

U. Warlord 1201

Chapter 1201: Opening the Farm

Hong Tianqi was stunned. A silence filled the transceiver. "What did you say?"

"The third realm's about to collapse."

Hong Tianqi frowned. "Is this an elaborate joke? It's far too gauche."

"I'm not joking with you."

Hong Tianqi sounded visibly displeased. "Zhang Lie, this is ridiculous. I ran over in the middle of an extremely important meeting, and this is no joking matter."

"If you don't believe me, then so be it."

Hong Tianqi thundered, "Zhang Lie, if this is how bad your attitude has gotten, I'll come beat some sense into you."

Zhang Lie sighed. "The king of chaos ascended from the third realm with his coterie, the halls of chaos. In doing so, he caused a massive explosion in the deepest layers of space there, blasting a hole in the high-dimensional spaces of the third realm. The fragmented will of the third realm has been unable to repair the damage quickly enough, and the damage has instead been spreading. If this were to continue unchecked, the deepest layers of space of the third realm would be destroyed, leading to a catastrophic domino effect that will swallow up the entirety of the third realm."

Hong Tianqi hesitated again. "You're not joking?"

"If you don't believe me, then so be it. I won't be blamed if a large group of the third-realm Milky Way hunters died in a mass extinction event."

Hong Tianqi hurriedly replied, "No, it's not that I don't believe you—what you're saying is simply so ridiculous that I'm having a difficult time processing it."

Zhang Lie continued, "If you don't believe me, feel free to send someone to the third realm. I'll have Yang Ze bring that person to the deepest layers of space. One look will be sufficient to verify my claims."

When Hong Tianqi finally realized that Zhang Lie was earnest, he couldn't help but turn serious. "This is a travesty. Tell me more—I need to know everything about the king of chaos and his ascension."

Zhang Lie proposed, "There's no time. While we're chatting, the third realm will be nearing collapse. Don't forget about the huge time dilation between the third realm and the Milky Way."

"That's exactly why I need to know everything," Hong Tianqi countered. "Otherwise, I won't be able to come up with an appropriate plan for response."

"Very well. I'll be concise, then."

As Zhang Lie explained everything, Hong Tianqi's face turned dark. This damned king of chaos... I'd like to have a subordinate punch him in the face."

The king of chaos was invincible within the third realm, but it was far less likely that that invincibility held up in the fourth realm.

Zhang Lie replied, "While I share your sentiment, you'd better not do that. The king of chaos is an exceptional individual, and he might even be able to beat your subordinates in the fourth realm."

Hong Tianqi asked, "You must have thought up a plan to resolve this problem, haven't you?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "I intend to unify the three thousand worlds. The reason the high-dimensional spaces are continuing to collapse is because the will of the third realm is fragmented. If we restore the will of the world, it will be able to fix the damage."

Hong Tianqi frowned. "This will be a massive undertaking."

Zhang Lie replied, "Even so, I don't have a better solution. Do you?"

Hong Tianqi thought for a moment, but then shook his head. "No. Your solution might work, and it's better than anything I've got."

What remained would be a fight against time—whether the high-dimensional spaces collapsed entirely first, or whether Zhang Lie could unify the three thousand worlds first.

Hong Tianqi continued, "The Milky Way will cooperate to the best of its ability. I'll start by recalling all third-realm hunters who have yet to max their superior gene fragments, then summon all other third-realm hunters to aid in your conquest."

Zhang Lie proposed, "I have a better idea. I've built a farm of genetic lifeforms on the draconian world in the third realm. I'll make a portion of those lifeforms available to increase the overall strength of genetic hunters and bulk up the available forces."

Genetic hunters were particularly strong because of how quickly they could grow in strength. Although combat experience was important, the maximum rate at which hunters could grow was all but unparalleled.

Genetic hunters would be able to grow strong just by consuming the flesh of genetic lifeforms. There was a large supply of such lifeforms within Zhang Lie's farm, which were meant to cultivate monarch-grade lifeforms, but there was no time to be selfish now. If the third realm were to fall, the entire farm would be destroyed.

It was time to make use of the farm's potential.

Zhang Lie continued, "All genetic hunters who make their way to the draconian world will be able to max all gene fragments peak-grade and below."

Hong Tianqi sucked in a deep breath. Even he, the highest authority of the Milky Way, didn't have the means to make such a promise—and neither did the Milky Way at large.

"You built a huge farm of genetic lifeforms in the third realm?"

"More or less."

"Can it support the expenditure of all the hunters in the third realm?"

Zhang Lie's farm was filled to the brim with superior-grade lifeforms, and even peak-grade ones were as common as cats and dogs. However, it would still have been a stretch to claim that this was sufficient for all third-realm hunters if not for the hundred superior worlds' worth of genetic energy that Zhang Hanxiang had brought back from the world of primordial chaos.

World's energy was undoubtedly the fastest means to induce growth and evolution. If the draconian sage could manipulate the world to accelerate the rate at which time passed around the farm, a whole-new batch of peak-grade lifeforms could be produced within moments.

However, disaster- and monarch-grade lifeforms would remain a pipe dream for the masses. Disaster-grade lifeforms required combat experience to activate their potential for evolution, and their mass production would be impossible. Neither would this approach work for monarch-grade lifeforms.

Of course, Zhang Lie didn't plan to volunteer this information.

"I cultivated a batch of superior- and peak-grade genetic lifeforms not too long ago, but it's a stretch to claim that it can support all the genetic hunters of the third realm. It'll be first-come, first-serve."

Hong Tianqi nodded. "Very good. Drag all the Milky Way hunters into the draconian world, and then make them join in your fight."

Zhang Lie agreed. "That's exactly right."

Hong Tianqi continued, "Are you sure that's what you really want, however? If the hunters are too weak, they'll be useless in a fight, and they might even drag down their teams with them."

Zhang Lie shook his head. "No, that won't happen. The process of reaching the draconian world itself will serve as a filter for the weakest hunters, leaving the ones strong enough to contribute behind.

Chapter 1202: Two Farms

"As for the hunters already present in the draconian world, as well as those in the neighboring worlds, well, I'll be able to feed them," Zhang Lie pledged.

Hong Tianqi chuckled. "Have you forgotten our previous conversation? There are many hunters from the Milky Way who have headed toward the draconian world and its neighbors because of your presence, and there are far more hunters there than you might expect."

Zhang Lie's eyes brightened. That was even better—it was free, accessible labor!

"Why haven't I heard of this?"

Hong Tianqi shrugged. "You must have forgotten it after our last conversation. I'm sure I mentioned that they decided to head to the draconian world out of safety considerations. You must not spend much time in the draconian world, I suppose?"

"That's right," Zhang Lie replied. "I'm rarely in the draconian world itself, and mostly waging war beyond it."

The draconian world had grown to be extremely large, and the effect of even the increased hunter population wasn't obvious. It was reasonable that Zhang Lie had failed to notice it.

"But even if I hadn't noticed, the draconian sage should have brought it up to me..."

"The draconian sage's very open-minded. I imagine that he didn't think it a problem, considering how large the draconian world is now."

When Hong Tianqi was in the third realm, he had been an influential figure in his own right—nothing like Zhang Lie, of course, but he was at least well acquainted with the draconian sage.

The difference between the Hong Tianqi of the third realm and the Zhang Lie of the third realm was that Hong Tianqi had been someone everyone in the grade knew of, whereas Zhang Lie was someone that the entire city knew of.

Hong Tianqi continued, "By this point, the draconian world might as well be the heart of the third realm for hunters of the Milky Way."

Zhang Lie nodded. "Well, I can't promise just how many superior- and peak-grade lifeforms there will be. If I run out, I'll come up with something."

"Do you have any ideas as to how?" Hong Tianqi asked. "If you do, the hunters that rush over will invariably be upset."

Zhang Lie replied, "I have a farm in the draconian world, but also a secondary one in the scaleman world. It's not as large, but it specializes in superior- and peak-grade lifeforms."

Zhang Lie found Hong Tianqi silent.

"What's the matter?"

Hong Tianqi asked, "When did you start making preparations to unify the third realm?"

"After the high-dimensional spaces began to collapse."

Hong Tianqi cried out, "You're lying! You must have planned all this out from the beginning, the moment you ascended into the third realm! Even the united world federation doesn't have the ability to construct a farm of genetic lifeforms, but you already have two! I won't believe that this is a coincidence!"

"Let's not waste time here. The third realm's collapse is occurring as we speak. I'll return to the dimensional realm while you handle announcements here."

"No, wait!" Hong Tianqi cried out. "Share your strategies for setting up a farm first!"

Zhang Lie hung up right then and there.

That very day, the united world federation announced that the third realm was on the verge of collapse, and Zhang Lie was calling for aid. All hunters who headed to the draconian world would be able to max out all their gene fragments at peak-grade and below.

Hong Tianqi didn't intend to suppress the news even if there was the possibility of causing a panic. The information would affect only the hunters of the third realm, not the citizens of the Milky Way at large.

It was true that the collapse of the third realm would be a huge blow to the Milky Way.

The hunters of the second realm would be unable to ascend to the third, and those trapped in the third would perish. However, the citizens were largely unaffected, and most hunters remained in the first and second realms.

Even so, when the announcement was sent out, it seemed as though the entirety of the Milky Way was in an uproar.

If not for the fact that the united world federation's highest authority himself had made the announcement, no one would have believed it. How could the third realm collapse so suddenly?

Everyone tried to ascertain the news for themselves, but it was impossible to sense anything even for hunters of the third realm. The destruction had, thus far, been localized to the high-dimensional spaces of the third realm, and that destruction was impossible to sense below a certain level of strength or particular achievement with spatial manipulation. No one else could witness how a hole in the deepest layers of space was growing larger moment by moment.

As a result, many hunters even believed that the world federation was releasing fake news in order to help augment Zhang Lie's status.

"Hong Tianqi is a hunter from Earth, and he's grooming his successor, Zhang Lie, by promising to max out everyone's gene fragments if they're willing to join his camp! Who else but the world federation would have such wealth?"

"According to the world federation, a hole is expanding in the deepest layers of space in the third realm, and the fragmented will of the third realm is unable to repair it quickly enough."

"What's this supposed 'high-dimensional space'? I've never heard of the like—the world federation could simply be lying through its teeth."

"The will of the third realm: just what about me is 'fragmented'?"

There were plenty of naysayers among the hunters, and the impending collapse of the third realm was a sensational topic. Eventually, a few hunters in the know responded.

"Just because you haven't heard of it doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. You've heard of spatial authority and spatial manipulation, haven't you? The strongest such hunters can sense and even manipulate high-dimensional space depending on their talent, training, and experience.

"Generally speaking, few in the third realm can manage such an extraordinary feat, and even those who can do so in the fourth realm are rare. It's only natural that barely anyone knows of this.

"Fortunately, I just came back from the fifth realm today, and the headlines caught my eye. Let me explain: we separate space in terms of layers, the deepest ones accessible only to those with the strongest intuition and understanding."

Chapter 1203: Collapse of the Realm

"In that case, do you think the collapse of the third realm is true?"

"To be frank, I'm rather doubtful. The fact that the third realm is supposedly 'fragmented', that the will of the world can't repair the high-dimensional collapse, are both rather suspicious. I feel that the three thousand worlds is the original form of the third realm, and the suggestion that the will of the third realm is fragmented as a result is just an attempt to shock people.

"However, the highest authority of the world federation is hardly going to promulgate fake news. If he does so, his position will be forfeit. Even so, it's too ridiculous to imagine that the third realm would truly end up being destroyed."

All the hunters of the Milky Way were participating in the discussion of the hot new topic of the day. Was the third realm truly not meant to take the form of three thousand worlds?

No one received a straightforward, accurate answer. After all, the time dilation between the third realm and the Milky Way was massive. A day in the Milky Way was a month in the third realm.

Neither Zhang Lie nor the highest authority of the world federation had time to waste to explain everything to the hunters of the Milky Way. Hong Tianqi initiated a summons, and only that—even the highest authority of the world federation didn't have the privilege of directly commanding all genetic hunters.

Zhang Lie had chatted with Hong Tianqi for a few hours, but by the time he returned to the third realm, four days had passed.

The members of Team Zenith, along with the warlords, were waging war anew among the three thousand worlds. Team Zenith, which had grown even stronger in the meantime, faced no opposition. Any world in which they appeared would be swept clean within moments; if the world didn't submit, it would be destroyed.

Given the impending collapse of the third realm, there was no time to play nice with the members of the three thousand worlds. They had to conquer the three thousand worlds as rapidly as they could.

Zhang Lie had told the members of Team Zenith to disburse the superior- and peak-grade lifeforms to any helpers that approached, and the members of Team Zenith had agreed to the plan.

Zhang Lie had communicated the plan to Yun Bing, who came up with a plan and set up the logistics immediately. Her approach was for ten hunters to share one lifeform.

It wasn't that there would only be one genetic lifeform distributed for every ten hunters; the supply of genetic lifeforms would be unlimited until the hunters' gene fragments were maxed out.

However, requesting a genetic lifeform would require the application of ten hunters together.

Given the suddenness of the notice, there were just a few genetic hunters who responded to Zhang Lie's summons. Most of them were human hunters, but when the hunters in the draconian world heard that they would be able to receive free gene fragments upon participating, they rushed over.

None of the hunters yet believed that the third realm would collapse; they simply wanted the free gene fragments.

They treated those fragments as a prize for their participation.

Although the members of Team Zenith and the party of warlords were winning matches at every turn, their progress was still too slow. The three thousand worlds were spread out, and the high-dimensional collapse continued. The members of Team Zenith, excluding Yang Ze, were starting to be able to sense the impact of the collapse.

Just then, the fighters of the draconian, Zongming, and scaleman worlds joined the fray.

"You've come?"

Li Qianlin and Dong Mingxing had each come to the draconian world with a battalion of soldiers.

"I apologize," Dong Mingxing began. "Amassing the troops took some time."

Li Qianlin explained, "This is our world, and we could hardly count on you outsiders to protect it by yourselves. As an inhabitant of this world, I should like to fight for it with my own two hands."

The draconian party from the draconian world asked, "Lord Zhang, you won't blame us for being too late, will you?"

Zhang Lie smiled. "That you were willing to come is valuable enough."

As more aliens joined in, the rate of expansion grew.

Even so, a sword of Damocles was rapidly forming over their heads. The collapse of the realm seemed imminent.

The third-realm hunters who boasted true strength, who already had maxed peak gene fragments, were all still watching without participating.

"We need to speed up."

Zhang Lie unveiled even more appealing prizes. Any hunter who returned bearing a proof of kingship would receive a disaster-grade core.

The hunters of the third realm and the Milky Way were in an uproar.

Disaster gene fragments were something that every genetic hunter was now seeking out. Even among the four prime races of the Milky Way, there was yet to be a hunter with maxed disaster gene fragments, demonstrating the difficulty of acquiring them.

The three thousand worlds were large in number, but there was perhaps only one or two disaster-grade lifeforms in a world. They were rarer than gold—and even if a hunter could defeat such a lifeform, it would be futile if that hunter couldn't encounter one.

The fact that Zhang Lie was giving away disaster-grade cores energized all the hunters of the third realm.

The hunters of the third realm immediately flocked to participate, descending on the draconian world in droves.

The expedition forces rapidly grew faster as the conquest of the third realm reached its final stages. Suddenly, the three thousand worlds shook madly. A huge dimensional rift appeared in the center of the world, and void storms formed.

Yang Ze was the first to sense the trouble.

"The deepest layer of space is barely holding on!"

The genetic hunters glanced at the shattered void before recalling Zhang Lie's warning.

"Is the third realm really collapsing?"

"This is... the collapse of a high-dimensional space!"

"The three thousand worlds will really be affected by this collapse..."

Within the base camp situated in the heart of the draconian world, Zhang Lie asked, "How many worlds do we still need?"

Li Qianlin reported, "Ten large worlds, thirty medium-sized worlds, and a hundred or so small worlds. Among them, three large, a dozen or so medium-sized, and twenty small worlds are stubborn holdouts."

By then, Li Qianlin had become Zhang Lie's assistant.

Although Li Qianlin's combat ability was rather weak, as the princess, she had received an elite, impeccable education, and she was as skilled as Yun Bing in matters of administration and government.

Zhang Lie's eyes widened in shock. "Still so many?"

Li Qianlin continued calmly, "According to our latest census, despite the 'three thousand worlds' refrain, there currently seem to be almost four thousand worlds in the third realm."

"And can't we do anything about the stubborn worlds?"

Although Zhang Lie's side was brimming with manpower, in the end, the main invasion force was composed of the members of Team Zenith. Furthermore, there were always wounded after each invasion, and those wounded would have to retreat for medical treatment.

Chapter 1204: End of the Realm

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Many kings of the realm were now aware that the genetic hunters and the three newly evolved superior worlds were working together to launch a conquest of the third realm.

Their justification, that they were trying to save the world, was clearly an excuse meant to lower morale. The stubborn worlds continued to resist the enemy incursion.

Some of the worlds even formed into a superior world so as to appoint a superior king to defend them all.

To the members of Team Zenith, however, this was unimaginably good news.

It would save them the trouble of going from world to world; they simply needed to handle the new superior king. Before the superior king could take his throne for more than a day, Sun Mengmeng killed him.

All the worlds learned that, even if they were to group together and form a superior world, they didn't have the ability to resist the incursion.

As a result, many kings of the realm began to sequester themselves with their proofs of kingship.

Although Zhou Ying had returned to the backline to render medical aid, wounded hunters continued to stream in from all over the third realm.

Li Qianlin thundered, "Those fellows might think that they're protecting their own worlds, but they're all going to be destroyed!"

Zhang Lie stood up. "There's no time to waste. We can't wait for all the worlds to surrender. In order to unify the will of the third realm, I'm going to destroy all the holdouts' worlds."

There was no time to waste. The fastest approach was to destroy the remaining holdouts.

Li Qianlin asked, "Just how many inhabitants of the third realm would die from such a ploy?!"

"If the third realm were to collapse, even more inhabitants would perish."

As much as possible, Zhang Lie wanted to protect the integrity of the three thousand worlds. Doing so would strengthen the resulting will of the world that was unified, and it would be able to better handle the issue of the impending collapse. However, the situation was so urgent that Zhang Lie had no time to consider things carefully.

Li Qianlin continued, "Now that it's obvious something is wrong with the realm, we can try to persuade them to surrender. Surely they'll understand!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "It's too late. We've already invaded all the worlds around them, and they won't trust our words."

If the third realm had developed noticeable problems before the start of the hunters' invasion, they might have been able to resolve the issue bloodlessly, but the collapse of the high-dimensional spaces had caused no explicit sign of damage—until now.

Someone who randomly cried out that an earthquake or a tsunami were approaching would be apprehended as a madman.

As the stubborn kings of the world refused to submit, greedy for the power they possessed, Zhang Lie's patience reached its limit.

He decided not to bother arguing with these stubborn kings any further.

He had just stepped out of the palace when he saw two familiar figures. Waiting for him outside were Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen.

"Long time no see, Master!"

Zhang Lie was visibly shocked. "What are the two of you doing here?"

Jun Jiuxiao replied, "Upon hearing that you were in need of manpower, Master, everyone in the second realm who could advance did so."

Zhang Lie huffed, "I don't know what to tell you. To be honest, the third realm is in a crisis, but you needn't have done what you did."

Jun Jiuxiao smiled. "We know why you're angry, Master. Please don't worry—we ascended only after maxing out our disaster gene fragments."

Ye Xianchen continued, "However, there were a lot of affairs we had to settle in the kingdom of Limit, so things dragged out until now."

Jun Jiuxiao continued, "We're not sure we can be of help at this point."

Zhang Lie murmured, "I was intending on destroying the remaining holdouts."

Jun Jiuxiao asked, "Will you give us an opportunity to do something instead?"

Zhang Lie replied, "I do think I will. The third realm is about to collapse. Are either of you afraid?"

Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen immediately replied,

"No, Master!"

"There's not much time left, and the realm likely won't last three more days. You have two days to collect as many proofs of kingship as you can with the others."

Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen immediately beamed.

"We won't disappoint you, Master!"

They left in an excited rush.

Li Qianlin strode over. "What made you change your mind?"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "I saw my second-realm disciples advance in order to help me, and I wanted to give them an opportunity."

Of course, Zhang Lie wasn't about to state that he realized he could save himself the trouble by taking advantage of his disciples.

He could tell that Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen were invested not in saving the world, but rather in presenting themselves well in front of him.

Zhang Lie reflected that this crisis was hardly a complete disaster for him.

Even if the third realm were to collapse, he would be able to enter the fourth realm immediately, and his disaster-grade dragonwhale soulshard would be able to transport everyone he knew from the third realm. The collapse would still be troublesome and disastrous, but not crucially so.

Most importantly, when matters seemed to be at their worst, calmness was most important. Relaxing was known to produce better results in general.

As the deepest layer of space finally weakened to the point of collapse, the fragmented will of the third realm cried out.

Whether or not the world would perish depended on the next few moments.

The entirety of the third realm could hear the will of the world straining. The third realm itself seemed to start caving in, causing planets to fall toward the dimensional sinkhole, which was growing larger by the moment.

The genetic hunters began to panic and swarm toward the nearest teleportation apparatus. They, who came from the Milky Way, had no intention of dying in the third realm.

Unlike the indigenous aliens, they could still retreat.

Chapter 1205: Good Cop, Bad Cop

"Very long ago, this palace was used to venerate our dragon god. Thereafter, we held meetings here, and the religious rites have long since been moved elsewhere." The draconian sage stood in front of a statue of a giant dragon, for the moment ignoring all word from the outside world.

"Won't you leave, Sage?"

Zhang Lie walked up to his side.

The draconian sage chuckled coldly. "Large though the three thousand worlds may be, where could we run in the face of such an assault?"

Zhang Lie explained, "I can shelter you all in my soulshard."

The draconian sage shook his head. "This world raised me and fed me. I'm not leaving it to die alone."

Multicolored proofs of kingship hung over Zhang Lie and the draconian sage's heads.

The reason Zhang Lie was here was because that was where the genetic hunters and aliens chose to deposit the proofs of kingship they had collected.

The draconian sage sighed. "Where do you think the dragon god is? Has he ever existed? Did he ascend to a higher realm? He's enjoyed our offerings for so long, but now that the third realm's about to be destroyed, is he going to ignore us all?"

Zhang Lie replied, "I'm from China, on Earth."

"I understand."

"We have never believed in the existence of gods... or rather, we used to, but we learned that believing in ourselves was the better approach."

The draconian sage asked, "Aren't you going to leave, either?"

"Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen, along with the teams they led from the dojo, still haven't returned. I'm a little worried."

The draconian sage asked, "Is there still hope, then?"

"There was always hope."

"Even under such circumstances?"

"Even so," Zhang Lie replied with certainty. A series of rushed footsteps came from outside.

Zhang Lie glanced over to see Jun Jiuxiao, Ye Xianchen, and the members of the Zenith Dojo rush back with wounds all over their bodies. They returned alongside the members of Team Zenith. Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen were the worst of the lot, dusty and muddy and wounded, but their eyes were bright and sparkling with light.

They returned with a huge chest behind them, which they hurriedly set before Zhang Lie. "As promised, Master."

The chest was filled with proofs of kingship.

Jun Jiuxiao replied, "All the proofs of kingship from the three thousand worlds are located here."

The draconian sage glanced at the treasure in amazement. "How did you manage it so quickly? All the remaining worlds?"

The only remaining holdouts were all stubborn and difficult to take down—and there were hundreds of them.

The draconian sage continued, "Stubborn bastards even experienced troops would choke on... how did you do all this within two days?"

Jun Jiuxiao grinned. "I benefited from everyone's hard work—but not in the way you would expect."

Ye Xianchen explained, "The majority of these proofs of kingship weren't obtained by force."

The draconian sage seemed curious. "Not by force? How, then? Surely the kings didn't just hand them over to you?"

Jun Jiuxiao smiled wryly. "To some extent, they did."

Ye Xianchen continued, "We guessed that the worlds all had their own reasons for not wanting to submit, but we didn't have time to ferret them all out. After all, we only had two days."

Jun Jiuxiao smiled coldly. "We simply had to give them a reason to hand over their proofs of kingship, one that dwarfed their reasons not to."

Ye Xianchen continued, "They would surely be upset to be forced to give up their proofs of kingship from outsiders."

Jun Jiuxiao took his turn. "Some people are like that. They're as stubborn as mules, and refuse to listen. We took advantage of that."

Ye Xianchen continued, "We told those kings that refused to hand over their proofs of kingship that the newly evolved superior worlds and the hunters of the Milky Way were trying to destroy the three thousand worlds, that they're aiming to open a portal between the third realm and the Milky Way."

Jun Jiuxiao said, "We told them that all the issues that have been occurring are due to what they're doing. We would be able to prevent their schemes, but we would need their help and their proofs of kingship to do so."

Ye Xianchen puffed up. "For the good of the third realm, to resolve this calamity, we hope you'll pitch in."

The draconian sage gaped. "They really believed such ludicrous lies?"

Jun Jiuxiao shrugged. "Some people are that dumb, after all. They refuse to believe those who are trying to help them and are perfectly willing to believe those who are not."

Ye Xianchen shrugged. "The fact that they're still stubbornly refusing to give up their proofs of kingship despite their worlds crashing and burning down around them, well, that tells you what kind of people they are."

Jun Jiuxiao continued, "A few of the aliens thanked us after handing over their proofs of kingship, and they even wanted to marry off their daughters to us."

The people who were most struck by Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen's claims were the members of Team Zenith.

They were working hard to try to save the third realm, a realm that didn't belong to them. Even so, their actions were vilified by the aliens of the realm, and they were viewed with great enmity.

On the other hand, Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen, who were lying through their teeth, received widespread acclaim and the thanks of the inhabitants of the realm.

The draconian sage asked, "Did no one try to learn more about your plan for using the proofs of kingship to deal with the 'threat'?"

Jun Jiuxiao replied, "Some did ask, but we told them that there could very well be spies among them, and we couldn't discuss the specifics."

Yang Ze couldn't help but laugh. "They all dressed up like aliens; the recalcitrant kings were caught between a rock and a hard place, and they would much rather oppose the foreign invaders and give up their proofs of kingship to a purportedly friendly group."

Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen grinned deviously.

Over the last two days, they had been chasing away the main invasion force and pretending to be marauders from the three thousand worlds, here to rescue all the besieged worlds.

Sun Xiaowu sighed. "The aliens don't scheme half as much as we do."

Many of the three thousand worlds were insular; unlike the Milky Way, they didn't possess a galaxywide internet and interplanetary transportation, so they were easily sucked in by the ploy.

Zhang Lie waved a hand and beckoned. "Alright, we can't waste any more time. If we want to demonstrate our prowess, we'll have plenty of time for that once the third realm is safe."

Chapter 1206: Inheritance and Succession

"Next, we need to decide who should meld all the proofs of kingship together," the draconian sage suggested.

This was no innocuous question—the king who did so would become the ruler of the third realm.

Everyone turned to Zhang Lie.

Zhang Lie suggested, "Let's have Qianlin be the new ruler of the third realm."

No one questioned his decision, none but Li Qianlin herself.

"I refuse."

Sun Mengmeng gaped. "You'd rule over the entirety of the third realm!"

Li Qianlin shook his head. "I can't do it."

Zhang Lie urged, "With your skills, you'd be more than capable. However, if you don't want to, I won't force you."

Li Qianlin apologized. "I'm sorry, but I don't wish to take on such a responsibility."

Zhang Lie took a deep breath and nodded. "In that case, Zhu, would you be willing to serve as the new ruler?"

Just like Li Qianlin, Zhu had a guaranteed spot in Zhang Lie's dragonwhale soulshard if the collapse of the third realm was set in stone. Fortunately, Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen had returned before that backup plan needed to be set in motion.

Zhu was shocked by the offer, as was the draconian sage. He had expected the new ruler of the realm to be chosen from among the new superior kings.

Li Qianlin was the daughter of the Zongming king and in a relationship with Zhang Lie, so she seemed like a reasonable choice. Zhu had a longstanding relationship with Zhang Lie as well, but she had no connection to the third realm. The draconian sage couldn't understand such a decision, but there was no time to ask—the third realm was in crisis, and every second counted.

He trusted that Zhang Lie had a plan in mind.

Zhang Lie was invested in making this unified realm a better place, and he wouldn't be appointing Zhu without a solid reason for doing so.

Zhang Lie asked again, "Zhu, would you be willing to shoulder the responsibility for the third realm?"

Zhu thought for a moment before replying, "Although I'm not sure what this job will entail, since it's a task from you, Zhang Lie, I'll handle it to the best of my ability."

Her smile was as pure as the ocean. Although she had since grown up, when she was with Zhang Lie, she still seemed like the little girl he had saved.

The tremors shaking the realm grew more and more intense. The draconian sage said, "I'll transfer the position of king of the realm to you immediately. You have to quickly familiarize yourself with the nature of the authority and then meld all the proofs of kingship together."

The draconian sage was worried that an outsider like Zhu would take too long to adapt.

"I've explained everything in detail on the proof of kingship. You simply have to activate the records left behind by the previous king and follow the instructions on it."

The dragon's scale that was the draconians' proof of kingship glowed with light. A pillar of light emerged from the proof and merged with the will of the world, transforming into a multicolored dragon that flew out of the draconian sage's body.

The draconic antlers on the draconian sage's head shattered as he seemed to visibly deflate in strength. The dragon circled the sky above the palace once. Zhu stepped forward, and the dragon swooped down.

As a void storm shook the draconian world, all the hunters of the Milky Way and the aliens of the third realm

felt the change to the draconian world. As the draconians witnessed the multicolored dragon in the sky, they knelt on the ground.

The dragon folded itself into Zhu's body through her forehead. A multicolored scale appeared in the center of her forehead, brimming with rainbow light that swallowed up Zhu's body. The river of light enveloped her, making her feel warm and cozy all over, as though she were taking a bath in superior world's energy. Her skin, blood, and flesh were simultaneously enhanced, and her dusky blue hair floated like the sea.

Scales appeared over her body as two multicolored horns grew out of her head. Her aura rapidly grew stronger. She was originally at around the level of a disaster-grade lifeform, but after accepting the draconian sage's position, she was swiftly approaching the level of a large king, and soon that of a superior king.

Zhu's body floated in mid-air. Natural law hovered around her as the draconian scale blossomed with light.

A multicolored, thumping heart appeared in the air.

This was the heart of the world, whose heartbeats echoed throughout the land and could be heard by all within.

Upon witnessing this sight, the draconians and other inhabitants of the draconian world all understood the choice that the draconian sage had made in this critical moment.

Rainbow threads connected to Zhu as her heart itself turned multicolored. The light formed an elegant crown over her head, a sea-blue crown with draconic motifs. Behind her, dragons, mammoths, beastmen, and the other races of the draconian world were carved into a huge throne, on which she sat. Her petite body seemed at odds with the magnificent throne.

The power and authority of a king of the realm shot into her body.

A pair of dragon's wings manifested into being behind Zhu's back. She seemed to have become a half-human, half-dragon hybrid, with an aura as mighty and expansive as the very sea.

The draconian sage was very pleased with his new successor, who seemed to be uncommonly compatible with the proof of kingship of the draconian world. It seemed as though she would quickly acclimate to her newfound abilities.

After losing his authority as a superior king, the draconian sage grew incredibly weak.

He seemed to have aged a few decades in a matter of minutes, and his face grew wrinkled. It felt as though a gust of wind would blow him over. Zhou Ying immediately stepped forward and infused the draconian sage with vitality and natural energy, improving his current condition.

The draconian sage moved to Zhang Lie's side. "Why did you choose Zhu?" he asked curiously.

Zhang Lie replied, "It would be better for none of the three current superior kings to rule the unified world."

The draconian sage asked, "In what sense?"

Zhang Lie explained, "The current system of kings of the realm isn't particularly suited to the unified world. At present, there are four superpowers in the third realm: the three superior kings, and the hunters of the Milky Way.

The hunters of the Milky Way, having banded together, represented a force that couldn't be neglected.

"Who among the four forces should control the new world? Choosing any one among them would arouse the displeasure of the others. To balance the forces in equilibrium, then, requires a brand-new system."

Chapter 1207: New World Order

In the hunters' estimation, to unify the three thousand worlds, you would have to start with one world and merge all others into it. Subsequently, you would have to fuse the combined will of the world with the fragmented will of the third realm.

Doing so would consolidate the will of the third realm and make it whole once more.

The draconian sage quickly understood what Zhang Lie was getting at. "You intend on having the land simultaneously controlled by four superior forces?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "We'll establish a federation of the third realm patterned after the united world federation of the Milky Way. Each of the four forces will have a veto available to them; the federation members will be composed of the wills of the world who voluntarily handed us their proofs of kingship. This will be the post-crisis gubernatorial structure."

These kings' contributions in a time of crisis would win them authority in the new world order.

Yun Bing asked, "What about us?"

Zhang Lie replied, "The four prime races of the Milky Way will have one seat each, as will each of you."

Sun Xiaowu seemed rather displeased. "I don't want to deal with all that humdrum."

"You can choose not to," Zhang Lie replied, "but still keep your seat in the federation. After all, we're going to be leaving for the fourth realm soon enough. You can skive off and do nothing, but you need the power to act if it becomes necessary to prevent the federation from imploding.

"The prime minister will be chosen from among the world at large, with the exclusion of the four superior forces, in order to prevent them from forming an oligopoly over the rest of the world. The prime minister will serve for a 10-year term, and then a new one will be chosen by election."

"A democratic parliament..." Sun Mengmeng murmured.

For Zhang Lie to have devised such a scheme in the third realm... was the era of monarchy about to be replaced by a democracy?

The multicolored dragon scales rapidly covered up Zhu's body.

As the members of Team Zenith discussed the new world, Zhu raised her arms up high, holding the multicolored dragon scale. Above her head, constellations of proofs of kingship shone like stars. The proofs of kingship fell toward the multicolored dragon scale like flaring meteors, melding into it.

The multicolored scale grew larger and larger, enveloping the whole palace in starry light.

As more proofs of kingship stacked up together, the light condensed into the form of a tower.

Within the draconian world, it was possible to see all sorts of images briefly flashing by the horizon, like a moon that had appeared before dusk. The draconian world was filled with those images.

The worlds bypassed the spatial rift and quickly merged with the draconian world. The growing will of the world transformed into a multicolored dragon that soared into the sky and flew over the border of the draconian world.

Every world in the third realm had been affected by the spatial rift to some degree, and the resulting void storm was grinding the small worlds down.

Even medium-sized worlds were affected against their will. All the aliens and genetic lifeforms were scoured by the spatial rift, and only large worlds were able to survive intact.

No alien continued to grumble about the merging of various worlds—they all realized that Zhang Lie wasn't lying to them.

Countless worlds, large and small alike, were drifting toward the draconian world through a spatial rift.

The multicolored dragon continuously rushed into the different worlds and devoured their respective wills of the world. Upon doing so, the barrier between those worlds and the draconian world was removed, and the worlds formally melded together.

The more wills the dragon devoured, the larger it grew.

Just then, two huge shadows appeared by the horizon of the draconian world: the Zongming and scaleman worlds.

Li Zongming stood at the top of his palace and watched the two worlds drift closer together. He sighed. "It's finally time..."

It wasn't clear whether he was sighing because the third realm was being rescued, or because his hard work with the Zongming world was now all for naught.

The scaleman king, former crown prince, and a group of senior officials were slowly watching the scaleman world approach the draconian world.

"It's finally begun."

The scaleman king also sighed, perhaps because his realm was saved or because he could now avoid his odious position as king of the realm.

The scaleman king turned. "Brother, once the new world is formed, you'll be the next king."

The crown prince was shaken by his brother's words.

As the worlds grew closer and closer to the draconian world, they began to meld with it. The multicolored dragon grew larger and larger, almost to the point of fatness.

The Zongming world and scaleman world gradually got close. The wills of their respective worlds appeared, and the multicolored dragon fought in an attempt to suck them up.

In the end, thanks to Zhu's help, the dragon was able to suppress the Zongming world and scaleman world's wills.

As the draconian world melded with the two superior worlds, the dragon suddenly experienced a growth spurt and became even wider and longer than before.

The moment the draconian world absorbed the two other superior worlds, it began to shake violently.

The fact that the three remaining superior worlds had now been combined heralded the start of a whole new era.

The dragon was still swooping down to various worlds and devouring their wills, growing larger all the while—from the size of a normal dragon to that of a veritable orb of a dragon.

Within the orb, the wills of various worlds could be seen floating around.

The dragon continued to devour will after will. More worlds merged into the draconian world, not heeding the spatial rift in the vicinity.

The draconian world merged with the two other superior worlds and almost four thousand different wills of the world in all. Genetic energy suffused it.

A dragon's howl echoed through the new world as Zhu's strength rose explosively beyond the level of a superior king. Even the members of Team Zenith felt threatened by Zhu's newfound strength. The multicolored dragon swooped down and combined with Zhu's body. A barrier of world's energy shimmered into existence around him. More and more layers formed, until Zhu looked as though she were in the center of a large egg.

The egg gave off glowing light, brighter than even the sun overhead.

Runes danced over their vision as the world transformed. The strength that had resulted from the merger formed a loop around the world, and light continued to glow from the heavens.

Chapter 1208: Birth of a New World

The new, unified world was simply too massive—it was composed of almost four thousand worlds that had all been merged together. It drifted toward the spatial rift at the heart of the third realm.

The new world, so massive in size, was unaffected by the void storm.

Suddenly, all the inhabitants of the third realm saw hope blooming once more. Whether or not the restored will of the world was able to repair the hole that had swallowed up the high-dimensional spaces, the massive world that had just formed was all but immune to the effect of the void storm, and it could very well weather the effect of the spatial collapse.

The worlds that were being ground away ended up sucked into the massive world instead.

The massive world floated toward the void storm and plugged up the hole in space.

Li Qianlin cried out, "We finally have some hope!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "It's not quite enough."

A crack appeared in the massive world, and the crack quickly propagated.

"The new world has just formed, and the connections between the various worlds that have been melded together aren't yet secure. It won't be able to prevent the spatial collapse."

The evolution of the world resulted in immense benefits to all its inhabitants, and this effect was magnified during the transformation from a superior world to a never-before-seen unified one.

Their talent and status of life would grow by leaps and bounds.

The aliens were growing stronger at a rate visible to the naked eye.

Those tall and sturdy of stature grew taller and stronger; those wise and intelligent gained more insight. Ordinary spiritual herbs grew rare and potent. Some that would have to be cultivated for hundreds of years to reach maturity were maturing right then and there, developing hundreds of years within seconds.

Some ordinary herbs even broke through genetic restrictions, transforming into spiritual herbs across the mountains and the wilderness.

All the aliens watched the world transform miraculously.

The draconian world, which was at the heart of the transformation, reacted to an even more extreme degree. It shone in the center of a hurricane of light, and the inhabitants of the world were surrounded with motes of that light.

The inhabitants of the other two superior worlds likewise benefited from the melding of the worlds, though to a lesser degree.

Zhou Ying widened her arms. She hadn't activated a single technique, but she was already brimming with vital energy.

Her long hair fluttered in the wind, the color of crystalline jade. It gave off motes of vitality. She was so beautiful no one could take their eyes away, and golden leaves whirled around her. The tips of her hair produced gray fog.

The gray power gathered around Zhou Ying's forehead, which cracked apart. A gray eye budded from her flesh. It opened up to reveal a chaotic opal iris, which seemed to be able to penetrate flesh, soul, and space.

Each leaf was like a miniature sun, orbiting around the woman's body. To her back was a pair of golden wings formed from energy. Above her head was a glowing sun, giving off a radiant, holy light.

Her jade-green eyes were flecked with gold, and she seemed to have become one with the land. The vitality radiating from her was visible to the naked eye. Stellar light surrounded her as though she were a goddess given form.

Black, sticky energy formed a veiled dress around her body, sticking closely to her limbs and revealing her curvaceous features—no, making them even more curvaceous than they originally were.

Where her body was slim, it remained slim; where it protruded, it protruded even more. Two root-like tendrils writhed under her dress; her body radiated a seductive charm. Many younger genetic hunters found themselves turning red.

It was hard to differentiate whether Zhou Ying was meant to be a holy priestess or a charming succubus. The same woman seemed to possess two different types of charm.

Over this period of time, Zhou Ying had been gradually infusing the power of the Everbearing Lady into her self. This charm wasn't intentional; rather, it was a side effect of absorbing that power, and Zhou Ying had been trying to curtail it to the best of her ability.

After the three thousand worlds merged into one, the world received a monumental blessing in the form of world's energy, which also benefited the living beings within it.

Zhou Ying had naturally transformed into her current state from the elevated levels of vitality and natural energy in the air.

"The world itself is filled with world's energy, and everything is brimming with life. I feel like my status as a lifeform is rapidly increasing." Zhou Ying sucked in a breath with a delighted smile.

All other genetic hunters in the region, not just Zhou Ying, felt the same way. The weakest hunters, in particular, felt as though they were in the middle of a warm bath, one that took place at the genetic level.

The hunters present were very glad that they hadn't chosen to retreat to the Milky Way; this was an unimaginable boon.

To the members of Team Zenith and Zhang Lie, who were already ridiculously strong, the benefit of the merger of the worlds was rather limited. After all, their strength meant that this boon paled in comparison to what they could already do.

Zhou Ying was an exception because of the nature of her framework and constitution.

The world itself had benefited far more than it did when evolving into a superior world.

After all, this merger, consisting of a whole three thousand worlds, was far more impactful than the last.

All the other worlds had received some degree of benefit as well. The genetic lifeforms of Zhang Lie's farm roared in excitement. Regular lifeforms were evolving into mutated-grade, mutated-grade into superior-grade, superior-grade into peak-grade, and some peak-grade lifeforms were even evolving into disaster-grade.

There were many regular- and mutated-grade lifeforms, and quite a number of them evolved into superior- and peak-grade ones. Most importantly, over a hundred lifeforms had evolved into disaster-grade, and that number was increasing bit by bit.

The special monarch-grade lifeform raised its head. As energy flooded its body, it could sense that the energy it had ingested but could not absorb was on the verge of liquefying.

A pillar of rainbow light shot into the void as natural law formed all around them. A huge multicolored dragon's scale began to resonate with the entire realm; at this critical moment, the will of the third realm had finally descended.

Chapter 1209: Melding of Wills

Back in the scaleman world, the former crown prince asked, "Your Majesty, why would you say that I'd be the next emperor?"

Suddenly, as the worlds merged together, the scaleman king rapidly grew older, the transformation so complete and troubling that the former crown prince and gathered officials jumped in shock.

Much the same happened to the Zongming king.

The scaleman king smiled wryly. "Do you understand now? Even if you wanted me to continue being king, my body won't be able to handle it."

The former crown prince and gathered officials began to shake.

The scaleman king explained, "We borrowed strength by becoming kings of the realm. Now that the worlds have been merged together, it'll naturally claim some interest from us."

The former crown prince cried out, "Everyone has recognized you as our king! How am I supposed to inherit the throne?"

The scaleman king replied, "Eldest brother, the throne belongs to you. If not for Master, if not for the Jinghun clan, you would have become the next king. I've grown tired after so long—are you so cruel that you'll force me to spend the twilight of my life on the throne, too?"

The former crown prince replied, "I once thought that I was a better candidate for kingship than you were, but after all the events that transpired afterwards, and I wondered to myself whether I could have performed better than you, I realized that I couldn't. Perhaps I was once better suited for the throne, but you are the king now. You've led us through the past, surpassing our ancestors and transforming the scaleman world into a superior world, reaching heights that no previous generation has achieved. I could not accomplish the same feat."

Perhaps the scaleman king hadn't been better than the former crown prince, but he had improved tremendously since he took the throne.

The former crown prince was more than willing to admit that he was no match for the scaleman king now; the scaleman king was the only king he would recognize.

The former crown prince emphasized, "Your achievements do our ancestors proud."

"Thank you, elder brother. I'm very happy to have received your acknowledgement."

This was the first time the scaleman king had realized just how highly his brother thought of him.

The former crown prince continued, "With the unification of the three thousand worlds, a new power structure will rise up in the third realm. As our king, I must insist that you take responsibility and lead us to where we rightfully belong."

"But my body..."

The scaleman king sighed.

The former crown prince clenched his fists tightly and grumbled, "I don't know what the grandmaster was thinking. You were his former student!"

The scaleman king shook his head. "Please don't think poorly of Master. He had no choice—if there were, he would have taken it. I'm tired of being a king of the realm too, after all."

As the three thousand worlds merged, a wind carrying motes of glowing light swept over the region that the scaleman world had become.

The scaleman king had sacrificed a superior world's proof of kingship, and the energy that swept through their region was commensurate with that through the draconian world.

As the glowing motes of light landed in the region, the inhabitants' talent and status of life would grow by leaps and bounds.

Ordinary spiritual herbs grew rare and potent. Some that would have to be cultivated for hundreds of years to reach maturity were maturing right then and there, and some ordinary herbs even broke through genetic restrictions, transforming into spiritual herbs across the mountains and the wilderness.

All the aliens watched the world transform miraculously.

The energy rejuvenated the scaleman king, returning him to young age as his strength steadily rose once more, until it was almost at the level of a superior king again.

The scaleman king laughed ruefully and turned back. "It looks like Master would prefer that I be a ruler for a little while longer."

The same phenomenon transpired in the Zongming world.

Li Zongming glanced at his palms, which were once more smooth and silky. He laughed. "It looks like I'll be able to live quite a while longer, then."

The heart of the unified world boasted an energy source beyond even a superior world's energy.

A pillar of rainbow light shot into the void as natural law formed all around them. A huge multicolored dragon's scale began to resonate with the entire realm; at this critical moment, the will of the third realm had finally descended.

Zhang Lie released a deep breath.

The fact that the will of the realm had descended implied that it recognized the formation of a new, unified world.

The weaker genetic hunters, sensing the pressure that pressed down from above, fell to their knees. Of those present, only the members of Team Zenith, Zhang Hanxiang, Hong Xi, Jun Jiuxiao, and Ye Xianchen remained standing, their faces calm and impassive.

Jun Jiuxiao and Ye Xianchen gritted their teeth and forced themselves to remain upright, noticing that Zhang Lie and the others were perfectly fine despite the pressure.

Zhu's body was resplendent in rainbow light. Natural law encircled her as she held the proof of kingship high up in the air with both hands, as though proffering it to the will.

The proof of kingship slowly floated in the air, then rose up into the sky as well. The will of the realm descended on the scale, merging with it—or, more specifically, enveloping it.

The wills of the three thousand worlds were all fragments of the initial will of the third realm. With Zhang Lie and the others' hard work, the will was finally made whole once more.

As the will of the third realm merged with the shell composed of the proofs of kingship, the third realm glowed with light.

A brand-new will of the world was born at that moment.

The multicolored dragon scale transformed into an exquisite draconic robe, each scale imbued with the power of spacetime, of heaven and earth.

World's energy rippled over the robe, and a white underlayer of dragon's leather could be seen underneath.

Zhu's eyes glowed like miniature worlds. Bolstered by the world's energy, Zhu's strength increased dramatically. She exuded an aura the likes of which couldn't be replicated, eclipsing the members of Team Zenith in strength.

Zhu floated into the air, shining so brightly she was like a sun.

Multicolored radiance covered up the new world, repulsing and closing up the void storm nearby. Natural law tethered the draconic robe to the unified world.

The ground shone with lustrous light, and the inhabitants of the world were again showered with gifts—the excess energy from the unification and restoration of the will.

The borders of the new world expanded rapidly, and world's energy gushed into the air so thickly it formed roiling fog.

The world metamorphosized once more.

Chapter 1210: Metamorphosis

The aliens were growing stronger at a rate visible to the naked eye.

The spiritual herbs in the earth now grew once again into rare spiritual herbs, and those herbs that would have taken millennia to mature did so within an instant. In such an environment, even the smallest, most insignificant blade of grass would quickly transform into a spiritual herb.

The hills and forests glowed with light as the aliens all over found spiritual herbs growing like radishes and cabbages.

The transformation was incredible. Many of the aliens fell to their knees in veneration of the glowing pillar of rainbow light. This was far more than a mere miracle.

The draconian world, which lay at the heart of the transformation, observed even more extreme changes.

The lifeforms in the draconian world were growing at a rate almost visible to the naked eye, and the inhabitants of the other two superior worlds boasted similar effects.

The greatest change was effected around Zhu; the blessing of the world was incredibly obvious there. This was a true blessing. The entire palace of the draconian world was surrounded with light.

Around Zhou Ying spread vitality and natural energy. She was surrounded with rainbow light, and golden leaves and dusky gray energy encircled her.

The genetic hunters present felt the boon they had received. The weakest hunters, in particular, felt as though they were in the middle of a warm bath, one that took place at the genetic level.

The hunters did their best to absorb what energy they could. This was an opportunity that would occur once and once only, and they would have to seize it to grow strong.

The world's energy allowed the hunters to better be able to incorporate their gene fragments into their body. Even those with few gene fragments could feel their status of life being enhanced.

This energy had barely had a noticeable effect on the members of Team Zenith the first time, but now, the members of Team Zenith, Zhang Hanxiang, and Hong Xi felt a noticeable change to their bodies.

Even Zhang Lie was surprised to find that his gene compatibility had improved once more, as had his constitution. This was a direct result of his proximity to Zhu; the ordinary blessing would have had almost no effect.

Zhu was the one who had melded the proofs of kingship together, restoring the will of the world, and it was to her that the will gave its greatest boon.

The will understood that its resurgence was attributed to the hard work of those who lay within the palace, and it rewarded them with as much of the energy as it could.

The draconian sage's wrinkled face and weak body were restored to how they had been in his youth, and he was once again brimming with vitality.

He transformed into a giant dragon and soared through the air. Within moments, he had regained his strength and was again at the level of a superior king.

His growth felt as simple as drinking water—and perhaps it was reasonable, for he had once been a superior king, and his body possessed a memory of such a time.

Like cotton, the draconian sage was furiously sucking in the energy that the restored will provided—but what happened next shocked him.

Even after he had regained his power as a superior king, his growth didn't stop. Instead, he was growing stronger and stronger.

Li Zongming and the scaleman king were experiencing the same phenomenon. They grew stronger than they had ever been.

Upon sensing the scaleman king's newfound might, the former crown prince roared in laughter. He clapped his hands. "It looks like you'll be our king for a very long time thereafter, Your Majesty!"

The scaleman king frowned at the rainbow pillar.

Within the palace, the genetic hunters were incredibly glad that they had chosen to remain; those that had fled from the third realm had missed out on an amazing opportunity.

Most of those who had stayed were members of the Zenith Dojo.

They were close to Zhu's side, and had obtained the purest energy the restored will had to offer in incredibly great quantities.

After this affair, the hunters of the Zenith Dojo grew far stronger than their departed counterparts, and the Zenith Dojo would again take the lead in the third realm among the Milky Way hunters.

The region of black metal also received an upgrade as a result of the world's blessing, via a transformation that had never before been seen. A frightening burst of energy, like that harbored within a furnace, was forged into the black metal.

The other worlds also received a blessing, though one far weaker.

The genetic lifeforms of the farm in the draconian world roared in excitement once more. Those mutated-grade lifeforms that had failed to transform into superior-grade initially now succeeded in one fell swoop, and those peak-grade lifeforms that had failed to evolve were likewise able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Disaster-grade lifeforms popped out like mushrooms after rain, and quite a few even managed to evolve into monarch-grade.

The first time around, only one lifeform evolved into monarch-grade; the second time, there were now fifteen.

The most exceptional transformation was due to that special monarch-grade lifeform, which had managed to break through its bottleneck.

Perhaps because of the growth in the status of the unified world itself, the evolution of the special monarch-grade lifeform no longer seemed to be restricted. Its energy allowed it to evolve once more.

Strength gushed out of its body as black flames erupted over its skin. Its eyes turned blood-red, and its rationality was slowly being edged out by unbridled strength that corrupted its will. The special monarch-grade lifeform's body underwent a metamorphosis.

The genetic lifeforms all around knelt down in obeisance.

The evolved lifeform's blood-red eyes glanced up at the shining dragon's scale with greed and lust. No one noticed the brewing disaster.

After the will of the world reforged itself, natural law reasserted itself over the realm. The hole in the deepest layers of space filled over, and the void storm was suppressed completely. The realm was healing once more.