted to steer his world's development.

Li Zongming suggested, "How's the state of the other superior worlds of antiquity?"

It was clear that he had set his eyes on the worlds that Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith had defeated.

"Are the world of black fog and the unclean world in good shape?"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Don't expect to get anything from those two worlds. I've destroyed the world of black fog, and I've already extracted the superior world's energy from the unclean world."

Li Zongming sighed.

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Even if I didn't, neither of these two worlds are much more hospitable than the world of black rain."

Li Zongming seemed surprised. "Really?" But those were all superior worlds! Of the three superior worlds that Li Zongming had seen—the three newest—none had unfavorable environmental conditions.

Li Zongming naturally expected that the superior worlds of antiquity would have even better environmental conditions, and that the reason the world of black rain was so dreary was because of the death spirits' invasion.

Zhang Lie and the others had had a last stand against the death spirit king over a large swathe of the world of black rain's territory, and Li Zongming had expected that to be the main cause for the current inhospitality of the world.

It was just like how a farmer from rural areas believed that cities were far superior to villages—but whether that was true or not was something only someone who had been to both types of areas could make a judgment on.

Zhang Lie shrugged. "They're superior worlds of antiquity, outdated and ancient. At the very least, the three superior worlds of antiquity I've been to have all been in various states of decay.

"They're definitely not as pretty as our three new superior worlds. You've all seen the world of black rain. Even before the war against the death spirits, the world of black rain only ever had graveyards and withered trees all over."

Sun Mengmeng thought for a moment. "If these superior worlds have existed since antiquity, doesn't it mean that these worlds are somehow bolstered against the passage of time?"

Zhang Lie replied, "The world of black fog and the unclean world are about the same. The world of black fog had already become a pile of ruins; the only difference was that its outside had been covered up by a dense layer of black fog. Either the will of the world or the original superior king had died to give birth to the king of black fog. He was known as the most mysterious superior king, but that's a meaningless title."

Yang Ze continued, "The unclean world's filled with abyssal trenches and rocks, and the trenches have all been corroded away! Even after I and the captain cleaned up the place, there was still plenty of green poisonous gas floating around the vicinity."

When he thought back to the unclean world, Yang Ze had to suppress an urge to vomit. It was truly unclean, so much so that Yang Ze felt as though his skin would never be clean again.

Li Zongming glanced toward the other members of Team Zenith. If neither the world of black fog nor the unclean world were appropriate, then how about the white world or the world of blazing sun?

After all, the members of Team Zenith had claimed those worlds too.

Sun Mengmeng replied, "Don't think about the white world. It's even worse off than the world of black rain! The world of black rain might be tattered, but at least an ordinary hunter might be able to step inside and suffer no ill effects. On the other hand, if you head to the white world, you might freeze to death if you're not strong enough."

Sun Xiaowu added, "The world of black rain at least can support genetic lifeforms and aliens, but any who want to live in the white world have to be very specialized indeed."

Zhang Hanxiang said, "The only good thing about the white world is that there are still living lifeforms there, but not very many of them."

#### Chapter 1098: A Forced Reward

"All of you, gather at the draconian world. I'll head to the scaleman world first." After splitting up with the members of Team Zenith, Zhang Lie first headed to the scaleman world to identify the situation there.

The scaleman king was a superior king in his own right, and it shouldn't have been troublesome for him to deal with the white world's forces.

The white world and the world of blazing sun truly did underestimate the draconian world and the scaleman world.

Despite being newly evolved superior kings, they were still fundamentally superior kings, and they easily overwhelmed even a battalion of fighters from a superior world.

If the ice queen had dispatched the crystal dragon with her troops, the scaleman world would have been in danger—it might even have fallen. After all, the scaleman king, as a newly evolved superior king, wasn't quite strong enough to face off against other superior-king level combatants like the crystal dragon.

It was even possible that the ice queen and solar king had dispatched a battalion of troops because they were overestimating the newly evolved superior kings' strength—in order to test them in preparation for a long-term conflict.

The troops wouldn't be able to take down the two newly evolved superior kings, but they might force them to use their trump cards. The next time around, the white world and the world of blazing sun would be able to use other means to force the two new superior kings to capitulate—or to send out combatants on the level of superior kings then.

Unexpectedly, however, Zhang Lie had the members of Team Zenith as a trump card. The ice queen and solar king were defeated without any opportunity to retaliate.

Regardless, they had successfully saved the scaleman world from destruction.

The moment Zhang Lie entered the scaleman world, the scaleman king teleported before him, his face full of smiles.

Zhang Lie mirrored his smile. "You seem to be happy?"

The scaleman king's smile widened. "It's because of your arrival, Master!"

"You've protected your world. Well done."

The scaleman king continued to smile. "It's all thanks to your forewarning, Master. Otherwise, even if I had been able to protect the world, I would have suffered great losses, and I wouldn't have been able to keep them out of my world."

"I only did what was reasonable."

"You won't believe how happy I am to see you safe and sound, Master."

"What, were you hoping I'd be injured?" Zhang Lie joked.

"No, Master, of course not!"

Zhang Lie's opponent was a superior king of antiquity.

Zhang Lie and Team Zenith had had to invade the superior kings' territory and fight them in their own worlds—a ludicrously dangerous task. Despite his absolute confidence in Zhang Lie, the scaleman king still worried.

The scaleman king asked, "Master, are your companions—"

Zhang Lie knew what the scaleman king was going to ask.

"They're fine, of course."

The scaleman king bowed. "Congratulations on an amazing feat, Master."

Because the scaleman king had just ascended to the level of a superior king, he didn't realize just how astounding the superior kings of antiquity were, and he wasn't as shocked as Li Zongming to hear that Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith had killed four superior kings of antiquity in quick succession.

Zhang Lie waved a hand. "I came over here to understand how the scaleman world is doing, as well as to decide how we're going to split the spoils."

The scaleman king bowed. "You may distribute the spoils as you wish, Master."

Zhang Lie asked, "You aren't going to participate?"

The scaleman king shrugged. "In the end, Master, this is a fight between you and the superior kings of antiquity, and the draconian sage and I only serve as your pawns. What rewards should a pawn demand?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "I've never treated you or the draconian sage like pawns to be manipulated."

The scaleman king shook his head. "No, Master, I'm not complaining. It's all thanks to you that I possess what I do today. I should thank you instead."

Zhang Lie frowned. "Are you certain? If you have any grievances, you should state them."

The scaleman king nodded. "There's nothing to worry about, Master. The draconian sage and I haven't been responsible for the heaviest of the fighting. If not for you and your companions, our world would long since have been destroyed."

The scaleman king's gaze was perfectly sincere.

The scaleman king continued, "To be able to survive the attacks by the superior worlds of antiquity is prize enough. We don't hope for more."

Zhang Lie smiled and asked, "Do you really not want anything?"

The scaleman king shook his head. "It's not necessary."

"Really? The superior worlds of antiquity have many treasures—ten whole superior worlds' worth of energy, for instance."

The scaleman king blinked once or twice, then said, "I was almost tempted, but my answer won't change."

Zhang Lie smiled. "You really are determined. Well, I do have some use for this energy, but considering your world has just evolved into a superior world and how useful it'd be to you, I'll share five worlds' worth with you."

The scaleman king was just about to refuse Zhang Lie's offer when Zhang Lie continued, "If you truly treat me as a master, then don't reject my kindness. It's my duty as a master to help you out."

"I understand, Master."

After sharing the world's energy with the scaleman king, Zhang Lie left. The scaleman king tried to get him to stay, but Zhang Lie refused.

After returning to the Zongming world, he found that Li Zongming had finally made up his mind to merge the world of black rain with the Zongming world, and subsequently to spend huge amounts of genetic energy to terraform the world of black rain.

Although the Zongming world had more than enough land to spare as it was, that wouldn't necessarily hold true for the future. As a long-term consideration, Li Zongming had decided to merge the two worlds together.

After all, all those who could become kings of the realm had to keep an eye on the big picture, let alone a superior king like Li Zongming.

Seeing how busy Li Zongming was, Zhang Lie left him to his affairs. He headed off to find Li Qianlin.

When she saw him, Li Qianlin grumbled, "Do you finally have time for me now, then?"

Zhang Lie laughed. "I've been thinking of you all this time."

Li Qianlin clicked her tongue. "All this time? If that's the case, why are you only here now?"

"It looks like you've missed me too, haven't you, Qianlin?"

The two of them chatted for a while before Zhang Lie headed off to the draconian world.

Just like the scaleman world, the draconian world was unharmed. The enemies had all been kept away from the borders of the world. When Zhang Lie stopped by, the draconian sage teleported straight over to welcome him.

"Sage, you're more passionate than usual today!"

Chapter 1097: The Merger Conundrum

Zhang Lie warned, "There'll be major issues if you try to combine the white world with the Zongming world."

Sun Mengmeng nodded. "The Zongming world's climate and environmental conditions will be adversely affected."

Sun Xiaowu added, "Although the temperature of the white world is rising and returning to normalcy after our fight and because the ice queen has been defeated—"

Sun Mengmeng continued, "—the white world's currently in an ice age, and that permafrost has persisted for millennia. It won't melt so easily."

Fang Yi added, "The world of blazing sun's in a similar condition, though in the opposite direction. The entire world's filled with lava veins, and it's frighteningly hot. If someone without sufficient strength were to enter, they'd burn to a crisp. The environment is far too inhospitable for weaker genetic lifeforms and aliens—and Zhou Ying dealt with the most prevalent lifeform on that world already."

These were the golden birds of the golden mulberry tree. After Zhou Ying absorbed the vital energy of that golden mulberry tree, no more golden birds spawned in the world of blazing sun, and the golden mulberry tree itself had consumed all present golden birds during its confrontation with Zhou Ying.

Zhou Ying grumbled, "Don't make it sound like I deliberately killed off all those golden birds! I only did it because of the battle."

Fang Yi shrugged. "Regardless, my answer's the same as Sun Mengmeng's. If the Zongming king's willing to have temperatures on this world rise across the board by a few hundred degrees, there shouldn't be an issue."

A few hundred degrees?! The aliens and genetic lifeforms of the Zongming world were far from those of the world of blazing sun, which had adapted to the ridiculous heat.

If the world's temperature were to rise by a few hundred degrees, the aliens and genetic lifeforms of the Zongming world would all be cooked alive. At least 90% of biological life would disappear—and likely more.

The Zongming world's reserves of water would all be boiled away.

Li Zongming suddenly asked, "What if we combine both of the worlds simultaneously?"

The white world was icy-cold, and the world of blazing sun was blazing-hot. If both could be simultaneously combined into the Zongming world, wouldn't their contradictory attributes average out?

The draconian world and the scaleman world wouldn't mind, he was certain. After all, he had plenty of superior world's energy, and he would be able to buy both those other worlds off with it. He was certain the draconian and scaleman worlds would agree.

Both those worlds were newly evolved superior worlds which lacked a superior world's energy, and he had established a rapport with their superior kings.

Even so, Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith looked at him as though he were an idiot.

"What's the matter?" Li Zongming asked, perplexed.

Sun Mengmeng sighed. "I've informed you about the white world already, haven't I?"

Li Zongming replied, "I know of the name, of course."

Sun Mengmeng continued, "The reason the white world is known as the white world is because over ninety percent of the world is sealed in ice. The remaining ten percent is seawater."

Li Zongming nodded. "And so?"

Sun Mengmeng continued, "Once that ice melts, it'll turn into water."

Sun Xiaowu added, "And how do you intend on dealing with all that meltwater?"

Zhang Hanxiang murmured, "Once all the ice in the white world melts, the Zongming world shall have to be renamed the superior ocean world..."

Only then did Li Zongming understand what he was missing. His face fell.

Li Zongming had focused too much on thinking about the merger of these worlds instead of the side effects of doing so.

Zhang Lie continued, "Unless you invoke your authority as superior king to freeze all that water. It might work in the short term, but it'll cost a lot to maintain long-term."

Fang Yi shook his head. "No, it's not as simple as that. Don't forget the lava veins deep within the world of blazing sun."

Li Feng continued, "If the white world and the world of blazing sun are to be combined, a huge quantity of water vapor will be released when the ice and lava veins come into contact with each other."

Fang Yi took over. "That water vapor will turn into rain—in other words, if the white world and the world of blazing sun were to merge, the Zongming world would have to become known as the superior world of rain and sea."

Zhou Ying summarized, "Merging the two worlds together would be less than meaningless—it would be a waste of superior world's energy."

Li Zongming's face turned dark. "Alright, then. I won't continue pursuing this idea, lest my Zongming world suddenly needs a new name."

Everyone shrugged.

Li Zongming sighed. "In that case, it's back to the world of black rain again..."

They had circled around the problem all the way back to the start.

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Think about it yourself. I'll be leaving with the rest of them."

Li Zongming replied, "Give me some ideas, won't you?"

Zhang Lie rolled his eyes. "You're the king of the Zongming world—this should be your decision! I just returned after a long fight with a few superior kings, and I'm weary and exhausted."

Only then did Li Zongming recall that Zhang Lie and Team Zenith had just performed an incredible feat, dealing with four superior kings of antiquity in a short span of time, and it truly was embarrassing for him to keep them here. "You're right. Go rest—I'll think about this myself."

Zhang Lie and the others waved, just about ready to depart, before Li Zongming suddenly thought of something and called Zhang Lie back. "Ah, wait, I forgot something!"

Zhang Lie turned back. "What's the matter? If it isn't too urgent, don't mention it."

Li Zongming replied, "It's not that important, but I think I had better tell you about it now."

Zhang Lie looked impatient, but he paid attention to what Li Zongming was about to say.

"What's the matter?"

Li Zongming replied, "Because of how difficult it was to deal with the king of black fog's avatar and the king of keys' subordinate, we activated the death spirits' battleships."

Zhang Lie's eyes widened. "You can activate it already?"

Was the Zongming world so developed in terms of technology?

Li Zongming shook his head. "No. We were able to make use of the main cannon once, but in this unstable state, it self-destructed after that one use."

Zhang Lie shook his head. "Then it's not an issue." There wasn't anything to discuss if the death spirits' battleships couldn't be used. If they could, then it might be a crucial ace when fighting the king of keys, but if they couldn't...

Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith walked away.

Chapter 1099: Fragments En Masse

The draconian sage laughed. "Haha, the draconians know enough to be grateful. Without you and the members of Team Zenith, the draconian world wouldn't have survived this trial."

"Sage, what are you talking about? This matter was caused by the evolution of the draconian world into a superior world, and it was partially our responsibility."

The draconian sage waved a hand. "That's not how it works. If not for your presence initially, the draconian world would have been destroyed. I was the one who decided to evolve this world. Well, now, let's not talk about this for the moment—how were the spoils you got?"

"Very good. Do you want some superior world's energy?" Zhang Lie thought he could see what the draconian sage was getting at.

"This world's desperately in need of it. It has just evolved, after all." This was the difference between the draconian sage and the scaleman king.

"We'll have a meeting in the Zongming world in a few days to divide up the spoils."

The draconian sage nodded. "If you have time, go talk to Zhu by the disaster-grade farm. It seems that something has happened!"

Zhang Lie was very surprised. What could have gone wrong with the farm with the draconian sage's supervision? He couldn't rest now. Zhang Lie headed immediately to the farm to check on the situation. The farm was at the heart of his plans. Whether or not he would be able to max out his monarch gene fragments depended on the farm's functionality.

From the outside, the farm looked no different than before. In fact, it had even gained more disaster- and post-peak-grade lifeforms, clear evidence of Zhu's effective caretaking.

Upon seeing Zhang Lie's return, Zhu happily leapt toward him. Zhu cried out, "Zhang Lie, I've been waiting for you for so long!"

Zhang Lie thought that Zhu's words were strange, but couldn't pinpoint exactly why. "Did something happen, Zhu?"

Zhu replied, "Thanks to the marvelous crystal of world's energy you provided, three more lifeforms have evolved into monarch-grade."

Before he left, Zhang Lie had handed half the crystal of world's energy that went even beyond that of a superior world to Zhu for use on these lifeforms.

"Very good, very well done. This is excellent news."

Zhu continued, "I ground up the crystal you provided and added it into the lifeforms' diet. They began to grow rapidly, and a monarch-grade lifeform appeared in no time.

"There was no problem at first, but a few days ago, the draconian sage collected a group of corpses that remained after the world of blazing sun's failed invasion into our world and used it to feed the genetic lifeforms."

Zhang Lie's lips twitched. "It looks like the draconian sage bears very strong enmity against these troops..."

Zhu continued, "I didn't mind at first, but I noticed that one genetic lifeform in particular was undergoing very unusual changes. Within just a short period of time, it managed to ascend into monarch-grade, and that growth doesn't seem to have stopped. It continued to consume more troops from the world of blazing sun and is growing even stronger."

Zhang Lie asked, "How strong is it now—forget it, just show me."

Zhu led him to this unusual monarch-grade lifeform, which looked like a crab. It was giving off radiant sunlight from all over, and it almost seemed like it was about to evolve beyond monarch-grade.

"A monarch-grade mutation?"

Zhu asked, "What should I do with this monarch-grade lifeform, Zhang Lie?"

Zhang Lie rubbed at his chin. "It'd be a waste to eat it directly. Let me go ask for more of the world of blazing sun's corpses from the draconian sage. Keep observing it and feeding it. Try to add in some aliens' and genetic lifeforms' corpses to identify what caused its mutation, and to see whether its ability to grow is limitless."

Zhu nodded. "I understand, Zhang Lie."

"As for the other two monarch-grade lifeforms, let me call the members of Team Zenith over and have us consume it together."

Zhang Lie shattered space and teleported to the members of Team Zenith.

Zhang Lie: a disaster-grade lifeform

Techniques: Rippling Walk (pinnacle), Three-Wave Crescendo (pinnacle), Calm Waters (pinnacle), Fists of the Silent Sea (pinnacle), The Boundless Blade (pinnacle), Eclipse (pinnacle), Syzygy (advanced), Ninesoul Dragonblade (advanced)

Genes: Basic, 160; Mutated, 150; Superior, 150; Peak, 150; Disaster, 100; Monarch, 55

Soulshards: White Grub (superior), Blood Ant (superior), Potbellied Toad (mutated), Eternalspring Cocoon (superior), Dragonwolf (superior), Moonlight Wyrms (peak), Golden Roc (peak), Dragonwhale (disaster), Mismeld Clam (disaster)

He had once again obtained a few more monarch gene fragments, and was even closer to maxing them out.

After leaving the farm, Zhang Lie told Zhu, "I'll bring back some more superior world's energy. I and the members of Team Zenith have slain four superior kings of antiquity in quick succession, and we have plenty of spoils to share. After I divide it among Li Zongming and the draconian sage, I'll be able to bring it here."

Zhu nodded seriously. "I'll keep taking care of the genetic lifeforms. You have to come visit, Zhang Lie!"

Zhang Lie nodded. "Once I've finished dealing with affairs with the superior kings, I'll stop by frequently. I'm very interested in that mutated monarch-grade lifeform."

From a cursory inspection, that mutated lifeform was able to grow swiftly stronger by consuming all manners of corpses, even those of aliens and genetic lifeforms.

Considering that it was already monarch-grade, the fact that it was still able to increase its strength so quickly was unheard of. Could it be able to break through the confines of monarch-grade?

As everyone left the farm, Zhang Hanxiang said, "Brother, I want to consume more monarch-grade lifeforms! Having just one or two every now and then just isn't enjoyable enough."

Sun Mengmeng rapped Zhang Hanxiang's head. "Do you realize how rare these monarch-grade lifeforms are? At our current stage, only we even know about the existence of monarch-grade lifeforms, and the fact that we've been able to consume any at all is all thanks to our captain. Count yourself lucky!"

Sun Xiaowu nodded. "It's likely that we're the only ones with this knowledge even across the entire galaxy. If word of this information were to spread, it'd likely take the entire galaxy by storm."

Yang Ze shrugged. "Everyone else is madly trying to collect disaster gene fragments, and we're already at monarch gene fragments—this is all thanks to our captain."

Zhang Hanxiang rubbed her head. "I simply want to consume more monarch-grade lifeforms to grow stronger."

Zhang Lie spread his arms. "It's not impossible to grow monarch-grade lifeforms en masse."

Everyone in Team Zenith looked toward Zhang Lie, thirsting for more strength.

"The most important factor is whether or not you possess enough superior world's energy."

Chapter 1100: Splitting the Spoils

Zhang Hanxiang asked, "Haven't we just dealt with four superior kings of antiquity in a row?"

Zhang Lie replied, "We did, but we'll have to split the spoils and extract the energy of those superior worlds. Even with four superior worlds' worth of energy, we'd likely only be able to grow two or three monarch-grade lifeforms. To max out all our gene fragments, four superior worlds' worth of energy isn't enough."

Yang Ze understood what Zhang Lie was getting at. "And if we want more monarch gene fragments, then we'll have to destroy more superior worlds and claim more of their energy."

Zhang Lie snapped his fingers. "Exactly right."

Zhang Hanxiang continued, "However, where will we go to find that many superior worlds? Except for our draconian world, the scaleman world, and the Zongming world, the only remaining superior worlds are the king of keys' world and the world of primordial chaos."

Sun Mengmeng replied, "The three newly evolved superior worlds are all our allies and companions, and we can't strike at them. It would have to be the other two."

Sun Xiaowu commented, "One the most ancient of the worlds, the other the strongest..."

Yang Ze asked, "Captain, do you intend to strike at these two superior worlds of antiquity?"

"Exactly."

Despite the hunters' surprise, they weren't too shocked.

"The strongest or the most ancient?"

"The most ancient," Zhang Lie replied.

As expected. The members of Team Zenith had suspected this option from the beginning. Ever since they learned that the king of keys had sent a subordinate over to deal with the Zongming world and then to capture Gold Comet, given Zhang Lie's personality, he certainly wouldn't let the king of keys get away scot-free.

"The king of keys sent a subordinate over to attack the Zongming world. It's time for us to retaliate. Furthermore, the king of keys abducted Gold Comet, and I have to retrieve it. Who's willing to come with me?"

Yang Ze sighed. "To be frank, I'm a bit tired."

Li Feng replied, "We just killed a superior king of antiquity a day ago. If we have to deal with another one so quickly... and as the most ancient king, the king of keys will definitely be stronger than the ones we've challenged to date..."

Fang Yi swung his hands and feet. "I haven't fully recovered, and I'm still suffering from the side effects of unleashing my ultimate attacks..."

Zhang Lie looked at them in disappointment. "You won't participate, then? Very well. After all, the king of keys is a far stronger opponent than the kings you fought, and I won't force you to take part —"

Before Zhang Lie could finish speaking, the members of Team Zenith all shouted, "Of course we're participating!"

Zhang Lie blinked. "That's not what you just said!"

Yang Ze sighed. "We aren't going to leave you in the lurch."

Li Feng spread his arms. "We've all consumed your monarch-grade meat, so we're yours! You'd better not leave us behind."

Fang Yi added, "I'd like to have more monarch-grade meat, too..."

Zhang Lie folded his arms. "Hold on! All of you were saying you were tired and wounded. I'm not going to force you to participate."

Yang Ze shrugged. "We won't let you fight alone, either."

Li Feng sighed. "It'd be even worse to do nothing and wait for news. I've had enough of this sort of pain."

Zhang Lie laughed. "Very well. We'll defeat the king of keys together."

Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith returned to the Zongming world once more, this time, bringing the draconian sage with them.

By then, the world of black rain had been merged with the Zongming world. Li Zongming was currently in the process of invoking his authority as king, along with large quantities of superior world's energy, to terraform the tattered world of black rain.

The draconian sage seemed rather surprised by the lack of an audience. "Where's the scaleman king?"

Zhang Lie replied, "The scaleman king isn't coming."

The draconian sage seemed rather worried. "What happened?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "It's nothing. The scaleman world's perfectly fine, and the scaleman king was able to defend against the superior worlds' troops. If you were able to do so easily, there's no reason the scaleman king would fail."

The draconian sage asked curiously, "In that case, why isn't he here?"

Zhang Lie replied, "He felt as though he didn't put in enough work to deserve a share of the rewards."

The draconian sage sighed and shook his head. "He really is young, isn't he?" From the draconian sage's perspective, they were all entitled to at least a small portion of the rewards even at a base level of contribution.

Zhang Lie replied, "I've already given the scaleman king a fair share of the rewards."

Quickly, Li Zongming returned. As he took his seat, he suggested, "We're all familiar with each other, so let's not make this too formal. Zhang Lie, you can lead the discussions."

Zhang Lie refused. "This is your world. Better that you take the lead."

Li Zongming rolled his eyes. "I'm your father-in-law, and the others are your companions. It's clear that you're the best choice to be host."

The members of Team Zenith agreed with Li Zongming, forcing Zhang Lie to get up.

"Well, I suppose it doesn't really matter who's the host. I'll cut to the chase, then. This meeting is different than the previous one. It was an emergency meeting called because of the invasion of a number of superior worlds, but our gathering this time is to commemorate a joyous occasion. We've successfully neutered the threat, and we're going to distribute the spoils of war now."