

U. Warlord 1471

Chapter 1471: Let's Go Together

Yang Ze cried out, "Captain, you really are the luckiest of us all!"

Zhang Lie rolled his eyes.

Li Feng crept up. "So this is what a bug emperor looks like..."

Fang Yi said, "Captain, eat it. See if it's really as beneficial as claimed!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "There's no need to do it just yet while I'm in perfect condition. I can consume it once I'm injured."

Yang Ze shrugged. "How many people do you think can injure you within the competition, Captain?"

"Not one at all, I should think," Li Feng replied.

Zhang Lie kept the bug emperor and said, "Let's leave the area for the time being. I'm sure others noticed those phenomena just now, too."

Zhang Lie wasn't afraid of the other competitors, but dealing with too many of them at once would be annoying.

"Should we continue trying to gather the other members of Team Zenith?"

Zhang Lie nodded. Via the disaster-grade queen's hive soulshard, he pointed at the direction in which the two final members of Team Zenith were located. "They're over there."

Fang Yi rubbed at his jaw. "In that direction..."

"Is there a problem?" Zhang Lie asked.

Fang Yi replied, "I heard that there's a so-called divine lake in that area, with quite a number of treasures within."

"Let's go check it out, then," Yang Ze suggested. "It's on the way."

Zhang Lie didn't object.

The pool was surrounded by white fog; the land was pure and unblemished. Mountain streams fed into the limpid lake, and the area seemed to be surrounded by fog all year round. It was an ethereal scene untarnished by mortal presence.

The divine lake was one of the lakes in the region, but it was yet unclear just which one it was.

This stretch of land was surprisingly vast, extending tens of thousands of kilometers in all directions. Because the geography seemed rather uniform and the mist thick, many could easily lose their way in the area.

The four hunters set off. The phenomena that resulted from the appearance of the bug emperor lured a few cultivators over, but Zhang Lie dispatched them all readily.

There were plenty of strong lifeforms and talented cultivators that appeared to bar their path, but the four of them easily neutralized any threat.

Before them lay a sparkling lake, shining as though its surface were a polished gem. Two figures lay on the boulders by the side of the lake.

"Stop right there!"

As Zhang Lie approached, the two figures stood up sternly. Their eyes glinted with frost, like sharp blades.

"Hmm?" Zhang Lie noticed that silver scales were flashing within the pond. A few 'silver dragons' as long as an arm swam by with surprising speed.

In fact, these were a special variant of lotus flowers which were mysterious in the extreme. Despite being plants, they were able to transform into silver dragons and swim around a lake.

In addition, they possessed incredible speed.

They were a form of divine plant beyond even the likes of ordinary spiritual herbs.

Li Feng had once learned from other competitors that there were many herbs in this realm like bug monarchs and bug emperors, with the ability of advancing and evolving one's mental state and capacity.

Part of that evolution in the tournament would be reflected in one's physical body even outside of it; in a sense, it was much like playing Fortnite with additional benefits.

Of course, just like Fortnite, competitors started out at varying levels of skills, and the longer the tournament progressed, the stronger the strong competitors would get, and the weaker the weak ones.

The stronger cultivators would rapidly be able to obtain resources and grow even stronger, even taking advantage of their resources to lure others into a trap, while weaker cultivators had no choice but to suffer.

That said, luck was still a factor that had to be taken into account. With enough luck, a weaker cultivator could defeat a stronger one and quickly ascend in strength.

Some special resources within the realm would increase the variation, entertainment, and fun inherent to the tournament.

The realm wasn't just a tournament, but also a zone in which the strongest cultivators of the younger generation of fifth-realm existences could train and grow even stronger, sponsored by the peak existences of the realm. Being able to obtain these benefits in the realm would lead to considerable boosts in one's strength.

The appearance of Zhang Lie's four-man party caused the two figures to immediately grow alert.

"You—get over here!" Just then, a cultivator spoke up from afar. As he stood up, a terrifying aura billowed from him.

Clearly, the two figures they had seen were no more than guards; this was the cultivator they served.

His hair was lush and purple, and his pupils were purple-tinted gold. They were like twin beams pointed at the incoming cultivators.

"What's the matter?" Zhang Lie asked coolly.

"I'm lacking a few helpers to chase those silver dragons in the lake for me," the purple-haired cultivator declared.

Zhang Lie laughed. He wouldn't provoke others, but would surely respond if provoked. Conveniently, he was searching for an opponent against whom he could test his newfound strength.

"And who are you to command us to work on your behalf?" Yang Ze retorted.

Then, he frowned. Another pair of cultivators were coming over, one male and one female. The male was immediately recognizable as Chen Feng, and the female appeared to be very strong as well.

Li Feng frowned. "It's that scumbag from the Hall of Immortals."

"Brother Hou, weren't you looking for a servant? This cultivator would fit the role perfectly. He's strong enough to go head-to-head with the geniuses of the supreme forces, and he's a good match for you," Chen Feng called out.

"Is that so?" The purple-haired man looked at Zhang Lie appraisingly.

One of the cultivators said, "I have some impression of this man. He seemed to have killed one of your kin while making the crossing over the log bridges leading to the nine holy mountains."

The purple-haired man's eyes brightened as his face turned dark. "I was a little interested at first, but if you're able to kill one of my kin, then you're clearly strong enough for my needs. I do need a servant at the moment."

Zhang Lie considered the purple-haired man. His aura seemed familiar, but Zhang Lie couldn't place him.

He had killed far too many competitors while crossing the log bridges and heading toward the holy mountains.

The woman smiled. There was a tuft of feathers on her head that made her look particularly beautiful. Her very being exuded a surprising charm. "Be careful. He's not an easy opponent, and he beat the invincible Solarvine during the qualifiers."

"Better that he be strong. I want such a servant, and it looks like he'd serve as a good human steed, too." The purple-haired man laughed. Despite his arrogant words, he was clearly wary of the enemy cultivator, and was deliberately provoking him to see how he would respond.

"Brother Hou, let me take him on first. I'd like to force him to submit as a prisoner so that I might give him to you as a gift," Chen Feng began, deliberately trying to humiliate Zhang Lie.

His eyes flashed. While fighting for the silver bug monarch, Zhang Lie had taken advantage of him and trod on his head. He had wanted revenge ever since.

"Come at me together," Zhang Lie said, without any fear despite facing the six enemy cultivators. He stepped forward calmly, each step causing the lake to ripple. His feet seemed to be attuned to a mysterious rhythm.

Chapter 1472: Divine Radiance

"Come at me together," Zhang Lie said, without any fear despite facing the six enemy cultivators. He stepped forward calmly, each step causing the lake to ripple. His feet seemed to be attuned to a mysterious rhythm.

The strange harmony of his footsteps caused heaven and earth alike to resonate. A tremendous aura emanated from Zhang Lie, shocking the enemy cultivators.

Afar, despite the strength of the two cultivators who served as scouts, they coughed out blood upon being subject to the rhythm of Zhang Lie's footsteps. They retreated in shock, paling as they considered the enemy. Who was this cultivator, to be able to hurt them with just the sound of his footsteps?

"Incredible aura. Amazing!" the woman said, laughing. She moved with a graceful poise that exuded charm. Her body glimmered with light, as though she would strike at any moment.

Zhang Lie continued to walk. His rhythmic footsteps grew stronger and stronger, like the war drums of heaven.

"You're too prideful to be a servant. That won't do. We'll need to make you submit, then!" the purple-haired man exclaimed. He roared, summoning starlight to himself. The starlight manifested in the form of a translucent image that surrounded him, with a deer's antlers, a camel-like head, a cat's ears, lobster-like eyes, a camel's mouth, a lion's mane, a snake's neck, a bull's abdomen, and a carp's scales. It had front claws like those of an eagle and hind claws like those of a tiger.

Upon seeing the purple-haired man's visage, Zhang Lie recalled the two cultivators that had blocked his way across the log bridge.

One was surrounded with a deathly aura, while the other was a purplegold denglong.

The woman said that Zhang Lie had slain the purple-haired man's kin. Clearly, the purple-haired man was a purplegold denglong in his own right.

Compared to the one he had encountered at the log bridge, this one was clearly stronger.

Resounding soundwaves, imbued with starlight, surged forward.

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, transforming into a flood and magnifying the sound waves.

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.

A glimmering rope soared through the air like a dragon, piercing through the pale-blue storm of genetic energy and attempting to trap and kill Zhang Lie.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!"

With a wave of his pointer finger, Zhang Lie unleashed a beam of sword energy to defend against the rope.

A raging shark swam forth along the beam.

A bolt of lightning exploded around him as a mortar of bone appeared. Chen Feng had struck to destroy the shark formed from genetic energy. The mortar smashed into the ground, causing it to explode in a series of shockwaves.

Smoke and dust filled the air.

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

A sword flashed, the strike forming a long river through the skies. It defended against the shockwaves and canceled them out.

Yang Ze stood to the side of the divine lake, wreathed in white fog.

Just then, several of the silver dragons within the lake, spooked by the explosions, dove deep down and vanished from sight.

"If you've scared my divine plants off, I'll brew potions with your blood," the purplegold denglong declared. He was tall and sturdy, purple hair scattered across his shoulders. His gaze was like an animal's.

"Your plants? Those silver-dragon lotuses belong to us," Yang Ze countered.

"Stand back. Let me have a go!" Chen Feng said. He was still upset that Zhang Lie had stepped on his skull, and he wanted to defeat him personally. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to swallow the shame and humiliation.

"Know your limits," Zhang Lie replied coolly.

Chen Feng frowned in rage. Light radiated from him as a purple longbow appeared in his hands, glimmering with a divine glow. He nocked an arrow and loosed it.

"After offending a member of the Hall of Immortals, even the genius protege of a supreme force would have a hard time surviving the subsequent pursuit. Your death draws near!" Chen Feng declared. Wind and storm surged around the arrow as it arced toward Zhang Lie, surrounded with lightning and a demonic aura.

The arrow hummed as it shot forth, unleashing all sorts of phenomena.

This was an arrow that Chen Feng had infused with killing intent; it sought out Zhang Lie's heart, to pierce through his body. He committed all his resources to this one attack.

The woman and the purplegold denglong nodded. An arrow of this caliber was strong beyond compare, and would easily have taken down most cultivators.

Even so, Zhang Lie stood tall and firm, without any intention of dodging the blow.

"[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, thick and cloying like storm clouds, surrounded him.

As the divine arrow entered the clouds, its momentum swiftly dissipated. By the end of its flight, Zhang Lie easily caught it in his hand.

"What a joke. Do you think you can claim my life if you can't even become the next Immortal King?" Zhang Lie scoffed.

His naked disdain caused Chen Feng to flush scarlet. He shot out a rapid series of arrows. "Take this, then—[Godkilling Arrows]!"

Chen Feng leapt into the air, surrounded by void. Flowers bloomed around him, radiant in their potency.

The first arrow sent flames raining down.

The second arrow was filled with gold-attuned genetic energy, resonating with the heavens as it pierced through a horde of arclight dragons.

The third arrow caused the ground itself to surge. A boulder obliterated the dragon horde.

The fourth arrow was like the raging sea, bringing a towering wave with it.

A series of five arrows heralded the five elemental forces with devastating strength. Even the purplegold denglong would have had to treat this blow seriously.

And that wasn't it. The final two arrows shot out consecutively, one sparking with blinding light, the other pitch-black like darkness.

They represented mastery over the forces of light and darkness, and were even stronger than the original five.

Zhang Lie frowned. Chen Feng's skill made it clear why the Hall of Immortals was such a frightening force. Even someone who had failed to become the next Immortal King possessed such strength and had access to such an incredible cultivation technique—it spoke volumes about the base of power that the Hall of Immortals possessed.

Chapter 1473: Deflecting the Soundwaves

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

The clouds gathered into a huge black serpent, which curled around the divine arrows.

"Break!"

Chen Feng shouted. The seven arrows shot forth at speed, so fast they were like beams of light, and caused the serpent to explode. The light continued forth toward Zhang Lie.

Shockingly, the clouds of corrosive energy around Zhang Lie ate away at the arrows, preventing them from drawing near.

The arrows sizzled away, their imbued light draining as they remained in contact with Zhang Lie's domain.

"What? How could this be?!" Chen Feng gasped. How could those dark clouds be so strong?

Chen Feng shouted and rallied once more, shooting out a series of arrows as his body glowed with multicolored light. He charged toward Zhang Lie and initiated a fight.

Both cultivators struck each other, neither attempting to dodge. This was a straightforward, head-on confrontation in which both cultivators attempted to demonstrate their strength.

Chen Feng spat out huge mouthfuls of blood as he retreated, his face distorted in pain. His palm had been crushed by Zhang Lie's fist. It was difficult to imagine how he could have been trumped so severely.

"A failure is a failure, after all. Others chose not to pursue you on account of the Hall of Immortals' name, but I don't mind making it my enemy," Zhang Lie said coolly.

These words were like blades that cut at Chen Feng's heart, agonizing him. He inclined his head toward the heavens, howled, and struck again.

"Come back, Brother Chen!" the woman cried out. She too made her move, sending a divine feather shooting out like a blade straight at Zhang Lie's forehead.

Fang Yi countered the blow, pointing at the feather with his finger. A waterfall of lightning crashed into the feather as he chuckled. "Don't interfere with another cultivator's fight. Just watch."

Zhang Lie charged toward Chen Feng, intending to kill him.

"I'll show you that, even if I can't become the next Immortal King, I have more than enough strength to kill you. You're nothing compared to the strength of the Hall of Immortals!" Chen Feng howled, a cold smile on his face. Killing intent bloomed around him.

Copper flashed in his palm and transformed into limitless light that exploded in the void, swallowing Zhang Lie up.

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.

The starlight's allure captivated all onlookers.

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 froze the copper glow around him.

"What?!" Chen Feng exclaimed. This glow was the most devastating technique he possessed, able to kill other cultivators in a formless manner. How had his opponent forestalled it?

Zhang Lie punched forward with a fist, sending the copper light back.

"No—no!" Chen Feng screeched, his face pale. Struck by the light, he was shot through with copper. He screamed as he rolled on the ground.

The copper light was clearly imbued with tremendous poison, or perhaps a curse that was unable to be cleansed. Chen Feng was far more devious a cultivator than Zhang Lie had anticipated, but he easily handled the attack. No matter how much Chen Feng attempted to hide his technique, nothing could escape Zhang Lie's senses.

"A failure is a failure," Zhang Lie repeated, stepping forward and kicking Chen Feng into the air. The lower half of his body exploded halfway through the kick into a mist of blood.

The upper half of Chen Feng's body remained. He fell to the ground and rolled around on the ground.

The next moment, Zhang Lie shot out a beam of sword energy that beheaded Chen Feng in a shower of light. Particles of light trailed down toward the back of his palm.

The moment Chen Feng was slain, the purplegold denglong and his subordinates made their move, as did Fang Yi, Li Feng, and Yang Ze.

The purplegold denglong's subordinates weren't easy foes. They were strong cultivators that he had caught, and were far superior to ordinary chaff. The woman was no weaker than Chen Feng herself.

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

His genetic energy condensed into a black dragon, whose scales were each a star.

The stars inlaid in its body formed a long stellar river, which transformed into dragons that shot out alongside Zhang Lie's punch.

The purplegold denglong sniffed in disdain as he countered with a punch.

The next moment, a wave of annihilation exploded around the dragon. Pitch-black energy swallowed everything in the vicinity like a storm at sea. The water of the lake was sucked into its midst. After the confrontation with Zhang Lie, the purplegold denglong had grown visibly bedraggled.

Even so, he was clearly a strong cultivator. Despite having been mired in the storm of annihilation, he roared and dispelled the energy with a shout, forcing his way out of the localized attack.

Black genetic energy burst forth from Zhang Lie, as though there were hundreds, thousands of dragons surging throughout his body.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Hundred Dragons Soaring]!"

A horde of dragons launched out of Zhang Lie's left arm as he expended half his genetic energy in one supercharged attack.

Howling with the force of thunder, the hundred stellar dragons soared through the air.

The energy of annihilation continuously exploded in the air around the purplegold denglong, causing him to screech in pain as he was one-sidedly suppressed.

"Be proud that you've forced me to this extent!" The purplegold denglong was forced to reveal his true form, with a deer's antlers, a camel-like head, a cat's ears, lobster-like eyes, a camel's mouth, a lion's mane, a snake's neck, a bull's abdomen, and a carp's scales. He had front claws like those of an eagle and hind claws like those of a tiger.

He howled as he continued fighting against Zhang Lie beside the lake.

Ripples of energy skated across the surface of the lake as the purplegold denglong was forced back with palm strike after palm strike. He coughed out blood as he roared angrily once more.

A concentrated howl was strong enough to cause even the moon in the sky to shake; the purplegold denglong possessed incredible strength.

Light swamped Zhang Lie, but even so, the denglong wasn't strong enough to take him down.

Zhang Lie activated his dragonwolf soulshard. His russet fur seemed to glimmer with stellar radiance, each hair a shining star, as though he were draped with the entirety of the Milky Way. His four limbs were armored with a dragon's scales, each a burning golden sun. The two soulshards' power combined.

A dragon's horns grew out of Zhang Lie's forehead, shining with stellar radiance, surrounded by galactic starlight. To others, he would seem to have the boundless energy of a new galaxy.

Zhang Lie swiped forward with his claws, slashing apart the sound waves.

He descended from the skies, kicked the denglong down, then sat himself down atop his prone body. "How about you be my steed instead?"

The purplegold denglong thundered, "Never!"

Chapter 1474: Let's Split Up

The denglongs were a famous race in the universe, and they could never stoop so low as to be someone else's mount.

If word that he had become Zhang Lie's mount were to spread, he would become an embarrassment to his race, one that would be slaughtered by his own kin after he left this virtual realm.

"Then be on your way."

Zhang Lie beheaded the denglong.

Not far away, the woman turned to flee.

Zhang Lie chased after the woman, who ran away at great speed. In order to escape, she even revealed her true form—a dragon-headed phoenix. Her cries resounded through the heavens as light emanated from her and Zhang Lie.

Despite her best efforts, Zhang Lie was like a heavenly monarch, each of his punches filled with starlight. The dragon-headed phoenix was forced into passivity as she ducked and wove.

Yang Ze struck at an opportune moment, his water-attuned genetic energy exploding like the tides.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragonwhale]!"

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.

The whale's body was long and streamlined, with long whiskers and scales patterning its body. As it flipped over, pale-blue genetic energy exploded. The dragon-headed phoenix felt as though she had been crushed under the sea. She vanished in a pile of mental dust, slain in a moment. Pinpricks of light flew toward the back of Zhang Lie's palm.

The divine lake rippled, fog wafting out from its surface. It was clean and pure, and the place looked like something out of an immortal realm.

Zhang Lie stood atop a blue rock on the lake, observing its surface as he searched for the silver-dragon lotuses.

"Where could they have gone?"

He frowned in surprise. The lake wasn't particularly large, and he could easily see all the way into its depths. However, the silver-dragon lotuses had vanished.

Yang Ze and the others helped search as well, but none of them could see the lotuses at all.

"Let's split up and search," Li Feng suggested.

Zhang Lie nodded approvingly. "We'll meet up here in half an hour regardless of success."

The cultivators scattered.

Zhang Lie leapt into the lake, towards its bottom. It was peaceful and idyllic there; there were no monsters or anything of the sort. A faint fragrance suffused the water and was absorbed into his lungs.

"As expected of a divine plant!"

Zhang Lie quickly found the problem. There was a hidden stream in the lake leading toward another body of water entirely. He followed along the stream, unwilling to give up on such a rare plant.

The underground river was particularly long, and the current surprisingly rapid. It too was suffused with a pleasant scent. Zhang Lie smiled at having found the trail of the silver-dragon lotuses.

He followed the underground river for hundreds of kilometers before the current slowly petered out. Then, it began to elevate as he found himself in a giant lake.

A huge sword slash shot down toward him, barely missing him. He was incensed to have been attacked out of nowhere.

Another blood-red slash came at him, tearing apart the lake. It was a frightening attack, but the sword slash went wide.

Zhang Lie frowned. His unknown assailant was far too inaccurate—or could he not have been the target?

He carefully extended his senses to discover a huge fight brewing. There were plenty of cultivators around the lake engaging in large-scale confrontation against the wild lifeforms of this realm.

He realized his mistake now. He had appeared on a chaotic battlefield; no one was targeting him.

"Damn it. A divine plant is exceptionally rare, and I can't let anyone else catch sight of the silver-dragon lotuses." Zhang Lie carefully swam around the lake in search of the rare plants.

Suddenly, waves surged, and he barely avoided being flung into the air.

The aerial battle was particularly intense, and countless attacks, runes, and explosions could be felt even below the surface of the water.

It was exceptionally dangerous, and a moment's carelessness could cause great peril.

Zhang Lie cursed. His search was taking a very unfortunate turn.

The moment someone else noticed the divine plant, he wouldn't be able to avoid a fight. All the cultivators in the area would swoop down and attempt to snatch the treasure from him.

"Appear!" he whispered, continuing to swim forth.

He ducked low, close to the bottom of the lake, and avoided a large-scale attack from high above.

"I've found them!"

Finally, Zhang Lie saw a few silver glows. The silver-dragon lotuses darted about at a rapid clip. Although they were each only about the length of an arm, their silver sheen made them stand out even in the turbid lake.

A huge wave surged again.

Zhang Lie frowned. He was very displeased; if not for the divine plants, he would have been tempted to head up above the surface and join the fight. As is, he barely avoided being struck.

The silver-dragon lotuses fled in panic.

"Hmm?" Suddenly, he saw a figure dart underwater following the silver-dragon lotuses.

Had someone else discovered the divine plants? Those belonged to Zhang Lie!

A hand reached out and grabbed a silver dragon, then inspected it carefully. The figure shook in excitement, surprised and excited.

Zhang Lie crept up to the figure, a woman with slender limbs and snowy-white skin.

She was hidden in some high-level stealth technique that made her difficult to sense even at close range. If not for the fact that she had sought out his prey, he might not even have noticed her.

She reached out and caught another silver dragon.

Zhang Lie knew that he couldn't wait any longer. He crept up to the woman and struck as fast as lightning, grabbing onto one of her legs and pulling her down. Then, he rapidly claimed the silver-dragon lotuses she had acquired.

The woman was exceptionally shocked. Her body grew taut as she radiated a large quantity of light, intending to shake off her pursuer.

Zhang Lie was surprised by the amount of strength she possessed. Her skin gleamed with moonlight; an ordinary cultivator might have died from the intense vibrations.

"It's you!"

The woman turned around to look at Zhang Lie, revealing incredible beauty. Her expressive eyes were filled with shock. She recognized Zhang Lie, having seen him not too long ago.

Her clothes fluttered in the water, revealing snowy-white skin. Her eyes were large, her eyebrows long, her hair trailing behind her like black silk. She was so beautiful that Zhang Lie momentarily forgot to breathe.

Zhang Lie recognized her as well—Feng Xian.

"We meet again."

Zhang Lie didn't hesitate to strike at once.

Feng Xian's forehead glowed with light as frightening ripples of energy emanated from her. She invoked divine spiritual power.

Feng Xian was strong beyond belief. She came from the Starbright Academy of the fifth realm, and was the foremost student of her cohort. She knew far more about this virtual realm than Zhang Lie did; unlike Zhang Lie, who had meandered aimlessly, Feng Xian had strengthened herself tremendously in as short a time as possible. Her mental state had undergone a transformation, and she had grown even stronger.

Chapter 1475: The Ultimate Blow

Zhang Lie's temples throbbed as his vision seemed to turn dark. Even with his astounding willpower, he had almost fainted on the spot—and his mental strength had been bolstered by two lifetimes' worth of living. An ordinary cultivator's brain might well have exploded.

This was how incredible Feng Xian's mental strength had become.

Even so, Zhang Lie gritted his teeth and managed to survive the attack.

Feng Xian herself was shaken. She had managed to seize quite a few opportunities within this realm, and had even gained a bug emperor of her own and undergone a mental transformation. Her mental strength alone was all but able to kill even a genius protege of the supreme forces on the spot. This was her biggest trump card and the reason why no ordinary competitor would dare to fight with her.

Even so, her trump card had failed to kill the man before her.

Zhang Lie's fingers curled into lustrous claws. His palm was sharper than any weapon, and was easily able to cut mortal skin and flesh.

Feng Xian's pearlescent, ruby-red blood formed a pink cloud in the lake water, but Zhang Lie's claws quickly met resistance with a metallic clang. Zhang Lie was surprised.

His right claw had drawn blood but was prevented from doing any further damage by a barrier of light.

Lustrous light formed a shield all over Feng Xian's body, protecting herself against external force and preventing Zhang Lie's claw from penetrating her flesh.

Feng Xian had grown more resilient compared to the start of the tournament.

Was she really still a mortal, or a woman of metal and steel?

He didn't know what was going on; there should be few cultivators who had had their physical bodies tempered to such an extent to be comparable with his own.

This wasn't the sensation that a mortal body should have. She glowed with light and was cold and hard like an ore of metal.

Meanwhile, Feng Xian began to counterattack. She moved rapidly as she formed seals with her hands. Her body was a series of afterimages; she looked like a divine bird swooping with wings outstretched, a frightening gale behind her.

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 space and striking the palm of fog. The two competitors clashed against each other.

As the waves burst apart, the air filled with echoes of Zhang Lie's signature genetic energy. The genetic energy was as deep as the sea. It transformed into a storm that ravaged the land.

The ground quaked.

In a flash, the two cultivators exchanged thousands of blows, combining physical might with genetic power. Each of Zhang Lie's punches seemed to bear the weight of a typhoon.

Feng Xian was no slouch, either. Her own tempest raged as she unleashed a bevy of complicated techniques in an extravagant display of light.

As their punches met, both cultivators were sent flying.

"I'm not the old me. Do you think you're a match for the new me?" Feng Xian quickly shot forward. Where she strode, lotuses bloomed. Crystalline flowers budded and blossomed around her in incandescent light.

Power manifested around her. Her eyes, brilliant as lightning, intensified.

"[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, devouring the crystalline petals.

Feng Xian reacted swiftly. More golden lotus petals scattered around her and transformed into burning energy that countered the dark clouds around Zhang Lie. Her golden light pierced through them as she shot

Another clash unfolded as the two cultivators traded blows. Their attacks blurred as the tempo of the fight was raised ever again.

Suddenly, a gigantic burst of energy separated the two of them. The void distorted; their surroundings exploded.

"I'll kill you today!"

Feng Xian took the initiative to attack once more. She looked to be a genteel beauty, but her attacks and movements were sharp and decisive, with no wasted movement whatsoever. Her aura was oppressive. She struck like a storm.

After an intense series of attacks, her body suddenly grew taut. Her bones turned silvery-white as she shot toward Zhang Lie like an arrow.

"[Divine Arrow]!" She blurred; her attacks were so fast they were almost impossible to detect.

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

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

Feng Xian was visibly startled, but she easily dodged the serpent given her extreme speed. She looked like a bolt of silver lightning as she zipped through the air.

This was a use of spatial force at its peak, allowing her to behave like a divine arrow that shot through the void at extreme speed but simultaneously allow for rapid changes in direction.

As Zhang Lie activated his monarch-grade limitless universe soulshard,

In order to catch up with Feng Xian's speed, Zhang Lie activated his limitless universe soulshard. He glowed with stellar radiance, like a burning star. Starlight flowed through his body in phantasmagorical colors.

The starlight's allure captivated all onlookers.

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 as he barely managed to match her speed.

The woman continued barreling forward, obliterating any obstacles in her way.

Zhang Lie himself was making a move. A starlit sea manifested around him, and the power of the stars formed a whirlpool using his water-attuned genetic energy as a foundation.

The whirlpool caused the void to grow sluggish, limiting the speed of the silver arrow into which the woman had transformed.

Zhang Lie activated his dragonwolf soulshard. His russet fur seemed to glimmer with stellar radiance, each hair a shining star, as though he were draped with the entirety of the Milky Way. His four limbs were armored with a dragon's scales, each a burning golden sun. The two soulshards' power combined.

Chapter 1476: Resonant Quaking

A dragon's horns grew out of Zhang Lie's forehead, shining with stellar radiance, surrounded by galactic starlight. To others, he would seem to have the boundless energy of a new galaxy.

Zhang Lie swiped forward with his claws. Starlight flooded forward, splitting apart heaven and earth as it shot toward the silver arrow. Simultaneously, his left hand manifested pitch-black genetic energy in the form of an ocean, one darker than the night. It hemmed in the void and sealed off Feng Xian's escape.

Even so, Feng Xian glided forward, somersaulted in the air, and whipped her legs toward his head.

Zhang Lie defended himself with crossed arms. Feng Xian's forehead glowed. A ball of golden energy could be seen within, almost like a fireball.

Zhang Lie's temples throbbed in pain again. He stumbled but didn't let go, allowing the attack to wash over him until her mental energy gave out.

Zhang Lie clawed at Feng Xian's body again, but sparks flew where he struck her, accompanied by a metallic clang. This was no mortal body of flesh and blood.

Feng Xian's body glowed with light as though it were a holy raiment, blocking Zhang Lie's attack.

Zhang Lie frowned. What sort of technique was this that would allow a mortal being to possess such supernatural defenses?

Zhang Lie attempted to strike her again, but it was useless.

Feng Xian drew a divine blade scintillating with light. The edge was keen and incredibly sharp. She made to behead Zhang Lie.

Feng Xian struck at her opponent cruelly as Zhang Lie drew Guicang to defend himself. The two slashes tore apart the heavens as they collided with each other. Shockwaves of energy rippled from the point of impact.

Feng Xian glowed with light as her sword's strength magnified, destabilizing the space all around her.

Zhang Lie's surroundings lit up with starlight as pitch-black genetic energy dispersed, blocking Feng Xian's blade.

Feng Xian recoiled in shock, retrieving her blade with some difficulty before launching yet another mental attack, poised to split Zhang Lie's head open.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!"

Zhang Lie manifested a sword will that rose into the heavens, strong beyond human understanding, vast as the ocean.

The sun glowed with splendor. Golden runes patterned the air. Starlight shone through the heavens.

His surroundings, consecrated with the might of a golden sun, resplendent and blazing, was so bright that the spectators had to look away.

The spectators found their souls trembling.

Heaven and earth resonated with the will of the sword and obliterated Feng Xian's attack. Zhang Lie's sword will continued toward her, undeterred.

"Open!"

Feng Xian whispered. Motes of light formed a small, fist-sized replica of her that gave off a frightening aura and shocked all spectators.

Her mental strength had reached the point where she could manifest an eidolon in reality that could strike at Zhang Lie.

Zhang Lie was taken aback. His opponent's mental strength was beyond compare. At close range, she could easily take down another cultivator with just the effect of her mind.

With mental strength alone, she was able to combat [The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave].

The wave crested and broke around her—not a real wave, but rather a condensed form of genetic energy.

Zhang Lie was forced to take this fight seriously for the first time.

Feng Xian was truly strong, far stronger than she had been during their first encounter. Not only was her physical body unassailable, she possessed tremendous mental strength

which she could even transform into weapons— a sword one moment, a lance the next, indestructible and unbelievably sharp.

Zhang Lie himself was feeling pressured.

"Break!"

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

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

The temperature 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.

Zhang Lie's sword swung down, causing a stellar river to descend onto the mortal realm. Countless black serpents tore Feng Xian's mental weaponry apart in a crack of lightning.

Feng Xian's eidolon sent a golden cauldron brimming with light smashing into the stellar river, which whirled around Feng Xian.

Within moments, the netherworld serpents swallowed her up and entered her body through her mouth, nose, and skin.

Strong though Feng Xian was, her defenses didn't extend throughout her body. Her face and neck, for instance, were exposed to the surroundings.

"Die!" Feng Xian thundered, enraged. An explosion of mental strength forced all the serpents out of her body, but at significant cost. Weakened, she was forced to retreat and to reabsorb her eidolon within herself.

Her eyes cold, she glared at the reviled, shameless opponent standing before her.

Feng Xian scowled.

She thought that she had seized tremendous opportunities from this mental world, that the mental evolution she had undergone after consuming a bug emperor would allow her to take on Zhang Lie, but that didn't turn out to be the case. Even before she could force Zhang Lie to make use of his trump cards, she was unable to keep fighting.

Zhang Lie said, "Don't keep staring at me like that. I know you're interested in me, but I'm taken. Sorry, you're not my type."

Upon hearing Zhang Lie's words, Feng Xian grew so mad that she almost continued attacking him. What do you mean, I'm not your type? As if I'm inferior—I'm a genius of Starbright Academy, supremely talented and beautiful! Who cares if you don't like me? Plenty would be happy to have me look in their direction! How shameless could you get?!

Chapter 1477: Split the Loot

Even so, Feng Xian quashed her anger. The image of a phoenix, wings outstretched, appeared behind her. Feng Xian said, "I have to admit that you're strong, and I'm not a match for you just yet. By the next time we meet, I'll have grown even stronger. I hope you can maintain your relaxed attitude then."

The fact that Feng Xian was able to say something like this so calmly was a sure sign that she had a trump card up her sleeve.

Zhang Lie was certain that he knew too little about the fifth realm.

Feng Xian had grown considerably stronger since the last time he had seen her, and her physical strengthening technique had even melded into her blood and flesh, developing a truly impenetrable body. She had even gained powerful mental abilities. Zhang Lie didn't know how much stronger Feng Xian would become the next time. He knew that he couldn't let her leave now, even if he had to make use of methods that he disdained.

Zhang Lie took out Feng Xian's dudou again. "Again, Feng Xian?"

Feng Xian stopped short.

"Ever since you left me, I've been feeling lonely late at night. All I can do to comfort myself is to pull out the clothing you left behind. If you try to escape, Feng Xian, why, I don't know what I might end up doing."

Feng Xian's eyes glimmered with killing intent as Zhang Lie threatened her with her dudou once again.

She was embarrassed and incensed about their initial fight.

Zhang Lie clasped his hands over his heart. "You can leave, Feng Xian, and I won't stop you. However, I might tell everyone about the night I spent with you. I'm sure many would want to learn about our interactions."

Feng Xian pursed her lips in anger. This scumbag had to be doing this deliberately! He had somehow gained her innerwear. If word of this was to spread, she would never be able to clear her name.

Feng Xian stood poised and holy as she marshaled her strength and prepared to launch a killing blow at him. No matter how good her temper, even she couldn't bear Zhang Lie's repeated provocation.

Feng Xian glimmered with moonlight. The moonlight exuded from her and combined with her mental energy to unleash incredible strength.

A burst of sword energy swept past Zhang Lie, filled with radiant light. The combination of the moonlight and mental energy was multiplicative; her mental energy unlocked the latent potential in her physical body, and her physical strength augmented her mental energy. The virtuous cycle resulted in an explosive boost to her overall power.

The lakebed collapsed as a terrifying earthquake shook the lake.

"[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.

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.

The stellar sea neutralized Feng Xian's augmented attack.

As Zhang Lie's netherworld sea clashed against Feng Xian's sword energy, starlight exploded. Zhang Lie's stellar dragons were obliterated and fell to the ground in the form of starlight. The ground quaked, and the lake surged. As the entire lake was destroyed, a few silver-dragon lotuses popped out.

The shockwaves that resulted from the two cultivators forced the silver-dragon lotuses to show themselves and flee as rapidly as they could.

Otherwise, they would surely be destroyed if they remained in the vicinity of the two cultivators.

Zhang Lie shouted as he rushed forward in an attempt to catch the lotuses. "You've scared my divine plants off!"

"You dare leave now?!" Feng Xian chased after him furiously.

She had become truly angry; she no longer cared for these divine plants at all. She struck at Zhang Lie.

To Feng Xian, killing Zhang Lie was far more important than any treasure she might seek.

Very quickly, Zhang Lie caught up to the silver-dragon lotuses and recaptured them. He bound them together as they flashed silver and combined into a single lotus. It was particularly unusual, with leaves, flowers, and stem all covered in silver scales.

It was fragrant almost beyond belief—a divine plant with an exceptional appearance.

Feng Xian shot toward Zhang Lie and unleashed another killing blow. Her sword gave off so much energy that the lakewater within dozens of kilometers vaporized instantly, causing an upheaval as water elsewhere in the lake surged to fill the vacuum.

The disturbance naturally caught the eye of the cultivators in the sky; a huge fight was still occurring in the distance.

"Everyone, he's managed to harvest a silver-dragon lotus. You're all aware of what a treasure this divine plant is, aren't you?" Feng Xian shouted, her voice echoing through the heavens.

"Everyone, she's the one who has that divine plant. I saw it with my own eyes. She's trying to kill me to hide that information!" Zhang Lie shouted back.

He was a schemer, too.

The cultivators in the air were momentarily silent before they surged toward the two of them.

They didn't care which of the two had the treasure; it was clear that one of them did, so they just had to take both down.

Radiant light shot out from all over. The skies looked as though they were about to shatter.

A group of cultivators and frightening lifeforms of the realm approached, so many of them in all that it might as well have been a one-sided slaughter.

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

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

A dragon's howl shook heaven and earth. It blocked much of the devastating energy headed their way.

Zhang Lie was able to defend against the first wave of attacks, but even so, he would be hard-pressed to keep it up.

Just then, lightning flashed through the sky and a howling gale blew.

Chapter 1478: Pure and Chaste

The black spear sent wind howling and lightning flashing through the sky.

Chaotic lightning and howling winds formed as dozens of spear afterimages sent the competitors falling from the sky.

Zhang Lie looked toward the assailant.

Fang Yi had a pair of wings to his back formed of electrifying runes. A holy air suffused him. Electric arcs crackled loudly.

Zhang Lie smiled. "A timely appearance—perhaps too timely. Did you plan this?"

Fang Yi soared into the sky.

"[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 and transforming into a huge spear.

The spear splintered; its fragments, composed of chaotic wind and void lightning, rained down on the competitors and pierced through them all. They left furrows in the ground so deep they seemed to reach toward the core of the virtual realm.

Fang Yi had blended in with the crowd. His sudden attack left them all shocked.

None of them had been companions to begin with—no, they had all been enemies. Even so, they weren't expecting to turn on each other just yet. They immediately grew alert as they cautiously watched those around them.

Fang Yi's wings of wind and storm beat loudly as he smiled wryly. "No one can make as much trouble as you do, Captain."

They had barely split up for half an hour, but Zhang Lie had already made himself public enemy number one once again. Who else was so talented in such fashion?

Zhang Lie laughed. "I thought I would have to face them all down alone."

Fang Yi rolled his eyes. "I was in the vicinity, and I heard the commotion. Someone shouted something about the silver-dragon lotuses, and I was about to join in the chase when I realized that you were responsible.

While the two hunters exchanged information, the other competitors and wild lifeforms in the lake had rushed over.

"[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 struck them all and forced them back again.

Fang Yi looked toward Feng Xian, who was likewise surrounded.

Feng Xian wasn't weak. Her mental attacks might have been useless against Zhang Lie, but were extraordinarily effective against the bulk of the competitors. Her physical body was particularly strong to begin with; even Zhang Lie found it difficult to deal her effective blows, let alone other cultivators.

In gaming terms, Feng Xian was like a tanky priest, one that would be incredibly difficult to take down.

Even though, against a whole crowd of people who had been told she might possess priceless treasure, against a series of attacks that illuminated the very heavens, she could only react passively.

Fang Yi asked, "Shall we help your good friend?"

Zhang Lie rolled his eyes. "She's not my anything. She was the one who lured so much trouble over."

Fang Yi leered. "A one-night stand, then?"

"I've never had relations with that woman."

Fang Yi cocked an eyebrow. "Of course not."

"Are you trying to imply something?"

The competitors and lifeforms from the lake rushed over again.

Zhang Lie thrust forward with his blade, causing slashes of energy to rain down like a silver storm.

The competitors and lifeforms transformed into glowing motes of light in mid-air, all trailing toward the back of Zhang Lie's palm.

Zhang Lie had killed so many competitors and lifeforms lately that he didn't even bother looking at the changes to the back of his palm any longer.

"If you're that free, stop thinking about this nonsense and help me deal with the trash instead."

Fang Yi augmented himself with temporal force, causing a local speedup of time in the vicinity.

"[Shadow and Light]!"

Fang Yi's appearance blurred into a hundred clones. Spear thrusts and strikes shot forward in every direction.

The sword and the spear intersected in mid-air. Attacks rained down on all the foes around them.

"What's our plan, Captain?"

Fang Yi and Zhang Lie were positioned back to back.

Zhang Lie's lips curled up. In this sort of situation, fighting alongside Fang Yi reminded him of similar cooperation in his past life.

"It's useless for us to kill all these competitors. We'll fight our way out," Zhang Lie said, drawing Hanguang.

With one slash, he cut apart countless competitors rushing toward him.

"I'll lead the way, then!"

Wind howled and lightning flashed. Purple lightning skimmed across the air, and howling gales manifested in the shape of dragons.

"[Heaven's Judgment]!"

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

Fang Yi shot forward and broke out of the enclosure with incredible momentum.

"Who dares attempt to use lightning against me? You are like a firefly against the full moon!" a cold voice called out. The sky exploded in a waterfall of lightning.

A cultivator shot forward with a fist that lit up the heavens and dissipated all clouds in the vicinity. What incredible strength!

A young cultivator flew across the skies, long hair scattered over his back, his body lean and supple, every inch of muscle crackling with lightning. This was a true genius, one far stronger than the purplegold denglong that they had faced earlier.

"Stay behind!"

The lightning-imbued cultivator was far too fast. He blocked their way and punched at Fang Yi.

"Who are you? Get out of my way. As though you have a monopoly on lightning!" Fang Yi retorted. Rather than dodge, he thrust forward with his spear.

The ground exploded. Lightning filled the realm as though an apocalypse were drawing near, stretching for hundreds of kilometers on end.

The lightning-infused cultivator was shocked to see his opponent still standing, bathed in holy light.

One of the bystanders shouted, "It's the son of lightning!"

"Allegedly, he was born out of lightning and was taken in as the disciple of some supreme force. He possesses incredibly pure elemental lightning."

"With the son of lightning here, neither of the two cultivators will be able to escape!"

Upon hearing this, Fang Yi was rather interested in this cultivator as well.

Chapter 1479: Son of Lightning

As expected of the disciple of a supreme force of the fifth realm—the son of lightning's elemental might was astounding. Just the single technique he had displayed was infused with understanding over life and death, creation and destruction.

"You must be a fool to try to challenge me with lightning!" the son of lightning cried out. Lightning pierced through the air with enough force to split a mountain, like a rampaging sea striking at the sky.

The son of lightning boasted incredible strength. He threw a punch at Fang Yi, causing heaven and earth to quake from the impact.

"Captain, you leave first. I'd like to challenge this fellow." Fang Yi's gaze was terrifying. He had infused his body with the power of the elements, just like his opponent.

"[Floating Clouds]!"

The wind and lightning formed a loop around Fang Yi's body, which provided explosive strength that propelled Fang Yi forward.

Zhang Lie nodded. He understood Fang Yi's fervor.

If Zhang Lie were to remain, he would only disturb Fang Yi; in fact, Zhang Lie would be a detriment rather than a help.

Zhang Lie was confident in Fang Yi's strength and knew that he wouldn't lose even against this so-called son of lightning. If he stayed, however, the cultivators all around would attempt to strike at him and affect Fang Yi's fight.

Zhang Lie headed off immediately. The moment he left the vicinity of Fang Yi and the son of lightning, he was surrounded by the cultivators and lifeforms of the lake, who stared at him with cold sneers.

"Do you think you can leave just like that?"

"Hand over the divine plants."

Zhang Lie held Guicang in his left hand and Hanguang in his right. Even against the hundreds of cultivators and lifeforms before him, he didn't panic at all.

"Scram!"

Zhang Lie's aura was incredible. That one word alone caused quite a few cultivators to step back in shock.

"We have nothing to fear, not when there are so many of us! Charge!"

The cultivators and lifeforms charged forward.

Swords and blades flashed as countless cultivators and lifeforms struck simultaneously. Zhang Lie sauntered forward as blood sprayed all around him. A cacophony of screams followed him where he went as the cultivators turned into motes of light.

Upon seeing Zhang Lie calmly stepping forward and butchering all who crossed his path, many cultivators reared back in shock.

They thought that their numerical advantage would lead to a one-sided slaughter, and it did—but against their side rather than for it.

Meanwhile, the son of lightning had invoked the purest form of elemental lightning, and was blazing brightly like a flame.

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

The lightning sparked like a radiant sun, wreathed in storm, pitch-black like ink.

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.

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.

The hum of lightning caused all the cultivators in the vicinity to have ringing ears. Lightning pierced through the heavens as the virtual realm rumbled.

Regardless of the outcome of the fight, even if Fang Yi were to lose, what he had already accomplished was shocking. How could he manage to hold his own in a contest of lightning with the son of lightning himself?

The son of lightning wasn't a lifeform born of lightning, but rather during a thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning had struck his head, but not only did he not die, that bolt of lightning forged his body from infancy, allowing him to manipulate lightning at will ever since.

That was how he had come to be known as the son of lightning, and no one could best his ability that was granted by the heavens themselves.

In the sky, the two cultivators broke away from one another. The son of lightning was unscathed—but so was his opponent.

"Using lightning against the son of lightning? Incredible!"

The cultivators were all shaken. No one dared to underestimate Fang Yi.

"Against absolute strength, any form of defense will pale in comparison." The son of lightning stepped forward and shot toward Fang Yi like a lord of heaven.

Divine light burst forth from his palms, forming a mallet of lightning that he smashed down.

Lightning filled the air.

His stance was like that of a god. With his strength, with this one blow, he intended to sap Fang Yi of his fighting spirit.

The spectators around looked at him as though he were a god-king of myth and legend, subduing some demonspawn.

"Enough!" Fang Yi shouted, his gaze cold.

"[Heaven's Judgment: Four Sages' Roar]!"

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.

The combination of wind and lightning generated a frightening force that seemed to be able to penetrate space. Chaotic and spatial energy joined in the mix—a miniaturized version of his signature fivefold strike, at least at the level of a fourfold strike.

A black turtle and divine bird rushed out of the mix of chaotic energy, spatial rifts, wind, and storm.

The wind resolved into a stormwind dragon. Spatial force transformed into a qilin, with the void as its claws and lightning as its whiskers.

The lightning transformed into a white tiger wreathed with howling winds, spatial force forming its sharp claws and chaotic energy condensing into its eyes.

Spatial force manifested in the form of a divine bird, space its feathers, the storm its body, lightning its beak, and chaotic energy seeping from its feathers like burning flames.

The chaotic energy transformed into a black turtle, spatial force into its shell, lightning into its legs, and the stormy wind its head.

The four mythical beasts formed from the combination of the fourfold energies shot out as Fang Yi thrust his spear forward. The disparate energies corkscrewed together, simultaneously melded and distinct, as they shot toward the heavens.

As he thrust his spear forward, all the onlookers were taken aback. His attack had left tendrils of lightning all over the son of lightning's body.

"What? Someone can fight the son of lightning on equal footing in terms of lightning?!"

"What an incredible cultivator, combining storm and lightning energy to produce such devastating force!"

"This isn't just a clash of lightning against lightning, but rather wind and storm against lightning."

Chapter 1480: Against All Others

"No—look carefully. It's not just wind and storm. There are other elemental forces in the mix as well." One sharp-eyed cultivator pointed out the complexity of Fang Yi's technique.

"Could that be the legendary chaos?"

"Are you kidding? The energy of chaos is a top-tier elemental energy. Even among the universe, there are few known cultivators who have managed to harness its power. Anyone who can master chaos is surely an apex existence. This tournament is for novices—how could someone like that appear here?"

"That said, the competitor who defeated the Starlit Legend demonstrated control over chaos as well."

"Not just chaos, but time."

"Time and chaos? Two of the strongest elemental forces in the universe?"

Fang Yi struck with overwhelming force, as if he were a heavenly monarch.

The son of lightning blanched. He found himself on the losing end of things; his opponent's wind and storm energy was intermixed with chaos and elevated to a new level entirely. That mix of energies wasn't something that ordinary lightning could compare to.

The son of lightning spread out both hands. His left hand was pitch-black as ink, and his right blazing like the sun. Solar energy seemed to emanate from his right hand, while yin energy surged in his left, shielded by lightning.

Fang Yi's eyes widened.

The son of lightning was displaying two different types of lightning-attuned energy, one of pure yin and the other of pure yang.

The spectators were puzzled by what was going on. How could lightning-attuned energy be decomposed into such polar opposites?

His right hand was like the sun; his left hand was pitch-black, the lightning gathered around it soft as mud.

The son of lightning began, "While studying the pinnacle of lightning, I attempted to decompose it to its constituent elements. In the end, I found a secret that lies at the pinnacle."

Everyone stopped short and listened closely. The son of lightning had traveled far along the path of lightning, and what secrets he had divined from his experience could serve them all well for life.

"When I decomposed lightning into its constituent elements, I came to a shocking conclusion. All things are divided into yin and yang; life, lifeforms, and even lightning."

Many cultivators present were confused. "Lightning, formed of yin and yang? How?"

"Right? Isn't lightning sharp, fierce, and destructive? Surely lightning is the pinnacle of yang energy!"

Some cultivators, however, were more thoughtful. "Could this be the legendary notion that 'all things are birthed in pairs'?"

The son of lightning shook his head. "Lightning is neither of yin nor of yang, but rather formed as a result of collisions between yin and yang."

Fang Yi nodded in understanding.

The son of lightning was talking about protons and electrons, fundamental science knowledge that even middle-school students were aware of back on Earth.

Although the knowledge was foundational, to actually perform the decomposition was an incredible feat. Rather than calling the son of lightning a genius, however, it was more apt to consider him stubborn. Only a genius who had been able to manipulate lightning from birth would be able to transform such a fundamental interaction into a powerful blow.

The son of lightning clasped his hands together, combining yin and yang. A frightening burst of lightning erupted.

"[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.

As Fang Yi strode forward, a bell tolled to his back. Wheels of time stacked up one after another.

He intended to force a direct confrontation with the son of lightning. The son of lightning's attack was formed by forcibly sending a charge between protons and electrons, and everyone was startled by how strong the resulting lightning was. Even when bolstered by wheels of time, Fang Yi's strength was suppressed.

Through the fight, by personally experiencing attacks from the son of lightning, Fang Yi was attempting to grasp his opponent's intuitive control of lightning.

The images of a dragon and tiger appeared behind Fang Yi, the dragon formed of storm and the tiger of lightning. The storm dragon turned black, while the lightning tiger glowed with blinding light, like a blazing sun.

Fang Yi recalled what Zhang Lie had demonstrated in the third realm. Genetic energy took on an elemental attunement based on one's framework, but other elemental energies could be simulated as well. Another member of Team Zenith had accomplished such a feat.

Yin and yang were fundamental forces of nature, and Fang Yi could well take advantage of these notions to strengthen his own techniques.

The son of lightning was shocked. This technique was one that he had developed over years of deep analysis, but Fang Yi was starting to replicate it at incredible speed.

The son of lightning knew that he couldn't allow Fang Yi to keep growing stronger. A bolt of five-colored lightning struck the son of lightning. His surroundings glowed with color. This was an ultimate technique born of the pinnacle of lightning, combining lightning with the five fundamental elements. The son of lightning's lightning was elevated to new heights, but he was still unable to obliterate his opponent.

Using his immature combination of dipolar wind and storm, Fang Yi blocked the son of lightning's attack.

The two cultivators each retreated to one side.

Meanwhile, Zhang Lie was being besieged by a large group of cultivators. Despite his individual prowess, dealing with a huge crowd was still problematic. It was as though he were mired in a swamp and couldn't extricate himself.

Zhang Lie stepped through the void, a strange formation appearing beneath his feet.

"[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.

Everyone's energy was drained as Zhang Lie's was magnified.

The cultivators gaped in shock.

"What's this?!" Fang Yi turned and asked in excitement, "Captain, can you emulate Hong Xi's technique?"

"That's rather difficult, I'm afraid."

Fang Yi was speaking of the upgraded form of [Syzygy], which was able to weaken all cultivators in the vicinity and transfer all that strength to a single person or to a group of companions.

In either case, Zhang Lie would be able to handle the situation in far more relaxed a fashion.

The son of lightning frowned. Weakened by Zhang Lie's blood moon domain, his lightning grew faint; on the other hand, thanks to Zhang Lie's control, Fang Yi was unaffected.

"[Floating Clouds]!"

Fang Yi had no intention of wasting such an opportunity. He morphed into lightning itself. Storms rose up all around him, and he left a flurry of afterimages behind.

"You must be the one who slew our young star! Let me see just how strong you are." Suddenly, a Redgold competitor approached, seated cross-legged with his body cradled by a sun. Divine flame burned in his vicinity in a resplendent fashion.