

U. Warlord 1361

Chapter 1361: The Trial-Taker's Chamber

After Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith finished absorbing their disaster-grade cores, their auras were strengthened considerably. They quickly arrived at the trial grounds.

"Behind this set of doors is the special space you were talking about, Captain?"

Zhang Lie turned to the gathered hunters. "The trial grounds are exceptionally dangerous. Qianlin, will you remain on the airship for this period of time?"

Li Qianlin nodded. "We have time to spare, so let me bring the airship around to hunt down some genetic lifeforms."

Yang Ze asked, "For what purpose? We've already finished absorbing all gene fragments below disaster-grade. Can this airship hunt down disaster-grade lifeforms?"

Zhang Lie replied, "It does have strength on par with a disaster-grade lifeform, but even in the fourth realm, it's not that easy to find disaster-grade lifeforms roaming around. The reason Qianlin's hunting these lifeforms is as an energy source for the airship."

Sun Mengmeng asked, "The airship uses genetic lifeforms as its energy source?"

Zhang Lie replied, "It can use just about anything, and genetic lifeforms are one avenue of reliable fuel."

"How about that strange ore from the third realm?" Sun Mengmeng asked.

Sun Xiaowu retrieved a piece of rainbow-colored metallic rock from his dimensional storage.

"Right! I forgot to mention it to you, Captain. Before we ascended, the Zongming king and the draconian sage permitted us to mine and bring some of this ore with us. Are you able to use it?"

"The ore that appeared after the formation of the unified world?" Zhang Lie asked, remembering the material. "Let's test it, Airship!"

A red beam of light scanned the metallic rock. A robotic voice sounded. "Scan complete. The rock possesses a large quantity of pure energy, though not of particularly high quality. It is equivalent to the flesh of a peak-grade lifeform."

"How much of this ore did you bring with you?"

"Three tons in each of our soulshards," Sun Mengmeng replied.

Eighteen tons among the six of them, then... Zhang Lie's lips twitched. "Li Zongming and the draconian sage... I don't know what to say about them."

The airship's robotic voice informed them, "Eighteen tons of this ore will be able to support the high-energy operation of this airship for three thousand days."

Zhang Lie laughed in delight. "Excellent! You've solved one of my problems already."

As they put the eighteen tons of ore into the engine room, Zhang Lie instructed, "Airship, commence calculations. Analyze and determine the recipe for a monarch-grade limit-breaking potion."

Sun Mengmeng was surprised. "The airship can do that?"

Li Feng was likewise agape. "Is the airship's artificial intelligence that strong?"

Zhang Lie had mentioned it briefly before, but not how incredible it was.

Zhang Lie explained, "It's only an analysis based on current data—it can't create anything novel out of nothing, or even create at all. It's simply optimizing and enhancing."

"In that case, is a monarch limit-breaking potion feasible, then?"

"The estimated computation time is a thousand days." Zhang Lie replied, rummaging through his extra-dimensional storage. "Right, I have something for all of you too."

Zhang Lie retrieved six gemstones from his storage-type soulshard.

Sun Mengmeng's eyes widened. "Oh, these are pretty! And they contain plenty of power, too..."

Zhang Lie explained, "This is something new I obtained from the trial-taker's chamber. The gemstones are linked by some kind of invisible tether, and they allow for their six wielders to be able to transfer genetic energy to each other. They can even concentrate speed, strength, defense—any sort of attribute—on any one member of the six."

Sun Xiaowu remarked, "It sounds like something out of a novel!"

"Try it for yourself."

He handed everyone the gemstones, but the results of the testing were disappointing. The gemstones could only strengthen their wielders to disaster-grade, but everyone present was already disaster-grade.

Zhang Lie looked rather disappointed. "It looks like I was too optimistic about things..."

He had initially expected that, since the post-peak-grade guardian lifeforms were able to emulate disaster-grade lifeforms after wearing the gems, that the post-disaster-grade members of Team Zenith would be able to emulate monarch-grade lifeforms.

Sun Mengmeng consoled him. "Captain, there's no need to be disappointed. Perhaps we might encounter better treasures after going through the trials ourselves."

Zhang Lie instructed, "After going through the entrance trial, you'll start the gauntlet of trials proper. There are six trials, and you'll receive a reward for every three trials cleared. Choose a metamorphosis potion as one of your rewards."

"A metamorphosis potion?" Sun Mengmeng asked.

"It sounds pretty strong!" Sun Xiaowu commented.

Yang Ze asked, "Will your life undergo a metamorphosis if you consume it?"

"It's indeed as its name suggests, but it's not for us genetic hunters. It works only on the indigenous people of this and earlier realms."

Sun Mengmeng clarified, "Aliens who drink this potion can undergo a metamorphosis?"

Zhang Lie replied, "More accurately, it's for those aliens who ascend to higher realms as stowaways. I intend to keep a potion and have the airship determine its composition, so that we can bring our friends from the third realm who are unable to ascend on their own all the way up here."

Sun Xiaowu smirked. "Captain, is this a bug?"

The members of Team Zenith stepped through the gates of the trial-taker's chamber with Zhang Lie, only to find that Zhang Lie had vanished from sight.

Sun Mengmeng looked all around. "Where's our captain?"

Sun Xiaowu replied, "He must be waiting for us at the final trial, I suppose."

Sun Xiaowu was quite right. Zhang Lie's surroundings flashed; by the time he regained his senses, he was in the same space as Bu Wentian.

Bu Wentian said, "You've arrived earlier than expected, bringing quite a number of interesting guests with you."

Zhang Lie smiled. "What do you think of them?"

"I don't know. The trials have just begun, after all." Bu Wentian waved a hand. A screen appeared before him, revealing the scene of Sun Mengmeng and the others fighting against the six stone guardians.

Zhang Lie was speechless. "Is this your only trial? Can't you switch to another one?"

Bu Wentian retorted, "Don't you think it's a good trial?"

"Well, I suppose it's not bad."

The six members of Team Zenith, upon encountering the six stone guardians, weren't as shocked and dumbfounded the way Zhang Lie had been. They struck immediately.

With a low shout, Fang Yi dashed forward with his spear in hand. He launched his spear, crackling with wind and lightning, with incredible force. It sent wind howling and lightning flashing through the sky.

With his spear, he invoked chaotic energy in the form of lightning and raging wind. The spear left a dozen afterimages in its wake.

The six stone guardians awakened. Their bodies shook as they roared, their domains spreading out around them: lightning, storm, water, earth, ice, and fire. Six different energies forced Fang Yi back.

Zhang Lie gasped. "You had disaster-grade versions of these stone guardians? Why didn't you use them on me?!"

Bu Wentian rolled his eyes. "This is a trial."

"And so what?"

Bu Wentian emphasized again, "They're not meant to kill the trial-takers, just give them a good challenge. This is a trial."

Chapter 1362: Tiger's Roar, Dragon's Howl

Bu Wentian explained, "According to the number of participants, they will be sent to two different trial chambers. You were alone, so the stone guardians you faced were post-peak-grade. When two or more people enter, they'll be sent to a trial chamber with disaster-grade lifeforms.

The six stone guardians shook their bodies, causing a flurry of stone dust to drift down toward the ground.

The six disaster-grade domains didn't cancel each other out. Rather, they seemed to enhance each other. Stormy winds caused huge waves to form and fires to blaze. The combination of wind and lightning... As a result, the members of Team Zenith found their actions and movement severely restricted.

"[The Boundless Blade: Expulsion]!"

A sword flashed, the strike forming a long river through the skies. The genetic energy burst apart in a shower of droplets. Ripples of energy spread out through the air, covering heaven and earth. They resonated until they reached a crescendo.

Bu Wentian, watching the scene unfold, laughed. "This person is very interesting. He's sly and crafty, isn't he?"

Water-attuned genetic energy was spliced together with spatial force, deftly hidden within the attack, so that only those who had significant affinity with spatial energy would be able to uncover it.

The waves surged toward the stone guardians' reinforced domains, shattering them with spatial force.

"[Goldenscale Palm]!"

Sun Xiaowu's arms glowed with resplendent light, and a layer of dense golden scales emerged over his skin. An aura of intense strength emanated from Sun Xiaowu's body.

Frightening shockwaves of energy radiated through the battlefield as Sun Xiaowu punched forward.

The disaster-grade golden ox rushed forward. The six disaster-grade stone lifeforms' jewels glowed brightly as they transferred their strength to the golden ox, who shone as brightly as the sun.

The domains of the other disaster-grade lifeforms were dispelled as the golden ox's domain flared. Unlike the other guardians, whose domains spread out around them, the golden ox's domain protected itself like an eggshell.

Sun Xiaowu's [Goldenscale Palm] struck the golden ox's domain with a tremendous explosion that caused the ground to shatter. A crack appeared on the golden eggshell.

"[Light Dragon's Remnants]!"

Li Feng marshaled his genetic energy into the form of a large number of white dragons. The six stone guardians each launched their own attacks, sending flames, pillars of water, bolts of lightning, blades of wind, and icicles of ice toward the white dragons, dispelling them all.

The six disaster-grade stone guardians' jewels glimmered brightly as they next transferred their energy to the flaming qilin. The ruby embedded on the flaming qilin's forehead scintillated with

light as the qilin's scales turned dark red. Its aura became that of a post-disaster-grade lifeform, halfway to monarch-grade.

As the power condensed around the qilin, it howled. Its domain had been strengthened many times over. Hellfire spread out all around itself, turning the air scorching hot.

Sun Xiaowu leapt back to avoid being struck by the hellfire. Behind him, Sun Mengmeng stepped forward, drawing her bow. Flames erupted all over her body. Hellfire swept over Sun Mengmeng, forming a vortex around her.

Within the whirlpool, Sun Mengmeng's long hair floated in the air, burning like flames. Starlight fell.

Zhang Lie, watching the battle, sighed in admiration. "Sun Mengmeng's control over fire has grown even stronger."

After her match against Zhang Lie, Sun Mengmeng had worked tremendously hard on her cultivation as she considered her path toward strength.

Strengthening her flames with her emotions was ultimately a rather limited technique. After Zhang Lie's ascension, Sun Mengmeng worked hard to carve out a new path for herself.

Since it would be difficult to strengthen her own flames beyond a certain extent, she would manipulate flames external to her instead, converting it to her own strength.

Three arrows, brimming with purple flame, flew toward the enemy like tracking missiles.

"[Lunarflame Shot]!"

The three lunarflame arrows formed three pitch-black vortices of fire. The disaster-grade flaming qilin manifested a barrier in front of itself. The three vortices struck it and exploded like three resplendent fireworks.

The vortices that surrounded the disaster-grade flaming qilin continued to rotate, but the qilin easily shrugged them off. It was also a fire-attuned lifeform, and Sun Mengmeng's flaming vortices did little damage to it.

Zhou Ying's 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. Above those wings 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 energy formed a gauzy dress around her, sticking closely to her limbs and revealing her curvaceous features—no, making them even more curvaceous than they originally were. Two root-like tendrils writhed under her dress; her body radiated a seductive charm.

Zhou Ying seemed to simultaneously exhibit the charm of a holy priestess and a charming succubus.

"[Avatar of the Fae: Earthbound Prison]!"

She released all her stored vitality at once, causing the ground to quake as thousands of jade-green wood dragons rushed out of the earth. Each dragon was about six hundred meters wide, with skin flecked with golden radiance.

Thick wood dragons emerged from the ground where the hellfire had passed over. They had amazing resistance to heat, and were even able to absorb some of the hellfire's remnant energy to grow quickly. They shot toward the other stone guardians.

The other stone guardians tried to destroy the wood dragons with flames, pillars of water, lightning, and icicles, but the wood dragons, which had bathed in hellfire and were supported by Zhou Ying's impressive vitality and natural energy, were able to regenerate quickly despite the onslaught.

The six stone guardians' jewels glimmered brightly as they then transferred power to the disaster-grade black tortoise. The tortoise roared, causing the ground to quake, as the wood dragons were forcibly uprooted. Even so, they didn't perish, but instead wrapped tightly around the stone guardians.

The disaster-grade black tortoise fired a mud-yellow beam of energy all around itself, devouring everything like a sandstorm. The wood dragons were shredded to pieces.

"[Tiger's Howl, Dragon's Bellow]!"

Fang Yi's spear took on the aspect of a dragon of the winds and a storm tiger as he charged forward.

Chapter 1363: Simultaneous Strike

Wind and storm roared around Fang Yi, and his spear resonated with his genetic energy. The spear which the king of chaos had granted him demonstrated shocking strength, infusing chaotic energy into the mix.

The wind dragon and storm tiger broke past the mud-yellow barrier of energy and rushed up to the disaster-grade tortoise.

The tortoise was surrounded by a thick mud barrier which blocked the spear's assault.

Fang Yi grumbled, "Hey, if the rest of you keep taking it easy, how are we going to face our captain?"

Yang Ze waved his sword, summoning tides of water-attuned genetic energy that smashed into the mud-yellow barrier and shattered the tortoise's waves of energy. Three rings of icy lotuses surrounded him. He replied calmly, "We're not taking it easy, just testing the waters. It's good to see just how strong these guardian lifeforms are before we take them down."

"[Blinding Flash: Thousandfold Echo]!"

Sun Xiaowu howled. His body split into over a thousand clones. They spoke simultaneously, "These guardian lifeforms are really quite annoying. One alone wouldn't be a problem, but the six of them, working together, are beyond disaster-grade as a whole."

When all thousand clones of Sun Xiaowu spoke, it was difficult to make out where his real body was.

This was beyond the level of materializing the clones in reality—they seemed to be actual, functioning bodies!

Light blazed around Li Feng. "We need to defeat them all simultaneously."

Fire-attuned genetic energy burst from Sun Mengmeng's body as her body erupted in flames. She pulled her greatbow taut, transforming into what seemed like the essence of fire. "Don't forget what our captain said—we want to try to preserve their gems if we can!"

Sun Mengmeng released her finger, causing concentrated fire-attuned genetic energy that had gathered around her to explode in the air. Flaming arrows fell from the sky, exploding like fireworks.

"[Lunarflame Shot]!"

Countless arrows of purple flame shot out of her bow like a meteor shower that tinted the air purple and gave the battlefield a phantasmagorical appearance. The air turned dry and arid, as though a cataclysm was nigh.

Sun Mengmeng's flaming arrows were like a signal for the members of Team Zenith to strike simultaneously.

"[Shadow and Light]!"

Fang Yi's appearance blurred into a hundred clones. The stone lifeforms were all shocked by the ferocity of his attack. The hundred clones thrust forward with their spears, striking them as furiously as raindrops in a storm.

White mist spread out from Yang Ze's body, enveloping the six disaster-grade lifeforms. Raging sharks swam through the mist.

"[Golden Divide: Thousand Feathers]!"

The thousand clones all used [Golden Divide] simultaneously, coloring the sky in gold and raining down golden feathers in such numbers that it seemed as though a thunderstorm had just formed out of thin air.

Golden radiance filled the air in a manner no inferior to his sister's lunarflame shower. The golden and violet light intermingled as the attacks struck simultaneously, piercing through even Yang Ze's white fog.

"[Dance of the Incandescent Wyrms]!"

Li Feng summoned dozens of incandescent wyrms in the flash of an eye.

"[Avatar of the Fae: Worldbound Enclosure]!"

Zhou Ying summoned tens of thousands of wood dragons from the ground, enough to fill up the entire chamber. They were thrice as thick as before, and their barkskin shone with metallic luster.

The entire chamber was filled to the brim with wood dragons. The disaster-grade stone guardians gaped at the simultaneous attacks. The six members of Team Zenith had struck all at once, each with their strongest area-of-effect technique, pinning down the six lifeforms. There was nowhere to escape.

Even if they strengthened one of their number, none of them would be able to block six attacks of this magnitude.

If it were only one, the disaster-grade lifeforms would have been able to hold on, but six at once... In the end, the will of the fourth realm's announcements rang out in each member of Team Zenith's head.

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade golden ox. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade golden ox, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade flaming qilin. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade flaming qilin, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade earth tortoise. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade earth tortoise, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade lion of lightning. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade lion of lightning, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade deepsea serpent. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade deepsea serpent, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade frostsnow tiger. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade frostsnow tiger, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

The members of Team Zenith had controlled the strength of their attacks so as not to destroy everything in sight. The six gems and disaster-grade cores were left behind.

They each took a gem and a core corresponding to their attunement. As they stepped through the gates, they found that their companions had vanished from sight. Each one was facing a different disaster-grade lifeform.

Fang Yi found a pitch-black nine-headed lion before himself.

The ground was littered with skeletons and broken pieces of armor, and a gigantic black nine-headed lion guarded an imposing set of doors.

The doors seemed like the gateway to hell. They were formed of skulls and chains, and gave off a chilly aura.

The black nine-headed lion seemed to be made of black steel. It released incredible pressure.

The dozing lion opened its eyes wide and released a black aura around itself. Its formless pressure seemed to bear down on Fang Yi with the weight of a mountain. From the aura it gave off, it was unquestionably a disaster-grade existence.

As black energy swamped the space, the nine-headed lion pounced forward with incredible strength. As it did so, the land cracked apart. Its black claws were charged with killing intent.

Boulders large and small were hurled into the air and sent smashing toward Fang Yi.

Waving his spear, Fang Yi darted among the rocks and landed on the black lion's body as naturally as though he were a floating leaf.

The black nine-headed lion howled as it glowed with light. Fang Yi leapt off the lion's body, his arms outstretched like a roc spreading its wings. With a hum, wind- and storm-attuned genetic energy erupted through the air. Violet lightning flashed, and storm winds surrounded Fang Yi like dragons dancing.

"[Heaven's Judgment]!"

The combination of wind and lightning generated a frightening force that seemed to be able to penetrate space.

Chapter 1364: Black Nine-Headed Lion

Meanwhile, Zhang Lie was watching the genetic lifeforms that the members of Team Zenith were facing.

"Aren't you lazy? Why do these disaster-grade lifeforms look so familiar?"

Bu Wentian rolled his eyes. "Do you think that disaster-grade lifeforms are easy to cultivate? It's difficult enough without ensuring that they also have combat ability. To make them strong enough to serve as a challenge is even more so.

Zhang Lie had to agree. He had cultivated his fair share of disaster-grade lifeforms—and a significant number, at that. Disaster-grade lifeforms that were designed for combat were almost impossible to be found; the majority were just meat shields.

"I carefully selected and cultivated the best among this group of disaster-grade lifeforms, so as to mass-produce ones with combat ability."

Zhang Lie scoffed. "Mass production, is it?"

Bu Wentian laughed. "You don't know anything! It's precisely because I'm trying to mass produce them that it's difficult. I have to learn precisely how things work to get the same result each time. You don't know how long it took me to breed these lifeforms—at any rate, since no one will go through the trials twice, I don't really need to change things up that much."

Zhang Lie:...

Back in the trial chamber, Fang Yi had pierced through one of the nine-headed lion's heads with his spear. The lion roared so loudly and ferociously that an ordinary hunter's soul might have been expelled from the hunter's body. The fight between Fang Yi and the lifeform took place over a battlefield of unparalleled size.

Its nine heads howled as one, sending nine waves of umbral energy into the sky. The ground cracked. Man and beast chased each other for hundreds of miles as the battlefield grew larger and larger.

The nine heads roared again. The sound waves took on physical form, and golden ripples covered the air.

As Fang Yi and the lion fought each other off, moving rapidly from one place to the next, the umbral waves caused the surrounding low-lying mountains to crack and fall, and some boulders even burst apart into powder.

The black lion's physique was shocking, and its claws had the power to destroy mountains. When those claws smashed into Fang Yi's fist, the resulting boom could be heard all throughout the world. As the lion's body smashed into Fang Yi's, umbral light encapsulated both combatants.

The disaster-grade lion was exceptionally strong. It had safeguarded this vault for an eternity and slain the manifold challengers that had come its way. It was halfway to monarch-grade itself.

Its nine heads all widened their jaws to reveal incisors over a meter long. Gleaming light shot right by Fang Yi's face, scraping his skin and cutting off a few strands of hair. Far into the distance, where the light struck a mountain, the mountain crumbled.

With a low shout, Fang Yi dashed forward with his spear in hand. He launched his spear, crackling with wind and lightning, with incredible force. It sent wind howling and lightning flashing through the sky.

With his spear, he invoked chaotic energy in the form of lightning and raging wind. The spear left a dozen afterimages in its wake.

The clash of metal filled the room. Fang Yi waved his spear with lethal speed and precision, the clash of steel against fur causing sparks that shot into the air. The power of wind and storm circled Fang Yi.

The man and lion fought and fought and fought, summoning winds around them from nothing but the force of their blows. The world shook and trembled.

As they clashed again, the black lion roared, sending a bombardment of sound waves at Fang Yi.

Struck by battle-frenzy, Fang Yi was fighting as much like a beast as a man. Heated blood pumped through his body, and his eyes were those of a predator's. He thrust his spear forward. Its tip gave off a chilling light.

The black lion, surprised by the attack, reflexively dodged at extreme speed. It morphed into a bolt of black that pinballed through the air in a rumble of black lightning.

"[Floating Clouds]!"

The wind and lightning formed a loop around his body. Wind and storm surged throughout the loop, providing explosive strength. The spear split apart a rock mountain through its center.

Dust billowed into the air as a cloud, revealing an ashen lion that had once been black. Large patches of scales had fallen off its body, and one of its heads had almost been smashed open. A terrible wound marred its body, and flowing blood dyed one of its eyes red.

"[Born of Lightning, Swallowed by the Wind]!"

As Fang Yi shouted, his spear traced a half-moon in the air, surrounded by an aura of time. Light and shadow flashed by its tip, just like the wind and lightning that made up the core of Fang Yi's techniques. All movement was locked in time.

Everything froze and turned gray: the only color in the space, the only movement, came from Fang Yi.

The spear pierced through the nine-headed lion's third head, causing it to jerk. The temporal lock only lasted for a very short amount of time.

The lion's howls were like thunder. The world of gray shattered like glass, and shining brilliance drowned the sky in gold.

"[Floating Clouds]!"

It looked as though Fang Yi had morphed into lightning itself. Storms rose up all around him, and he left a flurry of afterimages behind. The lion's counterattack struck nothing.

In fury, the black nine-headed lion roared again, spawning a crescendo of waves.

"[Heaven's Judgment]! [Tiger's Howl, Dragon's Bellow]!"

Fang Yi's spear took on the aspect of a dragon of the winds and a storm tiger as he charged forward. Wind and storm combined and crackled at the tip of Fang Yi's spear, and a dragon's howl echoed resoundingly in the air.

All the afterimages struck simultaneously, making it difficult to distinguish an illusion of the attack from the real thing.

The combination of wind and lightning generated a frightening force that seemed to be able to penetrate space, as though the spear had transformed into an electric saw.

As the two attacks collided, clouds of dust formed around the combatants.

"[Wheel of Time]!"

Fang Yi's spear took on the aspects of time and age. Temporal winds buffeted the spear, and a mysterious light began to circle the spear like lightning. A wheel of light appeared behind Fang Yi, taking on the form of a clock.

Chapter 1365: True Strength

Bu Wentian watched the battle with interest. He took out a bag of seeds out of nowhere. "Is this all he's got? He looks like a master with the spear, but his skills aren't that strong. He's nothing compared to you—by this point in time, the beast you faced was nearing its last legs already."

Zhang Lie smiled confidently. "Keep watching. There'll be a surprise in store for you."

The nine-headed lion howled again, its black claws tearing apart the firmament.

Fang Yi went on the offensive. A chaotic storm surrounded him. A huge burst of light dissipated the mist and smoke.

This was a dangerous close-combat fight.

After the intense fighting, three wheels of time had formed on Fang Yi's back. With the support of three such wheels, Fang Yi pierced through another of the nine lion heads.

Just then, the black lion howled again. A ball of light—a miniature black lion—shot out toward Fang Yi with devastating force.

"[Stormwind Kick]!"

He kicked forward, his legs imbued with wind and storm, sending the black lion flying away.

Fang Yi was shocked by the sudden attack. The black nine-headed lion possessed fearsome combat ability, and it was clearly experienced. The fact that Zhang Lie had passed through a similar or harder trial six times was nothing less than incredible.

Furthermore, according to him, he hadn't even maxed out his peak gene fragments by the time he entered the trial. He had only done so after consuming the stone guardians. In other words, just like them, Zhang Lie had challenged the trial without any disaster gene fragments to his name.

"Our captain really is strong..."

The black nine-headed lion widened its maw and shot out another ray of golden light, resplendent with energy.

Thinking about how powerful Zhang Lie was roused Fang Yi's will to fight. His goal was to catch up to Zhang Lie. If he couldn't even pass through the first trial, how could he do so?

"It's time!"

As the fighting progressed, he had accumulated five wheels of time to his back. That was sufficient to support his fivefold strike.

"[Born of Lightning, Swallowed by the Wind], [Tiger's Howl, Dragon's Bellow], [Heaven's Judgment]!"

Fang Yi broke through the constraints of time and returned to the frozen world of gray, with him the only spot of color within. In this state, he was able to simultaneously manifest different techniques at the same time.

Wind and storm combined and crackled at the tip of Fang Yi's spear, imbuing it with sharpness and penetrating strength beyond measure.

Fang Yi compressed that energy again and again, until even the space around the spear started getting sucked in. The tip of the spear punched through space as though it were nothing more than paper.

The combination of elemental, temporal, and spatial energy at the tip of the spear multiplied the strength of Fang Yi's attack beyond what should have been possible.

Chaotic energy swirled over the spear.

Fang Yi combined [Born of Lightning, Swallowed by the Wind], [Tiger's Howl, Dragon's Bellow], and [Heaven's Judgment]—elements, time, space, and chaotic energy. All these sources of energy were stacked together, like buff after buff.

A dragon of purple lightning and tiger of green wind, shielded by a barrier of time and shrouded by black spatial energy, slowly began to manifest. Storm winds were sucked into the mix.

Wind and storm combined with space and time, a whole new combination.

A spatial rift began to form where Fang Yi was standing, but the frozen world prevented it from breaking out immediately.

The energy of chaos, which had the ability to destroy anything, spun amidst the howling winds.

Formless lightning flashed over the surface of Fang Yi's spear, gathering near its tip. The dragon of winds and lightning tiger prowled about the spear.

Part of the energy from the spatial rift seeped into the lightning-attuned genetic energy, turning it into void lightning.

The pitch-black lightning began to spike and sizzle.

In combination with the spatial rift that was forming, the void lightning tore apart the space around Fang Yi, causing the frozen world of gray to crumble bit by bit.

The manifold energies merged and tangled with each other, space and time, wind and storm, beginning and end.

Fang Yi sent a stream of each type of energy swirling and corkscrewing around the tip of his spear.

As the forces continued to revolve around each other, the wheels of time behind Fang Yi began rotating more and more quickly as the space around him was strained to its utmost.

Fang Yi had combined seven different forms of energy: wind and lightning; their advanced counterparts, spatial rifts and void lightning; the fundamental forces of space and time; and chaos.

Dragon-like lightning, tiger-like storm, formless time, timeless space—those four disparate energies combined into a cohesive whole, tied together by a dark gold thread. The energies revolved around each other, summoning a howling gale surrounding a spatial rift.

Part of the energy from the spatial rift seeped into the lightning-attuned genetic energy, turning it into void lightning. In combination with the spatial rift that was forming, the void lightning tore apart the space around Fang Yi, causing the frozen world of gray to crumble bit by bit.

All that energy, linked by the karmic power that Fang Yi had manifested, led to an unbelievably complex combination.

Even before the attack was released, the trial space was already shaking tremendously.

Compared to the third realm, Fang Yi's most significant improvement was his renewed understanding of chaos, which carried over to his spear of Chaos, forged by the king of chaos himself, and seeped into all his attacks.

Chapter 1366: A Complete Technique

Bu Wentian gaped at Fang Yi's ultimate skill in shock.

Zhang Lie grinned. "Well? Wasn't that exciting?"

Bu Wentian belatedly came to his senses. "What sort of monster is this? What was that last technique? Some amalgamation of all sorts of energies—and he can still balance them all? Is that something humans can even do...?"

The combination of seven different energies caused the trial space to quake and tremble. Even before the attack was released, the world of the trial was breaking apart. The ground quaked, and the sky looked as though it had been cleaved by a bladed weapon.

The clash between the energy of chaos and that of time and space caused the wheels of time on Fang Yi's back to shatter one after another. His spear vibrated ceaselessly, and huge quantities of chaotic energy gushed out.

Fang Yi was no longer the cultivator he had been in the third realm. His five wheels of time cracked, and the energies began to meld together uncontrollably. All that energy, linked by the karmic power that Fang Yi had manifested, led to an unbelievably complex combination.

His hands trembled as the energies combined. At the most crucial moment, Fang Yi concentrated as the energy of chaos and spacetime merged into a brand new, mysterious strength, that of primordial chaos.

The combination of energies gave off such a fearsome aura that anyone would be worried upon sensing it. All around Fang Yi, space and time began to splinter and crack. Unusual pitch-black thorn-like protrusions appeared by the edges of Fang Yi's vision, seeming to skewer space.

The skin on his arms cracked. Veins protruded from his forehead and his arms turned bright red.

As Fang Yi concentrated on controlling the transformation, that energy took on the shape of a spear.

Fang Yi wasn't able to control the energy fully, but it was far less rambunctious than before. It grew even more chaotic and boasted a more frightening strength.

Zhang Lie couldn't help but feel simultaneously comforted and worried. Against Fang Yi's chaotic spear, Zhang Lie felt an astonishing sense of threat.

"Fang Yi's caught up."

The entire world seemed to come to a standstill at that moment. As Fang Yi thrust forward, a howling storm, void lightning, mysterious temporal charge, the wind of ages—the mishmash of elements exploded.

The black lion was shocked. Against this overwhelming strength, it felt like a little tabby cat instead.

The confluence of energies transformed into a laser beam, or rather a giant spear, that pierced through heaven and earth.

The black nine-headed lion's divine aura, compared to the incredible energy of chaos, was like a firefly's glow to that of the full moon. It was snuffed out instantly.

The black nine-headed lion tried to flee.

The chaotic energy shot through the world of the trial, but it didn't stop there. It swept through five identical trial worlds in a row before its energy finally dissipated.

A huge hole was pierced through the world of the trial, causing a void storm to spawn. Sand, dust and stone were sent swirling through the air, and Bu Wentian sighed in weariness. "It looks like I have a lot to do now..."

To repair the damaged trial worlds would take an inordinate amount of time.

The total destruction wreaked by all challengers before Fang Yi was less than what Fang Yi had managed all by himself.

At his level, all cultivators knew to judiciously conserve their strength, to not waste excess energy, which significantly reduced the excess destruction of their attacks. For a cultivator like Fang Yi to waste so much energy and pierce through five trial worlds in a row sounded frightening, but it was a tremendous waste of energy.

Bu Wentian sighed. "Your companion wasted far too much energy. If he had been able to control that power, the technique would be four grades more destructive."

Zhang Lie shrugged. "Of course he wants to control it—he just can't."

Bu Wentian gaped. "Then why use such a dangerous technique at all? If he can't control it, what's he doing?"

Zhang Lie gave him a thumbs up. "But it was amazing, wasn't it?"

You were shocked by Fang Yi's technique, too.

Bu Wentian didn't know how to respond. He couldn't have expected to be so shocked by the first of Zhang Lie's candidates. He was shocked by the strength of Fang Yi's technique, and shocked again by his lack of control over it.

Zhang Lie smirked inwardly. If Bu Wentian were to learn that Fang Yi had an ultimate technique that he had yet to reveal, what would he say? Would he pass Fang Yi immediately, or kick him out of the trial?

Zhang Lie decided to stay silent and give Bu Wentian a huge surprise.

Kicking Fang Yi out of the trial now would be far too boring.

The black nine-headed lion barely made it out from the killing ray of energy. Half its body had been pierced through, and only four of its nine heads remained. It howled in pain. Even its remaining four heads looked as though they were about to crack.

Fang Yi sighed in exasperation. Though he now had more control over his technique than in the third realm, it still didn't represent full control. If he had been more skilled, the black nine-headed lion would have had all its heads destroyed.

"Better this way." Fang Yi had been very worried that the energy of chaos would even shatter the lion's disaster-grade core.

At the very least, if the black nine-headed lion remained alive, its core would be fine too.

The black nine-headed lion, sensing that Fang Yi's aura had grown considerably weaker and his face pale, immediately understood that such a frightening technique had come at a commensurate cost.

It realized that this was its final chance to strike back. Its black fur stood on end; one of its heads suddenly grew multiple times larger, like an umbral millstone brimming with light.

It opened its maw, transforming the air before itself into a crackling ocean of lightning.

"[Tiger's Howl, Dragon's Bellow]!"

Fang Yi's spear took on the aspect of a dragon of the winds and a storm tiger as he charged forward. Wind and storm roared around him, and his spear resonated with his genetic energy. The spear which the king of chaos had granted him demonstrated shocking strength, infusing chaotic energy into the mix.

The pitch-black lightning strengthened the effects of the chaotic lightning. The black nine-headed lion growled in fear. It had missed a crucial aspect of the calculus between itself and Fang Yi:

Fang Yi had indeed grown much weaker after launching his technique, but it was severely wounded itself, and might well fare no better than Fang Yi. The black nine-headed lion had been so excited to see his opponent's weakness that it had forgotten about its own injuries.

Chapter 1367: Genetic Breeding

After the training he underwent in the third realm, Fang Yi now had sufficient reserves to continue fighting even after launching his ultimate techniques.

The black nine-headed lion attempted to dodge the blow, but it was too late. The spear had pierced through one of its left heads, and pitch-black lightning crushed it.

The lion roared again. Fearful and unwilling to resign itself to its fate, it immediately retreated.

With another slash, two more of its heads on the right were destroyed. The black nine-headed lion roared in outrage, only one of its nine heads still remaining.

"[Wheel of Time]!"

Fang Yi's spear took on the aspects of time and age. Temporal winds buffeted the spear, and a mysterious light began to circle the spear like lightning. A wheel of light appeared behind Fang Yi, taking on the form of a clock.

The lion counterattacked once more as it fought for its life. Accelerated by the wheels of time to his back, Fang Yi struck faster and faster.

He launched his spear, crackling with wind and lightning, with incredible force. It sent wind howling and lightning flashing through the sky. With his spear, he invoked chaotic energy in the form of lightning and raging wind. The spear left a dozen afterimages in its wake.

The clash of metal filled the room. Fang Yi waved his spear with lethal speed and precision, suppressing the grievously wounded lion with the power of chaos, wind, and storm made manifest in the form of spears.

"[Heaven's Judgment]!"

Wind and storm combined and crackled at the tip of Fang Yi's spear, and a dragon's howl echoed resoundingly in the air. As he manipulated his spear, a fusillade of lightning shot through the arena. The combination of wind and lightning generated a frightening force that seemed to be able to penetrate space, piercing through the lion's body.

A hole appeared in the lion's chest. Fang Yi, standing behind the lion, held a disaster-grade core in his hand. The will of the fourth realm's announcement rang out in his head.

[You successfully killed a disaster-grade nine-headed lion. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade nine-headed lion, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

Yang Ze's trial was against a bipedal black turtle, which rushed toward him with a fist. The fist passed through Yang Ze; Yang Ze's figure was nothing more than an illusion.

The true Yang Ze had already jumped up to the black turtle's head.

"[The Boundless Blade: Ersatz Yawning Wave]!"

The sword slash rippled like a river. Waves roared through the skies like galloping steeds, like thundering dragons.

Despite its mountainous size, the black turtle was exceptionally nimble. It jumped into the air, dozens of meters high, and avoided the attack.

The turtle agilely executed a backflip, retreating hundreds of meters in an instant. It landed on the ground with a huge crash, smashing a crater in the ground where it stood. Its body glowed with radiant light. Suddenly, a wave of black fog rose up from the ground and surrounded it like a hurricane.

The turtle sucked in a breath and seemed to expand multiple times in size. Its muscles bunched up around its body as it charged forward. Where it stepped, the ground cracked. Huge boulders were sent flying into the air, threatening to drown Yang Ze in the resulting bombardment.

The turtle pounced toward Yang Ze.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragonwhale]!"

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

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

"Almost there."

As the whale exploded, huge quantities of water-attuned genetic energy filled the space. Yang Ze transformed all that genetic energy into a white mist that covered the entirety of the trial space. As the mist gathered, a horde of sharks emerged, forming an incredible tide.

As the turtle howled, the dark clouds of energy surrounding it grew even more solid than before. Its arms retreated into its shell as it vibrated, knocking the sharks back.

"[The Boundless Blade: Sea Serpent]!"

Yang Ze's sword morphed into a sea serpent, pale blue in color, with gills on either side of its body, its scales like crystalline shards of ice. It surged forward, striking the turtle's shell in a huge explosion that could be heard from a hundred miles distant.

The turtle roared and pounded its chest as it emerged from its shell, surrounded by black light. The shell flew out of its body, glowing with umbral light, as it shot toward Yang Ze with a frightening aura.

The turtle's shell was large and moved surprisingly quickly. It was difficult to avoid, and quickly enveloped Yang Ze.

The turtle began to pound on its shell, causing it to toll loudly with every strike. The sound echoed and reverberated within the shell, so loud as to be ear-splitting; the turtle was trying to quake Yang Ze to death, to turn him into a pile of mush.

An unusual sound came from within. It began to hum in a curious manner, and umbral light began to flood into its center.

Suddenly, the disaster-grade turtle felt someone tapping on its shoulder.

The disaster-grade turtle didn't pay it any mind. It continued pounding on its shell furiously, infusing all its strength into the attack, with the intention of turning Yang Ze into a pile of mush.

The disaster-grade turtle ignored the tapping on its shoulder as it went into an enraged state, howling as it poned on its shell. If it could speak, it might very well have said something along the lines of,

"Think you're all that, aren't you? Weren't you supposed to be strong? Try to get out of my shell and strike back at me, then! How does it feel to be inside my shell? Haha, haha!"

The figure standing behind the turtle continued tapping at his shoulder relentlessly until the turtle impatiently turned around, only to be shocked stiff.

It and Yang Ze were the only two entities in the trial grounds—who else could be tapping on its shoulder?

The disaster-grade turtle gaped at what it saw.

Yang Ze smiled. "You must be very shocked and confused as to why I'm out here, rather than within the shell."

The turtle nodded fervently.

Yang Ze smiled. "Did you really think that I could be trapped in such a paltry shell?"

He really liked fighting against genetic lifeforms.

Intelligent aliens and genetic hunters were rather difficult to trick; he might be able to do so once, but not a second time. On the other hand, genetic lifeforms, which were more simple-minded, could easily be fooled by his illusions and [Reflected Sight, Refracted Vision].

Chapter 1368: Methods of Assault

Bu Wentian couldn't help but laugh upon seeing Yang Ze's trickery. "A trickster, eh?"

Zhang Lie smiled as well. "It looks like you're a fan of this companion of mine, Senior."

Bu Wentian replied, "Your companions really are quite interesting. They have diverse expertise in various domains and signature fighting styles. That Fang Yi, for example, is focused almost entirely on his spear, but his true strength lies in his ultimate techniques. On the other hand, this companion of yours emphasizes dodging and avoidance, and likely is superior even to you in those regards."

Zhang Lie smiled. "My companions have all pioneered their own paths."

Bu Wentian asked curiously, "Who managed to teach such interesting hunters? Was it you?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "It's all thanks to their hard work."

Within the trial world, what caused the black turtle to despair was that, while it had been furiously smashing on its shell, Yang Ze had formed three thousand ice lotuses, along with a huge horde of raging sharks.

With a wave of his hand, the ice lotuses and raging sharks swamped the turtle, who immediately hid back in its shell without any hesitation.

The buds that Yang Ze had placed initially finally exploded. Lotus flowers made of pure water blossomed from the buds, each an intricate construct of genetic energy. The flowers struck the turtle's shell with continuous plinks, but the turtle relaxed upon realizing that its shell boasted a strong enough defense to protect itself.

It was just about to relax when the ice lotuses exploded all around itself like a tempestuous sea.

The dense explosion of water-attuned genetic energy sounded like roaring thunder, like stampeding horses. The shell shook and trembled, as though it would be sent flying at any moment.

"[The Boundless Blade: Nine-Headed Hydra]!"

Genetic energy exploded from Yang Ze and manifested in the form of a nine-headed hydra, which sprayed out nine breaths of sword energy.

The nine breaths of sword energy struck the shell from nine different directions like blazing flames. The shell began to crack as the nine-headed hydra seized it, surrounding it with a torrent of genetic energy like a whirlpool.

The turtle felt as though its shell was about to give way under the attack. At a critical moment, Yang Ze struck the turtle a devastating blow, the straw that broke the camel's back.

"[The Boundless Blade: Hundred-Headed Hydra]!"

Yang Ze's genetic energy manifested in the form of an astounding hundred-headed hydra.

As he drew on spatial force, the hydra sprayed out a hundred simultaneous beams of sword energy, pale blue genetic energy, and compressed spatial force from a high-dimensional layer of space.

With a huge explosion, the shell broke apart, sending the turtle flying into the distance as though it had been struck by a cannonball.

It took a long time before the turtle was able to get back to its feet, at which point it roared in outrage and charged forward once more.

The turtle, in a feat of extreme strength, lifted up an entire mountain and threw it toward Yang Ze.

With a flick of his fingers, Yang Ze commanded the hundred-headed hydra to spray another concentrated beam of dragon's breath, spearing through the disaster-grade turtle's body before it could unleash another attack.

The disaster-grade turtle was pierced through by the barrage. Yang Ze flashed by the turtle's side, digging out the disaster-grade core in its body before it could recover.

The will of the fourth realm announced in Yang Ze's head, [You successfully killed a disaster-grade heroic black turtle. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade heroic black turtle, you may receive one to ten disaster gene fragments.]

The trial beast that Sun Xiaowu was facing in his trial was also particularly frightening.

It flashed with white light. Gusts of wind surrounded it as it sent hundreds, thousands of tons of rock into the air. It clashed against Sun Xiaowu once and again, claws against fist, as those rocks were sent flying all around the two combatants.

Zhang Lie recognized Sun Xiaowu's opponent immediately: the disaster-grade whitegold tiger.

The tiger roared, spraying out a burst of silver light. Killing intent filled the air. Sun Xiaowu blocked the attack with a burst of energy. Behind him, a mountain collapsed and exploded, the rock turning into smithereens.

A huge white claw slammed down on his body, but Sun Xiaowu dodged it. A large trench formed where the claw landed, the bottom of which couldn't be seen from up above.

The white tiger attacked furiously. Every part of its body could be used as a weapon—even with its back to Sun Xiaowu, it could strike at him with a flick of its tail.

Its ferocity shocked everyone.

"[Goldenscale Palm]!"

Sun Xiaowu's arms glowed with resplendent light, and a layer of dense golden scales emerged over his skin.

An aura of intense strength emanated from Sun Xiaowu's body. Frightening shockwaves of energy radiated through the battlefield as Sun Xiaowu punched forward.

The tiger sprayed out a burst of white light, shining with metallic luster, as it defended itself against the titanic waves. A huge explosion rang out.

A huge rumble shook the heavens, and the entire world quaked. Golden radiance shot through the air as the ground cracked and the world fell to pieces.

The white tiger roared, its eyes cold, as it leapt toward Sun Xiaowu.

Sun Xiaowu smashed forward with a punch, causing both combatants to quake. A meteor's worth of energy exploded in mid-air, and the ground quaked as though a volcano were about to explode.

The tiger roared again as sharp blades grew out of its back at even intervals along its spine, each with a silvery-white sheen. Killing intent filled the air.

The blades stood like pillars separating heaven from earth, thick and ice-cold, giving the onlookers a chilling sensation.

The blades were ridiculously massive, and unusual phenomena were occurring around them. Blood was starting to appear on each blade. It was a frightening sight.

The blades seemed like a manifestation of the tiger's domain.

Sun Xiaowu commented, "I've seen quite a few disaster-grade lifeforms, but never ones with such a domain with such a physical manifestation..."

A domain was the result of excess energetic emanations surrounding a disaster-grade lifeform, and domains usually matched a lifeform's characteristics.

The reason a disaster-grade lifeform became a walking disaster was because of this energy that they exuded, which would affect everything around them.

For instance, the six disaster-grade stone guardians they had faced exuded flames, lightning, wind, and waves.

The disaster-grade whitegold tiger had actually manifested its domain fully, transforming it into a unique means of attack.

Chapter 1369: Whitegold Tiger

The disaster-grade whitegold tiger leapt forward, causing all the blades to suddenly turn toward their target. They gathered in a square around the tiger and shot toward Sun Xiaowu simultaneously.

The bloodstained blades, suffused with an aura of calamity, approached Sun Xiaowu at breakneck speed.

Sun Xiaowu swung his own blades with the resplendence of dawn, defending against the sudden assault.

Light covered the land like an intense meteor shower. Formless ripples shattered rock and cleaved mountains.

"[Golden Divide]!"

Light gathered over Sun Xiaowu's palms in a resplendent golden arc through the skies.

The golden light clashed against the tiger's blades, but the sharp blades that the tiger had somehow produced seemed impervious to damage. Killing intent formed a thick aura around them, so concentrated that it could affect material form. Sun Xiaowu didn't give up and continued attacking. The brilliant light of [Golden Divide] caught the eye.

The tiger roared, its eyes cold. It spat out a mouthful of white light, causing the blades to gleam even more brightly. They pierced through the air and headed straight for Sun Xiaowu's body.

Sun Xiaowu pursed his lips—the blades were too strong, and there were over two dozen of them! It would be difficult to handle them all simultaneously.

The blades flew toward him and pinned him down with overwhelming strength, causing the land to crumble where they landed.

Each blade was like a thick pillar; if any were to strike Zhang Lie, he wouldn't be pierced through, but rather ground into meat paste.

As all the blades landed simultaneously, Sun Xiaowu barely dodged them one by one. Space around him warped and distended; a number of black holes formed, one around each blade, trapping him in an unavoidable attack.

Even so, the fighting spirit in Sun Xiaowu's eyes only grew more intense.

"[Blinding Flash: Thousandfold Echo]!"

Sun Xiaowu's body suddenly split into thousands of clones, which faced off against the two dozen blades in a scintillating display of light.

"[Golden Divide]!"

The thousand clones all used [Golden Divide] simultaneously, coloring the sky in gold and raining down golden feathers in such numbers that it seemed as though a thunderstorm had just formed out of thin air.

The two dozen sharp blades were sent flying by the tempest that the golden feathers created. The disaster-grade whitegold tiger emanated silver light that shrouded itself like battle armor, or perhaps a veil.

Metal struck metal. The disaster-grade whitegold tiger was suppressed by Sun Xiaowu's [Golden Divide].

"[Goldenscale Palm: Split]!"

Golden radiance struck the land. Sun Xiaowu's palms brimmed with golden light as a dense layer of golden scales covered his skin. His aura suddenly shifted, and his right arm glowed with resplendent light. An aura of intense strength emanated from Sun Xiaowu's body.

Sun Xiaowu took a step forward, then punched with all his might, generating a dominating wave of genetic energy.

The brilliant light tore through the tiger's armor, revealing crystalline flesh underneath. The tiger roared in anger, and its aura strengthened even further. Sun Xiaowu once more, swamping the battlefield in white light.

"[Adamantine Aegis]!" A layer of golden runes covered Sun Xiaowu's skin, giving off a radiant light that the two dozen blades were unable to penetrate.

The disaster-grade whitegold tiger leapt forward, its claws landing on the haft of the blades and increasing their penetrating power. Sun Xiaowu was forced to retreat.

"[Blinding Flash: Self-Destruct]!"

Thousands of his golden clones emitted a blinding flash as they self-destructed, swallowing up Sun Xiaowu, the two dozen blades, and the disaster-grade whitegold tiger in the resulting explosion.

The blades were sent flying, as was the disaster-grade whitegold tiger.

The tiger made a backflip in the air and roared, spitting out a ball of hazy light charged with skeins of radiant energy so bright they were evaporating in the air.

A thousand rays of rosy light, in an endless stream, enveloped all that lay below.

"[Blinding Flash: Ten Thousandfold Echo]!"

The next moment, Sun Xiaowu's body divided into ten thousand clones. Golden radiance covered the sky as his clones gathered together, each seeming simultaneously real and illusory.

Frightening fluctuations of energy filled the air, accompanied by resplendent light.

"[Goldenscale Palm: Qilin]!"

Sun Xiaowu and all his clones leapt up into the air, performing exactly the same action. Golden light flashed from their arms and illuminated the sky. Tens of thousands of clones merged into Sun Xiaowu's main body, and the countless activated copies of the technique merged into one.

Golden scales covered up Sun Xiaowu's arm as it grew thicker and thicker, and the image of a golden qilin appeared behind him.

As he swung his fists forward, the golden qilin materialized. Against the magnificent golden qilin, the disaster-grade whitegold tiger looked as small as a housecat.

The gigantic golden qilin swiped forward with its claws, batting the whitegold tiger away and sending it crashing into the earth.

The qilin slammed its claws down a second time, crushing the whitegold tiger as it roared in outrage. It emanated beams of white light that surrounded it like a howling storm, serving as a formless barrier against the qilin's claws.

The whitegold tiger's body flashed with golden runes, much like those from Sun Xiaowu's [Adamantine Aegis].

Zhang Lie, watching the fight, frowned. "What a disgusting disaster-grade lifeform, to be able to copy its opponents' techniques..."

The tiger had done that while fighting with him, and was doing the same thing while fighting with Sun Xiaowu.

Bu Wentian smiled proudly. "It's great, isn't it?"

"It's rather disgusting."

While fighting against Zhang Lie, the disaster-grade whitegold tiger had absorbed his energy of annihilation. Now, against Sun Xiaowu, it had absorbed his [Adamantine Aegis].

The whitegold tiger was, at its core, a gold-attuned lifeform, and it was naturally able to replicate Sun Xiaowu's techniques easily.

Bu Wentian replied, "This is a trial, after all. I can't make it too simple, and an opponent that can learn from you represents a rare opportunity. If you can't grow stronger and produce sufficient strength to take down that opponent, it'll emulate you and win."

"An opponent that can grow stronger in battle really is disgusting."

Chapter 1370: Adamantine Aegis

Sun Xiaowu himself had been shocked by the whitegold tiger's sudden use of [Adamantine Aegis].

The disaster-grade whitegold tiger was surrounded with multicolored light, like a thousand banners swirling through the sky. It tore apart Sun Xiaowu's golden qilin's scales with its sharp claws as it sent its two dozen blades forward once more, piercing through the golden qilin.

The golden qilin exploded like a supernova, releasing scorching-hot energy that caused the world of the trial to quake intensely. Golden light basked the entire world.

The whitegold tiger was sent flying. The runes all over its body shook violently. If not for the fact that it had just learned Sun Xiaowu's [Adamantine Aegis], it would already have been torn apart by the explosion.

The whitegold tiger roared as it exuded light that filled the skies. Thousands of beams of light shot toward Sun Xiaowu like radiant blades.

Golden runes flashed amidst the light. The whitegold tiger was a gold-attuned lifeform that easily picked up Sun Xiaowu's techniques, and it was now incorporating them into its attacks.

Sun Xiaowu scoffed. "You've barely learned anything from me. This is the advanced form of [Adamantine Aegis]. Use it if you can!"

Golden runes emerged from Sun Xiaowu's body and revolved around him in a flash of golden light.

"[Adamantine Aegis: Martial God]!"

As the golden runes merged with his genetic energy, Sun Xiaowu transformed into a mecha over ten meters tall. Runes decorated his body, glowing behind his back like a burning sun.

With a fist, the mecha dissipated the tiger's [Adamantine Aegis] a scar on its forehead.

To Sun Xiaowu, [Adamantine Aegis] was nothing more than an opener.

The tiger growled. Two dozen silver blades trembled as one, shooting straight at Sun Xiaowu in an attempt to pierce through him.

"[Goldenscale Palm: Split]!"

Layers of dense golden scales appeared on Sun Xiaowu's arms, and his right arm glowed with resplendent light.

As Sun Xiaowu attacked, so too did the golden mecha, bringing the strength of his attack to a new level entirely.

Golden light swept through the world with such force that the firmament itself seemed liable to break, as though the sun were falling to the ground. The tiger's two dozen blades shattered.

The tiger howled in outrage, but Sun Xiaowu was in the acme of his strength. His fists shone with golden light.

The white tiger stared at Sun Xiaowu with baleful eyes. Radiant light shot out from its mouth straight at him, which Sun Xiaowu obliterated with his fists.

The tiger's runes of [Adamantine Aegis] turned scorching-hot. The runes glowed and extended from its body, shielding itself.

Although the tiger didn't possess any genetic energy, its innate understanding of gold-attuned energy allowed it to partially reproduce the effects of [Adamantine Aegis: Martial God].

Its ersatz rendition of the technique meant that, as it swiped, a huge copy of its claws would simultaneously swipe at its target.

"[Blinding Flash: Thousandfold Echo]!"

Sun Xiaowu split into a thousand clones, each of which summoned a golden mecha.

Sun Xiaowu laughed. "Come on, then! Challenge me in single or group combat. In single combat, you'll fight all of us, and in group combat, all of us will gang up on you!"

Sun Xiaowu didn't wait for the tiger to make up its mind. His clones charged forward with immense force, causing dust to rise up and the ground to quake. Golden light filled them all.

"[Golden Divide]!"

Thousands of golden mechas simultaneously used Golden Divide, and the entire sky turned glittering gold. There were so many of them they filled the sky. The golden blades formed a golden flood.

The whitegold tiger was sent flying. The [Adamantine Aegis] protecting its body turned battered; it could hardly withstand the attacks of a thousand of Sun Xiaowu's golden mechas at once.

Thousands of golden blades condensed into a unified whole, radiating golden light and splitting the sky in twain.

The whitegold tiger attempted to run, but Sun Xiaowu's blade was too fast for it. With a mournful howl, its [Adamantine Aegis] was torn apart, and one of its legs was cut off.

"[Goldenscale Palm]!"

Sun Xiaowu's arms glowed with resplendent light, and a layer of dense golden scales emerged over his skin. Golden radiance lit up the battlefield.

The tiger, despite having only three legs remaining, nevertheless moved rapidly.

Sun Xiaowu's clones crashed down onto the battlefield like meteors. Golden light filled the skies.

The whitegold tiger scampered back and forth, barely avoiding the projectiles, before it was sent flying by the force of the explosion. It rolled over the ground multiple times.

"[Goldenscale Palm: Qilin]!"

The golden mechas exploded with golden radiance. Their forms dissipated into motes of golden light, which shot toward Sun Xiaowu's own mecha and augmented it. It was as large as the falling sun.

It bent its arms as golden energy shone from its body and illuminated the heavens. Tens of thousands of clones merged into Sun Xiaowu's main body, and the countless activated copies of the technique merged into one.

Golden scales covered up Sun Xiaowu's arm as it grew thicker and thicker, and the image of a golden qilin appeared behind him.

In his mecha form, augmented by his thousand clones all stacked atop each other, the might of his golden qilin grew by at least fifty times, if not a hundred.

As Sun Xiaowu swung his fists forward, the golden qilin soared into the air.

The qilin's scales were radiant and shining with golden light, each like a miniature sun. It looked like a god descending from the heavens, its long whiskers floating in the void, surrounded by golden clouds, looking like a sculpture of gold.

In Sun Xiaowu's mecha form, the golden qilin he released grew to a staggering fifty thousand meters in height.

The golden qilin radiated light, occupying half the world with its bulk.