

## U. Warlord 1501

Chapter 1501: Irrepressible

Destructive energy filled the realm as the void energy exploded, poised to tear everything apart.

The energy that the Immortal King's substitute possessed was shocking in its density and scope. The spectators found chills running down their backs, as though the apocalypse was nigh.

The cross-shaped scar in the void exploded in a blaze of endless light. In the face of divine radiance, all would be scoured clean.

Li Feng cut forward. The overflowing sword energy materialized in the form of a light dragon that tore apart the void.

The weapons clashed in a flash of divine light that illuminated the world. It was so strong that a mountain range by their feet burst apart.

Blood dyed the air.

The clash between the two combatants took place on the eastern half of the realm, then the western half, then back and forth. They moved so rapidly that it looked as though they were blinking from place to place. Sword energy shook the heavens. A dragon howled; a phoenix shrieked. Holy dragons flew through the air, and heavenly fire exploded. The spectators watched the fight unfold with shock and awe.

The Immortal King's substitute's body lit up with heavenly fire, silver-white over a blood-red core. Thunder rumbled through the air as the outline of a phoenix manifested behind him. He penetrated space as he charged forward.

"[The Boundless Blade: Cloudstep]!"

Li Feng soared into the air, propelling himself upward with every cloud he stepped on. He sent his light-imbued sword arcing through the air.

The Immortal King's substitute blocked the blow with his halberd in an explosion of the void. The sword energy caused even the stars to explode.

Sword and halberd met in a spray of silver light and ruby-red blood. Even the bones of the two combatants' fingers began to crack.

The Immortal King's substitute's blood shone with silver radiance, encapsulating overwhelming strength.

A deific mist formed around him, emanating waves of such energy that all the spectators shivered.

The Immortal King's substitute waved his hand, tossing out pearls of blood. The blood that fell from him transformed into a silver humanoid figure, giving off an indomitable aura.

Bypassing the constraints of space, it flashed right up to Li Feng, prepared to kill him in one blow.

The Immortal King's substitute's blood was itself a treasure beyond any measure, boasting tremendous energy.

The silverblood lifeforms that formed were tremendously strong, with bones and tendons forged of divine light.

Each drop of blood manifested as such a lifeform.

"[Birth of the Holy Dragon: Realm of Heaven]!"

Li Feng raised his sword high into the air. Light-attuned genetic energy gathered around it, invoking the stars. Holy hymns echoed around him, and the concentrated energy manifested as outspread wings to his back.

He seemed to be right beside his opponent, but simultaneously a world apart—in a dimension beyond. This was spatial manipulation!

Chapter 1502: The Final Blow

Although the void had split apart and the void slash was poised to release its awesome power, the same explosion as before didn't occur.

Silver and gold light interspersed as the light-attuned genetic energy formed a pocket space. The void slash tore apart that pocket space, but not anything that lay beyond it.

The might of the attack was encapsulated by the light-attuned genetic energy. The void slash struck the sword energy in a bolt of incandescent lightning.

Then, sword energy struck like a heavenly tribulation, boasting immense strength.

The lightning imbued in Li Feng's sword arced toward the Immortal King's substitute, causing his body to tremble. His body exploded in divine light, infusing his armor with energy as he attempted to block.

Lightning crackled, and silver feathers flew through the air in a storm. The Immortal King's substitute's divine armor grew crystalline, radiating with light as it absorbed Li Feng's attack.

The silver feathers gave off a blinding glow, each radiating with sword energy.

"That's Divine Embrace!"

The Immortal King's substitute likewise possessed this technique.

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

A silver dragon manifested around Li Feng's blade.

The dragon's howl shook the air. Li Feng activated his sword technique, forming the impression of a true arclight dragon that raised its head to the heavens and roared. The nascent energy trembled.

Though the void exploded, the explosion was torn apart. No destruction could spread and hurt Li Feng.

The arclight slash shot toward the Immortal King's substitute, who defended with his halberd and counterattacked with a starlit slash.

Li Feng attacked rapidly, speeding up the tempo of the fight. He unleashed a devastating strike as bright as the blazing sun.

The sword slashed the sky, and the stars fell. Sword energy flared, and for a moment, it seemed like even the sky was about to be bisected.

The Immortal King's substitute, who had suffered several injuries, barely blocked the attack, which exploded through the void. Even the skies seemed to be torn apart.

The Immortal King's substitute retreated once more and barely stabilized himself.

"[The Boundless Blade: Shattered Sun]!"

Sword energy roiled. The technique splintered the glowing sunlight and replaced it with a silver glow, transmuted that sunlight into something that boosted Li Feng's strength. The sword energy tore apart the sky.

The Immortal King's substitute, understanding that he had to seize the momentum of the fight, swung his halberd through the void. A phoenix cried out as the skies lit up in rosy hues.

Li Feng countered with his sword. The light and void exploded in a surge of force.

"[The Boundless Blade: the Trembling World]!"

Sword energy roiled. An arclight dragon reared its head. The technique splintered the glowing sunlight.

The sword energy grew brighter and brighter, until it surpassed sun, moon, and stars in light. The will of the sword seemed to manifest physically into the form of a dragon that made to rip apart heaven and earth.

The ground furrowed; the stars fell from the sky. Sword and halberd clashed once again. The Immortal King's substitute found his hands trembling, his aura again suppressed by Li Feng.

The Immortal King's substitute, however, wasn't one of the successors of the Hall of Immortals for naught. Despite the fact that he was at a disadvantage, he continued to spar with Li Feng adroitly, his defense unrelenting. Li Feng was missing just a single good hit to secure his victory.

"[Slashing Void and Stars]!"

Sword energy glinted with piercing light as devastating strength rippled from Li Feng's blade, the upgraded form of [Striking Sun and Moon].

The sword and the halberd clashed. Light radiated from the sword, overwhelming the strength of the void explosion. The Immortal King's substitute held his halberd horizontally and defended with its haft, but was sent flying from the impact.

The Immortal King's substitute had sustained many injuries during the conflict with Li Feng, and those injuries had only worsened as the fight continued. Even so, he didn't intend to give up. Like a wounded, rabid dog, he pounced toward Li Feng again.

From his point of view, Li Feng wasn't alone. Behind Li Feng stood the ninth Immortal King. If he could kill Li Feng, he would be able to take over the ninth Immortal King's position.

This was the sole chance remaining to him, the first and only after his loss against the ninth Immortal King.

He couldn't give up on it!

Silver light dyed the entire world. Genetic energy swept over Li Feng's body and manifested as a dense layer of silver scales, like a suit of silver armor. Antlers grew out of his head, and his hair turned a radiant silver.

Li Feng gathered incredible quantities of light-attuned genetic energy for a moment of explosive strength.

He slashed forward with his sword, the radiant energy manifesting like a dragon.

The momentary boost gave him shocking speed. His swords flashed like lightning.

Under the effect of his [Holy Dragon Transformation], Li Feng's speed increased to such an extreme that a thousand afterimages seemed to trail him.

The attack was incredibly rapid, and the sword so sharp it felt like a thousand sword strikes were layered on top of one another.

The Immortal King's substitute was suppressed to such an extent that he was completely unable to retaliate. Wounds appeared all over his body. In order to pull away from Li Feng and gain the opportunity to strike back, the Immortal King's substitute once again formed lifeforms out of his blood.

However, Li Feng was even faster—no, this wasn't a matter of speed anymore. Li Feng's attack had transcended the notion of time.

The silver radiance of [The Boundless Blade: Godkiller] swept forward in a tide, like a whole herd of holy dragons.

That silver light, imbued with golden threads, formed a mysterious sea, simultaneously real and illusory, which existed in between both realms.

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

The intersection of the real and the illusory—Li Feng's strength combined both domains. Thousands of holy dragons swept across the sky.

His strength surpassed time and space, the real and the illusory.

At that moment, time became meaningless to Li Feng.

The Immortal King's substitute and his silverblood creation slowed down as Li Feng unleashed his technique—the attack rendered time meaningless.

The technique affected not just time, but space and even reality itself.

The technique intersected reality and illusion. This was a strength that transcended this realm, and Li Feng's blade could kill even a transcendent god.

With this strength which converted legend into reality, the silverblood lifeform was destroyed instantly. Lightning exploded as the Immortal King's substitute's Divine Embrace shattered in fragments of silver light, interspersed with beads of silver blood.

"One last blow!"

Li Feng raised his sword high overhead, glinting brightly.

The Immortal King's substitute was grievously injured, and his Divine Embrace was no longer able to defend against Li Feng's attacks.

Heaven and earth suddenly lost color as the surroundings turned dim and dark, as though all that light had been snatched away. Li Feng and the area around him began to glow more brightly than the sun. The light grew more intense as the aura of the technique increased in strength.

Chapter 1503: The Green-Robed Figure

"No!" the Immortal King's substitute cried out as his body lit up with divine flames, silver-white over a blood-red core. Thunder rumbled through the air.

He was about to lose an opportunity that had just presented itself! Without any hesitation, the Immortal King's substitute sacrificed his own life force as the flames transformed into a true phoenix in the air.

"[Holy Dragon Sword: Bleaching the World]!"

Heaven and earth suddenly lost color as the surroundings turned dim and dark, as though all that light had been snatched away. Li Feng and the area around him began to glow more brightly than the sun. The light grew more intense as the aura of the technique increased in strength.

He struck, and the world lost color.

White light saturated the world; everything was dyed white. The competitors' sight turned solid white.

The Immortal King's substitute was incapable of blocking this attack, even by burning his own life force.

Just as the sword was about to strike the Immortal King's substitute, his body exploded into a burst of flames, sending Li Feng flying back.

The Immortal King's substitute looked as though he was risking his life in order to fend off Li Feng, but that was only deception. He knew very well that he was in no state to take on Li Feng; he took advantage of the burst of strength from burning his own life force to flee.

"I've lost today, but we'll meet again. The next time, I'll grow even stronger!"

The Immortal King's substitute flew off in a burst of sparks, faster than lightning, almost like a shooting star.

Not only was he taking advantage of his temporary burst of strength, he also seemed to be boosted by some special item or prop.

Even Feng Xian from Starbright Academy had a special escape prop, let alone a successor to the Hall of Immortals.

"Do you think I would let you flee?!"

Li Feng moved at an incredibly rapid pace. His arclight dragon boosted his sword to the point that it was faster than many could even perceive. Even Zhang Lie only saw an unbroken stream of light.

Everyone blanched. No one could defend against such a rapid blow.

A series of afterimages in light and shadow accompanied Li Feng's strike. A rainbow arc followed his slash, as though an aurora were visible in the sky. It shone in all the colors of the rainbow, momentarily hypnotizing anyone who looked at it.

The starlight shot across the heavens. Li Feng's body suddenly split into tens of thousands of copies, each with a dazzling gaze of rainbow light. The rosy-hued light was captivating and transported those who saw it into a realm of illusion. Li Feng left countless afterimages behind as he gave chase.

Just as Li Feng's sword was about to strike the Immortal King's substitute's lower back, an attack came out of nowhere, piercing the void and targeting Li Feng.

Someone had hidden among the cultivators and was now launching a sneak attack at him.

Zhang Lie responded fastest.

A frightening aura descended on the world. The skies 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.

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

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. Li Feng and the Immortal King's substitute were both sent stumbling back.

The Immortal King's substitute clutched his chest. Li Feng's sword had indeed struck his lower back, but the sneak attack had interrupted the blow. Although the Immortal King's substitute had been hurt in a vital location, he hadn't immediately perished. Li Feng glanced sharply at the green-robed man standing beside the Immortal King's substitute.

The male cultivator's features were obscured. Spots of copper rust were apparent on his robes, and he gave off an ancient aura.

Zhang Lie flew toward him, a smile on his face, but his eyes were chilly. "Don't you know it's not a good habit to interrupt an ongoing fight?"

The Immortal King's substitute was just about to speak. "Eld—"

The green-robed man cut him off. "Leave."

"I won't let you go!"

Circles of light revolved around Li Feng in a feat of manipulation, condensing light to such an extent that it took on near-physical form.

"[Holy Dragon Sword: Light and Darkness]!"

As though he had broken through some sort of limit, a transformation occurred.

Li Feng flared brightly, transforming into a radiant sun. The light began to revolve and strobe, forming a circle of light. Individual photons were accelerated and sent crashing into one another.

This sort of high-energy radiation could easily destroy a star. The pulse of light was supercharged beyond its limits.

A black core appeared where the light bombarded itself, spreading rapidly and transforming into a black hole. A tremendous suction formed around Li Feng's hands.

The birth of a black hole inverted the flow of light-attuned genetic energy. As Li Feng manipulated it, it suddenly grew wider and began giving off dark matter.

The dark matter didn't combine destructively with the light-attuned genetic energy like water and fire, which were mutually incompatible, or constructively, like water and earth. Rather, the dark matter was inert to light; both types of energy remained distinct and non-interacting.

Li Feng slashed forward with his sword, twining light-attuned genetic energy and dark matter together in a technique of shocking strength.

It seemed to devour the entire sky.

Zhang Lie struck simultaneously.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!"

Zhang Lie raised his pointer finger high into the air, manifesting 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.

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

Chapter 1504: Can't Go Wrong

The spectators found their souls trembling.

Heaven and earth resonated with the will of the sword and the aura of the godlike being within the sun.

Overwhelming sword energy, like a sunset sea, swallowed up the sun and suppressed the light.

One sword strike was founded on the physics of the Milky Way; the other was infused with peerless sword energy. The two techniques struck each other in the air, causing the sky itself to lose color. Energy exploded in a shockwave, causing the surface of the lake to roil. No one could survive such an attack.

A storm blew by; cultivators of weaker strength flew off into the air.

Even so, most of the cultivators that had reached this point were strong enough to survive. The resulting shockwaves caused the lake to expand to several times its original size. The cultivators gasped at the magnitude of the attack, and their faces turned ashen.

Where the two techniques struck each other was a shattered void of space. No one was in sight.

Li Feng cocked his head and asked, "Is he dead?"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "He's likely still alive."

The two cultivators both understood that if the opponent had perished, he would have transformed into mental essence and infused itself into the back of Li Feng's palm. The fact that that phenomenon hadn't taken place meant that the opponent had fled and survived somehow.

Zhang Lie asked, "Who do you think that fellow who suddenly appeared was?"

"Clearly someone from the Hall of Immortals."

"Was it because he rescued the Immortal King's substitute?"

Li Feng shook his head. "I once fought with the ninth Immortal King, and just now with the Immortal King's substitute. The opponent's sneak attack was essentially an upgraded form of the attack that the ninth Immortal King and the Immortal King's substitute used, with their weapons passing straight through the void. The fact that he didn't even need to swing his weapon to do so, though... that surprised me."

Zhang Lie frowned. "I suspect he's far stronger than the ninth Immortal King and the Immortal King's substitute."

"I'm confident I'd be able to take him down."

Li Feng stuck out his chin proudly, his eyes sweeping across the crowd, as though he were a martial god descending from the heavens.

"Who else dares challenge me?"

All the cultivators present were shocked stiff by Li Feng's strength, and they didn't dare step forward.

They were particularly overwhelmed by Li Feng and Zhang Lie's final attacks; none of them were confident they would be able to defend against their attacks.

Even the Immortal King's substitute wasn't an opponent for Li Feng, so all of them would only be wasting their time.

"I'll have a try."

One cultivator stepped forward, accompanied by a gale wind and crackling lightning. Rain fell around them both, and the ground began to crack.

"Chang Ming, from the Eternal Hill!" one cultivator exclaimed.

Li Feng was just about to make his move when Yang Ze stepped forward past him.

"You've just undergone a big fight. Rest well. I'll handle this small fry."

Li Feng cocked his head at him in surprise. "What's up with you?"

Yang Ze cracked his fingers. "I have some history with this opponent."

Zhou Ying seemed surprised. "You know him?"

Yang Ze shrugged. "I dealt with his junior brother in the qualifiers. Just now, he even tried to snatch a bug monarch from under our noses. He's been a pain."

Fang Yi gaped. "You're actually volunteering?"

Yang Ze had always refrained from fighting when he could help it.

In some sense, his personality reflected his fighting style, and his fighting style his personality.

Yang Ze grumbled, "I'm just being cautious!"

Zhang Lie shrugged. "He just grew stronger after consuming a silver-dragon lotus and hasn't had a chance to test it out. I suppose he's looking for an opportunity to do so."

Perhaps he had grown antsy after seeing Li Feng's fight.

"Be careful."

Li Feng wasn't injured; even if he had been, his light-attuned genetic energy would have been able to heal him quickly enough. However, he did use up quite a bit of genetic energy in that fight. The Immortal King's substitute was a strong foe, and he would gladly take any chance to rest.

Yang Ze rubbed his palms. "Don't worry. Nothing will go wrong."

"Scram!" His opponent struck, sending a fist punching forward.

Yang Ze stood where he was. He met the fist with a hand. Both smashed into each other

Ripples of energy caused heaven, earth, and void to shake as the two cultivators struck each other.

Sparks flew all over as the two cultivators' fists met once more. Like a phoenix undergoing rebirth, the explosion gave way to resplendent light. Blue waves surged across the sky.

The spectators' ears hurt. Their eyes seemed to have suffered a burn, and their senses were all distorted. They were forced to narrow their eyes and seal their hearing, lest they be hurt just by watching the fight.

Fang Yi remarked, "How unusual. I barely ever see Yang Ze take the initiative."

Yang Ze clenched his fist tightly. It glowed with light. His long hair was scattered around his shoulders, his gaze bright and electric.

Chang Ming's body radiated with metallic luster and gave off light in the colors of a rainbow. Even his fist was surrounded by golden light. When it smashed into Yang Ze's own fist, it gave off a burst of divine power.

In mere moments, the two cultivators had exchanged dozens of blows. A metallic ringing filled the air as runes in the sky formed and smashed together.

Chang Ming's fists shone with light. The power of reincarnation had the ability to peel and steal time away. He activated it now.

The brilliant shining runes shot toward Yang Ze in the manner of a flood.

A cultivator cried out, "The ultimate technique of the Eternal Hill, which can manipulate the passage of time around a cultivator, transforming a young man into an elderly one or even a child! It's particularly difficult to counteract."

Refracted light shone around Yang Ze. Layers of space isolated him.

He drew a greatsword from his back. Pale blue genetic energy surrounded him as the sword energy rushed forward in a flood.

Chang Ming gaped to see that his mastery over spacetime was useless against Yang Ze.

A pair of lightning wings appeared to Chang Ming's back. He stepped across the void, following an unusual route forward.

It looked slow, but his speed had actually reached a maximum. He left countless afterimages behind, making others think that he hadn't moved at all.

He squatted, his right leg sweeping forward and triggering hundreds of electric arcs.

[The Boundless Blade: Daybreak] flashed, the strike forming a long river through the skies. The genetic energy burst apart in a shower of droplets.

He snapped his fingers. The remnant water-attuned genetic energy in the air condensed and transformed into fog. Raging sharks appeared, composed of pale blue genetic energy, each seemingly with independent life and soul.

This was the benefit of attuning to the silver-dragon lotuses.

Chapter 1505: Just a Bit More

The electric wings to Chang Ming's back gave off huge quantities of lightning, each infused with temporal might. They were incredibly quick. When the sharks were struck by lightning, they exploded in mid-air.

Yang Ze used fog to hide the spatial fluctuations that resulted as he teleported across the void and closed in on his opponent.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragonwhale]!"

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

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

The whale's body was long and streamlined, with long whiskers and scales patterning its body.

Yang Ze attacked so rapidly that Chang Ming was only able to defend. He had no choice but to raise his arms and shield his head in a corona of brilliant light.

Water-attuned genetic energy erupted in the form of waves that shot all around him.

Chang Ming bore the brunt of the waves, his arms turning numb from the impact, as his fighting intent shattered.

Time seemed to reverse its flow rapidly. He firmly believed that he could easily win against any cultivator of his generation with this technique from the Undying Hill.

The Undying Hill's technique was mysterious and able to affect others by manipulating the passage of time, but Yang Ze shielded himself with layers of space that prevented any such distortion.

"[The Boundless Blade: Sea Serpent]!"

Yang Ze's sword morphed into a sea serpent, pale blue in color, with gills on either side of its body, its scales like crystalline shards of ice. It shot forward.

Chang Ming was surrounded by radiant dawn. Divine flames filled his body, and he held a sword of bone in his hand. Lightning crackled in the air and shot down at Yang Ze.

The electric arcs interwove densely with each other like a spiderweb. In an ear-splitting crack, lightning splintered and the sword energy erupted. Divine flames rose into the air, and a fiery dawn illuminated the heavens.

Yang Ze howled. His hair drifted in the air, his eyes supercharged with lightning. Space seemed to transform into a pool of black water, rippling as it spread out, submerging the entire island. This was a technique that Yang Ze had intuited upon watching Xing Yu and Fang Yi's fight based on one of Xing Yu's space-oriented techniques. Compared to Xing Yu's spatial screen, it was even more subtle and exquisite.

Chang Ming found his vision obscured, as though he had been submerged deep in the sea. Pressure surrounded him on all fronts as his motion slowed and energy was sapped from his body. His bone sword struck nothing, his slash delayed from Yang Ze's technique.

Chang Ming had rich combat experience from years upon years of fighting, and his combat awareness was particularly sensitive. Even without seeing the strike clearly, he could sense the killing intent that emerged from Yang Ze's body. He blocked with an arm, which Yang Ze chopped off in a burst of blood that dyed the black water red.

"Die!"

Yang Ze shouted. Within the pitch-black sea, only he could see everything clearly.

Chang Ming's bone sword swept horizontally through the source of the sound; then, without even waiting to see what the result of his attack was.

Chang Ming was right to do so. His bone sword did strike Yang Ze, but it passed straight through his body. Within Yang Ze's deepsea domain, heavy restrictions were imposed on all of Chang Ming's actions.

Despite the fact that Chang Ming had made the right decision and responded quickly. Even so, within the deepsea domain, with his actions restricted, his movement slowed, his stamina sapped, he was unable to do a thing. Meanwhile, Yang Ze smashed his face in with a kick, shattering his cheek bone and loosening six or seven teeth from his gums.

Of course, that wasn't it. Yang Ze's kick was infused with tremendous strength. Even Chang Ming's skull was cracked, a frightening wound that dripped with blood.

Chang Ming shot divine flames out of his body to protect his head as he retreated arduously.

This was insulting and humiliating—Yang Ze had managed to kick his mouth in, sending his teeth flying! His face was burning in pain and shame.

All this happened in a flash as the two combatants separated from one another.

Chang Ming lifted his hand as his eyes shone with ardor. Lightning shone in his palms.

It crackled and shot toward Yang Ze as the spectators retreated.

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

Genetic energy exploded from Yang Ze and manifested in the form of a nine-headed hydra,

The hydra's heads each sprayed out a burst of sword energy composed of water-attuned genetic energy that mimicked a gold attunement. The attacks were impossible to deflect.

The nine rays of sword energy shattered the lightning as Yang Ze dashed forward. Chang Ming's bone sword passed through Yang Ze, followed by the rest of Chang Ming's body.

Chang Ming: !

What was going on? The next moment, Chang Ming understood what had happened. Behind Yang Ze was a huge nine-headed dragon, each dragon head large and fierce, with sharp teeth that tore Chang Ming apart instantly.

In Zhang Lie's team, Zhou Ying and Li Feng weren't the only strong hunters. Yang Ze was equally strong, though he rarely revealed the extent of his skill.

Li Feng, who had slain the Immortal King's substitute, was imposing enough a foe—and then Yang Ze showed up, defeating his opponent with a series of sinister techniques that caused the cultivators to shiver in fear.

Most frighteningly, these stellar hunters all viewed Zhang Lie as their leader. Just how strong did Zhang Lie have to be to make such strong cultivators submit to him?

Zhang Lie's gaze swept over all the gathered cultivators as he smirked, as though mocking them all. All of you present are trash.

The cultivators were naturally upset, but that only made them even more fearful of attacking him. For Zhang Lie to dare to do so despite the steep numerical disadvantage was testament to his strength.

Zhang Lie and the members of Team Zenith left with carefree spirits as the cultivators instinctively made way.

Zhou Ying glanced at the other members of Team Zenith. "Almost all of us have gathered. We're just missing Sun Xiaowu and Sun Mengmeng."

"We don't have to search for Sun Xiaowu," Yang Ze said.

Zhou Ying cocked her head. "What happened to him?"

"He entered the core before we did."

"What? How disloyal! He didn't even wait for us."

Despite Zhou Ying's words, she had a smile on her face.

Yang Ze placed both palms on the back of his head. "It's a good thing in the end. After all, the bone talismans that guarantee you entry to the core are difficult to find, and the only ones among us present who might be able to secure one by killing enough cultivators are Captain and Fang Yi."

Fang Yi had taken down quite a fair number of cultivators while he was being targeted, and the Stargods had essentially given him free points. The mark on the back of his hand had grown significantly larger.

Fang Yi shook his head. "I'm still lacking a bit."

Li Feng raised his hand. "Even with the Immortal King's substitute giving me points, I'm still lacking a bit as well."

Yang Ze said, "We only have two bone talismans right now. If I and Zhou Ying claim one each, we won't have one for Sun Mengmeng."

Just as the hunters were about to leave, a burst of light exploded right in front of them. Everyone was stunned.

"What in the world?"

Chapter 1506: Have You Had Enough

Another portal of light appeared before the gathered hunters, just like the one from the island before. Yang Ze's lips twitched. "How can this be?"

Zhou Ying replied, "I learned a few pieces of information from the Holywings just now. Intense fighting attracts the attention of the realm and raises the chance of a door of light appearing."

"Adding oil to the fire..." Yang Ze exclaimed.

Li Feng shook his head. "They want to burn and scald all the competitors."

Fang Yi pursed his lips. "Don't forget that this is a competition. To the organizers of one such, the more exciting and cruel the scenario, the better."

Zhang Lie sighed. "It's almost as though they're trying to torture us all."

The door of light that contained a bone talisman within was a blessing, but the problem was that there were simply too many cultivators nearby that wouldn't just let them claim the talisman without any hassle.

Yang Ze turned and asked, "Should we give up on it?"

Giving up meant that they could escape safe and sound. The cultivators were no idiots; they wouldn't give up on the prize that lay before them to try to take down Zhang Lie and the others, who were worthless and far more difficult a foe in comparison.

Zhang Lie smirked. "Since the door of light has appeared before us, it naturally belongs to us."

Yang Ze gave him a thumbs up. "As expected of our captain."

Zhou Ying whirled around. "We'll deal with those people outside. Get in, Captain!"

Having been shocked by Li Feng, Yang Ze, and Zhang Lie's strength, the cultivators didn't dare strike—but more importantly, there wasn't yet enough incentive for them to do so. With two bone talismans on the line, however, many cultivators were raring to make a move.

Two bone talismans was enough of a treasure to be worth it.

"Behind the door of light lies a trial: first a stage, then a strong beast. By killing the beast, you'll be able to dig out the bone talisman from its forehead."

Zhou Ying had made it into one such door before, and had important knowledge to share with the rest of the group. Of course, most of the information had been imparted to her by the kind Holywing.

Zhang Lie rushed into the door without any hesitation.

Suddenly, the moment he did so, he found a bone talisman in his hand.

Zhang Lie was stupefied. He had just entered the door. How could he already have a bone talisman in his hand?

Could he have forgotten part of his memories after passing through the trial?

Just as Zhang Lie was lost in a reverie, he saw the four hunters of Team Zenith fighting against the cultivators. The fight was brutal, cracking the lake bed and causing its waters to surge forth. The four hunters were grievously injured.

The cultivators that were fighting against the hunters of Team Zenith were exceptionally strong, and included those cultivators whom Zhang Lie and the other hunters had defeated: the Immortal King's substitute, the child of the divine Solarvine, the death gods of Netherworld, Feng Xian...

As those figures appeared in sight, before Zhang Lie could make a move, the hunters of Team Zenith were killed one after another. Yang Ze, the last to die, turned and looked grudgingly at him. "Why couldn't you be any faster, Captain?"

That vengeful gaze was a soundless criticism; it was as though he were blaming Zhang Lie for their deaths.

The Immortal King's substitute picked up Li Feng's bloody head and began tossing and kicking it around like a basketball. "Your companions are too weak," he said.

Zhang Lie screamed hoarsely as the cultivators around him tittered and laughed. With bloodshot eyes, Zhang Lie cried out, "I'm going to kill you—or is that what you thought I'd say?"

Zhang Lie, who seemed to have been so mad he had lost all capacity for rational thought, suddenly calmed down with a smile.

"Break!"

Zhang Lie yelled out. The scene before him shattered as though it had come from a mirror.

"Boring."

All that had been nothing more than an illusion. An ordinary cultivator might have instantly been tricked, but Zhang Lie had a resolute will and a soul that had survived two lifetimes.

The strength of his soul was far greater than anyone could imagine, and he didn't fall into a state of confusion upon seeing the illusion before him. Although this turn of events did rouse Zhang Lie's anger, his resolute willpower didn't allow him to lose control, nor lose his sense of judgment.

There were countless errors with this illusion; as long as he avoided having the illusion affect his emotions and descend into anger, it would be trivial to identify the flaws in it.

This virtual realm was the setting of a tournament. Even if the hunters of Team Zenith were to die here, they would only return to the dimensional realm. Yang Ze would hardly hold a grudge for that.

And even if they really were incapable of resurrecting in this realm, the members of Team Zenith still wouldn't blame Zhang Lie.

Zhang Lie was quite confident in that.

Secondly, this realm was constructed solely for the purposes of the tournament, and no dead corpse would have its head left behind for someone to play with. Rather, it would decompose into mental essence and be imbued into the killer's hand.

If Zhang Lie hadn't been able to control his emotions, he might have fallen to anger and to the grip of the illusion.

"Is this it?"

There were plenty of errors with the illusion.

The goal of the illusion, therefore, wasn't to mislead the cultivators, but rather to have them fall prey to anger.

It wasn't a particularly sophisticated technique, but not a simple one, either. An ordinary cultivator likely would have been tricked.

Indeed, as everything before him shattered, the bone talisman in his hand vanished. Darkness descended. A warmth came from his palm. Zhang Lie found a sticky fluid below his feet that gave off a stench. Zhang Lie looked closely and recognized it as blood. He was standing in a pool of blood, with three corpses that had already been drained of life around him.

"Thank goodness you've come to your senses!"

Zhang Lie was surprised to hear a familiar voice. He raised his head and saw Zhou Ying.

He was shocked to find Zhou Ying within the door of light. Had she followed him in?

Quickly, Zhang Lie recognized that something was amiss. Zhou Ying was pale, and her vitality was draining from her. He looked down and saw that his hand was penetrating straight through her chest, and hot blood was gushing out from the wound.

"Don't blame yourself. We all know you were controlled by an illusion, and none of this is your fault." Zhou Ying caressed Zhang Lie's face, her hand sticky with blood, leaving red imprints on his face. Out of nowhere, Zhang Lie found his vision turning red.

His eyes widened as he gradually took in everything before him. The three corpses that lay to his feet were none other but his companions, Li Feng, Fang Yi, and Yang Ze.

Zhou Ying seemed to lose the strength in her arm. It hung down limply. "Live on well."

Zhang Lie pulled out his blood-streaked arm as Zhou Ying slumped lifelessly to the ground.

Upon feeling the fresh blood on his face, and Zhou Ying's gradually cooling corpse, Zhang Lie opened his mouth in a silent scream, as though he had lost his voice and ability to speak. Zhang Lie knelt in the pool of blood, staring at his trembling hands, his emotions on the verge of spilling over.

Zhang Lie slowly closed his mouth. The first thing he said was, "Have you had enough?"

Chapter 1507: Another Illusion

Countless others were having arguments all around him.

"To have killed your own companions—are you truly human?"

"Your companions went through life-and-death struggles with you! How could you kill them just like that?"

"You scumbag, you human trash! How could you kill your own companions? Go die!"

Li Qianlin stood before him. "Don't ever appear in front of me again."

Sun Mengmeng and Sun Xiaowu walked out from the darkness. "You don't deserve to be our captain. I'm going to take revenge for the four hunters. Your life is forfeit!"

A chilly beam cut apart all that lay before him. Zhang Lie's eyes were ice-cold. "Are you quite done?!"

Zhang Lie clenched his fists tightly as blue genetic energy gathered around him in the form of a tempest. The skies darkened, and a giant whale appeared to his back. It opened its maws wide as huge waves exploded through the air.

Ripples of energy spread out from Zhang Lie like rampaging dragons, infused with Zhang Lie's anger.

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 world distorted and shattered as the rubble of a fox statue appeared before him.

Zhang Lie snorted. "Another illusion."

Despite Zhang Lie's disdainful tone, that illusion had been somewhat more dangerous.

Zhang Lie looked toward the blade on the ground, with a keen edge. If he hadn't broken out of the illusion in time and fell prey to self-doubt and loathing, he might well have committed suicide.

From the rubble of the statue and the blade on the ground, it seemed clear that the illusion had been caused by the fox statue before him. The moment Zhang Lie fell prey to the illusion, it would have shot out the blade and killed Zhang Lie in a single strike.

Zhang Lie breathed out in relief.

He hadn't quite expected an illusion within an illusion, just like a dream within a dream. Although the first layer was easy enough to break, he would have ended up in a second layer rather than reality.

Fortunately, the first layer of illusions was easy to see through. If he had been negatively impacted by the first illusion and fallen into rage, he could easily have developed a mistaken sense of time and space. The second illusion would then seem to follow a logical pattern.

No matter how resolute his will, with circumstantial evidence at play, even if Zhang Lie were to discover the flaw in the illusion, he might end up falling prey to the logical conundrum and be killed by a sneak attack from the statue regardless.

The door of light's trial of illusions was deftly designed.

After falling prey to agitation, sorrow, and self-loathing, it would be very easy to make an error in judgment that would leave him snared by the illusion.

Even the second layer had a few obvious mistakes. The first was the deaths of his comrades. If Zhang Lie had really killed them, their corpses would never have been left behind. Even if Zhang Lie had really ended up going crazy, the appearance of Li Qianlin was eminently ridiculous.

It was clearly designed to pull Zhang Lie deeper into an abyss of desperation, but it was an incredible leap of logic.

Of course, Zhang Lie didn't discover the flaw through application of logic. Under emotional duress, it would be very easy to lose his sense of judgment and discover these flaws in the illusion. Zhang Lie identified that this was an illusion through a simple principle: trust and faith.

Zhang Lie had once fought against all the hunters of Team Zenith in the fourth realm, and he was well aware of their combat abilities. If he really went crazy, he might have been able to kill one of them, but certainly not all. For one thing, Yang Ze would hardly be an easy target.

Zhou Ying's regenerative ability and stubborn vitality would keep her death at bay, as well.

Zhang Lie had fallen prey to temporary self-loathing and panic, but he quickly evaluated his situation and discovered the corresponding flaw.

Zhang Lie walked on past the statue and up the stairs that came into view to find a nine-tailed fox before him.

A nine-tailed fox?

Its nine tails were curled up; its fur looked soft and downy.

The moment Zhang Lie stepped up toward the end of the stairs, the nine-tailed fox slowly raised one tail up high. Pale blue flames formed at the end of its tail. As it swung it about, the flames flared and shot toward Zhang Lie like will-o-the-wisps.

Zhang Lie countered with a punch, causing the flames to explode, but they stuck to his hands.

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.

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 nine-tailed fox wasn't as relaxed as it had been. It was so startled that its fur stood on end. Its second tail stood erect. As it waved its tail, a stark-white bolt of lightning shot down.

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 whole fox was plastered to the ground, its vitality drained. Within moments, however, as one of its tails fell, it regained its health and even seemed to grow stronger than before.

The nine-tailed fox struck with another tail, this one imbued with bright red flames.

The bright red flames were like malevolent demons that shot toward Zhang Lie.

"[The Boundless Blade: Yawning Wave]!"

As Zhang Lie waved his pointer finger, a beam of sword energy cleaved the demons' faces as a raging shark swam forth.

The nine-tailed fox moved surprisingly rapidly, dodging the raging shark as it looped around Zhang Lie, leaving dust of pale blue and bright red flames behind to hinder the shark.

The shark bit at everything it encountered, fox or flame. The pale blue and bright red flames exploded in its mouth, hindering its mobility.

As the nine-tailed fox dashed behind Zhang Lie, it raised another tail, this one with stark white flames.

"[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.

The serpent crashed into the fox and snuffed out its flames. A bone talisman appeared before him, as did a portal of light leading out.

Chapter 1508: Only Knowing How to Run

Upon seeing Zhang Lie emerge, the members of Team Zenith couldn't help but smile.

"It's time to leave!"

"[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.

The realm, 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 the aura of the godlike being within the sun.

Overwhelming sword energy, like a sunset sea, swallowed up the sun and suppressed the light.

The sword energy swept across all the cultivators, who fell to the ground like reaped wheat.

The four hunters of Team Zenith landed by Zhang Lie's side.

"We can't let them get away."

"They have three bone talismans in their hands!"

The cultivators behind them caught up.

Zhang Lie grinned. His eyes sparked dangerously. Clutching his blade, he shouted, "I was planning to leave all of you be, but since you're all determined to die, I'll fulfill your wishes!"

Yang Ze caught Zhang Lie's hand.

"Captain, ignore these fellows. Let's run!"

Zhang Lie frowned, but Yang Ze pointed toward the distance. "The heavenly cordon is rapidly drawing near!"

Ghost-blue lightning descended in droves, ravaging the land and contorting the void. The power of annihilation turned everything before it to smoke and dust.

As the lightning storm continued to spread, beasts were sent flying.

The moment Zhang Lie entered the door of light, the heavenly cordon seemed to speed up.

Without any hesitation, Zhang Lie ran off with the other four members of Team Zenith.

The cultivators behind them continued to launch attacks their way, attempting to disrupt them.

Zhou Ying frowned. "These fellows really don't fear death, do they?"

"They're not really going to die in this virtual realm, after all," Yang Ze said.

"No," Li Feng disagreed. "They're taking a risk. If they can get just a single bone talisman, they can immediately teleport into the center without fear of the heavenly cordon."

There were five members of Team Zenith present, and three bone talismans wouldn't be enough for them all.

"Stop and fight if you dare!"

"All you know how to do is run, you cowards!"

As the cultivators behind them continued to disrupt them, Zhang Lie grew angry.

"[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.

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

With every slash of Guicang, Zhang Lie's serpents fell like meteors, whizzing down to the ground and striking down the cultivators en masse. The only ones that remained alive were those who had more than a base level of strength.

After that, Zhang Lie turned and fled. His momentary delay meant that the heavenly cordon had drawn closer.

Those cultivators who were slower found themselves engulfed by the heavenly cordon. They struggled but ultimately perished.

Zhang Lie and the other four members of Team Zenith fled rapidly and quickly encountered a translucent crystal wall.

"The safe zone must lie ahead," Yang Ze said.

The wall was a huge energy barrier that would be able to counteract the heavenly cordon for some time, but only those who satisfied the conditions could pass through.

"We're almost there!" Fang Yi cried out.

Suddenly, a large number of attacks came at them: one pierced through the void, another seemed to be displaced in time, a third drew on the stars, a fourth was composed of hellfire, a fifth of two crossed sword slashes, a sixth a silvery-white sword descending from the heavens...

Five mountains toppled from the heavens and emitted radiant light as they fell.

About ten attacks in all combined into a lethal strike.

Zhang Lie frowned and struck at once.

"[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, 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 dragon's keening easily sparked a resonant decomposition.

The huge netherworld sea devoured all the attacks as the stellar dragons shot forward.

An intense radiance exploded forth.

Thousands of beasts seemed to roar in unison, a tremendous pressure that was almost impossible to resist.

With a wave of a cultivator's fist, heaven and earth filled with light. The figures of beasts covered the arena with an irrepressible aura.

"[Fist of Ten Thousand Beasts]!"

Fang Yi frowned. He knew the origin of this attack.

Chapter 1509: Just By Yourselves

Ten thousand beasts howled and roared, among them standard creatures like tigers, bears, and leopards, and those steeped in mythology like dragons and qilins.

The land was filled with rampant beasts, roaring with divine auras as they pounced forward.

The spectators watched the scene unfold in shock.

Fang Yi frowned. "The Stargods!"

[Fist of Ten Thousand Beasts] was the ultimate Stargod technique.

A tremendous flood of energy transformed into a lake of lightning, filling the sky above the realm.

Blazing red flames erupted like a phoenix undergoing rebirth. Countless resplendent flames filled the air.

There were seven cultivators barring their way, one of whom was a Stargod without fail.

Zhou Ying saw a cultivator with silver wings. She waved a hand. "Yi Shenghao? What a coincidence—well, that's what I'd like to say, but I doubt it is one."

Yi Shenghao gritted his teeth. "I've finally found you, Zhou Ying!"

The silver-winged cultivator before her, Yi Shenghao was a member of the Holywings. Zhou Ying had exchanged blows with him during the qualifiers.

The Holywings were a renowned race and one of the peak existences in the galaxy. They naturally had ways of rapidly recovering from mental strain, and it was no surprise to see that he had reappeared in the tournament proper.

Li Feng frowned. On one of the enemy cultivators, he could sense the familiar aura of the Hall of Immortals.

Yang Ze too had found an enemy cultivator from the Eternal Hill. Zhang Lie glanced at the remaining three cultivators, but only one of them was familiar to him. If he weren't mistaken, that cultivator was from the flamedemons.

The Hall of Immortals' representative said, "You can't enter the barrier."

Yang Ze was visibly displeased. "As if the Hall of Immortals owns these barriers!"

Zhang Lie sneered. "I'm curious why renowned and influential cultivators like you are trying to gang up on us small fry."

A woman in purple said, "I have had no dealings with you, but someone offered me a generous reward for keeping you outside this barrier."

"Oh? Who would do such a thing?" Zhang Lie asked curiously.

"You need not know," the Hall of Immortals' representative replied.

Zhang Lie said, "It has to be someone of unparalleled status to convince all of you to sacrifice yourselves to get us."

The flamedemon representative laughed loudly. "Haha, sacrifice ourselves? Are you overestimating yourself or underestimating us?"

The Hall of Immortals' representative shook his head. "Just by yourselves?"

The Stargod representative tutted. "I thought they were meant to be impressive cultivators to have garnered such attention, but it looks like they aren't worth our time at all."

The flamedemon laughed. "Take a good look at us, and then at yourselves! We're from the major forces of the galaxy. When would you ever see such an illustrious party?"

A woman in gold replied archly, "What makes you think we'd have to sacrifice ourselves to deal with you?"

When the cultivators at the back rushed up and saw the hunters' foes, they reared back in shock. Despite the fact that the heavenly cordon was rapidly drawing near, none of them dared rush forward. It was clear just how strong the cultivators before them were perceived to be.

"Are they all here to steal the bone talismans?"

"How did they learn of the news?"

"That's Xing Po from the Stargods, allegedly only inferior to Xing You in talent; Chang Yong from the Eternal Hill; Yi Shenghao from the Holywings; one of the Immortal King's substitutes; Yao Long; Chi Chi of the flamedemons; and a disciple of Divinity Qinglian, senior sister of Qingyue Ge, Jinyang Hua. What an astonishing combination!"

"They'd be able to stop anything coming their way."

Zhang Lie laughed. "Now I'm even more curious as to the identity of the person who employed all of you. What price did he have to pay to get all of you to come here? It would have to be something worth more than the treasures you could find all around here..."

Zhang Lie couldn't help but think of a possible suspect: the robed figure who had rescued the Immortal King's substitute they had fought.

"It looks like they think of us as a problem."

Li Feng shrugged. "We're kind and amiable. Who would target someone like us?"

The cultivators who had been chasing after them rolled their eyes. Kind and amiable? The marks on the backs of their hands had extended all the way up their arms, and Zhang Lie's had spread all the way across half his body!

Yang Ze thought for a moment. "This mysterious mastermind has to be from one of the supreme forces. The ones that we've faced are, let me think, the Stargods, the Hall of Immortals, the Holywings..."

There really were quite a few factions that they had offended, weren't there?

"There's no need for more talking. Let's fight!"

The flamedemon representative was quickly growing impatient, especially with the heavenly cordon coming closer.

They intended to retreat via the barrier behind them after killing Zhang Lie and the four other members of Team Zenith.

The four members of Team Zenith rushed forward without any hesitation.

Ruby light arced from a halberd, red as fresh blood, giving off overwhelming crimson light. The heavens shook as blood was sent flying into the air, bright red and dazzling.

The sea of lightning that suddenly manifested dyed the sky blue.

"[Light Dragon's Remnants]!"

Li Feng marshaled his genetic energy into the form of a large number of white dragons.

Zhou Ying stepped forward and underwent her battle transformation immediately.

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

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

Each leaf was like a miniature sun, orbiting around the woman's body. To her back was a pair of golden wings. 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.

With a low shout, Fang Yi dashed forward with his spear in hand.

Golden lightning surrounded his spear, lightning that was infused with gold-attuned genetic energy. The entire spear turned a gleaming gold, bolstered by wind.

Its offensive abilities were greatly augmented, as if the spear itself had been enchanted.

Fang Yi launched his spear, crackling with wind and lightning, with incredible force. The golden spear sent wind howling and lightning flashing through the sky.

Chapter 1510: Sword Suppression

Zhang Lie shouted from the back, "All of you, handle your opponent. Leave the rest to me!"

The four members of Team Zenith each faced off against their corresponding enemy faction.

The flamedemon Chi Chi snorted coldly. "Truly arrogant."

Jinyang Hua smiled. "Isn't this a good thing?"

Yao Long nodded. "Let's deal with this fellow first."

The flamedemon Chi Chi streaked down from the heavens, trailing scarlet flames. "Let me take on this arrogant fellow!"

He transformed into a human-shaped bolt of lightning that shot forward. Scarlet lightning flashed and crackled all around him.

Zhang Lie drew his sword and met Chi Chi in combat.

A wave of divine light rose into the air as the flames burned brightly. A sword slash swept across the heavens.

"Argh!" a cultivator shouted from behind, trying to defend himself with a weapon and, when that failed, to use a secret art. It was all meaningless.

The shockwaves that resulted from the impact exploded and sent the cultivators nearby reeling.

After just a few blows, Chi Chi could sense that something was amiss. He thought that all the cultivators were roughly at the same level, but after fighting Zhang Lie, he found that he was horribly mistaken. Zhang Lie's combat strength was significantly higher than his, and he had managed such a feat within a century at most!

His flames completely suppressed by Zhang Lie's pale blue sword, Chi Chi found himself being one-sidedly beaten. All his attacks were easily countered and neutralized by Zhang Lie, who unleashed tremendous power.

"[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.

The realm, 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 the aura of the godlike being within the sun.

Within just a few blows, one of Chi Chi's wings had been cut off. He clutched his wound and cried out, "What kind of sword do you have?!"

"A sword that can kill you."

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

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

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.

Chi Chi could sense the incredible might emanating from the stellar river. Small though the netherworld serpents might be, each seemed almost to be alive, bearing its own soul and life force.

He was unhappy to do so, but had to use the relic that his client gave him.

As his body blazed with flame, he retrieved a ruler of incredible might from his robes. A rose-colored hue streaked across the heavens.

"What's that?" someone cried out.

"I've never heard of the flamedemons possessing such a relic."

The netherworld serpents fell like meteors, whizzing down toward Chi Chi.

The ruler clashed against the netherworld serpents with such force that the sound echoed through the air. Chi Chi gave off so much light he looked like a glowing sun. He was attempting to vaporize Zhang Lie's netherworld river.

However, considering the size and depth of Zhang Lie's river, even the relic of incredible strength wasn't able to obliterate it.

"[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, 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 dragon's keening easily sparked a resonant decomposition.

The ruler was unable to withstand the river's concentrated attack. It began to crack. Chi Chi didn't dare to fight any longer, worried that the ruler would break as a result. He fled in disgrace.

A stellar dragon chased after him as Chi Chi shouted, "How long are the two of you going to keep watching? Help me!"

Yao Long and Jinyang Hua were watching from the sidelines.

They weren't companions to begin with, after all, and were more than happy to see Chi Chi suffering.

Yao Long mocked, "Didn't you say to leave it to you?"

Jinyang Hua hid a smile behind her hand. "I thought you were supposed to be impressive. To think you would end up in such dire straits."

Yao Long and Jinyang Hua considered Zhang Lie. Chi Chi might have been a little weak, but was essentially on their level. For him to have lost that confrontation so badly... Zhang Lie was simply too strong.

Yao Long and Jinyang Hua carefully analyzed Zhang Lie's moves.