

U. Warlord 1141

Chapter 1141: In A Textbook

"Why, I simply defeated the superior kings of antiquity in combat," Zhang Lie told Hong Tianqi.

Hong Tianqi was so agitated he seemed ready to vomit blood. "Can't you be more specific?"

"They attacked me, so I got rid of them."

Hong Tianqi seemed to be at his wit's end. "How about the details of the fight?"

"I could tell you about it, but it'd be a long and meandering affair. Remember my fight against the death spirit king?"

"If I'm not mistaken, all the superior worlds banded together in an alliance, didn't they?"

"After that fight, a few superior worlds of antiquity banded together against the newly evolved superior worlds, and we retaliated. In the end, we defeated them all."

"Hold on, the superior worlds are segregated? And you formed a new faction?"

Hong Tianqi had a rough understanding of the power structure within the third realm, but he wasn't privy to the recent tumultuous changes that Zhang Lie had caused.

"Not in the past, but ever since the war against the death spirits."

"Did anything happen during that war?"

"Two large worlds evolved into superior worlds. You're aware of the draconian world—it evolved then. Do you understand now?"

"In other words, the humans were forced to participate in this conflict against the superior worlds of antiquity. How many newly evolved worlds are there?"

Zhang Lie clutched his head in annoyance. "How is it that you're unaware of this stuff as the highest authority of the united world federation?"

Hong Tianqi rolled his eyes. "I'd know if I could investigate it all—but you're the pioneer of the third realm at the moment! Far easier to just ask you."

Although the third realm had been open and accessible for decades, humanity had only ever played a minor role in its affairs.

There had never been anyone who could go up against a superior king of antiquity, who had discovered disaster gene fragments, and who could kill kings of the realm of large worlds. As a result, humanity's understanding of the third realm stopped at the level of large worlds.

It was only after the appearance of disaster gene fragments that superior worlds had been unlocked to humanity, and no one had yet managed to ascend to the peak of the third realm as had Zhang Lie.

It wasn't an exaggeration to claim that Zhang Lie's rebirth had completely revolutionized humanity's standing in the third realm.

Zhang Lie sighed. "The superior worlds of antiquity were the xuluo world, the world of blazing sun, the white world, the world of black fog, the unclean world, the world of primordial chaos, and the rather unusual king of keys, who represents a world in his own right. The only one left is the world of primordial chaos."

Hong Tianqi asked, "Hold on, can I take a voice recording?"

"For what?"

"As source material, of course!" Hong Tianqi replied. "The Milky Way doesn't have any information recorded about these superior worlds."

All we knew about them was their names and that they were very strong, but we were never able to understand just how strong. Only when you ascended to the third realm did we begin to learn more."

"You must be exaggerating."

Hong Tianqi shook his head. "Not at all. Zhang Lie, you're a pioneer—and every word you say from now on will be valuable research material! It'll be information passed down to incoming third-realm hunters."

"It really isn't that important."

"No," Hong Tianqi disagreed. "It's far more important than you can imagine. This information could be life-saving, and your name will be preserved now and hereinafter."

Zhang Lie grinned. "You mean to say that incoming hunters will doodle over drawings of me, coloring my face in all shades of odd colors, giving me a mustache and wacky eyebrows, and so on?"

Hong Tianqi blinked. "Sorry, give me a moment. I suddenly thought of something important I had to do."

"As you will."

Zhang Lie and Hong Tianqi were close enough that Zhang Lie didn't much mind this interruption.

Hong Tianqi sent out another call. When it connected, he said, "You were planning to include my image in instructional material to be distributed throughout the Milky Way, weren't you?"

A voice came from the other end of the transceiver. "Yes, authority! Is anything the issue?"

"Please exclude my image—just leave my name."

The voice was exceedingly respectful. "Authority, if you have any special requests, please let us know. We'll do our best to fulfill them."

Hong Tianqi demurred. "After careful consideration, I now believe that my contributions aren't significant enough to be deserving of an image. It would be too prideful of me."

"You're far too modest, authority! The fact that you're the newest head of the united world federation is more than enough to be in the textbooks."

Hong Tianqi shook his head. "Do as I say, please! I don't want any future generations of hunters to doodle on my image—no, no, I simply don't want any future generations of hunters to criticize my inaction beyond having taken the post of the highest authority of the united world federation. I hope the reason that future generations of hunters are aware of me is because of my future actions, not because my image is in their textbooks."

The other voice was awed by Hong Tianqi's humility. "Authority, you are truly an inspiration. I'll record your words for the future generation!"

Hong Tianqi ended the call, then turned back to Zhang Lie. "Where were we? Ah, yes, the textbooks."

"Actually, you shouldn't have minded."

Hong Tianqi was unimpressed. "Do I look as though I care about such trifling matters? So what if others doodle on my portrait? It's something that every student does. I simply feel that I don't deserve to have a portrait included—despite the fact that I'm the new head of the united world federation, I've done little to justify it, far less than you, at any rate."

"What I mean is, your portrait has long since been part of textbooks on Earth. I even drew a mustache on you, with a muscled man standing right by your side. If I may say so myself, you were rather dashing."

Zhang Lie had enjoyed his childhood while his parents were still alive.

Hong Tianqi:...

Upon hearing Zhang Lie's words, Hong Tianqi suddenly very much wanted to recall all hunter-related instructional material on Earth.

However, that wasn't realistic. After all, the damage was already done. He didn't much mind his portrait being doodled on in the abstract, but for Zhang Lie himself to have done so...

Hong Tianqi didn't want to pay Zhang Lie a visit only to find that Zhang Lie's children's textbooks likewise had him with a mustache and standing alongside a group of muscled men.

Chapter 1142: Sharing Information

Hong Tianqi shook his head to dispel the image. "Let's return to the topic at hand. What are these superior worlds of antiquity like?"

"Argh, this is frustrating."

Hong Tianqi scowled. "This is precious information and research material! Please, be more serious."

Zhang Lie felt fatigued just thinking about describing all the superior worlds of antiquity—not just one or two, but rather all nine. After a moment, he suggested, "I think I should call the members of Team Zenith over."

"Why?" Hong Tianqi didn't understand the reason behind Zhang Lie's suggestion.

Zhang Lie explained, "If this is as important as you claim, then the members of Team Zenith should tell you about their firsthand experience instead. After all, they participated in the counterattack, and

they're familiar with the details of these superior worlds, the combat strength of the superior kings of antiquity, and all sorts of miscellanea."

Hong Tianqi seemed a little dubious. "Indeed?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "I only took care of four of the superior kings. They're far more knowledgeable than I am about the world of blazing sun and the white world."

Hong Tianqi couldn't help but sigh. "To think that all of you competitors to the Void Throne have come so far..."

Zhang Lie continued, "I'll call the members of Team Zenith over and let you know when they're ready."

Hong Tianqi nodded. "Very well. It's been quite a while since I last saw them."

Having more sources of information could only be a good thing. Although only the world of primordial chaos remained, Zhang Lie had mentioned that there were newly evolved superior worlds. Analyzing the superior worlds of the past was equivalent to analyzing the superior worlds of the future.

After Zhang Lie hung up, he returned to the draconian world, where he assembled the members of Team Zenith.

Zhang Hanxiang asked, "Brother, you're back! How was the discussion with Authority Hong?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Hong Tianqi wanted to know about the various superior worlds of antiquity."

Zhang Hanxiang continued, "So you're preparing that information now?"

"There's no such information available in the third realm—or rather, there might have been, but the superior worlds of antiquity have kept it all locked up for themselves."

As for the Zongming king, he had just recently ascended, and what he knew was completely a subset of what Zhang Lie knew.

Before the ascension, Li Zongming had only known that superior worlds existed in the third realm and were immensely strong existences—and that was it.

The superior worlds were so far beyond the rest of the worlds of the third realm that none of the worlds knew much about them until the war against the death spirits began in earnest. To the superior worlds of antiquity, the other worlds might as well have been ants.

"Compiling a database isn't a bad suggestion..." Perhaps he should let the members of Team Zenith submit a report to Hong Tianqi—but no, they didn't know anything about the xuluo world or the world of black fog.

By the time they learned of superior worlds, the xuluo world had already been destroyed. In the end, Zhang Lie would have to be the one volunteering all that information.

Zhang Lie shook his head. "The superior worlds of antiquity have all been destroyed, and the world of primordial chaos is likely the only one that still has detailed records. The Zongming world has

recently ascended and might have some records, but the Zongming king wouldn't know more than me or the members of Team Zenith."

Zhang Lie was akin to a walking encyclopedia in the third realm, and there was very little he didn't know about.

"Even I don't know the king of chaos' limits—he's as chaotic as his name. He's neither good nor evil, and he acts according to his whims. Who knows what he'd ask for in exchange for all that information?"

The king of chaos was undoubtedly the entity with the most detailed records of the third realm. The king of chaos had existed since antiquity, and only the most ancient king, the king of keys.

The king of chaos knew many of the secrets of the third realm, and even what the third realm had been like before it developed into its current fragmented state. If Zhang Lie was a walking encyclopedia, then the king of chaos was like a living tome of history.

However, no one wanted to ask the king of chaos anything. The king of chaos operated on a principle of chaos, on whimsy. No one knew where his interests lay, which made him particularly difficult to predict, analyze, and understand.

It was possible to negotiate with just about anyone else, but the king of chaos was different. It seemed that all he did was calculated to make the three thousand worlds even more chaotic, so that he could watch on and enjoy the show.

Given his strength, however, it would be far too easy for him to mess up the three thousand worlds, but he hadn't done so. Zhang Lie didn't understand the principles by which he operated at all.

He pointed at his head. "Even if I'm not the king of chaos, I still know quite a bit about the superior worlds that have been destroyed. They're all in here." He tapped his brain.

Zhang Hanxiang asked, "Then why call on Sun Mengmeng and the others?"

"For more detailed information."

Zhang Lie naturally didn't want to admit that he wasn't interested in producing all that information, and it was true that the members of Team Zenith knew more details about their respective worlds than he did.

Zhang Lie asked, "How's Qianlin?"

Zhang Hanxiang rolled her eyes. "You've been gone for less than a day! Do you really think she pines for you day and night? She's having fun with Zhu on the farm. Do you want me to call her over?"

Zhang Lie hurriedly shook his head. "No, there's no need. I'll be leaving after I summon the members of Team Zenith."

Chapter 1143: Describing the Worlds

The members of Team Zenith quickly made their way over after being summoned.

Sun Mengmeng asked, "Captain, did something happen for you to summon all of us?"

Fang Yi added, "Are we waging war again?"

Li Feng frowned. "Is there anyone else left in the third realm who can threaten us?"

Sun Xiaowu hazarded a bold guess. "Could we be waging war against the king of chaos himself?"

Zhang Lie waved a hand, cutting them off. "I summoned all of you not to wage war."

Sun Mengmeng frowned. "For what purpose, then?"

Zhang Lie scowled. "I'm not a battle maniac. We just had a battle of mythical proportions in the third realm—would I initiate a war again so quickly? Now, would all of you like to leave your mark in history?"

Fang Yi asked dubiously, "Aren't we famous enough already?"

They had accompanied Zhang Lie to break new ground in the various realms. They had taken the Void Throne in the first realm and slaughtered the xuluo in the second. Those two successes alone would leave a permanent mark in the annals of humanity's history.

Even centuries down the line, their successes and deeds would be spoken of among the Milky Way—though anything beyond that was hard to guarantee.

Zhang Lie clarified, "No, what I mean is, would you all like to go further and become others' research materials? You'll all be listed as contributors for instructional material for the next generation of hunters, and all researchers of the third realm."

Yang Ze's lips twitched. "That doesn't sound particularly enticing, honestly."

Sun Mengmeng chose the direct approach. "Captain, is something the matter? Tell us directly, please. There's no need to beat around the bush."

Zhang Lie sighed. "Alright. Well, this is something I'm not particularly good at. I summoned all of you here because Hong Tianqi wants us to compile some research material on the superior worlds."

Sun Mengmeng asked, "What's there to study about them?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Nothing of interest to us, of course, since we know very well what these superior worlds represent—but others don't share our wealth of knowledge. They've never encountered superior kings before, and quite a large number of hunters from the Milky Way have never been to or heard of superior worlds."

Sun Mengmeng frowned. "We're going to be leaving research material behind for the hunters of the Milky Way?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Not just for the hunters of the Milky Way, but also for humanity. After all, we can't have a future generation of hunters ascending to the third realm without realizing what superior worlds are."

Sun Xiaowu added, "If hunters ascend to the third realm and only know of superior worlds as host to particularly strong forces, that wouldn't be sufficient."

"But," Yang Ze began, "except for the king of chaos, the other superior worlds are affiliated with humanity now..."

Li Feng still seemed doubtful of the idea. "What's there to study? After all, we won't become enemies."

Zhang Lie warned, "Perhaps not now, but what about after we ascend? The draconian world has forged deep connections with humans over long years of partnership, but what about the other superior worlds?"

Fang Yi thought about the current situation for a moment. "Indeed, the superior worlds might remain allied with us for some time after we ascend, but who knows what will happen after a century or two?"

Zhang Lie continued, "Furthermore, it's true that we're currently allied with all other superior worlds than the world of primordial chaos, but the third realm won't remain static. There will certainly be more superior worlds in the future."

Everyone was growing convinced of the need to leave behind some details on the superior worlds.

While the situation was currently favorable to humans and the hunters of the Milky Way at large, that wasn't guaranteed to remain the case. Leaving some information behind could help during times of need.

The hunters stepped through the teleportation apparatus and returned to the Milky Way. Hong Tianqi had been waiting for their arrival, and the call connected to a display of him eating.

Zhang Lie suggested, "We'll call you back."

Hong Tianqi replied, "No, let's do it as is. Just speak, and I'll listen."

Zhang Lie asked, "Who wants to go first?"

Yang Ze shrugged. "Up to you."

Sun Mengmeng asked, "What should we describe?"

"Anything," Hong Tianqi replied. "The superior worlds of antiquity you've been to, for example, and what they were like."

Sun Mengmeng replied, "I'm simply not sure if it'll be of any use to you."

"Of course it will!" Hong Tianqi affirmed. "Every piece of information about the superior worlds of the third realm, of which we know almost nothing, is inordinately precious."

Sun Mengmeng nodded. "Very well. Let me describe the white world, a world perennially covered with white snow, hence its name. The world has remained permanently in an ice age, with sub-freezing temperatures on its surface. The king of the white world, the white queen, is a frost spirit—a half-ethereal being, in our terminology..."

As Sun Mengmeng began her exposition, Hong Tianqi began to take notes.

Sun Xiaowu added, "The white world was host to two other entities on the level of superior kings, likely post-disaster-grade lifeforms, one a dragon of crystalline frost and another a behemoth."

Hong Tianqi immediately asked, "After you killed those genetic lifeforms, did you find any disaster-grade cores or the equivalent?"

Sun Xiaowu shook his head. "No." However, they did consume all its flesh.

Hong Tianqi sighed. "It's a pity. Disaster- and above-grade cores can be absorbed, which would prove that post-disaster-grade lifeforms really do exist in the third realm."

The members of Team Zenith were silent. Thanks to Zhang Lie, they had discovered such lifeforms long ago, and had been farming them since. They peeped at Zhang Lie to see what he thought of revealing the information, but Zhang Lie shook his head, warning them against the idea.

Although Hong Tianqi was trustworthy, the news of monarch-grade lifeforms was incredibly overwhelming, and that information was tied to the existence of Zhang Lie's farm for genetic lifeforms, which he didn't want to expose.

That farm was the true treasure that Zhang Lie had cultivated in the third realm, which he and the members of Team Zenith would need to advance their own development as hunters. They hadn't yet obtained all their monarch gene fragments, and it was better not to reveal that secret for now.

Hong Tianqi requested, "Please continue."

Sun Xiaowu took his turn. "The behemoth was a huge titan, about the size of a battleship. It spent millennia hibernating deep within the subterranean ice..."

After Sun Xiaowu finished, Hong Tianqi continued, "Next, please."

Li Feng began his tale.

Chapter 1144: A Matter of Familiarity

Li Feng told Hong Tianqi, "The world of blazing sun was a superior world over which a hundred golden suns hovered in the sky, and veins of lava flowed under the surface. However, the entire world was surprisingly stable despite the heat. The lava veins never erupted or went haywire, thanks to the presence of a golden tree in the world, a golden mulberry tree."

Zhou Ying added, "The golden mulberry tree regulated the subterranean lava veins and ensured that they were at equilibrium."

Fang Yi jumped in. "The solar king was a frightening existence, one covered in golden flames. Ten suns circled behind him, forming a ring of suns. With a single wave of his hand, he could manifest a thousand suns in the sky, which would fall toward his opponents like a meteor shower, and he could even regenerate ten times..."

Hong Tianqi asked, "How did all of you manage to defeat him?"

Li Feng replied, "Zhou Ying managed to absorb the energy of the golden mulberry tree. That, combined with Fang Yi's ultimate technique, was enough to slay the solar king once and for all."

Fang Yi continued, "The solar king even made use of his proof of kingship to create an undead monstrosity with a furnace on its back, taking a leaf from the king of keys' and the king of black fog's special characteristics. While the world of blazing sun remained whole, the monstrosity would continue regenerating indefinitely..."

After recording the relevant information about the world of blazing sun, Hong Tianqi continued, "What about the other superior worlds?"

His gaze landed on Zhang Lie, as if wordlessly prodding him to talk.

Hong Tianqi was very curious as to what sort of worlds Zhang Lie had encountered.

Zhang Lie began, "The first superior world I destroyed was the xuluo world."

Hong Tianqi asked, "The xuluo world and the third realm have the same character 須 in their name. Is there a relationship?" [1]

Zhang Lie shrugged. "I have no idea. Only the superior king of the xuluo world would know—he chose the name himself, after all. All superior kings are free to rename their own worlds."

Hong Tianqi nodded. "Let's continue, then."

Zhang Lie recounted the story of his travels in the xuluo world.

"The xuluo world had four great lords, each with the strength of a newly ascended superior king. The world itself was covered by a sea of blood. The name of its superior king was Feitian, a huge grub-like creature, with a son known as Potian, likewise a bug. There's otherwise nothing interesting about the xuluo world, but they do control an interesting power."

Hong Tianqi asked, "What's interesting about it?"

"The power they manifest is known as heaven's might, a power related to karma and fate."

Hong Tianqi commented thoughtfully, "A higher-order power... I wouldn't have expected it to appear in the third realm."

Sun Xiaowu asked, "Authority, are you aware of this power?"

Hong Tianqi rolled his eyes. "Are you looking down on me? Even before Zhang Lie appeared, I was one of the leading hunters of humanity! When I was a third-realm hunter, I might not be as strong as Zhang Lie is now, but I do have a wealth of experience! I've encountered karmic power too."

Sun Mengmeng rolled his eyes. "Brother, have you forgotten that the kindly uncle you're speaking with was known as a Heavenly Monarch, one of the strongest hunters of the Milky Way?"

Sun Xiaowu scratched his head in embarrassment. Hong Tianqi was so easy to speak with that Sun Xiaowu had all but forgotten that Hong Tianqi was his idol as a youth, Heavenly Monarch Hong Tianqi!

The reason that Sun Xiaowu had specified 'as a youth' was because his current idol was Zhang Lie, who was seated by his side.

Hong Tianqi emphasized, "Please omit 'was known'—I'm still the Heavenly Monarch Hong Tianqi."

Yang Ze asked, "Authority, did you end up fighting against any entities who wielded karmic power in the third realm?"

Zhang Lie wasn't particularly surprised—after all, every member of the xuluo could access heaven's might.

"No," Hong Tianqi replied. "Not in the third realm. I encountered such enemies in the fourth realm, many of whom have access to higher-order energies."

Not everyone was as ridiculous as Zhang Lie, to have faced such foes—and taken them down!—in the third realm.

Zhang Lie continued, "The other superior world I destroyed was the world of black fog. It's a world that's surrounded by black fog—the physical form of the king of black fog's body. The king of black fog had melded with the will of his world to form the world of black fog..."

After hearing Zhang Lie recount his experiences in the two superior worlds, Hong Tianqi sighed. "To have melded his own body with the entire world... these superior worlds really are incredible."

Yang Ze went next. "The unclean world was filled with abyssal trenches that emanated noxious fumes. An ordinary lifeform would quickly die if exposed to the fumes. The superior king of the unclean world was the king of evil, a frightening king whose body radiated a disgusting stench, formed of an amorphous mass of gray fluid."

Zhang Lie added, "The gray fluid kept birthing deformed monstrosities, which would emerge from the surface before being swallowed back into the main body and digested..."

Yang Ze and Zhang Lie took turns informing Hong Tianqi of the unclean world. Finally, Hong Tianqi asked, "What about the king of keys?"

Zhang Lie replied, "The king of keys was formed from the cores of myriad worlds. His body was itself a miniature universe, in which worlds were continuously birthed and annihilated."

Hong Tianqi raised his eyebrows. "Did I hear you correctly? His body is a universe?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "That's right."

"Can he be considered biological life, then?" Hong Tianqi asked.

"No, not at all. He was meant as a trump card for the will of the third realm before it was shattered to form the three thousand worlds."

"Only you could win against such a foe..."

"Well, I'm relatively strong."

Sun Mengmeng boasted, "Our captain's far too modest. Near the end of the fight, the king of keys transformed into an existence beyond natural law and mathematical logic—and our captain slew him anyway."

Hong Tianqi asked, "And what of this last world, the world of primordial chaos?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "I'm sorry, but I don't know much about it myself."

Hong Tianqi was shocked. There was something that even Zhang Lie didn't know about? Zhang Lie's understanding of the third realm was beyond anyone else's in the Milky Way—but to think that even he had gaps in his knowledge!

Zhang Lie nodded. "Actually, I've never been to the world of primordial chaos. I've met the king of chaos a few times, and I know he has a number of clones scattered all over the third realm. He's so strong that even I can't see through him. I can't get a grasp of his personality, either. His actions seem aimless—as his name suggests, he's like the personification of chaos."

Hong Tianqi replied, "It looks like you hold him high in your estimation..."

Zhang Lie nodded. "I've seen his clones strike a few times. The Shining Trapezohedron that he possesses is an extremely strong spatial artifact."

Chapter 1145: Dreams of Unification

Zhang Lie apologized, "I'm sorry I can't provide more information to the Milky Way."

"No, there's nothing to apologize for. This is valuable information and research material. The Milky Way had no understanding of these superior worlds before the eyewitness accounts that all of you have provided, clearing away a blind spot in our knowledge. This is particularly valuable for understanding the dimensional realms as a whole."

Hong Tianqi lowered his head. "As the highest authority of the united world federation, on behalf of the Milky Way, I hereby thank all of you."

The members of Team Zenith glanced at each other, shocked by Hong Tianqi's politeness. They hadn't done anything unusual—just provided an account of what they had seen and experienced.

Hong Tianqi raised his head. "In addition, I have a small request for you."

Zhang Lie frowned. "This isn't your main goal in contacting me, is it? That information-gathering process wasn't just a matter of convenience?"

Hong Tianqi waved a hand. "No, no, of course not. Whether you agree to my request is entirely up to you."

Zhang Lie asked, "What's the matter, then?"

"Some human hunters have cataloged and uploaded the changes to the draconian world to the hunters' forums, and many Milky Way hunters galaxy-wide are interested in moving to the draconian world."

Sun Mengmeng frowned. "What's so good about the draconian world that they're willing to move there en masse?"

Sun Xiaowu replied, "Being in a superior world confers many benefits and advantages, Sister, but you don't notice them because you've been enjoying them all this time."

Yang Ze elaborated, "After the draconian world evolved into a superior world, spiritual and medicinal herbs spawned all over, and it became a lot easier to cultivate them. However, this is unlikely to be the main reason many of them are interested in moving."

Li Feng guessed, "If I'm not mistaken, they're largely coming here for our captain, Zhang Lie."

Fang Yi continued, "There are countless benefits to moving to a superior world, but the largest among them is likely our captain's protection."

Yang Ze added, "I suppose the recent war against the death spirits is causing all the hunters to be worried about their safety."

Zhou Ying nodded. "Being able to get close to our captain might allow these hunters to cultivate their relationships with him."

Yang Ze laughed cheekily. "In that case, our captain's like a snack everyone wants to take a bite of."

Zhang Lie raised his head. "If it were only these hunters from the Milky Way, as the highest authority of the united world federation, I don't think you would convey such a request to me."

Hong Tianqi smiled. "You've seen through me."

Zhang Lie continued, "After recognizing the strength of these superior worlds, you realized that the third realm would never be the same—that it would be unsustainable for the hunters of the Milky Way to form scattered piles of sand throughout the third realm, as they've been doing. You want to concentrate them and appoint humanity as their leaders, creating a bastion for the Milky Way in the third realm."

Hong Tianqi began earnestly, "If this is a success, you'd lead the Milky Way in the third realm. It'll give you the power to take over the entirety of the realm, and the hunters of the Milky Way will become your sharpest blade."

Zhang Lie nodded. "It's a good suggestion, but I won't take part in it."

Hong Tianqi cried out, "Don't you know how strong these hunters will be if they're working together and cooperating?"

Zhang Lie laughed. "Indeed? And yet they weren't even able to interact with the superior worlds of the third realm despite years, decades of experience. I have no need for cannon fodder, nor a group of hunters working for disparate causes."

Hong Tianqi continued, "This will be very helpful for you when you ascend to the fourth realm."

Zhang Lie replied, "Authority, I know you're partially doing this for me, but I really don't need it. As for whatever benefits I obtain in the fourth realm, I don't need them. I got this far in the third realm on my own, and later with the members of Team Zenith, and I can repeat my success in the fourth realm. With my fists, I'll clear the sky."

Hong Tianqi frowned. "You aren't aware of just how dangerous the fourth realm is."

Zhang Lie shook his head. "I'll consider this, but if there's nothing else, I'm hanging up."

Hong Tianqi quickly interjected, "There's a question I'd very much like to ask you about."

"What is it?" Zhang Lie replied.

"Have you considered building a kingdom of Limit in the third realm, just as you've done in the second and the first realms?"

Zhang Lie was startled. Building his own kingdom of Limit in the third realm? The third realm had three thousand worlds. How was he supposed to build a kingdom to oversee it all there?

There was an answer, but it was something Zhang Lie had never dared to contemplate: to unify all three thousand worlds and generate the third realm anew.

Zhang Lie shook his head. "It would be far too difficult."

"You have the capability to accomplish it, don't you?"

"I do. I have the necessary foundation and strength—but don't forget that the king of chaos is still around."

As long as the king of chaos remained active, the three thousand worlds wouldn't be united, and the third realm couldn't be reborn.

Hong Tianqi sighed. "It's not a problem. I was just curious."

If Zhang Lie were able to unite the third realm and build another kingdom of Limit there, he would have accomplished an unparalleled feat beyond anyone's wildest imaginations, dramatically increasing the status of human hunters.

What other races' hunters couldn't even dream of accomplishing, Zhang Lie had managed.

Even if Zhang Lie weren't going to unite the hunters of the Milky Way, they would naturally accrete by Zhang Lie's side—Zhang Lie, who had already accomplished something previously thought impossible twice over.

The hunters of the Milky Way would respect and revere him, and thereby acknowledge his leadership.

Zhang Lie's name and reputation had reached unparalleled heights, and no one would be able to catch up to him in the short term. By then, regardless of whether he intended on allowing the hunters of the Milky Way to migrate to the draconian world, he would have become the de facto leader of all hunters.

The biggest issue was the king of chaos. As long as the king of chaos remained, Zhang Lie wouldn't be able to gain control of the third realm.

Hong Tianqi waved. "That's all for now, then. I still have lots of things I'm busy with, so I'll be leaving for now."

Chapter 1147: A Golden Eagle

Zhang Hanxiang didn't want to be left behind by the other members of Team Zenith.

Zhang Lie sighed. "If you insist, I can't say anything against it."

"Thank you, Brother!" After Zhang Lie wearily agreed, Zhang Hanxiang leapt toward him like a little girl and gave him a tight hug.

Zhang Lie asked, "Don't be too happy just yet. If you go, what are we going to do with Qianlin? Leave her behind?"

Zhang Hanxiang proposed, "What if we bring her with us?"

Nightdemon shrugged. "I don't mind."

Zhang Lie resolutely shook his head. "It's far too dangerous."

Nightdemon grumbled, "It's not like it's a tiger's den!"

"Perhaps we can hand her to Yun Bing?" Zhang Hanxiang suggested.

"Let's do that." That was the only reasonable choice. "Go find Hong Xi. I'll let Qianlin know," Zhang Lie instructed, then shattered space and vanished from sight.

Everyone turned to Sun Mengmeng.

Sun Mengmeng asked, "What are all of you doing?"

Li Feng replied, "We're interested in your response, of course."

Sun Mengmeng laughed. "What sort of response are you hoping to see?"

Zhou Ying cocked her head. "According to dramas, by this point, the female lead should be feeling despondent and dejected..."

Sun Mengmeng wanted to make a stern expression, but it dissolved into laughter instead. "You've watched far too many of those shows. I'm not a petty woman like in those dramas—why should I feel dejected?"

Sun Xiaowu glanced at his sister doubtfully. "You don't mind sharing, sis?"

Sun Mengmeng shrugged. "I don't."

"That's impressive." Her brother gave her a thumbs up.

Zhou Ying asked, "Mengmeng, how do you maintain your sanity? I'd be very upset if I were in your shoes."

Sun Mengmeng spread her arms. "It's not all that impressive. I simply know that I can always stand beside Zhang Lie and assist him in what he does. As for her, how would she make it into the fourth realm with us?"

Sun Mengmeng emphasized, "Don't forget that our captain won't remain in this realm in stagnancy."

To Sun Mengmeng, Li Qianlin was no threat at all—she was just a vase who would be discarded past her prime. Once Zhang Lie ascended into the fourth realm, she doubted Li Qianlin could follow suit. Even if she did, Zhang Lie would always be an eagle, wings outspread, seeking the skies farther and farther into the distance.

A bird of golden thread, petite and exquisite, would never be his match.

When Zhang Lie's wings filled out, he would ascend to glorious heights—and the only one who could accompany him would be Sun Mengmeng and Sun Mengmeng alone.

Rather than appear directly before Li Qianlin, Zhang Lie teleported to a nearby location, then slowly walked over as he mentally rehearsed for the conversation.

When Li Qianlin saw him approach, her expression turned joyous. "You're back!"

"Yes, I'm back."

Noticing some strange trace of an expression on Zhang Lie's face, she suddenly frowned. "Did something happen?"

Zhang Lie hesitated. "The king of chaos has invited me to attend his banquet."

"Go, then."

Zhang Lie seemed rather surprised. "You aren't going to stop me?"

"Why should I?"

Zhang Lie widened his mouth, thought for a moment, and then laughed. "I thought you'd tell me something like, 'You brought me here just to leave without me? Do you really love me? What am I to you? Are you tired of me, tired of my body—'"

Li Qianlin glanced at Zhang Lie, her brows furrowing as he continued to speak. "Hold on, hold on, what nonsense is this?"

Zhang Lie laughed. "I thought you'd have prepared a whole litany of complaints waiting to unleash on me once I returned."

Li Qianlin nodded. "I did do that."

"And they all vanished when you saw me?"

Li Qianlin snorted. "I was going to make you listen to me complain once you came back."

Zhang Lie hesitated.

Li Qianlin stepped forward and placed a palm over Zhang Lie's chest, feeling his heart beat.

"I won't stop you from doing what you want, but you have to promise to return." To return to my side.

Zhang Lie reached out and caressed Li Qianlin's petite hand, a warm smile on his face. "Meeting you was the most fortunate thing that has ever happened to me." He pressed his lips gently to her palm, then zipped away.

Li Qianlin clutched her hand, a blush creeping up her face, a blissful smile warming it.

Zhang Lie returned with a radiant smile on his face. "Let's set off."

Nightdemon requested, "Extend your invitations."

The members of Team Zenith retrieved their invitations, which had turned completely different. The invitations were now pitch-black, without any trace of a different shade of color. Primordial chaos seemed to roil from its center, dissolving all else in its wake, dragging it deep into the abyss.

Tendrils of abyssal matter poked out of the invitations and surrounded them all, bringing them through a transitory kaleidoscopic space into a world without order. There was no 'up' or 'down'; everything seemed topsy-turvy one moment, and right-side up the next. All seemed mutable, as though natural law had been discarded by the wayside.

The world was so large as to be frightening in extent. It was larger than even the universe to which the king of keys was host, larger than even the three thousand worlds combined.

Sun Xiaowu cried out, "It was a trap!"

Nightdemon had, at some point, appeared beside them. "It's not a trap. You can only enter this place with my ability."

Zhang Lie looked all around him. "Where is this? It doesn't look as though we're within the three thousand worlds."

Nightdemon shrugged. "We are, on a technicality, but we're also not."

Sun Mengmeng frowned. "What are you trying to say?"

Nightdemon replied, "I mean that we're among the three thousand worlds and also far from them."

The members of Team Zenith:...

Nightdemon hadn't clarified anything.

He bowed deeply. "Welcome, honored guests, to the world of primordial chaos."

Everyone looked around them. "So this is the legendary world of the king of chaos?"

Zhang Lie frowned. "No wonder no one knows where the world of primordial chaos is. This is a pocket space outside of the purview of the third realm, isn't it?"

Nightdemon shook his head. "Not fully."

"What do you mean?" Zhang Lie asked.

Nightdemon replied, "As I said, we're actually still within the three thousand worlds."

Zhang Lie marveled, "Impressive, impressive indeed. I wouldn't have expected such a place to exist in the third realm, but the king of chaos has taught me a valuable lesson. There's still much more I have to learn about the area."

Nightdemon smiled. "You overexaggerate."

Sun Mengmeng still seemed baffled. "Do you mean to say that the world of primordial chaos is hidden within the midst of the three thousand worlds?"

Fang Yi asked, "But how can such a massive space remain hidden?"

Chapter 1148: Toward the Night Banquet

The world of primordial chaos was far larger than the third realm could conceivably accommodate.

Yang Ze frowned. "There seems to be something amiss with the nature of space in this world."

Fang Yi chuckled. "The whole world seems problematic to me!"

Nightdemon joined in the laughter. "Yang Ze, you've found the crux of the problem."

"What do you mean?"

"The world of primordial chaos isn't located in the same spatial dimension as the three thousand worlds of the third realm."

"Like the relationship between an upper realm and a lower realm?"

Like the second and third realms, for example.

Nightdemon shook his head. "Not quite. Space is separated into layers. As far as I can tell, there can be a maximum of twenty-four layers, and the three thousand worlds are located on the first layer. When you teleport, you access the second layer of space. In general, entities on the level of superior kings can only access the first three layers."

Zhang Lie asked, "Which layer of space are we in?"

"The eighteenth layer,"

Nightdemon replied. "Follow me. The banquet isn't located here, but by the time we reach the eighteenth layer, it's very difficult to perform any sort of spatial teleportation. We'll have to fly over."

That white coat, stained by blood, slowly 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.

Nightdemon, in his bat form, spoke up, "Get on."

Zhang Lie laughed as he leapt onto the bat's back. "I must be the first person in the third realm to have ridden the king of chaos."

Nightdemon replied, "You're not mistaken. I've never allowed anyone to ride on me, but this is an exception—after all, this is the final night banquet."

"What do you mean?" Zhang Lie asked.

Nightdemon didn't respond. With a flap of his wings, he glided through space.

The entire world seemed to be distorted in this eighteenth layer of space. Tentacles and mouths grew out of rocks, black trees uprooted themselves and began to walk, and all sorts of distorted lifeforms were within sight...

Yang Ze commented, "As expected of the eighteenth layer of space... the life here is far different from what we're used to."

Everyone had grown used to seeing all sorts of strange lifeforms in every world they visited, but none could compare to the world of primordial chaos.

Sun Xiaowu marveled, "These unusual living conditions and the lack of natural laws have birthed novel variants of biological life..."

Nightdemon shrugged. "The eighteenth layer of space originally had no life whatsoever, and wasn't suited for life, either. The reason the world of primordial chaos ended up this way is as a result of my experiments. Actually, I destroyed the world of primordial chaos during an experiment, so I'm a superior king only in name."

Nightdemon's voice was calm, as though he hadn't just revealed a major secret.

He glanced at them all quizzically. "Why do you all look so surprised?"

Zhang Lie replied, "I always thought that you were the strongest superior king, but you're no superior king at all!"

The members of Team Zenith were flabbergasted.

Nightdemon replied, "Well, I'm still the strongest."

That... was true.

With the king of chaos' strength, trying to establish a new superior world wasn't a particularly difficult feat—it was as easily within reach as eating food or going to the bathroom. However, the king of chaos didn't do so—likely because he was planning for something more instead.

Zhang Lie asked, "In that case, it's been a long time since you last destroyed a newly evolved superior world?"

Nightdemon smiled wryly. "Do you think I need to?"

"What happened to the newly evolved superior worlds in your jurisdiction, then?"

Nightdemon rolled his eyes. "Do you really think it's that easy for superior worlds to form? There are only a few worlds that ever make it that far—the fact that we've witnessed three newly evolved superior worlds within the span of a decade is already a new record in the entire history of the third realm."

"But surely you've had at least one form during your tenure as superior king?"

"Yes," Nightdemon replied, "but I took the king of the realm away."

"What?"

Nightdemon suddenly raised his head. "We're here."

Everyone looked toward the depths of the darkness to see a palace floating through the ether, pitch-black and barely able to be distinguished from the surrounding darkness.

Nightdemon stopped before the entrance to the palace and returned to his usual appearance wearing a lab coat.

Zhang Lie asked, "Are you going to participate in this banquet too?"

Nightdemon shook his head. "As a clone, I won't be participating."

Nightdemon led them through a long, twisting corridor into a huge central hall, where several unusual guests had already gathered.

One was a cloud of barely discernible smoke, another a set of green flames, a third an alien composed of countless types of metal ore...

All sorts of strange and wondrous existences, like models in a fashion show, were present. As Nightdemon led Team Zenith into the hall, everyone turned to look at them.

Yang Ze exhaled, "It's like a costume party."

Fang Yi commented, "I should have worn something fancier. How are we going to participate like this?"

Nightdemon rolled his eyes. "To them, you're already interesting enough. You might as well be apes dressed in fancy attire."

Yang Ze scowled. "I feel as though I've been insulted."

Sun Xiaowu nudged Nightdemon. "Don't think that we won't beat you up just because you're one of the king of chaos' clones."

Zhang Lie sighed. "Nightdemon's words might be blunt, but they're not wrong. To us, they might look like aliens, but to them, we're the aliens instead."

Green flames erupted from one of the creatures like a volcano. Rather than illuminate its surroundings, however, that flame gave off no heat or warmth. All they could sense from it was death and decay.

Death and decay, disorder and chaos—the flames were causing the ceiling of the great hall to degrade. The flames burned toward them.

Yang Ze frowned. "It looks like we're unwelcome."

The members of Team Zenith prepared to fight, but the green flames stopped just short of the hunters.

The flames morphed into a face. "You must be the honored guests of the king of chaos."

Zhang Lie stepped forward. "That's right."

The flaming face smiled. "Welcome, welcome. We were very curious just what the new guests would be like."

Upon realizing that the green flames harbored neither enmity nor killing intent, the hunters warily stepped forward.

The flames introduced themselves, "Hello, I'm Tulscha, the Green Flame."

Chapter 1149: Witch of Dreams

The huge reception hall was truly gigantic, almost the size of a small world. Within the hall were all sorts of aliens.

What came as the greatest shock to Zhang Lie and the others was that every alien present was at least on the level of a superior king, and several of them were as strong as the king of keys. Some among them had even seemed to reach the level of Silver. It was little wonder that, despite how annoying Ghroth was as an opponent, he only ranked third among this hall of seasoned veterans.

The king of chaos was truly the strongest king of the third realm.

The members of Team Zenith had once believed that Zhang Lie could kick aside the king of chaos and rule over the three thousand worlds. To them, their captain had always seemed invincible, but against such an overwhelming formation, even the members of Team Zenith were starting to doubt themselves.

How would they knock aside all these superior kings?

Strong as the members of Team Zenith were, it was difficult enough for them to deal with a single superior king, but there were dozens of such powerful entities gathered in this hall.

"Are you all from the same race?" Tulscha asked curiously.

"They are," said a female who walked over. Her body was graceful and svelte, if a bit on the thinner side. Her beautiful face was shaped like a goose egg, with a short, straight nose and severe lips. Her

beauty, however, overwhelmed all her physical characteristics. She radiated an irresistible charm, like a figure out of dream or fantasy.

The members of Team Zenith, male and female alike, were struck by the female's charm. The next moment, however, they shuddered as one.

The female continued, "I ate one before."

Everyone belatedly recalled that this was the king of chaos' reception hall. How could there be any human hunters within this hall but them? Like Nightdemon, the female's appearance had to be an illusion.

The female, seemingly having thought of something, suddenly continued, "I apologize, you must be upset at hearing my words. I met one of your kind by chance. He seemed interesting—I learned that your race is capable of growing stronger by absorbing beasts you hunt."

"Is that so? No wonder you've gained our leader's favor." The speaker was a roughly human-shaped figure with a cloak draped around him, with black tentacles and a bat's wings. Within the cloak, countless nightmares flapped their wings and flew around.

Despite the many guests present, the speaker had to be among one of the more interesting.

The aliens all around were idly chatting in groups of twos and threes. Only the speaker was standing alone by the shadowy recesses of a corner of the hall, as though that was where he belonged.

A polished black tumor seemed to bulge out of his stony shoulders. His two eyes had been frozen in unnatural and strange positions on his face: one closer to the top, the other to the bottom, and the mouth in between. The eye near the bottom was green and shone with a jade-like light; the other sparkled with blood. Despite the unusual nature of these eyes, they looked bizarrely realistic.

Beneath the cloak, a number of nightmares folded their wings and grabbed tightly onto a body invisible to the naked eye. The twin eyes, flashing green and red, seemed to pierce through time and space. Its humongous body stood out even among a hall of esoteric beings.

Zhang Lie spread his arms. "I don't think it's particularly interesting. There are plenty of aliens around that can devour other beings to grow stronger—the king of evil among them, for example. Even beasts can devour each other for strength, and we humans represent only a minuscule portion of power among the three thousand worlds."

The female made a charming pose. "In the end, the human I saw treated me like a beast and attacked me, so I killed it and ate it. To my surprise, I found that your race isn't simply devouring these beasts. Despite being foreigners, you have some sort of unusual link to this realm. These beasts are able to transfer some curious items known as 'genes' to you. It's very interesting."

The members of Team Zenith were astounded to hear genes being mentioned.

The stronger entities of the third realm were cognizant of the ability to grow stronger by devouring beasts. All hunters of the Milky Way had this ability, and it wasn't something they could hide. The term 'gene', however, was different.

No alien to date had been able to understand this terminology, and none understood what it represented—but here was one exception.

Nightdemon explained, "This is the witch of dreams. By devouring lifeforms, she can transform into members of that race and possess even their unique racial characteristics."

Zhang Lie frowned. "Are you just aware of genes, or can you even obtain them?"

The witch of dreams smiled. "Not just that. I've even been to your world—the Milky Way galaxy, was it?"

The members of Team Zenith were shocked beyond belief. "You've been to the Milky Way?"

The witch of dreams shrugged. "Not as a human, of course, but as a member of another Milky Way race. I even lived in the Milky Way for some time, but there were some strong hunters around in your world, ones not too much weaker than our leader. As a result, I had to be careful, and it's only natural that you wouldn't be aware of this."

Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith were in turmoil.

They had all thought the Milky Way extremely safe and secure, that no alien could travel in the other direction between realms—but they were clearly, dearly mistaken.

The witch of dreams continued, "But after I remained in the Milky Way for a while, I stopped wanting to go there any longer. The time dilation was ridiculous."

After all, time passed 40 times faster in the third realm than in the Milky Way. Nine days in the Milky Way was a whole year in the third realm.

Yang Ze suddenly thought of a problem. "You said you transformed? It wasn't an illusion?"

The witch of dreams nodded. "That is so. It's not simply an illusion you're seeing—I'm physically the same race as you are with the exact same features, although I can't reproduce."

"You don't have reproductive organs?" Yang Ze asked boldly.

"You can't reproduce?" Fang Yi asked.

Reproductive isolation?

The witch of dreams licked her lips, then smiled charmingly. "I do have such organs, but all my children are malformed. Would you like to give it a try?"

Zhang Lie suggested, "You might be able to transform into a member of our race, possessing the same abilities, but you have to differ on a genetic level. The dominant genes are just fine, but the recessive genes are likely problematic. The reason your children are malformed is possibly due to those genes—it's the same issue with incest."

Chapter 1150: Keys of the Elder Gods

The witch of dreams licked her lips, then smiled charmingly. "I do have such organs, but all my children are malformed. Would you like to give it a try?"

Yang Ze could admit that the witch of dreams' appearance was indeed very charming, but who knew what lay behind such an exterior? Perhaps she was like the king of evil, whose body was a mass of slime, of sticky fluid, that gave out a noxious stench.

Yang Ze hurriedly hid behind Zhang Lie. He might be able to accept a pile of slime, but if she were a chimera of some sort...

The witch of dreams sighed upon seeing Yang Ze's reaction. "It's a pity. I wanted a human child."

Zhou Ying asked curiously, "It doesn't sound as though you're a mother?"

The witch of dreams smiled. "I've had a few kids. One of my favorite hobbies is to transform into members of various races and collect the corresponding children—of my own blood, of course. It's a pity, though. Sometimes, the children look so cute that I can't help but gobble them up."

Zhang Lie had to revise his previous hypothesis. Perhaps the witch of dreams could give birth to ordinary children—but she ate all of them. This was truly one of the strongest aliens in the third realm. Despite her beautiful appearance, her personality was more twisted than even a madwoman's.

Nightdemon suggested, "Let me introduce you all to some of the guests in attendance. The man in the cloak was Yibb, known as The Patient One."

Zhang Lie glanced subconsciously toward Yibb's side, where another isolated person in the crowded banquet hall was present.

The figure had no head, organs, or limbs. Its soft, putty-like body drifted like a wave. This gelatinous mass could well be the ancestor of all life among the three thousand worlds. Around the mass were scattered a great number of carved stone tablets, each recording some alien intelligence so deep as to be incomprehensible.

The superficial meaning was distinct from the meaning arrived at by deep contemplation, but reading between the lines seemed to yield a different conclusion entirely. It was as though there was an endless amount of intelligence hidden within the inscriptions.

Mortal intelligence, philosophical quandaries, the meaning of life, intelligence beyond the reach of mankind, divination of the future, martial techniques—the members of Team Zenith almost found themselves lost in contemplation with just a single glimpse at the tablets.

They couldn't have been carved by any lifeform among the three thousand worlds—the inscriptions seemed almost godly in origin.

Huge gelatinous bugs, with the consistency of jelly, whose bodies were like nothing else in the third realm, squirmed and writhed over the tablets, headless, organless, and featureless, squabbling blindly against each other for territory.

There were limitless resources from the tablet within their grasp, but they were fighting for a few fragments on top of it. Despite the fact that neverending intelligence lay beneath them, none of the wriggling masses could understand it.

Even a small portion of intelligence would allow one of the bugs to dominate over the rest, to lead them all, but none of the bugs could manage this feat.

The sight was pure irony.

Nightdemon patted Zhang Lie on the shoulder. "Wake up!"

Zhang Lie suddenly came to his senses. "Ah, I'm sorry. I apologize."

Nightdemon shook his head. "It's not a problem. Anyone who sees Ubbo ends up like this. It's because of the Keys of the Elder Gods it possesses."

Zhang Lie looked back behind him to see all the members of Team Zenith equally attracted to the tablets in sight. He didn't wake the hunters up immediately; after all, their contents was abstruse and difficult to understand.

Zhang Lie guessed that understanding or intuiting just a portion of it would be beneficial to the hunters. He intended on taking advantage of this banquet to have the members of Team Zenith all intuit part of the inscriptions.

Zhang Lie asked, "What are these Keys of the Elder Gods?"

Perhaps Nightdemon had broken him out of his reverie to prevent him from gaining access to the endless intelligence captured within the tablets.

"They're the floating tablets around its body, containing the knowledge to change the structure of the very universe itself."

Upon hearing Nightdemon's explanation, Zhang Lie couldn't help but feel as though he was right. As expected.

Nightdemon sighed. "Ubbo is an existence from roughly the same period as I am, but unintentionally obtained the Keys of the Elder Gods. Others consider this fortunate, but to me, it's the greatest misfortune."

Zhang Lie seemed perplexed. "Why do you say that?"

Nightdemon asked, "Do you know how Ubbo ended up in this state?"

Zhang Lie shook his head.

Nightdemon sighed. "It was the aftermath of intuiting the contents of the Keys. Back then, I tried to do so myself, but I stopped myself in time. I felt that the contents of the Keys were too abstruse for mortals like us to study and understand."

Zhang Lie was shocked that the king of chaos would call himself a mortal.

The king of chaos was the strongest existence in the third realm, and the entities gathered here in this banquet hall were more than sufficient to take over the three thousand worlds.

As to why they didn't, it was likely because they didn't think it worth their time, and because the king of chaos had a loftier goal in mind.

Nightdemon continued, "If inhabitants of the three thousand worlds forcibly try to intuit the contents of these tablets, horrible outcomes will unfold. As it turns out, I was correct to avoid the tablets. Ubbo, who didn't listen to my advice, ended up in this sorry state."

Zhang Lie asked, "Do you think that gods really exist?"

Nightdemon shrugged. "Gods are just what we call them. In the same vein that entities as strong as superior kings are like gods to the weak, we address those who are far stronger than we are as gods. To me, existences that can create realms are undoubtedly gods."

"Are there stronger existences than you in the third realm?"

Nightdemon laughed. "Perhaps it would be normal for other aliens to ask this question, but you're from a realm that lies beyond ours. There are no stronger existences among the three thousand worlds, but whether or not there are higher realms beyond—well, I think you would know better than anyone else, wouldn't you?"

Zhang Lie wasn't surprised that the king of chaos knew of this information. Those entities on the level of superior kings tended to have some knowledge of the existence of a fourth realm.

Nightdemon looked toward the members of Team Zenith.

"I suggest you awaken them."

"Intuiting a bit of information won't turn them into the likes of Ubbo, surely?"