

## U. Warlord 221

Chapter 221: Returning to the Dojo

The Zenith hunters' herb collection was only a small interlude between long bouts of training, or rather, a way to relax and alleviate boredom.

After understanding the situation, Zhang Lie had come up with a plan, but it was one that he wouldn't share with the members of Team Zenith for the moment. After all, the hunters had to prepare for the galactic stage of the Void Cup. Collecting herbs was a task that could easily be delegated to Zhang Hong and the other members of the Zenith Dojo.

The hunters were spending a significant amount of time acclimating to their new techniques; Zhang Lie had opened their eyes to the subtle interactions between techniques and how to effectively use them in battle, and the techniques that they had chosen for themselves were highly compatible and possessed unique features, like Sun Mengmeng's [Seven-Hued Flames] or Fang Yi's [Thousand Forms of Thunder].

The opponents that they would face in the galactic stage weren't just humans, but rather all lifeforms in the Milky Way. There were quite a few alien races who were naturally more talented than humans, so despite their dominance on Earth, or even in the solar system at large, they didn't dare take things easily.

After all, according to Zhang Lie, although they were certainly stronger than most, they wouldn't necessarily be able to dominate their opponents as they had before.

In truth, Zhang Lie could have given them each a bottle of Potion #3, but he chose not to do so. It wasn't necessarily a good thing for the hunters to grow too strong too quickly. If he were to raise their strength too recklessly, their foundations and mentality might crumble. They weren't Zhang Lie, and they hadn't overcome the hurdles and obstacles that naturally came about from decades of life.

This Void Cup would be a whetstone for their growth, and he would do his best to prepare them for that by working with them on their techniques, their frameworks, and giving them the best environment in which to grow.

For the next three months, Zhang Lie devoted himself to the members of Team Zenith and concocting potions. During this period of time, Yan Long and Su Feng would intermittently send them shipments of herbs, taking bottles of Potion #1 as recompense. These bottles of Potion #1 were ultimately handed over to the top soldiers of the Chinese military, and some were given to the top-ranking officials of other countries thanks to their generous 'donation' of herbs.

The other countries on Earth began researching this miraculous Potion #1 in earnest, but Zhang Lie was certain that they wouldn't be able to analyze how he had concocted it within the short term.

They would have no choice but to continue trading massive bundles of herbs for more of these potions from China; perhaps they would be able to reproduce the potion after a few more such trades, but by that time, Zhang Lie intended to announce the formulation of Potion #1 outright.

Before the other countries could get too comfortable, however, he would announce the existence of Potion #2, and then of Potion #3. In order to keep up with his progress, the other countries would have no choice but to continue sending him massive shipments of herbs, solidifying his advantage.

Late in the afternoon, the sun shone brightly over the Zenith Dojo. In Ning, in China, and even in all of Earth, the Zenith Dojo was developing into a significant force. Zhang Lie had abdicated his duties; during this period of time, Zhang Hong attracted all manner of instructors to the Zenith Dojo on the basis of Lin Xiu's strength and fame, spreading offshoots of the Zenith Dojo all over China.

By then, every Chinese hunter knew of the Zenith Dojo, and it had shaken the dojo consortium to its roots. Indeed, many of the original Ning dojos had long since moved out, leaving no other respectable dojo in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, the original branch of the Zenith Dojo kept getting larger and more well-equipped with renovation after renovation.

A flash of light illuminated the teleportation array as Zhang Lie brought the members of Team Zenith back to Earth. The galactic stage of the Void Cup was about to descend, and it was time for them to finalize their preparations.

"Dojo Leader!" The moment they stepped out of the array, a shout of welcome could be heard from the distance, and Zhang Hong was immediately notified of the news.

"You've worked hard!" Zhang Lie stepped down from the array with the other hunters.

In this time and age, it was very important for a developing faction or dojo to have an attendant guarding the teleportation arrays they controlled at all times. The hunter who guarded the Zenith Dojo's main array was the 27-year-old female hunter Lu Li, a notable killer in the second realm. She had been attracted by the Zenith Dojo's philosophy and had entered the dojo after a test administered by Zhang Lie himself.

She was the first face that incoming visitors to the Zenith Dojo would see, as well as a sentry for the dojo besides.

"Not at all, Sir. I'm honored to be doing my best for the dojo!"

"Very good. From the fluctuations in your genetic energy, it looks as though your rehabilitation after the foundational breakthrough has been very successful. Have you informed Zhang Hong about my return?"

"Ah, I'm here, I'm here! Really, you should send word sooner next time!"

Red light flashed beside them, and the lawyer-turned-administrator of the Zenith Dojo appeared before Zhang Lie. Given Zhang Lie's new status, there were only a rare few people who dared to speak to him in such a casual manner, and Zhang Hong was one such.

For some reason, perhaps because she had known him while he was still nameless, when he had reached out asking for her to draft a contract for buying a house, the two of them felt some sort of kinship to each other. That was why Zhang Lie had reached out to her when he wanted to purchase land for the Zenith Dojo.

He admired how Zhang Hong was frank yet polite no matter whom she was dealing with, and it was her nature that ultimately won Zhang Lie's confidence and instated her in her current position.

"Has anything major happened while I was gone?"

Zhang Hong smiled. "Nothing major, though there have been a lot of minor things."

Chapter 222: Last-Minute Preparations

"As long as everyone's alright. How are Jiuxiao and Xianchen doing?" Zhang Lie had been rather laissez-faire about the dojo's operations because he trusted Zhang Hong to take care of them.

"Your two apprentices? They've been training day in and day out as though their lives depended on it—I feel sorry for them just watching it, so you'd better not assign them too many trials!" Zhang Hong chastised him lightly.

Zhang Lie began to laugh. "They're training of their own accord—I didn't assign them any goals."

"Hoh?" Zhang Hong seemed momentarily taken aback. "I suppose they must be pressured to make something of themselves with a master like you. Are you going to take a look at them?"

"Yes. I'll have to leave for quite some time afterward, so I need to talk with everyone at the dojo before I leave."

It was almost time for the galactic stage of the Void Cup, which would be held on the planet Ural at the heart of the Milky Way. Ural was very far from the solar system, and even with these teleportation arrays, it would be at least a three-day journey, and the round trip and tournament would take around ten days or so.

Ten days didn't seem like such a long time, but it was three whole months within the dimensional world. As a result, he had to make sure to take care of affairs in the Zenith Dojo and with regards to his sister, Zhang Hanxiang.

In one of the Zenith Dojo's training arenas, the air filled with crackling lightning and dark, murky fog, a pair of children were fighting against each other. The boy was surrounded by wind and storm, and the girl exuded black fog wherever she went. They each had a specialized, sturdy wooden sword with which they were swinging at each other.

As the two swords clashed against each other, the two children paused momentarily.

Before the two of them could continue, applause came from the entrance. Zhang Lie praised, "You've both improved tremendously!"

"Master!"

Zhang Lie slowly walked toward the arena, instantly attracting their attention.

"Weren't you working on something important?"

"When did you come back?"

The two children jumped out of the arena and darted to his side.

Zhang Lie smiled. "I'm finished with all that, of course. Isn't it normal for a master to check up on his disciples?"

Jun Jiuxiao laughed. "Perhaps for a normal master, but we both know that you're the busiest person in the entire dojo."

"I'm so glad you had the time to see us!" Ye Xianchen added.

The two children were more thoughtful than he anticipated.

"You're both smart and capable, so I'm relieved to have both of you around." Zhang Lie found his apprentices more and more pleasing to the eye. "The two of you both seem to have made significant progress with your frameworks, but you seem to be rather rigid and inflexible with your techniques. Do you have any questions for me? Let's focus on working this out for now."

"Yes!"

"Thank you, Master!"

They peppered Zhang Lie with questions, which he answered methodically based on his experience in his two lives. So went the afternoon; they had gone over almost every problem his two apprentices had displayed during the fight, and Zhang Lie had had them practice until he was satisfied with the results.

As long as the two of them stuck to their training regimen, they would be fine for the future. Once the last problem was resolved, Zhang Lie stood up and stretched.

By then, Sun Mengmeng had been waiting by the door for quite some time.

"I'm going to be leaving for the galactic stage of the Void Cup. Keep practicing; once I return, I'll make sure to check up on your progress.

"Yes, Master! Don't worry—we won't let you down!"

Zhang Lie patted both of them on the head and walked out. "The dimensional world's time dilation is very suitable for quiet meditation and cultivation. Feel free to train there, but without my order, you're not to leave the settlement to try to get basic gene fragments for yourselves. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Master!"

Zhang Lie then hosted a special seminar for the remaining disciples, during which time he could check up on and evaluate their progress. When all this was done, he had a meeting with Zhang Hong and the most senior dojo instructors, the final task for the day.

Affairs at the dojo satisfactorily resolved, all that remained was to talk with his sister. That night, Zhang Lie slipped into the Holy Glory Academy like a ghost, a black cowl over his head. Unlike last time, however, Zhang Lie had informed his sister beforehand.

The two of them arranged to meet at a rather quiet library in the academy, one with only a few diligent students at this late hour. When Zhang Lie arrived at the door to the library, he saw the three girls waiting for him from afar.

Zhang Hanxiang was seated primly on her wheelchair, glancing left and right in order to try to catch a glimpse of her brother, while her two attendants were chattering away. They seemed to be the two girls he had met last time around, Qingqing and Lizi.

"Hanxiang, we're on good terms, aren't we? You're not lying to us?" Qingqing, who had fainted the last time around, was flushed and excited.

"Qingqing, you know Hanxiang wouldn't lie to either of us—how many times have you asked this question already?!"

"Ah, ah, I'm just excited, that's all! I have a signature pad ready, too!"

"Don't worry, Qingqing—my brother promised to be here at 9 PM, and I'm sure he'll be punctual!" Zhang Hanxiang replied.

"Of course! I wouldn't dare be late to a meeting with my dear sister." A dark shadow suddenly appeared in front of the girls.

Chapter 223: Saying Goodbye to Hanxiang

The sudden voice startled all three girls, but Hanxiang was familiar enough with Zhang Lie's voice that she reacted instantly. "Brother!"

"Dr-Dragonwolf Zhang Lie!"

"Ah, my idol!"

Qingqing and Lizi called out.

"Shh! Be quiet! Let's find a place to sit down and talk." Zhang Lie pushed Zhang Hanxiang's wheelchair into the library.

Qingqing and Lizi followed suit, their eyes having been replaced with red hearts. The Dragonwolf Zhang Lie, from close up, looked less like a brave, valiant hunter and more an amiable, easygoing man, a change that left the two girls even more infatuated.

The four of them sat down at a table. When Zhang Hanxiang saw how her two suitemates were staring at her brother, she teased, "Qingqing, Lizi, can you wipe that drool off your faces? I'm right here!"

Qingqing and Lizi both averted their gazes in embarrassment.

"Haha, Hanxiang, what could you mean?"

"We met even before your brother became famous, didn't we?"

Both girls seemed afraid that Zhang Lie would misunderstand, but in truth, if Zhang Hanxiang weren't around, he wouldn't treat them any differently from ordinary citizens he walked by.

"Who knows?" Zhang Hanxiang murmured, seven parts joking and three parts serious. For some reason, she felt a little jealous when she saw her brother being the object of adulation of other girls; before her brother had become famous, neither she nor he had ever been noticed by others.

After her brother's sudden rise to popularity, Zhang Hanxiang, who was secretly very lonely, began to feel quite uncomfortable and scared. She was worried that her brother would be snatched away by some other girl, dragging him away from her life. That was why she had wanted to become a genetic hunter.

This time around, that desire grew even stronger. She wanted to become a hunter and stand beside him, facing whatever troubles came at them together.

In truth, she was overcomplicating matters; no matter what, Zhang Lie had no intention of casting her aside.

"Don't worry, Hanxiang, I'm satisfied enough just seeing the Dragonwolf Zhang Lie close up. I won't bother the two of you."

"Right, we won't bother you!"

They nodded toward Zhang Lie and moved to a nearby table.

"Sorry, it looks like I've coddled my sister a little too much," Zhang Lie apologized, smiling at them, causing their footsteps to lighten. Turning to his sister, he asked, "What's the matter? Why are you unhappy?"

"It's nothing much, Brother. Are you going to be leaving for some time again?"

"Right, the galactic stage of the Void Cup's about to begin, and I'll be traveling out of the solar system."

Zhang Hanxiang pursed her lips. "For how long?"

"Between ten days and two weeks, most likely."

"Ah, that long...? Will I be able to stand—or become a genetic hunter, even—once you return?" Zhang Hanxiang asked seriously.

"Of course! When have I ever broken a promise to you? Focus on your studies and await my return, won't you?"

Zhang Hanxiang beamed. "Thank you, Brother!"

"Of course. We're family, aren't we? But I'm also here to give you a warning. Because my research on limit fragments is top-secret, you might become a target of those people aiming for me. While I'm gone, try to stay in your dormitory as much as possible—and don't leave campus grounds, do you understand? I've informed the academy, and even the troops stationed outside the academy, about this, but still, be as alert as possible."

"Is it that serious, Brother? I understand." Zhang Hanxiang smiled, seemingly more relaxed than before. Her brother's care for her had never changed, despite his fame! No matter what he planned to do, he wouldn't leave her alone.

She felt a series of conflicting urges in her mind. On one hand, she wanted to be able to stand up and grow strong, but on the other, she couldn't help wanting to feel this sensation of being perfectly cared for.

Their chat then devolved into considerably less serious topics, and half an hour later, Zhang Lie walked out of the library relieved that his sister would be fine. It was time for him to meet up with the rest of Team Zenith to head out on their journey.

By this time, Su Feng had stomped around the teleportation array at the Zenith Dojo for almost half an hour, causing the members of Team Zenith to feel dizzy as they followed his movements.

"Don't worry, Commander Su. I'm sure our captain will be back shortly!" Sun Mengmeng glanced curiously at Su Feng, wondering why he always seemed to be so easily infuriated around Zhang Lie.

"Don't worry?! How can I not? Don't forget that your captain was a hunter who almost forgot to register for the Void Cup! Furthermore, this is the best opportunity in over a century for Earth to win the Void Cup and ascend to the Void Throne. You might not know just what that repres—"

Before he could get to the crux of the matter, however, his transceiver began to beep. Su Feng paused and accepted the call.

"What's going on, Su Feng? Didn't I tell you to bring them over to the capital sooner? Where's Zhang Lie? He's turned off his transceiver—just what is he doing?!"

Su Feng shrugged as he glanced at the other hunters of Team Zenith, but he still had to explain matters to Yan Long.

"I'm waiting at the Zenith Dojo," he replied. "That brat's gone to the Holy Glory Academy, and he should be back soon. Once he's here, I'll tie him up and drag him to the capital if I must!"

#### Chapter 224: The Four Prime Races

Of course, Su Feng didn't end up tying Zhang Lie up and dragging him to the capital. Not a few minutes later, Zhang Lie returned to the dojo, and everyone headed into the teleportation array.

In the capital, by the central teleportation array that connected to the capital, soldiers were already standing guard awaiting their arrival, as were Yan Long and a few important officials of the military.

By this point, Zhang Lie's status in China had reached a ridiculous extent, and even Yan Long and his superiors didn't dare treat Zhang Lie lightly. After all, not only was he the foremost researcher of limit fragments in the entire world, he had even gained the approval of one of the highest authorities of Earth.

"Zhang Lie, you're finally here! Do you know how long we spent waiting for you?"

Yan Long walked up to him in a hurry.

"How many? Isn't it just you, Chu Feng, and Yun Bing?"

"Hardly! Every country has sent a representative over—come with me!"

Zhang Lie frowned. Just what were these other countries doing here? Zhang Lie followed Yan Long and the other officials into a conference room in a nearby building. When Zhang Lie entered, the representatives from over a hundred countries worldwide all stood up.

"Mr. Zhang Lie!"

"Ah, hello," Zhang Lie replied, still somewhat unsettled by his newfound popularity.

"There's no need to be so formal, everyone—I've brought the man here, so tell him what you want!" Yan Long announced.

Thinking back to his past life's memories of the Void Throne, Zhang Lie had an inkling as to why everyone had gathered here today.

"Zhang Lie, it's good to see you. I'm Representative Federer from England, and I'm here today for two reasons: first, to meet you in person, and to exchange for more bottles of Potion #1, and second, to send you off. Representatives from 178 countries around the world have gathered here today in hopes that you'll win the Void Cup and ascend to the Void Throne!"

The solemnity and unison of the representatives shocked Zhang Lie. Was the Void Throne worth so much?

"Thank you for the well wishes. I will bring the Void Throne back to Earth!" Zhang Lie replied, not missing a beat despite his private doubts.

The representatives broke out in thunderous applause, then accompanied him all the way to the teleportation array, shocking the other members of Team Zenith, as well as Chu Feng and Yun Bing. As hundreds of people watched on, Zhang Lie and the others stepped into the array and took the first step on their long journey toward Ural.

Ural was a particularly prosperous planet, about ten times the size of Earth. The planet was divided up into hundreds of tribes and was controlled by the native Uraloids. The Uraloids came in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, but most were humanoid lifeforms.

Of the tens of thousands of races represented on Ural, the strongest four were the starbeasts, nightdemons, aquatic, and winged.

The galactic stage of the Void Cup would begin in just five days' time, and the strongest members of the younger generation from each of the four clans had long since made their way to the holy capital of Ural.

The Sufei Hotel in the capital was constructed out of massive bones, making it look as though its guests were walking into the maw of a great beast. In one of the penthouse suites, a member of the winged race, Phoenix, was glancing out the hotel. The winged were the most humanoid of the four prime races.

Behind him, four winged lifeforms stood stock-still behind him. Except for the wings protruding from their backs, they looked no different from humans.

"Have you obtained a roster of the competitors?" Phoenix asked, sipping a cup of amber wine.

"Yes, Highness!" The red-winged female bowed, then strode forward with a booklet in her hands.

"I can't be bothered to read it. Are there any opponents worth my time?" Phoenix glanced down at the booklet, then looked away.

The red-winged female replied, "No, Your Highness. If there's anyone new remotely worth looking into, it could only be one of Earth's champions, a hunter known as the Dragonwolf Zhang Lie."

"The Dragonwolf Zhang Lie? A human?" Phoenix smirked. "I don't think I recall them ever doing well during the Void Cup."

"That's correct, Your Highness, but the competitors this year look much better than the ones from before. Of course, it's possible that the footage we've seen has been manipulated..."

The red-winged female didn't seem to think too highly of humans, but it was only natural. Since the inauguration of the Void Cup, except for one particular year, the human champions would always be eliminated to the last in the first round.

"Haha, Hong Yu, you must be mistaken. How could those unevolved lifeforms ever hope to improve? The footage you've seen must be doctored!" the black-winged man beside her mocked.

Phoenix didn't say anything. He waved a hand insouciantly, motioning for his four attendants to step outside.

## Chapter 225: The Winged Race's Invitation

Just like the winged, the other three prime races had also gotten their hands on a roster of competitors, and Zhang Lie's name had been brought up in each of their conversations. After all, this human's competition record seemed rather abnormal.

Just as the representatives of the four races viewed Zhang Lie as a competitor, so too did Zhang Lie, who was rushing through array after array on his way to Ural, view the representatives of the four races as opponents.

Yes, opponents! For Zhang Lie, an opponent was someone whom he had to worry about; even on Earth, he had never viewed those major clans that had caused trouble for him as opponents.

The world wasn't fair, nor the galaxy. The starbeasts, nightdemons, aquatic, and winged races, heralded as the four prime races of the Milky Way, boasted talent that the other races could only aspire toward.

Their ability to assimilate gene fragments was far stronger than that of mankind, and their immeasurable racial talent had catapulted them ahead of the other races. They would be worthwhile competitors for Zhang Lie.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye. When Zhang Lie stepped into the Ural capital, he was immediately captivated by the charming city in front of him, an architecture of bones, redolent of the ancient past. The contrast between the advanced technology that saturated the city and these unusual buildings evoked a curious sense of discordant harmony.

The members of Team Zenith were likewise shocked by the sight. As they glanced at the alien lifeforms walking through the streets, Yang Ze couldn't help but gasp in awe.

"It's interesting, but there's no need to look so shocked, is there? If you can't handle the sight, you'd better not claim that you're affiliated with us!" Fang Yi teased, causing everyone to laugh.

At the very front, Yan Long said, "Zhang Lie, it's your first time seeing such a place, isn't it? A fascinating sight to behold, surely!"

"Indeed, but I'm more concerned about the four prime races on this and other nearby planets," Zhang Lie replied, his competitiveness rising. His goal for the final stage of the Void Cup was to obtain an item that could help his sister, as well as to spar against these four races.

Ever since this new age of genetic assimilation, the human delegation to the Void Cup had been defeated by one of these four races within the first round, the only exception being when Hong Tianqi was a participant.

Although the past Zhang Lie had made it all the way to the fourth realm in the past, he was little more than cannon fodder; he had advanced from realm to realm after meeting only the minimum requirements, crippling his foundation and stunting his growth.

As a result, he was very interested in just how he compared to these four races in the present.

"Haha, are you that excited to face them? They're not easy opponents, so don't treat them lightly!" Su Feng warned.

"Don't worry!" Zhang Lie replied, walking even faster onward.

As they walked faster, trying to approach the Nike Hotel where they would be staying, two winged humanoids landed in front of them. Based on their appearance, they were likely representatives of the winged race.

"May I ask if you're the representatives from Earth?" the red-winged woman asked.

They didn't speak in Chinese, but the translation earpieces that all the hunters were wearing made it seem as though they were. These earpieces had spread far and wide across the galaxy, translating between the languages of all sentient lifeforms, the first step to galactic communication.

The hunters paused; eventually, Yan Long spoke up. "Are you representatives of the winged?"

"Indeed. I am Hong Yu, tasked by my master Phoenix to invite the competitors of Earth to the Sufei Hotel for an evening banquet."

Yan Long stared. He had led the Earth representatives to the galactic stage of the Void Cup several times by now, but he had never received such treatment—the winged were personally inviting them to an evening banquet! That implied that they had begun paying attention to Zhang Lie! After a momentary bout of exultation and pride, however, Yan Long couldn't help but feel worried.

He turned to glance at Zhang Lie, seeking his opinion and simultaneously cursing his dominating performance during the worldwide stage of the Void Cup. This glance told Hong Yu just who was in charge of this delegation.

"You must be Mr. Zhang Lie! You're as extraordinary as they claim. Would you be willing to make an appearance?" Hong Yu asked Zhang Lie directly.

"I apologize, Ms. Hong Yu, but we're all a bit exhausted after the long trip. Perhaps another day?"

A... refusal? He had refused Phoenix's invitation! Hong Yu's face was clearly marked with shock—His Royal Highness Phoenix had sent her with this invitation himself, and there were countless other competitors who would have done anything to get into the banquet!

Even Yan Long, Su Feng, and the other hunters hadn't expected Zhang Lie's sudden refusal, but it certainly was consistent with Zhang Lie's attitude. Although Hong Yu had tendered the invitation politely, it was clear that she rather looked down on mankind, as though it were a great honor that they were being invited to the banquet itself.

Perhaps a lesser hunter might have succumbed to temptation, but Zhang Lie's stubbornness caused him to reject the invitation out of contempt.

A sudden tension descended on the two parties, and the yellow-winged man standing beside Hong Yu couldn't take the provocation any longer. "You damned lowlives, just you—"

"Ali!" Hong Su cut him off.

"I apologize. Ali's still rather young, and he's not been trained as a diplomat. Since you're all exhausted from your travels, I'll report back to my master and arrange for a meeting at a different time," Hong Yu replied politely, showing no sense of the dissatisfaction she surely felt. Her propriety even in the face of such naked refusal surprised even Zhang Lie.

"I do apologize. Allow me to host a banquet and invite the four prime races together in the future!" Zhang Lie suggested, the glint in his eyes causing Hong Yu and Ali to look in his direction.

#### Chapter 226: An Evening Banquet

Inviting the four races? Even Hong Yu showed a brief expression of disdain at that remark. This human was truly contemptible and shameless—was the implication that only all four prime races together would be worth his time? Did he truly think that he was all that?

Hong Yu didn't respond. With a faint smile plastered on her face, she dragged Ali off into the distance.

"Zhang Lie, can you stop causing trouble?" Yan Long questioned him almost as soon as the winged had left. The winged had come over to invite them personally—and Zhang Lie had declined the invitation just like that!

"Better to have them think us provincial and overconfident, don't you think?"

Yan Long, who had been doubting his decision, instantly understood what Zhang Lie meant. While they traveled, Yan Long had informed them all about the four prime races, who had dominated the Void Cup and won almost nine times out of ten. Zhang Lie's attitude was meant to provoke them and to get them to underestimate him, instead.

"If we accepted the winged's invitation, we would surely have to do the same for the other races' invitation, and I wasn't lying when I said I was a little tired," Zhang Lie added.

The encounter with Hong Yu was just a small interlude, though not the only one. Zhang Lie and the others received invitations from a variety of other races that had taken note of him, but after refusing the winged's invitation, he had no qualms about rejecting them all.

In the monarch suite of the Solas Hotel, one of the aquatic race's competitors, Lianna, began to laugh. "You must be joking, Hua! Are the competitors from Earth really so strange?"

"Lianna, the rumors have spread all around the capital—I'm sure it's the truth!"

Lianna cavorted in the water as she heard the news, her arms covered in mysterious, luminescent scales. The prime aquatic race was largely humanoid, though there were also countless other aquatic lifeforms that came in all shapes and sizes, unsurprising given the large number of aquatic lifeforms that existed. There were over a dozen princes and princesses of the prime aquatic race, let alone the others.

"So Phoenix got snubbed, then?" Lianna laughed again.

"Indeed! I heard that Phoenix sent word to have the winged competitors teach their human counterparts a lesson if they came across them during the galactic stage," spoke a young woman whose lower half was draped in a mysterious blue fog.

"Is that so? Well, it's not clear to me just who will be punishing whom," Lianna replied, smiling happily just imagining Phoenix's treatment.

"Ah, Lianna, what do you mean? Surely you can't think that—"

"Who knows? His research is certainly far beyond what his race should have been able to come up with, at any rate," Lianna added.

Despite Zhang Lie's overwhelming strength, it was still rather rare for his competitors, predilected unfavorably toward the human race, to take him seriously. Most of them, unlike Lianna, were tricked by the first impression he had given off, and thought of him as just a lucky hunter who had coincidentally come across some powerful inheritance, like the starbeasts and nightdemons.

The starbeasts boasted the strongest physical capabilities of any known race in the Milky Way, and they were far more capable of absorbing and assimilating gene fragments than humans. As a result, these limit fragments that Zhang Lie had supposedly discovered seemed like a joke to them. After all, they didn't have human forms, and the technique wasn't necessarily compatible with their alien biology.

As for the nightdemons, a new clan head had just ascended to power, and his current objective was to consolidate power. Under his leadership, the nightdemons scoffed at these so-called limit fragments, recognizing no one but themselves as the superior race. Their clan head had personally tasked them with taking the top three places in the tournament, and they were almost as brash and daring as Zhang Lie himself.

However, even though the nightdemons didn't pay much attention to Zhang Lie, a related offshoot race, the night spirits. Unfortunately, the night spirits weren't able to draw any attention to their cause, so they decided to approach the humans on their own.

Their goal was to get a sense of the humans' strength, as well as to learn about this theory of limit fragments that Zhang Lie had proposed.

By the time the theory had made its way over the galaxy, the long distances over which it had to travel had garbled the message, and they naturally wouldn't put much faith in a theory for which they had no evidence.

Conveniently for them, they were rather lucky—the hotel in which they were currently staying was exactly the same one that Yan Long had booked, the Nike Hotel. They covertly sent Zhang Lie an invitation. In truth, they didn't expect anything to come out of it, but Zhang Lie, who had rejected the winged instantly, accepted the invitation of the night spirits.

Despite the relative secrecy, the news spread throughout the capital instantly. By the time Zhang Lie and the others were ready to attend the night spirits' banquet, the other competitors had all found out about the affair.

"What's going on? Just what are those Earthlings trying to do? They don't want to live, do they?" In the penthouse suite of the Sufei hotel, Phoenix stared at his subordinates with an ugly expression on his face, and Hong Yu, Ali, and his other subordinates all looked on with thunderous expressions.

"Your Highness, these monkeys don't know any common courtesy. Allow me to teach them a lesson!" Ali shouted, proffering his blade. If Phoenix were to order him to do so, he would stop at nothing to kill the hunters of Earth.

However, before even Phoenix could respond, Hong Yu had stepped forward as well. "We can't—this is the capital, and we're under the scrutiny of the entire galaxy at the moment! Even if we were to succeed, the punishment from the world federation would be too much to be worth bearing."

Phoenix frowned. Indeed, as Hong Yu said, even the four prime clans couldn't do whatever they wanted in the days before and during the Void Cup. After all, the Void Cup was organized by the world federation itself, and it was a horrible idea indeed to offend the highest authorities of the federation for worthless Earthling trash.

That Zhang Lie had accepted the invitation of the night spirits but rejected that from the winged clan was a huge insult, but one that the winged clan couldn't yet repay in kind.

Hong Yu added, "Highness, if it were only the Earthlings, I wouldn't care, but the night spirits—"

"Hong Yu, do you mean that this might be a plot from that scheming woman, Ye Mo?" Phoenix interrupted her halfway, guessing her thoughts, his features twisting in growing rage.

"It's not impossible. After all, even though the night spirits are a minor force, Zhang Lie hasn't accepted anyone else's invitation, and even though their delegations are staying at the same hotel, I'm almost certain that the nightdemons had something to do with it!"

Phoenix frowned once more. "I don't want to hear any more news about these damned Earthlings. If we see them on stage, however—kill them all!"

"Yes, Highness!" They, who had been with Phoenix for years, knew how angry he was. The Earthling competitors would surely be decimated without fail.

Zhang Lie knew how much his actions would offend the winged, but he had done so anyway in a bid to disrupt their mental state.

That evening, the young leader of the night spirits, Ye Mo, personally led Zhang Lie to the Yehua Hall. "How do you like it here, Mr. Zhang Lie? This is the most lavish hall in the Nike Hotel!"

"You honor me with this banquet, Ms. Ye Mo," Zhang Lie replied, glancing all around him. The silverware, decor, and even the food to be served all boasted a Chinese flair. It looked as though the night spirits had designed this banquet intently and with exacting detail.

"Of course—you're all honored guests! This is the least we could do," Ye Mo replied.

#### Chapter 227: The Nightdemon Representative

As the competitors from Earth headed to the night spirits' banquet, the nightdemons finally made their move.

"Fu Bo, head to the Nike Hotel and see what Ye Mo's doing there," the young leader of the nightdemons, Pu Kui, commanded.

"Yes, Mistress!" her male attendant, jade-green runic inscriptions running up and down his body, replied earnestly.

"As a representative of my clan, remember to act politely!" Pu Kui called out from behind.

"Yes, Mistress!" Fu Bo responded again, then vanished from sight.

Ye Mo was the young leader of the night spirits. She wasn't particularly strong, but her foresight and intuition were incredibly accurate, and the fact that she had invited the other party to a banquet meant that he had to be valuable in some fashion or another.

In the Nike Hotel, the Chinese competitors got seated, and the dishes that had already been prepared at the table were finally unveiled. There was a sumptuous feast prepared, and except for a few specialties, the rest of the food was all Chinese delicacies.

Indeed, their gracious host had put in significant effort for this banquet, and the Chinese hunters all felt favorably toward her. After all, although the night spirits were subordinate to the night demons, they were still far stronger than mankind in general, and the fact that she had shown such sincerity and care was truly commendable.

"Please, Mr. Zhang Lie, have a taste of the food. I hope it's to your liking," Ye Mo began. The hunters, indeed hungry, dug in with gusto. The food was surprisingly delicious, the best meal that they had all had in their three days of travel.

"Ms. Ye Mo, if there's anything you'd like to ask me about, please be direct," Zhang Lie requested halfway through the feast.

Ye Mo stilled, then smiled kindly. "It's nothing important. I'm simply curious about such a legendary figure as you, Mr. Zhang."

"Please, Ms. Ye, I know the limits of my strength. Perhaps I might be a strong hunter within the solar system, but within the Milky Way, compared to a clan like your night spirits, I'm certainly no one special at all. If I'm not mistaken, you must be here on account of limit fragments!"

Ye Mo didn't expect such directness from Zhang Lie, but she quickly recovered.

"Indeed, Mr. Zhang Lie. The purpose of this banquet was twofold: to meet the legendary hunters from Earth, and to learn more about this mysterious theory of limit fragments that is the source of your newfound strength."

She even reverted to her demonic form, a transformation specific to the nightdemons. Sharp spikes protruded from her joints and her irises vanished, leaving only white eyeballs behind. A black exoskeleton formed over her body as a scorpion's tail sprang out from underneath her dress. Dark mist wafted from her body, making her look as though she had stepped out of a nightmare.

Their gracious host, who had looked much like a human, transformed into a demonic being.

"Mr. Zhang Lie, the night spirits are particularly humanoid members of the nightdemon race, with over 50% similarity in terms of our DNA. I'd like to know whether your theory of limit fragments can be applied to the night spirits as well."

Her declaration shocked the guests gathered at the banquet table.

"You're refreshingly direct, Ms. Ye Mo. To be honest, I know very little about the night spirits, or even the nightdemons as a whole. It's impossible for me to say anything conclusive under these circumstances, but in theory, this theoretical framework should be applicable to any intelligent lifeform. However, the precise formulation of these limit-breaking potions is certainly race-specific, and identifying this formulation will require a significant amount of labor," Zhang Lie replied.

Judging from Zhang Lie's words, finding the key to this breakthrough was a matter of research and analysis, and could indeed be actualized.

"Very well! May I ask what you require for your cooperation, Mr. Zhang Lie?" Ye Mo pressed, understanding very well that this was an opportunity that might not come again.

"I won't make a difficult request—"

"Ah, please wait, Honored Fu Bo!" Just as Zhang Lie was about to state his conditions, an exclamation rang out from the entrance to the banquet hall.

Ye Mo stood up, a frown on her face. What was Fu Bo doing here? Was Pu Kui also interested in this Zhang Lie fellow? It looked as though she underestimated the four prime races' interest in Zhang Lie's theory...

Fu Bo, dressed entirely in black, swept into the room.

"Ms. Ye Mo, what a festive celebration! I was passing by when I noticed your presence. I haven't eaten, so would you mind if I joined your feast?"

Despite the fact that Fu Bo was being a nuisance, he was known to be one of Pu Kui's close subordinates, so Ye Mo wouldn't offend him lightly if she could help it.

Zhang Lie didn't much mind the addition of another person, but the fact that he had shown up halfway through, impolitely barging into the conversation, made the remaining guests somewhat displeased.

Ye Mo acceded to his request with just a moment's thought, motioning for one of the servants to bring him appropriate cutlery.

Fu Bo looked Zhang Lie up and down, asking in a rather disdainful tone, "You're Zhang Lie?"

"Indeed I am. And this person is?" Fu Bo's disdain caused the other guests to frown, but Zhang Lie himself didn't pay it much mind. When he replied, however, he turned to Ye Mo instead, without looking directly at Fu Bo.

Fu Bo sneered. If not for the fact that Pu Kui had warned him to be polite, he would already have made a ruckus.

"I apologize, Mr. Zhang Lie. Let me introduce you both. This is—"

"Fu Bo, of the nightdemons!" Fu Bo interrupted, pride in his eyes. He sat down at the table, opposite and to the left of Zhang Lie, but couldn't bring himself to pick at the half-eaten food already present.

"A pleasure to meet you, Fu Bo." Zhang Lie inclined his head politely, then turned again to Ye Mo. "Thank you for your gracious banquet, Ms. Ye. I'm full, and I'll be departing now. If you have matters to discuss further, please feel free to stop by my quarters."

#### Chapter 228: Conditions for Experimentation

Zhang Lie was leaving the banquet early undoubtedly to spite Fu Bo, but that was no concern of hers. She bade him farewell politely, promising to pay him a visit. It was vital that she obtain his cooperation for developing a limit-breaking potion for the night spirits; everything else was secondary.

Fu Bo became even more displeased upon seeing Zhang Lie's behavior. He had been gracious enough to come find this puny Earthling himself; even if Zhang Lie had recently become famous, how could he hope to compare himself against an elite member of the nightdemons?

Fu Bo slammed a fist on the table as he stood up, two sharp spikes protruding out of his back. The members of Team Zenith all began circulating genetic energy, ready to fight back at the drop of a hat. Although violence wasn't permitted in the capital, if Fu Bo were to strike at Zhang Lie, they wouldn't go easy on him.

"Is something the matter?" Fu Bo had crashed the banquet with an arrogant smirk on his face, and Zhang Lie had seen no reason at all to pay attention to someone like him. Perhaps most hunters on Earth couldn't compare to the prime races, but Zhang Lie didn't seem at all deferent or even interested in Fu Bo.

"You are arrogant, aren't you, Mr. Zhang Lie? I wonder if you have the strength to back that arrogance up."

Fu Bo stepped forward, so close their shoes were almost touching.

"Honored Fu Bo—"

"Shut up!" Ye Mo tried to dissuade Fu Bo from action, but he interrupted her immediately. He intended to teach Zhang Lie a lesson right then and there, causing Fang Yi to stand up, along with the rest of Team Zenith. When they met Zhang Lie's eyes, however, they sat back down.

Zhang Lie himself was enough. There was no need for them to gang up on Fu Bo.

Fu Bo's hand morphed into an eagle's talons, which he slashed in Zhang Lie's direction. The talons sparked with dark, black energy, and it seemed as though even an errant hit from that attack could easily be lethal.

Zhang Lie didn't seem to care. Activating [Calm Waters], he knocked Fu Bo aside in a contest of pure strength and gene fragments. In this regard, Zhang Lie wasn't an opponent that Fu Bo could handle.

Fu Bo felt as though he had caught nothing but a puddle of water. The next moment, Zhang Lie pushed at him, forcing him to stumble back.

"You!" Fu Bo cried out in alarm. No other opponent had ever managed to shake him off with such ease and careless effort. Upon viewing videos of Zhang Lie's fights, he had thought that the footage

had been doctored; only now, facing him in person, did he realize that most of the rumors about Zhang Lie were true.

Zhang Lie was strong, and he was deliberately maintaining a low profile.

Ye Mo's eyes narrowed. She was likewise shocked by the sight; after all, Fu Bo was one of Pu Kui's closest attendants, and he was stronger than her by far. Zhang Lie had forced him back with nothing but a careless push! The sight strongly reinforced her desire to work with Zhang Lie.

Fang Yi, Yang Ze, and the others all rallied around Zhang Lie, taunting and mocking Fu Bo for his weakness. They weren't afraid that Fu Bo would target them next; they too had ten peak gene fragments each, and no one in this banquet hall could stand their combined strength.

"Fu Bo, it's not necessarily a good thing to be rash. I wouldn't want to make a mess of Ms. Ye's banquet, so I'm going to shrug this off, but if we meet again..." Zhang Lie turned and walked off, motioning for the rest of his teammates to depart with him. After everyone else departed, Ye Mo announced an end to the festivities.

Her clan's strength would dictate her clan's future, and Zhang Lie's theory of limit fragments would be a vital part of that strength.

Fu Bo slunk off in defeat, his mission ended in failure. Not only had he failed, he hadn't even been able to beat Zhang Lie!

Not long after Zhang Lie retreated to his quarters, Ye Mo came to pay him a visit, politely requesting his assistance.

"Ms. Ye, I know how much this means to you, but I can't guarantee any measure of success."

There was enough difference between mankind and the alien races that any research could well be fraught with complication. At the moment, without any research subjects in hand, they could hardly make any progress with the research, and the chance of failure would increase tremendously.

"Please don't worry, Mr. Zhang. The night spirits have many disciples in the dojos scattered around the capital. Would they be useful test subjects?"

Indeed, these disciples were largely the elites of the younger generation, with the very best genetics of their race. As long as they were studied carefully, they would surely be able to unlock the key behind the night spirits' evolution! For the good of her clan, even sacrificing one generation of promising hunters wasn't too much to ask.

Zhang Lie nodded; this was the best opportunity they would have.

"I'll need to recruit the very best disciples of the younger generation. Only then will I have the highest chances of success," Zhang Lie warned. "Furthermore, I won't be able to help you until the end of the Void Cup, at least. Will you leave these children in my care? Otherwise, given what transpired with the nightdemons today, I'm afraid they might be preyed upon."

"You truly are thoughtful and considerate, Mr. Zhang. Very well!" Ye Mo accepted briskly. The Void Cup wouldn't last much longer; afterwards, the night spirits would finally be able to rise up as a clan!

She reached out for a handshake. "Mr. Zhang, I wish you success in the Void Cup."

"You as well, Ms. Ye."

## Chapter 229: The Competitors' Entrance

Ye Mo shook hands with Zhang Lie, finalizing their plans to work together. After Ye Mo warned Zhang Lie about what the nightdemons might do, she stepped out of his room, and Zhang Lie was alone with his thoughts once more.

He wasn't too worried about the impending stage of the Void Cup, but he wasn't entirely negligent either. After all, given his experience from his past life, he thought he would still win against the other competitors despite their racial advantage.

That said, Zhang Lie still spent the next few days fortifying his strength and improving his techniques, researching [Ninesoul Dragonblade] and the domineering [One Punch]. The invasion of the disaster-grade lifeform would occur shortly after the Void Cup, and Zhang Lie didn't think he would be able to withstand a direct blow from it as he was now.

The members of Team Zenith, along with Yun Bing and Chu Feng, were each cultivating in their chambers, intending on representing their country and planet well.

The day the galactic stage began, the capital of Ural was filled with all manner of lifeforms from all over the galaxy. The competition grounds were filled to the brim. The arena itself was located in a microcosm, one constructed by countless authorities of the Milky Way expressly for the Void Cup. Small was relative: the microcosm was about as large as one of China's smaller provinces, and it had surely taken a great deal of resources to create.

The first day of the competition would consist of an elimination round.

The Milky Way spanned a wide expanse of space, but there were only hundreds of thousands of planets which could sustain intelligent life. However, that alone wouldn't be enough to guarantee those lifeforms eligibility for the Void Cup. Participation in such a competition would require mastery over gene editing and manipulation, so of those hundreds of thousands of life-sustaining planets, only 78,894 of them actually ended up participating in the tournament.

This was nothing compared to the expanse of the Milky Way, but it was a staggering number of competitors to face. With ten competitors per planet, there would be 788,940 competitors in all, fighting for the same thousand championship spots, fostering an unbelievable sense of competition.

These competitors would be split up into four large arenas based on their planet of origin, and the thousand participants with the most points after a series of battles would advance to the next round.

The stands were packed full of people waiting for the competitors to enter the arena.

"I heard that this year's Void Cup will be very interesting. Have you heard of that little planet called Earth? Its competitors are apparently quite strong this time around," a member of the audience whispered.

"What, Earth? Don't they claim themselves to be dark horses every year? But in truth, it's nothing more than a provincial planet, without anything interesting!"

"What? Haven't you seen Team Zenith's fights? Don't you know who the Dragonwolf Zhang Lie is? He managed to kill a three-star black-tipped scarab as a first-realm hunter!"

Quite a large number of audience members ended up joining this discussion, most of whom didn't look favorably on Zhang Lie.

After all, those who were strong enough to participate in the galactic stage of the Void Cup were the strongest hunters from their planet, and Zhang Lie and Team Zenith didn't seem all that great in comparison. Of course, they still had a small minority of fans who were very interested in their performance.

"Yan Long, do you hear the crowds talking about Earth?" Su Feng murmured in excitement.

Yan Long had, indeed, noticed. He was excited just thinking about the Void Throne and what it would mean for Earth if they were able to claim it. It would mark Earth as a notable existence even among the hundreds of thousands of planets bearing life in the Milky Way!

"I'm really hoping that nothing happens to Zhang Lie. This year's our best chance at the throne, I know it!" Yan Long murmured.

By that time, the opening ceremony of the Void Cup had begun, and the competitors from various planets were making their way up onto the stage. The announcers highlighted the most famous—or infamous—competitors who walked across the stage, all of whom were the foremost representatives of their planet.

Zhang Lie and the others were waiting for their opportunity to step onto the stage. Because the reward from this stage would affect his sister's future, Zhang Lie couldn't treat it lightly.

"Everyone, the first stage will be a team-based free-for-all. We'll need to be more serious than usual; once the competition starts, listen to my command..." Zhang Lie whispered, glancing at the hunters before him.

"Don't worry, Captain! I don't think there's anyone out there who can beat all of us in a fight!" Sun Xiaowu called out arrogantly. Indeed, every member of Team Zenith possessed ten peak gene fragments, and they had all broken through with respect to their basic and mutated gene fragments as well. What did they have to fear?

"Right, with Master around, I'm sure we'll be at the top of the rankings!" Yang Ze added fervently, and even Li Feng nodded.

"None of you understand what the captain means, do you?! He's saying to keep a low profile so you don't end up being targeted by the masses when we're actually in the thick of things—at the very least, don't show off your techniques or your best soulshards!" Fang Yi rolled his eyes at the three cocksure hunters.

Of the tens of thousands of teams, only a hundred in each quadrant would advance. If Team Zenith showed off too much strength too early in the fight, the masses would surely rally against them.

Chapter 230: Shocking the Crowd

Zhang Lie smiled at Fang Yi's words. "Indeed, there's no need to show off. We just have to make it into the top hundred!"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

By the time they finished planning, there were already quite a number of teams crowded into the arena, each of which received a hearty round of applause as they walked across the stage.

"What's Zhang Lie and the others doing? Why aren't they in yet?" Su Feng and Yan Long were both glancing worriedly at the remaining competitors.

A few thousand parties had already gathered in each of the four arenas, and although the arenas were rather large, the first teams inside could develop their strategy in advance, knowing the locale better.

"Next up, competitors from the winged clan, led by their team leader, Phoenix!"

The entire crowd erupted into cheers. The appearance of the winged clan caused them to collectively suck in a breath—the leader of the winged competitors was a once-in-a-century genius, Phoenix!

He had managed to defeat a superior-grade lifeform as a child, and he had long since capped out his superior gene capacity. Phoenix had never been defeated in an official match, and most of the crowd knew his name.

As Phoenix walked across the stage, he smiled at the crowd, flaring his wings wide open to the sound of cheers and screams.

"Highness, we're as popular as ever, so the Void Throne—" Hong Yu began, but Phoenix interrupted her. "Without a doubt, the Void Throne belongs to the winged clan!"

"Look at how much the crowds love us! It looks like victory is already in our grasp," Raphael, a competitor of the winged clan, murmured as he gazed at the stage. Of course, most of the cheers were for Phoenix, but as one of his fellow competitors, it was natural that he would feel proud.

"Alright, it's about time we head inside!" Phoenix made a quelling motion with his hands, trying to get the crowd to calm down, but they didn't get any quieter.

He touched his ears, frowning, then walked off the stage quickly. When the gathered parties saw the winged entering the arena, they began to move aside in a hurry. Phoenix ignored them all. What he cared most about was Zhang Lie, from Earth!

These past two days, Phoenix had been paying attention to Zhang Lie's actions. He had publicly rejected the winged clan's invitation, then accepted the night spirits', and there had even been reports of him being sighted with a member of the nightdemons.

Honestly, what infuriated him most was that Zhang Lie had rejected his invitation. Did he really think that he, nothing more than an Earthling ant, had any right to refuse Phoenix, prince of the winged clan?!

Zhang Lie! Team Zenith!

I wonder, do you regret not accepting my invitation after hearing how much these crowds are cheering for me? Phoenix's lips curled up into a smile. None of the cheers, even combined, could eclipse the roars that the winged clan's appearance had caused.

"Next, competitors from Earth, led by Zhang Lie!"

Zhang Lie and the others appeared on stage right as the winged were about to leave.

"Ah, he's finally here! This damn brat, always giving me a headache!" Yan Long shouted.

There weren't many teams left by the stage, but Zhang Lie's sudden appearance caused the crowd to perk up. The media had been very interested in this puny human who had made such a name for himself, and even if most of the articles about him were in the tabloids, he had still gained a measure of fame—or infamy—among the crowd.

Phoenix narrowed his eyes.

"Everyone, let's give them a show!" Zhang Lie called out. On his signal, his teammates released their auras.

"Team Zenith, chasing the zenith!" a hunter from Earth suddenly called out, causing those around him to take up the chant as well.

"Team Zenith, chasing the zenith!"

"Team Zenith, chasing the zenith!"

The audience's frenzied roars shook the stage, even more loudly than when Phoenix entered with the winged. Some female lifeforms were so excited by the Earthlings that they even fainted.

"Ridiculous! Highness, let's eliminate them in the first round!" Ali murmured, hearing the cheers from the crowd. He hadn't expected that Zhang Lie would be so popular; the winged were elated at their own popularity, but they had quickly been outshone by puny humans!

"Damn it, this Zhang Lie fellow's aiming for me, isn't he?!" Phoenix barely curtailed the fluctuations of genetic energy from his body.

"Please, Highness, calm down! If we fight with Zhang Lie now, we'll only cause his popularity to soar!" Hong Yu persuaded him.

They could do whatever they wanted to Team Zenith during the actual tournament, but before it, and directly on stage...? Quite a few third- and even fourth-realm hunters were present, and the hosts of the galactic stage were monarch-level authorities from the world federation.

The moment Phoenix did something rash, his qualifications as a competitor would be revoked, and if it were particularly serious, even his life would be in danger.

Although Hong Yu was also quite annoyed at Zhang Lie, it wasn't in their best interests to attack the other party until the tournament began.

"If we meet them in the arena, don't give them the opportunity to surrender—kill them immediately! Let these ants know our strength!" Phoenix shouted angrily.