

U. Warlord 1371

Chapter 1371: Radiant Light Unfolding

As Li Feng punched forward, light-attuned genetic energy transformed into a raging flood. Thick, concentrated energy, like roaring dragons and galloping steeds, like sharp blades piercing heaven and earth, fell from the sky in a huge rumble that shook the heavens and caused the trial world to quake.

The frightening wave of energy burst apart. Silver light radiated forth like a pack of rampaging dragons, transforming into a storm that tore apart all in sight—the roc's golden wings, along with half its body.

In a beam of light, Li Feng fell from the skies, his feet kicking at the disaster-grade golden roc's head.

The golden roc rolled on the ground, avoiding the killing blow.

Li Feng's eyes were sharp and piercing. "Running away won't help you now."

The golden roc, taking advantage of a disaster-grade lifeform's impressive regeneration, had already regrown one of its wings. Clearly, the golden roc had been endowed with incredible talent in this regard.

When Zhang Lie was its opponent, he was able to counter that regeneration with his demonic serpent. Furthermore, Zhang Lie was so strong that the golden roc didn't have the time to recover before Zhang Lie killed it.

With its wings restored, the golden roc was able to continue fighting—but before it could take advantage of its restored health, it faced even greater despair.

Li Feng's aura grew to its peak. Wrapped up in shining light, an arclight dragon emerged from his body and circled upwards.

"[Light's Bulwark: Thousand Dragons Soaring]!" Li Feng shouted. As he punched upward into the sky, all his genetic energy condensed in his fists, launching dozens of dragons into the sky.

As Li Feng yelled out, dragons of light materialized and circled his arms. As he punched upward into the sky, all his genetic energy condensed in his fists, launching dozens of dragons into the sky.

The dragons' cries sounded like peals of thunder as they swooped through the air, each dragon so large it could swallow a blazing sun whole.

Thousands of arclight dragons criss-crossed in mid-air before swooping down like meteors.

A golden wing was insufficient to defend against the simultaneous barrage of a few thousand dragons. The golden roc's wings were pierced through and torn apart as a huge golden skull was hurled out of the melee and fell to the ground.

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

Bu Wentian evaluated, "This hunter is very strong, and his techniques seem like yours. Is he your disciple?"

"My companion."

In Sun Mengmeng's trial chamber, the void suddenly trembled. A figure dashed forward at lightning speed, heading straight for her with unabashed killing intent.

The attacker was none other than a hornless scarlet dragon, which Zhang Lie had faced before.

The dragon's attack landed with a huge explosion, splitting the ground, shaking the heavens, and causing the world to break apart. It was a frightening blow that struck with the force of an earthquake.

Sun Mengmeng raised her garuda bow. Three arrows, brimming with purple flame, flew toward the enemy like tracking missiles,

"[Lunarflame Shot]!"

The three flaming arrows exploded in mid-air, but that was insufficient to deter the dragon's charge.

The disaster-grade dragon burst out of the three simultaneous explosions, wreathed in light and flame and mist, as it charged toward Sun Mengmeng.

"[Baptism of Hellfire: Full Moon]!" Sun Mengmeng whirled her daggers all around her as a black moon rose into the air, blocking the pulse of energy from the dragon's attack.

The ground exploded. Flames burst into the sky. Cracks of lava spread across the ground.

Sun Mengmeng stabbed forward with a dagger, causing the black moon behind her to explode. Sun Mengmeng rocketed forward with [Flameburst Step].

Purple flames transformed into her raiment. A long tail of flames whizzed by behind her, radiating a phantasmagorical glow. Like a meteor, she shot toward the scarlet dragon. Her beautiful features took on a tinge of the fantastical when lit by the purple firelight. With the barest hissing of wind, she unsheathed a long dark-red dagger.

The two combatants shattered mountains and destroyed spires with every blow. They clashed against each other and were both sent flying. Light covered heaven and earth, frightening in its intensity.

Sun Mengmeng trained as a ranged attacker, but she wasn't weak in a melee, either.

"[Lunarflame Shot]!"

Sun Mengmeng's right hand blurred as 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.

Under the brilliant purple sky, all began to burn, drowned in a sea of purple flame.

The disaster-grade dragon wove through the flames, strong and brimming with vitality, its scales shining resplendent, its body glowing with divine radiance. It possessed an unexpected resistance to fire, and even Sun Mengmeng's lunarflame arrows did little damage to it.

Sun Mengmeng's opponent seemed to perfectly counter her.

As the disaster-grade dragon rushed by, it smashed apart countless meteors, which exploded in the air in brilliant flame. Its superior resistance to fire might be a result of its domain.

Seeing Sun Mengmeng's bow, the dragon's fearsome combat experience allowed it to recognize that Sun Mengmeng was an archer who would be weaker in close combat.

As meteors continued to explode in the air, sending boulders flying, Sun Mengmeng retreated with a wave of her palm, causing the sea of flames to roar and flare.

The sea of flames sent ten thousand tons of rock flying toward the dragon, which smashed through them all.

The disaster-grade dragon clashed against Sun Mengmeng, claws against bow, then swept its tail at her waist.

Sun Mengmeng evaded the attack as the tail crushed countless rocks into powder in mid-air.

"[Baptism of Hellfire: Phoenix Rising]!"

Sun Mengmeng whirled her daggers all around her like a phoenix spreading its wings. A tail of fire glowed with radiant light, causing the stars themselves to quake.

The dragon evaded the attack, but the rock mountain behind where it stood was drilled straight through. It blazed with lunar flame.

The hornless scarlet dragon stared at Sun Mengmeng with cold eyes. Its crystalline, resplendent body hurtled back. The entire world seemed to shift with its movements. Its body glowed with one resplendent rune after another, a true dragon's mark, imbued with the essence of the arcane, of mysteries beyond measure.

Chapter 1372: Apocalyptic Flame

For a moment, a divine chanting could be heard from the skies, shaking the heavens as all things hummed in resonance. The sound doubled, then trebled in volume. Ripples and echoes surged toward Sun Mengmeng.

Boulder after boulder exploded, even those tens of thousands of tons heavy. The ripples that emanated from the dragon's keening easily sparked a resonant decomposition.

"[Netherworld's Torrential Flame]!"

A frightening fan of flames poured out from Sun Mengmeng's bow, an attack far stronger than the moonlight she had summoned. The intensity of her technique would have shocked all the members of Team Zenith.

The flames arced in the air and fell toward the battlefield in a waterfall. It deflected the ripples that emanated from the scarlet hornless dragon. The two combatants' techniques clashed against each other's.

Sun Mengmeng's body burned with purplish-black flame so intense that it dyed the heavens the same color. She cast [Black Sun], forming a corona of purplish-black flame around her.

Then, she activated her most impactful soulshards for battle, transforming from a young woman to a fierce warrior with a chitinous carapace, wreathed in black flame. Her flames were so intense that

the armor-type soulshard actually began to crack and split. Black flames seeped out from the cracks, burning so intensely that the ground began to melt and turn red.

She sparred against the scarlet dragon, clashing once and again, before both combatants were sent flying back.

With a huge rumble and crash, a scarlet claw struck the ground with the force of a mountain range. Light flooded heaven and earth.

Sun Mengmeng roared, her eyes glowing with light.

"[Netherworld's Gaze]!"

Hundreds of arrows, like beams of moonlight, shot toward Zhang Lie. Their flames felt as though they could destroy everything they touched.

The hornless scarlet dragon soared into the air, its scarlet claws tearing apart the lunar flood. Black firelight burst apart in the air, shining brightly in the trial world.

The two combatants fought like ancient beasts, tearing apart mountain and landscape, heaven and earth. The world itself quivered as it observed their battle.

Man and beast alike were radiant in their might, surrounded with glowing runes that burned incandescent, so brightly that no one would be able to observe the scene directly.

The scarlet hornless dragon sent its tail sweeping forward like a steel whip, causing the void itself to creak. The runes surged forward like waves, astoundingly strong.

Sun Mengmeng leapt up to evade this blow.

"[Lunar Apostasy]!"

Sun Mengmeng's entire bow was blazing. She launched her arrows straight into the air, which exploded among the clouds and formed a black moon, which shot down rays of moonlight. A burst of black lunarflame scorched heaven and earth, revealing the void.

The scarlet dragon tore apart the lunarflame with one claw, then struck at Sun Mengmeng with the other. Its eyes were bright and sharp. A terrifying wildness suffused its actions.

"[Lunarflame Shot: Ninefold Phantasmagoria]."

Sun Mengmeng's surroundings began to burn with dark red flames as she launched yet another attack.

Nine purplish-black phoenixes rose around her and shot toward the scarlet dragon. They flew around the dragon in a dance as black flame surrounded them all.

The dragon whirled around, swiping its tail at the phoenixes and causing them to explode. The nine phoenixes burst into nine black roses in the air. Scorching heat enveloped the surroundings.

The dragon darted through the flame and caught Sun Mengmeng's leg.

"[Lunarflame Shot]!"

Sun Mengmeng reacted quickly. Purplish-black flames gathered on Sun Mengmeng's bow once again, forming an arrow of pure black.

The image of a golden garuda, limned in black, appeared behind her. As she loosed her arrow, it seemed to transform into a beam of light, moving so quickly that it bypassed the constraints of time and space, as though it could penetrate anything.

The arrow caused no earth-shattering explosion. It was plain and ordinary, and no sound marked its advance. It flew by the scarlet dragon's head, setting half of it aflame.

Disaster-grade lifeforms wouldn't die as long as their cores hadn't been shattered, but they could still feel pain. Pain would make it harder for them to concentrate, and it would hinder them in battle.

The scarlet dragon roared. A wave of energy swept past the dragon, who was forced to loosen its hold.

"[Lunarflame Shot: Extirpation of the Garuda]!"

Black flames, stuck together, flowed like lava along the ground. Wrapped in flame, Sun Mengmeng strode forth. Her pupils had been replaced by black flame, and she looked like a demon from the abyss.

As Sun Mengmeng infused her genetic energy into the bow, the image of a garuda appeared behind her. She released her arrow, which morphed into a human-faced, golden-winged bird in mid-air, radiating red light as it arced through the skies. It began to pulse with red flame, brimming with such energy that it seemed as though it would set the world aflame.

The destructive energy dyed everything in sight a patch of black. The entire trial world seemed to transform into a furnace. The ground melted and turned into boiling-hot lava.

Sun Mengmeng released her arrow, which morphed into a human-faced, golden-winged bird in mid-air, radiating red light as it arced through the skies.

The garuda landed in a hurricane of pitch-black flames as it arched its wings wide.

It began to pulse with red fire, brimming with such energy that it seemed as though it would set the world aflame.

Sun Mengmeng's attack scorched the trial world, dyeing everything in sight a patch of black.

The scarlet dragon tore apart the tempest of fire. With a swipe of its tail, it caused the black flames to erupt in a rain of fire. Even the lava was lit up aflame. The entire world became a sea of black flames, like a scene out of hell.

Sun Mengmeng took the opportunity to distance herself from the dragon. She pulled her bow taut once more, infusing the rest of her genetic energy within.

"[Lunarflame Shot: Extirpation of the Garuda]!"

Chapter 1373: Heaven Cracks, The Earth Quakes

Sun Mengmeng's devastating arrow pierced through the disaster-grade dragon's body, causing it to fall toward the lava. Lava roiled as fire filled the air.

The dragon's body smashed a crater in the lava as Sun Mengmeng furiously launched a flurry of arrows in its direction. The disaster-grade dragon was in exceptionally wretched condition, its claws bleeding, its chest half-torn open.

It attempted to take to the air, but Sun Mengmeng gave chase in a burst of flames. She kicked at the dragon, causing its crystalline body to crack as it fell to the lava once again.

The disaster-grade dragon barely stood up. It soared into the air once more, its disaster-grade regenerative abilities quickly healing the lower half of its body.

Sun Mengmeng rose to the challenge, raising her garuda bow.

"[Lunarflame Shot: Starburst]!"

Pitch-black flames lit up the sky. Arrows fell like a meteor shower, lit up in mid-air. The entire world was filled with black arrows; it was lit aflame.

Bu Wentian sighed in exasperation. "Your companions are far too destructive. This is even worse than what that Fang Yi fellow did. The entire world has been rendered useless!"

The disaster-grade dragon's body shone and danced as it evaded the flames. It howled, its radiant body tangling around Sun Mengmeng like a serpent winding its body around a mountain peak. It opened its bloody maw wide, its teeth sharp and white, as it bit down on Sun Mengmeng with the intent of swallowing her whole.

"[Baptism of Hellfire: Phoenix Rising]!"

At this critical moment, Sun Mengmeng's body lit up with roaring black flames, resisting the dragon's attack. The flames spun rapidly as the dragon's tail shone in rainbow light. The phoenix that formed around Sun Mengmeng transformed into a blazing tempest that caused the scarlet dragon to shriek in pain, loosening its tail.

As Sun Mengmeng revolved, so too did the flaming tempest. The black phoenix stoked the flames of the burning world. It spread its wings, causing the flames to reach a crescendo. The extreme heat burned the world to a crisp.

A gigantic black phoenix soared into the void. As it cried out, countless stars trembled. The dragon flew through the air, then swooped down toward Sun Mengmeng with blazing breath.

Such was the bloody fight between the two combatants.

The black phoenix and scarlet dragon faced off in the ruined world.

"[Lunarflame Shot: Blazing God]!"

The sea of flames roiled as Sun Mengmeng released genetic fluctuations greater than ever before. The void trembled as the heavens themselves seemed to shatter. Blinding light transformed into golden suns, which burst apart like sharp blades. Even before the attack was released, the aura alone caused the scarlet dragon to yelp in pain.

Her left hand the sun, her right hand the moon, Sun Mengmeng seemed to transform into a god-king of legends. She blazed with resplendent light, and the sun and moon embedded themselves on her

bow. Black flame roared into the void as a pillar, and all of it gathered around Sun Mengmeng. The black flame transformed into a tempest that lit up the surrounding trial worlds.

The void flame transformed into an arrow which burned everything it touched. Where the arrow passed through, the stars shattered. The nearby trial worlds were also lit up aflame. Even a god would be pierced by this arrow.

The arrow struck the scarlet dragon, sending scales and crystals flying. Crystalline shards flashed through the air as the will of the realm's voice rang out in Sun Mengmeng's head.

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

Bu Wentian sighed. "That's several worlds ruined..."

Sun Mengmeng recovered the dragon's disaster-grade core. She looked left and right. She was stuck in the void; the trial doors had burned to a crisp when she set the whole world aflame. What was she to do?

Zhang Lie advised, "Don't forget to send Sun Mengmeng to the trial-taker's chamber."

Bu Wentian shook his head. "I won't. If she has the strength to destroy my trial world, then I should hope she has the skill to figure out what to do next, too."

A pair of blackflame phoenix's wings unfurled from Sun Mengmeng's back as she flew toward the next hospitable trial world.

Zhang Lie smiled. "Don't throw a tantrum. If you leave Sun Mengmeng to her own antics, she might really burn another world to ashes."

Bu Wentian hadn't truly intended to carry out his threat. With a wave of his hand, a pillar of light surrounded Sun Mengmeng, and she vanished through the void.

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. She had transformed into her battle-ready state in a matter of moments.

"[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.

Zhou Ying's opponent was a plant-based disaster-grade lifeform, one which Zhang Lie had never encountered.

Plant-based lifeforms were a rarity in the dimensional realm. Zhang Lie had only encountered one such disaster-grade lifeform before; this was the second he had ever seen.

A huge flower bud, like a wild beast's mouth, was filled with thorns. Purple fluid leaked out from within, sizzling as it touched the ground and releasing purple smoke. The fluid from the bud possessed incredible corrosive strength.

The ground quaked as countless vines emerged from underground, tangling with Zhou Ying's wood dragons. Zhou Ying commanded her dragons to absorb the vitality from the vines, causing it to quake as its tendrils shook and quivered, and its body bent. Clearly, having the vitality sucked away from its body was a painful process.

The disaster-grade lifeform sprayed out purple acid at the wood dragons, which soared into the sky and formed a wooden barrier.

The acid landed on the wooden barrier, quickly dissolving the wood and forming a hole in it with a loud sizzle.

Chapter 1374: Just One

Zhou Ying's lips curled up. She smiled like a malicious demon.

"Poison, is it?"

Her golden wood dragons turned an ashy gray, and smoke began to spread from the wood. The wood dragons boasted a mysterious strength. The disaster-grade plant immediately drew back its vines—the wood dragons were coated with something far worse than poison.

However, the disaster-grade plant was too slow. A layer of gray energy had attached itself to its vines, which quickly turned dark and swollen. They began to crack, causing mouths to appear all over the vines. The plant immediately cut off these vines, preventing them from infecting the rest of its body.

The wood dragons pushed forward as the plant lifeform shrunk back, limiting the size of its domain.

The disaster-grade plant launched its leaves toward the wood dragons, each with a serrated edge as sharp as a blade, tearing the wood dragons apart.

The wood dragons began to grow golden leaves, which clashed against the disaster-grade plant's leaves with the sound of metal striking metal.

The golden leaves danced through the air, obscuring Zhou Ying from sight. She darted through the leaves, her body splitting into countless afterimages that seemed to overlap. The plant had no chance of catching her.

The afterimages coalesced as Zhou Ying appeared to the plant's back. She struck with her dagger, but the disaster-grade plant responded surprisingly quickly. The plant-based lifeform didn't see with its eyes, so it wasn't tricked by Zhou Ying's deception. Its buds sprayed out purple liquid.

"[Storm of Leaves: Void Cut]!"

Zhou Ying clutched her dagger in a reverse grip and slashed at the void, dividing the stream of liquid.

The ground beneath her rose up as roots sprouted from underneath and began to attack her.

Zhou Ying quickly retreated as boundless vitality burst forth from her.

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

Zhou Ying summoned tens of thousands of wood dragons from the ground. They were thrice as thick as before, and their barkskin shone with dense gray smoke.

The disaster-grade plant had been having a hard time dealing with Zhou Ying's wood dragons. With so many more wood dragons joining the mix, it lost control of its jealously guarded territory and was surrounded by the dragons.

After being struck by the gray fog, the plant-based lifeform began to swell. Poisonous tumors grew out of its body, along with strange, unusual vines that sprouted mouths. Each mouth was filled with venomous fangs. Purple liquid continued to splatter on the ground, sizzling as the ground corroded.

The vines that grew out of the plant's body turned on itself and began to devour the plant.

Zhou Ying shot out like a loosed arrow, passing through the densely packed wood dragons and bisecting the disaster-grade plant's body.

The plant keened in agony as its upper half fell to the ground and crystallized. Surrounded by wood dragons and infused with gray energy, the disaster-grade plant's vitality decreased dramatically.

"[Storm of Leaves: Twofold Void Cut]!"

Holding her daggers, Zhou Ying revolved in mid-air, cutting apart the void. The disaster-grade plant's body fell apart.

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

Within a pocket space of the trial dimension, Bu Wentian and Zhang Lie were having some tea.

Bu Wentian evaluated, "This companion of yours is also quite interesting. Not only does she have tremendous vitality and natural energy, she's also combined it with some unknown power that can cause deleterious mutations in biological lifeforms. It's worse than the cancer of the Milky Way—almost like a demonic curse of sorts."

Zhou Ying had obtained this strength in an exchange with the Everbearing Lady within the halls of chaos.

Bu Wentian continued, "This sort of energy seems to be one antithetical to life."

Zhang Lie said, "After watching them all fight, I'm feeling like some combat myself. Why don't you let me have a go at some disaster-grade lifeforms?"

Bu Wentian rolled his eyes at Zhang Lie. "Do you think I'm raising a pig farm?"

Zhang Lie replied, "Just one lifeform would be fine. Let me try out that six-headed one—I'm lacking a few dozen disaster-grade gene fragments, and that one would fill me up."

Bu Wentian waved a hand. "That sort of disaster-grade lifeform is specifically cultivated for use in my trials. I generally only use it at the fifth stage and above, but you were so strong that I had to use it on the fourth stage during your trial. I just wanted to see where your limits were, but none of them did anything against you!"

"If you have so many disaster-grade lifeforms, surely you won't mind losing one or two?"

Bu Wentian replied, "Do you know how difficult those are to cultivate? I only have six more in my reserves. With your companions' strength, they'd easily make it to the fifth stage, and I'll need my reserves for their respective trials.

Zhang Lie would be able to take down such a disaster-grade lifeform in the blink of an eye; it couldn't even be considered a warm-up.

"One less won't make a difference," Zhang Lie replied reasonably.

Bu Wentian rolled his eyes. "Well, in that case, it won't make a difference if you have a few dozen less disaster gene fragments. You're already this strong, at any rate."

Zhang Lie sighed. "You want me to participate in this Galactic Rising Stars Cup, don't you? You do want me at peak strength for that."

Bu Wentian glanced at him. It was true that he would prefer Zhang Lie to be stronger for the Cup...

"I just cultivated a new disaster-grade lifeform and need some data on its performance for use in trials. You can test it out, and I'll allow you to keep the disaster-grade cores from killing it."

"Let's do it, then!" Zhang Lie rubbed his palms with glee.

Bu Wentian continued, "Don't rush it. Listen up. That disaster-grade lifeform won't be easy to deal with. After my efforts at cultivation, it's all but approaching a monarch-grade lifeform, and no ordinary genetic hunter can handle it."

Zhang Lie laughed. "Do you think I'm an ordinary genetic hunter?"

Bu Wentian gave him a thumbs up. "Confident, aren't you? But aren't you lacking a few dozen disaster gene fragments?"

Zhang Lie gave him a strange look.

Why was Bu Wentian asking about this now?

"Well, this disaster-grade lifeform will certainly satisfy you." Bu Wentian smirked, then summoned a door out of the void.

The door had just opened when a dark wind blew out toward Zhang Lie. Even before he stepped inside, he could feel a tremendous strength within. Zhang Lie instantly had the sensation that the disaster-grade lifeform lying in wait would be entirely different from the ones he had faced to date, one on a whole new level of strength.

"That's more like it!" Zhang Lie excitedly stepped through the door, only to be met with a vile stench and shattered crystals on the ground.

Chapter 1375: Brimming Killing Intent

The orb hummed. "Congratulations on finishing the first trial."

Zhou Ying passed through the gate that had appeared and entered a featureless space of pure white.

There was nothing in the space except for an orb of light.

Beams of light shot out from the orb, resolving into figures. Zhou Ying glanced at them—they were the members of Team Zenith!

Fang Yi looked all around him. "Is this the central hub that our captain told us about? The resting zone?"

The orb of light began to speak. "Welcome, elite warriors, to the trial-taker's chamber. Six trials will be set for you within. Every three trials you finish, a reward will be provided. Before you finish the trials, you will not be able to leave. Would you like to proceed with the trial or rest?"

Sun Mengmeng asked, "Are you going to continue?"

Fang Yi waved a hand. "I intend to rest for the moment. I exhausted myself during the earlier fight, and I think it would be best to go into later ones with replenished reserves."

Sun Mengmeng said, "I think it's better if we all rest. After all, there's no time limit, and it would be safer for us to face what lies ahead in peak condition."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Six doors opened up in the featureless space, clearly intended to be rooms in which each hunter could freshen up.

Meanwhile, as Zhang Lie passed through the doors to find the ground covered in shattered disaster-grade crystals, below which were layer upon layer of bones. Zhang Lie couldn't help but gape. "Just how many disaster-grade lifeforms had to be killed to accomplish something like this...?"

When he saw the lifeform behind the door, he was stupefied.

Nine black lion's heads stitched to a metal-like frame, with a long red dragon's tail to its back. A black turtle's shell covered its lower back, and a pair of golden wings emerged from it. The tiger's four limbs were dragon's claws, and a thorny vine grew out of the turtle's shell, with vibrant purple flowers in full bloom. It was a chimera.

Zhang Lie cried out, "What is this?!"

The disaster-grade lifeform before itself was clearly formed out of all the disaster-grade lifeforms that he and the members of Team Zenith had encountered.

Bu Wentian's voice rang out, "I told you, it was difficult to cultivate six-headed lifeforms, so I was trying to come up with an alternative. This is a half-formed creation."

Zhang Lie called back, "Just how did you manage to graft all these lifeforms' specialties onto one another?!"

"Don't you think you should focus on what lies before you instead?"

When the chimera heard Bu Wentian's voice, it became exceptionally enraged. Its eighteen eyes turned blood-red, clearly having been experimented on to the point of torture.

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.

Pale blue genetic energy rippled about Zhang Lie's arms. He flicked his wrists, causing a frightening aura to descend on the world. The sky began to darken, and a fish the size of a whale materialized in the air.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Soar]!"

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

A huge wave soared into the air. As Zhang Lie punched forward, the fish slammed its huge tail on the ground and sent a torrent of water surging.

Ripples of energy spread out from Zhang Lie, warping the space around him. The towering waves looked like enraged black dragons, flooding the area.

The chimera had no intention of avoiding this blow. It flashed with white light. Gusts of wind surrounded it as it sent countless crystal shards and bones into the air.

As the waves burst apart, the air filled with echoes of Zhang Lie's signature genetic energy, shattering space and swallowing up all life in its vicinity.

The ground quaked. The bones and crystal shards littered over it were cleared away in a patch a hundred miles wide.

The lion's nine heads howled as one, sending nine waves of umbral energy into the sky and causing the ground to crack.

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

The umbral waves caused the surrounding low-lying mountains to crack and fall, and some boulders even burst apart into powder.

Zhang Lie extended his pointer finger like a sword, and water-attuned genetic energy coiled around it like a snake.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!" Zhang Lie swung downwards with a heavy blow, and a shark swam forth.

The chimera roared, spraying out a burst of silver light. Killing intent filled the air.

Its nine heads launched a breath attack, forming a silver river through the air, beautiful and deadly. The raging shark was submerged within.

"[Ninecarp Transformation]!"

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

Pitch-black genetic energy revolved around Zhang Lie like dark clouds, then exploded forth in his vicinity, swallowing up the silver river's light.

The chimera flapped its wings and soared into the sky. The vibrant flowers to its back scattered purple pollen through the air. Zhang Lie was certain that it was highly toxic.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Fade]!"

Zhang Lie punched forward, and the black serpent behind him shot forth.

The disaster-grade chimera's golden wings flapped with great force in sweeping waves of energy. The frightening force obliterated the black serpent as the chimera swooped downward.

The void trembled. It dashed forward at lightning speed, heading straight for Zhang Lie with unabashed killing intent.

As Zhang Lie activated his monarch-grade limitless universe soulshard, he glowed with stellar radiance, like a burning star. Starlight flowed through his body in phantasmagorical colors.

Zhang Lie's body transformed into a glaze of the dark cosmos, as though the Milky Way itself flowed through his body. His aura grew tremendously. He defended with one open palm.

The chimera's attack landed with a huge explosion, splitting the ground, shaking the heavens, and causing the world to break apart. It was a frightening blow that struck with the force of an earthquake.

More astoundingly, Zhang Lie had managed to defend against the blow with nothing more than a palm.

Chapter 1377: With High Spirits

The mental attacks from the eighteen eyes were stronger than the golden roc's mental attacks, but Zhang Lie was no slouch himself.

Zhang Lie howled, his eyes like lightning. Although he wasn't a cultivator who focused on spiritual and mental cultivation, his soul had survived the tempering of two lifetimes, and it was naturally stronger than that of the disaster-grade chimera.

The chimera shrieked, blood seeping out of its eighteen eyes. It fell to the ground.

Zhang Lie swooped down, his fist shaking the sky like a black dragon.

The chimera's black fur stood on end; one of its heads suddenly grew multiple times larger, like an umbral millstone brimming with light.

As the dragon dove down, a lion's head burst open in a shower of crystals.

The other eight heads shrieked.

A scarlet dragon's claw slammed down on his body, but Zhang Lie dodged it. A huge trench formed where the claw landed, the bottom of which couldn't be seen from up above.

Zhang Lie unsheathed Guicang and struck with a slash of sword energy. A huge slit formed in the void, cutting apart the dragon's claw. However, the disaster-grade lifeform didn't rear back. It continued attacking ferociously, its whole body transforming into a weapon. Its tail shot out and swept through everything in its path.

Zhang Lie evaded the attack as the tail crushed countless rocks into powder in mid-air. Its ferocity shocked one and all.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!"

A waterfall of genetic energy was imbued in Guicang. As Zhang Lie slashed forward with the sword, devastating sword energy was unleashed.

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

Within moments, the chimera's sliced-off claw had regrown. It boasted vitality stronger than even the golden roc Zhang Lie had faced.

A raging shark surfed forward on Zhang Lie's sword slash. The chimera spread its wings wide as it soared into the air. The raging shark gave chase, but the chimera swooped down from above and struck with its claws, obliterating the shark.

The chimera howled, its gaze cold. It launched a killing blow, covering heaven and earth in blazing light.

A meteor's worth of energy exploded in mid-air, and the ground quaked as though a volcano were about to explode.

The chimera roared as 108 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 chimera roared and leapt forward, and all the blades suddenly turned toward their target. They gathered in a square around the tiger and shot toward Zhang Lie simultaneously.

The bloodstained blades, suffused with an aura of calamity, approached Zhang Lie at breakneck speed.

Zhang Lie 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.

He raised the blade in his hand high into the air, encircled by black genetic energy.

"[The Boundless Blade: the River Lethe]!"

The temperature had dropped to sub-zero values, and a strong wind buffeted the battlefield. Blood-colored frost appeared around the two combatants.

A stellar river materialized in the air. As though the doors to hell had just been thrown open, tens of thousands of serpents rushed out in a flood.

Each serpent was pitch-black like the abyss, like the dark of night, and speckled with starlight, a miniaturized version of the Milky Way. The serpents were guides and ferrymen both, leading departed souls into sky and space, freed from the mortal coil.

As Zhang Lie's sword swung down, the stellar river struck the mortal world.

With every slash of Guicang, the serpents fell like meteors, whizzing down to the ground and clashing against the chimera's blades, but the sharp blades that the chimera had somehow produced seemed impervious to damage. Killing intent formed a thick aura around them, so concentrated that it could affect material form.

Zhang Lie's stellar river began to expand as corrosive energy spread alongside black snowflakes. The ground sizzled as it was corroded away.

Resplendent silver light, like armor, shielded the chimera from the corrosion of Zhang Lie's black snowflakes.

The chimera roared, its eyes cold. It spat out a mouthful of white light, causing the blades to gleam even more brightly. They pierced through the stellar river shielding Zhang Lie and headed straight for his body.

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.

Zhang Lie frowned. The chimera had improved on the characteristics of the five genetic lifeforms that it constituted. The most obvious difference were these blades.

The whitegold tiger only had 28 such blades, but the chimera had a full 108. It was even stronger than the six-headed lifeform that Zhang Lie had asked to face.

As all the blades landed simultaneously, Zhang Lie 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 Zhang Lie's eyes only grew more intense.

"[The Boundless Blade: the River Lethe]!"

Pitch-black genetic energy expanded through the battlefield. The genetic energy looked as though it had come from the abyss, or perhaps from the expanding, limitless universe. Starlight struck the genetic energy in a flash of surprising beauty.

The night sky morphed into a raging sea. Waves surged forward, sounding like peals of thunder, like stampeding hooves. The universe itself seemed to shake, as though the stars were shifting positions.

The surface of the stellar sea frothed with waves, layering and texturing it. Auroras hung in the air, veiling the night sky.

From afar, stellar dragons seemed to roar. The pitch-black dragons were like the night sky made manifest. Thunder and lightning crackled in the air.

Chapter 1378: Crossed Blades

Dragons unfurled their wings amidst a storm of lightning. The auroras stretched on for thousands of miles, so beautiful they captivated the gathered hunters.

Zhang Lie struck. An underworld river hurtled into existence, roaring into the sea. The sword energy roiled like black waves, like a meteor shower, causing the very stars to shake.

The entire night sky shifted as a thousand stellar dragons descended, as though a crack had broken in firmament. A flood that could destroy the world itself rained down on the lava.

The sea had morphed into a boundless battlefield. The sea breeze was as a horn to action, and the serpents, thousands of courageous soldiers heeding its call.

As the stellar dragons launched a bombardment, the chimera stared at Zhang Lie with cold eyes. Its crystalline, resplendent body hurtled back. The entire world seemed to shift with its movements. A true dragon's mark appeared on its scarlet tail, imbued with the essence of the arcane, of mysteries beyond measure.

For a moment, a divine chanting could be heard from the skies, shaking the heavens as all things hummed in resonance. Boulder after boulder exploded, even those tens of thousands of tons heavy. The ripples that emanated from the chimera's keening easily sparked a resonant decomposition.

The stellar dragons exploded in a burst of starlight.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!"

Guicang unleashed a barrage of sword energy in the form of a stellar dragon.

The dragon's howls shook heaven and earth. The stellar energy that filled the battlefield transformed into a massive stellar dragon that took to the skies. Its body was too large even for the trial world.

The chimera roared in outrage, and its aura strengthened even further. Its 108 blades gleamed with killing intent, swamping the battlefield in white light. It clashed against the stellar dragon in ripples of energy. Starbursts cracked a hole in the firmament.

The two combatants shattered mountains and destroyed spires with every blow.

Light covered heaven and earth, frightening in its intensity.

The two combatants fought like ancient beasts, tearing apart mountain and landscape, heaven and earth. The world itself quivered as it observed their battle.

They were radiant in their might, surrounded with glowing runes that burned incandescent, so brightly that no one would be able to observe the scene directly.

The chimera roared in outrage, 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.

"[First Form: Parting the River]!"

Bright sword energy radiated from Zhang Lie like brilliant rays of sunlight, illuminating the entirety of the world.

A frightening force descended, energy rumbling and rippling around him. As Zhang Lie swung the blade in his hand, a huge slash of sword energy shot downward.

With a huge rumble and crash, a scarlet claw struck the ground with the force of a mountain range. Light flooded heaven and earth.

Zhang Lie roared, his eyes glowing with light.

"[Shadow and Light]!"

Zhang Lie whirled around. Time suddenly sped up in his vicinity. As his sword slashed across the skies, the buds on the chimera's back fell to the ground in a shower of purple petals.

The chimera sent its tail sweeping forward like a steel whip, causing the void itself to creak. The runes surged forward like waves, astoundingly strong.

Zhang Lie leapt up and dodged the blow. He struck with Guicang, sending out a slash of chilling light.

The chimera allowed its claw to be cut by Zhang Lie's sword as it prepared to launch an attack. It swooped across the horizon, its wounds healing faster than did the golden roc's. It struck with its other claw, attempting to catch Zhang Lie directly. Its eyes glimmered with intelligence and sharpness. A terrifying wildness suffused its actions.

Hanguang appeared in Zhang Lie's other hand. As he swung down toward the chimera, a severe wound appeared on its body.

The chimera roared in outrage, then immediately retreated. A wave of energy swept past the chimera, who was forced to loosen its hold on Zhang Lie's foot.

Zhang Lie took the advantage to give chase, resulting in a strange formation.

"[Syzygy]!"

A pitch-black sun appeared behind Zhang Lie, and a blood moon by his feet. His aura was magnified tenfold, and a halo of black sun appeared above his forehead. Natural law seemed to warp around him. Runes likewise appeared on the bloody moon by his feet, forming an intricate array.

The disaster-grade chimera's energy was drained as Zhang Lie's energy was magnified.

Zhang Lie crossed his twin blades. The blood moon resonated with the blade in his left hand, and the black sun with the blade in his right.

The black sun's flames strengthened Zhang Lie's attacks and burned away Li Feng's. As the realms of reality and illusion inverted, Zhang Lie simultaneously slashed forward with both blades, forming a huge celestial web.

The chimera smashed into the ground, which cracked apart. A plume of dust rose into the air.

Sword slashes criss-crossed in the air as bloody moonlight and black solar fares shot toward the chimera.

The ground burst apart. The disaster-grade chimera was in a sorry state, its chest having been torn open, sword scars criss-crossing its body.

A frightening burst of energy erupted from the lifeform. Bloody moonlight and black solar flames were emitted from its body.

Under this high-pressure environment, it had identified and evolved from Zhang Lie's attacks, the whitegold tiger's preternatural ability to adapt and emulate its opponents' techniques. Its claws flashed with bloody moonlight, and its wings lit up with black flame. The weakness inflicted by [Syzygy] was completely dispelled as it rushed toward Zhang Lie with a whirl.

Zhang Lie met the chimera head-on. He swung down with Guicang, but the chimera dodged and sent its tail whipping out, lashing around Zhang Lie like a serpent winding its body around a mountain peak.

It opened its bloody maw wide, its teeth sharp and white, as it bit down on Zhang Lie with the intent of swallowing him whole.

He activated his mistmeld clam soulshard, his eyes gleaming in all colors of the rainbow. The chimera was dazed for a moment. It recovered quickly, but that temporary distraction had been the key to victory.

Zhang Lie leapt up and freed himself from the chimera's tail.

Chapter 1379: Speckled Soul

"[Second Form: Piercing the Soul]!"

Zhang Lie's disaster-grade mistmeld clam soulshard activated as he infused its energy into his swords, causing them to shine radiantly with multicolored light. He glanced straight at the chimera's soul.

The disaster-grade chimera's soul was speckled with six different colors: black, whitegold, red, purple, gold, and ink. The six different colors rippled and drifted, but gold was predominant.

A rainbow arc accompanied Zhang Lie's slash, as though an aurora borealis were visible in the sky. It shone in all the colors of the rainbow, momentarily hypnotizing anyone who looked at it.

All those who witnessed the hypnotic light would stand still in a daze.

With Guicang in hand, Zhang Lie flew through the heavens. His sword shone as brightly as the auroras overhead, bringing him momentarily out of the physical into the intangible.

The disaster-grade mistmeld clam soulshard, when incorporated into Zhang Lie's soul-targeting attack, had the ability to target its opponent's soul. As the slash landed, the chimera shrieked.

The chimera was clearly stronger than an ordinary disaster-grade lifeform, and it managed to survive Zhang Lie's [Second Form: Piercing the Soul].

Even so, its soul had been dealt a serious injury. Its six-colored soul trembled and quivered, and its constituent components shook. Its wings, tail, body, and claws spasmed wildly and out of sync, while six of its heads suddenly seemed to be in wild disagreement with the other three.

This was... multiple personality disorder?

According to the study of psychology popularized in the Milky Way, the disaster-grade chimera was clearly undergoing multiple personality disorder.

One common philosophical question of the Milky Way was whether the soul or the physical body was the core of a being.

Many believed the soul was the core; in fact, the body was.

All those who claimed that beautiful appearances all meld together after a while, but interesting souls are few and far between—those tended to be the ones who cared about appearance most of all.

Why was the body the core? The Milky Way was a fundamentally material world, and a soul without a body could hardly be part of it.

On the other hand, a soulless body was a material existence.

The body was the root of the spirit, which allowed it to take material form. On the other hand, the soul wasn't an independent existence; its form depended on the condition and age of its body.

The disaster-grade chimera combined the special properties of many different disaster-grade lifeforms, and its existence was unique. Now that its soul was so severely damaged, it was clearly incapable of handling this combined body. Each constituent part of the body was now controlled by the individual souls out of which the chimera had been made.

Zhang Lie naturally didn't intend on giving up on such an excellent opportunity to end the match. He unsheathed Hanguang.

"[Blades, Reverberate]!"

A blood dragon materialized around Zhang Lie. Energy poured out of him in waves, honing the edge of his blade. The pulses of energy struck the realm like a tsunami, devouring everything within.

The twin blades Guicang and Hanguang emitted a fearsome aura, shining as brightly as the sun and moon. Sword energy materialized from Guicang into a blood dragon that revolved around his body.

The blade Hanguang morphed into a black dragon, and the blade Guicang into a blood dragon. The two dragons, coiling together as one, shot out toward Zhou Ying like a hurricane, bearing down on him with the might of Zhang Lie's spiritual sea between them.

Infused with the blood moon and the black sun, the twin dragons formed a black whirlpool. Tremendous suction, like that from a black hole, sucked up everything around the two combatants—layers of earth sank into the whirlpool, obliterated in an instant.

Three of the nine chimera heads' eyes turned red. They roared with the power of the blood sun and black moon, causing the other heads to regain focus. The radiant light emanating from its body transformed into a thousand rainbow banners that filled heaven and earth.

With their life in danger, the disparate parts of the chimera were forced to reunite.

The chimera turtled up in its shell.

The black and blood dragons from Zhang Lie's attack penetrated the shell, sending it flying like a cannonball with the strength of their attack. It smashed apart a ten-thousand-ton mountain and crushed countless others. It took a long while before the chimera could recover.

108 silver blades trembled and shot straight at Zhang Lie in an attempt to pierce through him. The chimera had used its full strength in an attempt to hurt Zhang Lie.

"[Blade of the Heavens: the Sea Swells]!"

Zhang Lie stared at the chimera, his eyes cold. Energy poured out of him in waves, honing the edge of his blade. The pulses of energy struck the realm like a tsunami, devouring everything within.

A frightening burst of sword energy spread out like a tsunami, cutting all the blades apart.

The chimera howled in fury, but Zhang Lie was in the acme of his strength. He charged forward with Guicang.

The chimera stared at Zhang Lie with baleful eyes. Radiant light shot out from its mouth straight at him, who shattered the light with Guicang. It roared and flew through the air, then swooped down toward Zhang Lie with blazing breath.

"[Ninecarp Transformation]!"

Red scales formed a natural suit of red armor around Zhang Lie. He was surrounded by what looked like scarlet flames, but was actually steaming, blood-red water-attuned genetic energy. A black sun rose behind his back, and a blood moon shone at his feet.

A long tail grew out of his back. His black hair took on a red tint, as though they were lit up by an inner fire. Interlocking rings of black and red that warped natural law surrounded his body, and a domineering aura exuded from him.

Red water-attuned genetic energy surrounded Zhang Lie, manifesting in the shape of a dragon.

He sent a sword slash, blazing with fire, at the chimera. The fiery-red genetic energy was interspersed with radiant light, suppressing the chimera's flames in favor of his own.

The chimera howled. Before it could react, one of its hind legs had been chopped off.

Chapter 1380: Six-Colored Core

As Zhang Lie's scarlet blade flashed, one of the disaster-grade chimera's wings was sliced off. It fell from the sky as Zhang Lie's blade beheaded two more of its heads.

Even so, the chimera didn't give up. With its superior regenerative ability, it began to regrow its wing and right hindleg. The power of the blood moon and black sun condensed around it. Light, darkness, yin, and yang intersected in its domain.

"[Blades, Extinguish]!"

Zhang Lie launched a killing blow. Guicang gleamed brightly in Zhang Lie's hands as he infused more and more spiritual energy into it. From the surface of his spiritual sea came waves charging forward, sounding like stampeding hooves, like raging dragons.

Zhang Lie's spiritual sea expanded greatly, past the confines of his own body. As the mistmeld clam soulshard's energy was infused within the blade, it began glowing with multicolored light, simultaneously illusory and real. A sea seemed to rest in the crack between the two domains, unable to be touched or otherwise sensed.

The transient, illusory nature of the light captivated everyone who saw it.

The sword in Zhang Lie's hands burned with scarlet water-attuned genetic energy. Billowing clouds of red-tinted steam surrounded him as though he were a burning pyre.

The high-temperature steam was so hot that it visibly glowed an alarming shade of red.

This domain of scarlet steam was so dangerous that an ordinary lifeform would likely be vaporized without a trace.

Bu Wentian, watching the fight unfold, couldn't help but be surprised. "Is this you at your peak strength, then?"

The temperature around Zhang Lie grew so hot that his surroundings began to warp. Mirages formed all around him.

One of Zhang Lie's blades glowed with radiant light; the other shone scarlet with water-attuned genetic energy.

The illusory sea combined with the scarlet ocean of reality, the attack simultaneously in the boundary between the real and the illusory, linking together the physical and metaphysical, the real and the abstract.

The two halves of the attack clashed with each other.

The spiritual sea began to burn, as though it had been ignited by the scarlet steam, forming spiritual flame. The scarlet steam, bolstered by the spiritual sea, grew even hotter. Contact with the steam seemed to sap at one's very soul.

Zhang Lie had allowed these two disparate sources of energy to combine, and their merger was so intense that the distinction between the real and illusory began to blur.

The surface of the sea frothed with angry waves, like dragons emerging with the tide.

The waves roared through the sea like galloping steeds, like thundering dragons.

From afar, the waves looked like a coven of flaming phoenixes spreading their wings and taking flight; from close up, they looked like flaming dragons.

These manifestations all drew from Zhang Lie's immense spiritual and genetic energy reserves, along with the sword techniques and willpower that he had honed over countless battlefields.

The spiritual sea seemed to belong to a separate dimension altogether, whereas the scarlet water-attuned genetic energy was in Zhang Lie's current dimension. The two sources of energy were

linked and made manifest by Zhang Lie, and they both surged forward as Zhang Lie swung his twin blades.

The two blades combined spiritual and genetic energy, willpower and time. All that melded into a tsunami which surged toward the chimera. The combination of these disparate energies was so potent that it could destroy any lifeform's body and soul.

The chimera howled. Struck by the attack that melded the real and the illusory, it was stripped bare and disintegrated, leaving only a disaster-grade core where it once stood.

The will of the fourth realm announced in Zhang Lie's head, [You successfully killed a disaster-grade ????. By consuming the core of the disaster-grade ????, you may receive fifty disaster gene fragments.]

Zhang Lie sighed in relief—not because he had killed the disaster-grade chimera, but because he hadn't destroyed its core from his skill.

The core of the disaster-grade chimera bore six different colors, and it was five times larger than an ordinary disaster-grade core. Upon hearing the will of the world's announcement, Zhang Lie was dazed. The chimera's core would provide 50 disaster gene fragments!

"Just what has Bu Wentian created?"

He had never encountered such an unusual lifeform throughout the dimensional world.

It was evident that this was no natural disaster-grade lifeform; rather, Bu Wentian had created it through some special means. Zhang Lie was very interested in this procedure, and he made up his mind to ask Bu Wentian about it when he had time.

Now, however, Zhang Lie's priority was to absorb the disaster-grade core before him. That would allow him to max out his disaster gene fragments.

Zhang Lie cut his palm with his sword, then dripped blood onto the core. The moment it touched the core, the blood was quickly absorbed into its interior. It sucked up more and more of Zhang Lie's blood until it turned blood-red.

Zhang Lie opened his wounds again and again until the core became perfectly transparent. Then, he closed his eyes and began pouring concentrated, black genetic energy from his body into the core.

As Zhang Lie clutched the crystalline orb, brimming with light, he could see a strange and unusual world within. The earth was burning with flame, countless swords piercing through the ground like tombstones. Zhang Lie felt an unusual sense of kinship with it, as though it was already part of his body.

Zhang Lie swallowed the disaster-grade core whole. As it slid down his throat, six different sources of energy exploded within his body.

Disaster-grade energy was rampaging through his body!