

U. Warlord 371

Chapter 371: Heading Toward Qi

Zhang Lie stopped them at once. "Hold it! Musi Yu deserved to die. He came down to the second realm in an attempt to kill me, but I defeated him instead. Furthermore, you're both my disciples, and the Eclipse Sage is my benefactor. Isn't it natural for me to avenge the two of you?"

Hong Xiao replied, "No matter why you did it, Master, you were the one who avenged the Hong clan."

Hong Xi nodded. "Master, we'll do anything for you—not just because of what you've done for us, but also for the rest of the Hong clan."

Zhang Lie scoffed. "You're the last two descendants of the Eclipse Sage, and I swore I'd take care of you. Are you going to let me forswear my word? Cherish yourselves more!"

Hong Xiao let out a deep breath. "Yes, Master! With the death of the clan head Musi Yu, along with the majority of the Musi clan, our blood feud is over. I'm sure the spirits of the Hong clan will be gratified to hear of what you've done."

"Things aren't over yet."

Hong Xi and Hong Xiao looked at him warily. "Master, are there any lingering issues?"

Zhang Lie nodded. "Do you know how the feud between the Musi and Hong clans began?"

The two siblings shook their heads.

"Have you heard of the Sage of Black Sun?"

Hong Xi frowned. "I think I have. Allegedly, he was a good friend of our ancestor, the Eclipse Sage."

"Actually, Musi Yu is the Sage of Black Sun."

"What?!" the two siblings gaped.

"[Eclipse] and [Black Sun] were originally the same technique. Your forefather and Musi Yu obtained this technique during an expedition, and the two of them each learned half the technique. They planned on improving their halves and then trading with each other to learn the other half.

"However, out of greed, Musi Yu tried to ambush your forefather and steal his half of the technique, but his plan went awry. As far as I can tell, your forefather suspected that something like this might happen, and he left a partial version of [Eclipse] in his second-realm treasury under the assumption that Musi Yu would claim it.

"If you truly want to set the spirits of the Hong clan at ease, then combine [Eclipse] and [Black Sun]—finish the task that your ancestor couldn't."

"Yes, Master!" the two siblings replied firmly.

Zhang Lie warned them severely not to try to combine the two techniques before reaching advanced proficiency in each one, then headed off toward his old house. He hadn't seen his sister for quite some time, and it would be a good idea to catch up.

Meanwhile, a calamity had befallen Qi.

"Look at all the humans around!" Following Wang Yanyi's directions, the sura king and his party arrived at a tall hill overlooking Qi. From their vantage point, they could see the countless hunters within. The sura king began to drool, and the lower half of his body reacted to his thoughts.

Glancing at all the humans beneath him, the sura king quickly forgot about the reason he had left his palace, and thoughts of Musi Yu left his brain. There were so many men he could claim here! Why harp on just one?

He shouted, "Bring me my sura axe! I'm going to claim all of these hunters as my concubines!"

The sura elder's mouth spasmed once again. "Your highness, we can't let you charge the city alone."

The sura king frowned. "What do you mean? Surely you don't think I would be in any danger?"

"Of course not, your highness, but you'll need manpower to catch you some humans, don't you?"

The sura king thought for a moment, then nodded. "Good point. I'll lead the assault, and the rest of you can just help me catch the humans instead."

The sura elder coughed. "Your highness, I may have a better strategy in mind."

The sura king frowned. "What strategy?"

"Why do you want humans, your highness?"

"To have sex with them, of course!"

"In that case, your highness, isn't it inefficient for us to slaughter them all?"

One of the sura questioned him, "How else would we consume them?"

"Why don't we rear them like livestock?"

"But don't we already do that?"

The sura elder shook his head. "We can be more deliberate about it. Bring our troops over and threaten them until they give up some of their humans. The king can have all the concubines he pleases, and the rest of us can eat our fill. There's no need to slaughter them on the battlefield at all."

The sura king slapped his head. "You're right, what an excellent strategy! Let's do just that."

Then, he turned back to Wang Yanyi. "You've done well leading us here, and I very much enjoy having sex with you."

Wang Yanyi trembled, despair in his eyes. "Kill me, please."

The sura king shook his head. "You've been instrumental in helping the sura discover a human city. How could I bear to kill you after this? I'm going to make you my concubine—aren't you happy?"

"No, no, no!" Wang Yanyi wailed.

The sura king turned to an elder. "Make sure this human doesn't die, do you understand?"

"You're growing quite rapidly," Zhang Lie praised Zhang Hanxiang.

Zhang Hanxiang smiled. "Of course, Brother! With you as my role model, I could hardly afford to slow down."

"As expected of my sister." Zhang Lie rubbed the back of her head. "Now that you're already at the limits of the first realm, it's time to break through."

Zhang Lie was very heartened to see that his sister, Jun Jiuxiao, and Ye Xianchen had all passed the limit of regular hunters in the first realm.

"Now, I think it's worth taking some time to search for peak-grade lifeforms that might be hiding about the first realm. With your current strength and the effects of the limit fragments you've acquired, you should be fine handling them."

Zhou Ming rushed inside the governor's manor in Qi.

Xiao Zhengyang frowned. "What's the matter? Why are you in such a big rush?"

"Something's very wrong, Governor Xiao! The sura are here!"

Xiao Zhengyang's face turned pale. He rushed out and saw a huge mass of sura rushing toward Qi.

"How did the sura learn about where our city was? Someone had to have told them!"

Xiao Zhengyang waved a commanding arm. "Now's not the time for that. Sound the alarm. The whole city must be prepared for a sura incursion."

As human archers headed up the watchtowers of Qi, the sura halted, and the sura elder strode forward.

Chapter 372: Inciting the Sura

"Listen up, humans of Qi! Hand over Zhang Lie and an additional one million humans, or the sura will raze this city to the ground!" the sura elder shouted

The humans within the city began to panic. The sura wanted Zhang Lie? Why? Had they learned about the limit fragments that he had come up with?

Naturally, the governor refused to agree.

The sura king turned to Wang Yanyi, who had been tied up. "Concubine, how many humans are there in this city?"

Wang Yanyi's eyes were glassy like those of a salted fish. He had lost his hope and all motivation to live on. "Kill me."

The sura king tilted Wang Yanyi's chin upwards. "Concubine, how could I be willing to kill you? I love having sex with you. Don't you think it would be nice to do that with all my troops watching you?"

Life flared into Wang Yanyi's eyes. "I don't know how many people there are in the city, but it has to be at least three or four million."

One of the sura commented idly, "To think that there aren't even five million humans inside!"

This was part of the reason why the humans were such a weak faction in the second realm: there ultimately weren't many hunters that ascended from the first realm and beyond. A single human planet would be able to provide no more than a few tens of millions of hunters.

The sura elder yelled once more, "Human, I'll give you one last chance. Hand over a million humans, or your city will perish!"

Xiao Zhengyang clenched his fists and yelled out, "Even if Qi were to fall, we won't hand over a single hunter!"

The sura elder laughed coldly. "Think about it carefully. It wouldn't take us any effort at all to crush your city!"

"Attack if you dare—we won't back down, and we won't submit to you sura!"

A million hunters would be a third of the city's population. If Xiao Zhengyang were to accede to the sura's demands now, he would set a dangerous precedent and undermine human sovereignty. If he were to do so, no one would be willing to live in Qi.

To Xiao Zhengyang, either the humans would slaughter the sura to the last, or the sura would do the same to them.

The sura elder hadn't expected that the humans would resist so stubbornly that they wouldn't even leave room for negotiation.

The sura king smiled at the sura elder. "Elder, it looks like things aren't going to plan."

His troops all began to laugh.

"These damned humans, how dare they?!"

"How could livestock understand our reasoning?"

"It's been a few days since I've had human flesh—I'll be able to eat my fill now!"

"I've heard that humans are all weaklings, and there's nothing to fear at all."

"Of course they're weak! My family used to own a human slave, and I could knock him over with just a slap. He wouldn't retaliate no matter how I beat or scolded him, but unfortunately I was too harsh once and beat him right to death."

"If these people won't listen to reason, then let's beat fear into them. Break their spines and their pride—let them know who the true overlords of this realm are!"

"Kill them all!" the elder howled, and the sura began to charge forward.

"Loose arrows!" Xiao Zhengyang commanded.

Bright genetic energy suddenly covered the city walls, as though they had been illuminated by a glowing beam of sunlight. Arrows charged with genetic energy filled the skies like raindrops in a thunderstorm.

The sura yelled; their skin turned red. They had no understanding of technique or tactics, only seemingly limitless brawn and brute strength. Indeed, they were challenging foes simply because of their tremendous physical strength and resilience. They could harden their skin with an explosion of genetic energy, allowing them to block most attacks with ease.

Except for a few unlucky sura who were struck in weak spots by the arrows, most of the sura warriors were able to dash to the city walls, then leap up and over them. Despite the fact that the walls were hundreds of meters tall, the sura were still able to get over them with boosts from their comrades.

As such, fighting began in the interior of the city as well.

The human hunters fought without cowardice or desertion, knowing that, if the city were to fall and their teleportation apparatus broken, they wouldn't be able to return to the real world. Even if they were to return to the real world now, they would lose all their possessions in Qi. This was a matter of personal interest, so these hunters wouldn't easily back down.

Xiao Zhengyang stood at the highest point in the city, where he oversaw the battle from above. The human troops were faring so well that he could hardly believe it. In the past, the sura had always overwhelmed the human hunters, no matter what strategies or tactics they employed. Against absolute strength, they simply couldn't do anything.

This time, however, the humans were no longer just sitting ducks.

It was clear that the sura had also realized this—in the past, it had taken three or four second-realm hunters working in tandem to kill a single sura, but now, just one or two hunters could do the same.

The humans were so much stronger than expected that even the sura were taken aback. Could the hunters of Qi be far stronger than the hunters elsewhere?

In truth, that wasn't the case—the entire human race's strength was increasing as a whole, an improvement that resulted from Zhang Lie's theory of limit fragments. Almost all new hunters would now take part in the foundational breakthrough, and quite a few of them had even consumed Potion #1, especially those from China. These hunters would start out with sixty basic limit fragments, and they were far stronger than their original counterparts.

Furthermore, as a result of the bounty placed against the Musi clan, quite a lot more hunters had obtained Potion #1, and there were all sorts of weaker or reduced-efficiency copies and substitutes now floating around the black markets.

These limit fragments were far more impactful than they seemed at first glance.

For instance, a hunter who had capped his mutated gene fragments wouldn't be able to defeat a superior-grade lifeform without making use of some special technique or another, but limit fragments could help breach this gulf.

The boost provided by these limit fragments would continue to propagate, speeding up the acquisition of more and more gene fragments exponentially. And now, the effects of this growth were making themselves known.

Chapter 373: Besieged on All Fronts

Unfortunately, although the humans' strength had risen, the sura weren't their only enemies in this realm.

Just as the Qi forces were fending off the sura, Zhou Ming rushed back with another unwelcome piece of news. "Governor Xiao, something's wrong! The eastern, northern, and southern walls are all being attacked!"

Xiao Zhengyang's face fell. "When did the sura learn to divide their forces?"

"It's not the sura, Governor, but the forces from other races!"

Qi wasn't close to any of the sura's lands, but there were quite a few alien races close by. Under usual conditions, they wouldn't have the strength to attack Qi, but now...

"Damn it! These bastards, they're taking advantage of the sura attacking us! Zhou Ming, defend the eastern wall with your special forces team. Gao Tian, you bring your team to the south. Ye Tianlang, you go to the north! We fight to the last. Even if Qi is to fall, we humans won't debase ourselves in front of the sura!"

While the hunters in Qi were fighting for their lives, the Zenith Dojo was in a festive mood as the Zenith Dojo conducted its second-ever tournament for promising hunters from all around the galaxy.

The alien competitors fought particularly fiercely; each of them was accompanied by what seemed to be entire clans. The tournament had attracted so many qualified participants that it almost seemed like a miniature Void Cup.

The participants were all hoping to get the grand prize for themselves—an opportunity to become Zhang Lie's own apprentice.

Not long after the start of the tournament, however, as Zhang Lie was welcoming the guests that were trickling in in a steady stream, Yan Long messaged him and warned him not to enter the second realm at the moment.

Zhang Lie immediately messaged him back asking about why.

"Zhang Lie, listen up. Qi's currently being attacked by all sorts of alien races, but the situation isn't looking good. No matter what, you can't head back in!"

"Why? I'm also a human, and I'm a citizen of Qi!" Zhang Lie retorted.

"I know you're upset, but you can't act rashly. The sura have attacked, and we don't stand a chance! You're more important than the entirety of Qi. Even if it's destroyed, you musn't die!"

Zhang Lie's eyes flashed coldly. "So what if it's the sura? I can't just stand still while the entire city's fighting without me!"

"You'll just be committing suicide! What can you do against an entire horde of the sura?!" Yan Long shouted back.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I'll change the tides of this battle—just you watch!"

Zhang Lie hung up, then gathered up the members of Team Zenith and other elites in preparation for joining the battle in Qi.

On the other side of the call, Yan Long smashed his transceiver against the ground in anger. Beside him, Hong Tianqi continued enjoying his cup of tea. "I told you not to call him, didn't I? Zhang Lie's temper was just like mine as a newbie hunter—you wouldn't have been able to stop him!"

Yan Long bared his teeth at Hong Tianqi. "How can you smile at a time like this? You know just what Zhang Lie represents for the future of humanity!"

Hong Tianqi smiled again. "Zhang Lie's not a rash fool. If he's choosing to head into the battle, I'm sure he has something in mind that can turn the tides."

"But the sura are attacking, the sura who have claimed so many of our human geniuses! What if he dies?"

Hong Tianqi's eyes flashed coldly. "If he dies, I'll force myself down to the second realm and slaughter the sura to the last myself."

Yan Long rolled his eyes. "The two of you are both crazed fools."

Blood dyed the grounds around Qi a vibrant red. The battle between the sura and humans continued, but the human forces were at an absolute disadvantage after having to split their forces on four fronts.

Some of the sura ate the humans' corpses as they fought, grabbing a human head, squeezing it until it exploded, then eating its contents raw as though they were consuming raw eggs. Others broke the humans' legs off, eating them with one hand as they fought the rest of the humans off with the others.

A few sura were tasked with capturing live humans and carting them back to the city of the sura.

If the sura weren't so domineering and instead allowed the other alien races to join their battlefield, even more humans from Qi would have perished. Nevertheless, Xiao Zhengyang couldn't bring himself to be happy about this—no, this was his biggest shame as governor of Qi. The sura thought of the humans as mere livestock, and he hadn't been able to change that perception at all! Any hungry sura warriors would eat the humans' corpses on the spot, and they were even taking captives to rear back on sura lands.

Xiao Zhengyang had once heard a legend about the sura, which had solidified his decision to never submit to the sura. Apparently, the sura found human babies to be a particular delicacy. Those human captives who gave birth would have their babies eaten whole, just like that.

Human captives had no rights to speak of within sura lands. Those who refused to copulate would find pills being added to their food, so human babies would be produced without fail every year.

The fighting on the other three fronts fared almost as badly as against the sura. There were simply too many members of the alien races present, and human forces were in short supply.

Although more and more hunters were joining the fight through the teleportation array, they still weren't sufficient to counter the hostile forces massing outside Qi.

The sura elder floated into the air and shouted, "Humans, stop resisting senselessly! There's no chance you'll be able to survive the sura's onslaught. Kneel on the floor obediently and you'll be spared from death."

Some of the human forces backed down and hesitated.

The sura elder continued, "The benevolent king of the sura does not wish to slaughter all of you. For an annual tithe of a hundred thousand humans, not only will we sura back off, we'll even protect Qi against other alien races."

This was the sura elder's true objective. The reason he had initially requested a million humans was to shock the humans into fighting the sura. Once they realized their dire straits, the sura would 'relent', suggesting an annual tithe of a hundred thousand humans each year instead.

This was just one tenth of the amount that had originally been suggested, and it made the deal seem much more reasonable than before, despite the fact that it was still a ridiculous price in absolute terms. The sura elder's objective was to break their mental defenses, then to offer 'protection'. Under the protection of the sura, the humans would gradually grow weak, complacent, and dependent on the sura—truly livestock in their own right.

Chapter 374: Qi, Undefeated

The sura elder didn't think it was time to start pressuring the humans, but the fact that alien races were pressuring Qi from three fronts caused Xiao Zhengyang, the sura elder, and especially the sura king to become anxious.

As one alien after another devoured the humans, the sura elder and Xiao Zhengyang's eyes turned red. The sura king looked as though he would go crazy; he barely resisted the temptation to rush forward and slaughter the alien races.

Xiao Zhengyang was angry because those were his fighters, and this was his city.

The sura elder was angry because those were his livestock, and this was his farm.

The sura king was angry because those were his concubines!

If not for the sura elder's advising against it, the sura king would surely have turned Qi into a human farm for rearing concubines. The sura king excitedly dreamt of roaming through the city, claiming whatever human he chanced across.

Of course, the only reason the sura elder was able to restrain the sura king was because he already had quite a number of concubines at his disposal; otherwise, if he were dead set on it, no one would be able to change his mind.

The sura themselves were quite angry that other races had dared invade Qi, taking advantage of their own presence here. Qi was their hunting ground, and the other races were prohibited from it! However, on account of the elder's human-rearing plans, they had no choice but to temporarily back down despite their anger.

The sura elder emphasized, "Cooperating with us sura will guarantee the safety of you humans. What do you think you can accomplish by fighting to the last? You'll have nothing but a pile of rubble and a city of bones! Is your pride really worth that much?"

The sura fighters cheered the elder, shouting, "The weak will be bullied, the weak won't be able to fend for themselves! If you want to live, let go of your pride!"

The elder cleared his throat and continued, "Is it really worth continuing to fight? Is what lies behind you worth protecting with your very lives? Why not choose a better solution?"

Some of the hunters within Qi began to ponder the elder's questions seriously. Could they truly win?

The elder's voice reached a crescendo. "No, you have no hope of victory at all! Only if you kneel and beg us for mercy will you have a chance to live!"

The sura fighters added, "Humans have never been able to defeat the sura, and they never will!"

"If you keep fighting, everyone in Qi will die. On the other hand, if you surrender, most of you will be able to continue living. Choose wisely!"

Some hunters in Qi slowly dropped the weapons in their hands, but as they did so, an arrow in the sky shone above the entire battlefield, whizzing toward the sura elder like a brilliant comet.

The sura elder spread his palms and summoned a wall of blood in front of him, which stopped the arrow in its tracks.

"Do you all want to die?!" Xiao Zhengyang shouted. "Hold your weapons firmly in your hand! If you let go of your pride now, the human race will never be able to prosper!"

Xiao Zhengyang knew that, as the governor, he would have to take action before the sura elder could reduce the fighters' morale even further and force mass desertion of his troops.

"Qi will not become a farm for the sura. Even if we all fall, this will remain a city of humans—this I promise you!"

The sura elder sighed. "As the governor, shouldn't you be more logical? Submitting to the sura is the only chance you humans have at surviving."

Xiao Zhengyang snorted. "Submitting and allowing ourselves to be reared as livestock? I'd rather die."

The sura elder shook his head. "An illogical choice. You are hardly suited to be a governor."

"As a sura, your criticism holds no weight." The fluctuations in Xiao Zhengyang's genetic energy grew stronger. He glowed like a sun, one whose rays struck the entire battlefield. Glancing at him and feeling the warm rays of light hit their faces, the human hunters' morale rose dramatically, and they faced the sura with renewed determination. Xiao Zhengyang shouted, "We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

The fighters picked up the chant. "We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

"We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

The chant quickly spread all around the city.

"We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

"We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

"We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

Along the other three fronts, blood pooled on the ground outside the city walls, with human and alien corpses alike strewn all over. With their numerical disadvantage, the humans were on the

losing end on all fronts, but no one tried to turn and flee. These hunters might have engaged in internal strife now and then, but when push came to shove, they united and worked together to fend off a mutual foe.

When Zhou Ming heard the voices coming from the other side of the city, he turned around, noticed the radiance in the air, and understood that the governor had made his move. As he slaughtered the alien fighter in front of him, he shouted, "The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

His team members echoed, "The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

Morale quickly rose among the fighters in the field.

"The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

"The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

"The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

The fighters fought bravely with the last dregs of their stamina. They were unable to turn the tide with their last hurrah, but their defensive lines didn't crumble, either.

Among the other fronts, the same chant could be heard echoing into the air: "The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

These words emboldened the fighters all over Qi.

"It looks like I'll have to kill you before these humans from Qi learn to kneel." The sura elder frowned.

"Come at me, then!" Xiao Zhengyang's light glowed even more brightly as his punches rained down toward the sura elder, who defended himself again with his wall of blood.

However, the scorching fists melted the blood and broke through the elder's defenses, causing the sura fighters' eyes to widen in amazement. Who would have expected that a human could grow so strong?

The sura elder waved an arm, transforming the shreds of the bloody wall into venomous snakes that shot toward Xiao Zhengyang from all directions, blocking off his escape routes.

Chapter 375: Zhang Lie Steps Forward

Xiao Zhengyang's radiance grew even brighter. He scorched and incinerated the snakes as he transformed into a meteoric beam of light and burst out of the snakes' enclosure.

The air suddenly felt dry and arid; the fighters' throats were parched. Nevertheless, they shouted even more loudly, "We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

The sura elder made his move. Bloody fog filled the skies and gusted toward Xiao Zhengyang.

Xiao Zhengyang dispelled that fog with a burst of light, then charged toward the elder with his fists at the ready. The blinded elder was unable to defend himself, but before Xiao Zhengyang's fists could land, a figure dashed into the fray and blocked Xiao Zhengyang's fists with a gigantic black palm.

Against that palm, Xiao Zhengyang felt powerless—the sura king had forced himself between the two combatants. He glanced at Xiao Zhengyang with some interest. "Oh, you're quite strong for a human!"

Xiao Zhengyang glanced at the figure seriously. "I've been waiting for you for quite some time, sura king."

As long as he was able to win against the sura king, the sura would retreat.

The sura elder hurriedly bowed. "Your highness."

The sura king waved a hand at him. "Back down— I'll take over from here!"

"Yes, your highness!"

Xiao Zhengyang's eyes brimmed with killing intent. "I had intended on killing that elder before hunting you down. Should I thank you for saving me some effort, then?"

As he circulated his genetic energy at maximum output, radiance erupted from the skies, breaking apart the bloody clouds that covered the sun and illuminating all of Qi. Human fighters from all over the city could see the radiance that he gave off, as well as the pillar of light that reached toward the skies.

"The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

"We will not submit! Qi will not fall!"

"The governor will shield us! Qi will not fall!"

"This is a pillar of victory, I'm sure of it!"

Light glowed so brightly from Xiao Zhengyang's body that it seemed to have taken on a condensed form, shocking the gathered sura fighters.

As Xiao Zhengyang burned his very lifeforce to augment his strength, the light reached such an astounding brightness that no one could open their eyes. The alien races began fearing for their lives, hardly able to imagine that there would be someone in Qi with such strength. Xiao Zhengyang was far stronger than anyone had imagined!

Zhou Ming clenched his fists tightly in excitement. "This is the governor of Qi!"

"Die! This human city isn't something you can corrupt at will, sura king!" Xiao Zhengyang punched forward with the strongest blow in his life, as the light exuding from his body was all concentrated in a single point.

The next moment, an explosion of radiant light shook the entire city of Qi.

"What a nuisance!" As the light pierced everything, the sura king yawned and evoked his domain, a sea of blood, which drowned out the light.

The next moment, the sea of blood morphed into a blood cyclone, gulping down whatever rays of light remained from Xiao Zhengyang's attack.

The human fighters' delighted cries came to an abrupt halt; no one could speak. They stood stock-still as they watched Xiao Zhengyang fall to the ground. The difference in strength was absolute; Xiao Zhengyang simply couldn't compete with the sura king.

Despite using his strongest attack, one which burned away his very lifeforce, Xiao Zhengyang lost to the sura king in just one blow.

It was true that the sura king had to treat this attack rather seriously, but it didn't change the fact that Xiao Zhengyang had been defeated.

The morale of the human fighters quickly dropped to a nadir. Xiao Zhengyang had intended on killing the sura king in one decisive blow and changing the tide of the battle. Even if he lost, as long as he dug in and refused to back down, he believed he would be able to increase the morale of the fighters, but he had hardly expected to lose so decisively.

Actions spoke louder than words; Xiao Zhengyang's ignominious defeat felt as though it were a premonition of what would happen to the human fighters.

The sura elder roared in laughter. "Haha! Did you see that? Humans, bow down to us—only then will you be able to survive!"

Xiao Zhengyang's defeat affected even the hunters fighting on the other three fronts. The fighters glanced up at the skies in a daze when Xiao Zhengyang's beacon of light vanished; the alien races took this opportunity to strike.

Zhou Ming was the first to react. "Don't let them into Qi!"

On the other side of the city, Xia Na shouted, "For the good of mankind! Everyone, charge with me!"

The special forces troops never backed down. They used techniques that burned their potential and their very life, but it all seemed hopeless. One man couldn't change the tide of the battle.

As invader after invader reached the city, a horde of dragons suddenly fell from the skies.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Hundred Dragons Soaring]!" Each dragon soared forward with a gaping maw, gobbling down every invader in sight.

Quite a few invaders, sensing something amiss, began to back away. "The humans laid a trap for us!"

None of them had expected to find another strong hunter besides Xiao Zhengyang within the city. They believed that Xiao Zhengyang's death would be an opportunity for them, but somehow found themselves against a whole horde of black dragons.

Chapter 376: Pride and Conviction

Hovering above the skies of Qi, Zhang Lie glanced down at the entire battlefield. There were far too many that had died or been injured by the fighting, and the hunters remaining on the sura front had lost all their morale.

Zhang Lie, who had just rushed over, helped stabilize the situation with a cast of [Fists of the Silent Sea], but there were still tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of wounded fighters remaining in the city.

Zhou Ming stumbled over, supported by a fellow hunter. He shouted, "Zhang Lie, what are you doing here?!"

Zhang Lie slowly floated to the ground with a smile. "It looks like you still have the energy to speak, at least."

"Why are you here?!" Zhou Ming grabbed his collar. "Leave, immediately!"

Before the battle, Zhou Ming had known that Zhang Lie was particularly important to the world federation, but it was only after the battle had started did he realize just how important Zhang Lie was.

Zhang Lie was more important than even Qi itself; everyone could die, but not Zhang Lie. The only reason the humans had managed to hold out for so long was because of the potions that Zhang Lie had devised, and once Zhang Lie developed advanced forms of these potions, all of humanity would benefit. All of humanity would gain the strength to repel the sura, once and for all.

For this reason, Zhang Lie had to live. Only if Zhang Lie lived on would his research on limit fragments continue to develop, and only then would mankind have the power to change its fate.

"I came back because I'm a human, because I'm a resident of Qin!" Zhang Lie shouted. "Should I leave the rest of you to die while I watch on without doing anything?! I'm confident that we can still win this battle."

Zhou Ming hung his head as though in surrender. "Since you're here, you should head toward the western front, where Governor Xiao was defeated by the sura. You're the only one who can replace him now."

Zhang Lie turned toward the three other battlefields. "How about the other fronts?"

Zhou Ming shook his head. "Your technique managed to scare them off for the moment, and they won't try attacking again for the short term. The next time they do, I'll do my best to hold them back. The real problem is with the sura—as long as we can handle the sura, the alien races will surely retreat as well."

Zhang Lie glanced at Zhou Ming's severe wounds. "It looks like you'll need some help."

Zhou Ming took a deep breath and stood erect. "Even if I were to die, I'll die up on the walls, blocking the alien invasion with my own corpse if I have to!"

"Members of Team Zenith, stand forward!" Zhang Lie shouted.

The members of Team Zenith, along with Hong Xi, stood side by side with Zhang Lie.

"Each of you, pair up and support the defenders to repel these other alien invaders."

"Yes, Captain!" the members of Team Zenith replied instantly.

Only then did Zhang Lie walk toward the sura front. By then, the sura king's bloody sea had swallowed up Xiao Zhengyang's last patch of light.

The sura elder roared in laughter. "Haha, haha! Did you all see that? Kneel, humans! Your struggles will be meaningless against absolute strength!"

The sura fighters shouted, "Before the might of the sura king, all things shall turn to dust!"

"Before the might of the sura king, all things shall turn to dust!"

"Before the might of the sura king, all things shall turn to dust!"

"Before the might of the sura king, all things shall turn to dust!"

The sura fighters' chant was so loud that the human defenders could hear it all the way on the other side of the city.

The sura elder laughed again. "Submit and surrender, humans!"

One fighter, unable to resist the pressure, dropped the weapon in his hand, followed quickly by tens, then hundreds, then thousands of fighters.

The sura elder continued, "Humans, you're far too weak, so much so that you can't continue living in the sura realm. Only by acknowledging us as your new masters will you be able to preserve your life! Kneel on the ground and recognize the futility of your resistance in the face of the sura king's strength."

The humans began to despair. Even a hunter as strong as the governor of Qi had been felled in a single blow; what would the rest of them be able to accomplish?

As a few fighters began to kneel down on the ground, the sura elder began to laugh even more loudly. Soon, his plan would be a grand success—Qi would become nothing more than a human farm for the sura!

"That's right, kneel! Your foolish pride can't keep you alive!"

Many of the hunters, looking at each other, slowly began to kneel.

"Says who?" A voice suddenly rang throughout the battlefield. "I disagree!"

Everyone raised their heads.

The sura elder frowned. "Who's there?!"

"A weak human!" Zhang Lie replied coldly, but the sura elder's frown didn't dissipate. Would a weak human really dare speak out at this juncture?

As the man stepped forward, the humans' eyes began to shine, igniting once more with hope.

"It's Zhang Lie!"

"The champion of the Void Cup, Zhang Lie!"

"The man who managed to defeat Musi Yu, the warlord of the third realm, without suffering a single injury! He'll surely be able to take down the sura king!"

"We're saved, we're saved!"

The sura elder's frown deepened. He had been moments away from ensuring the humans' submission, but a wildcard had appeared at the very last moment!

"What do you think you can do, you puny human?!"

"I suppose we'll find out."

The sura fighters began to laugh once again.

"Even the governor of Qi was unable to turn the tides! What do you think you can accomplish? You might be strong for a human, but compared to the sura, you're nothing!" The sura elder shook his head.

Chapter 377: Gene-Based Poison

Zhang Lie didn't waste his breath replying to the sura elder's arrogant claims. He summoned Venombane in his right palm.

The sura elder laughed coldly. "Give up, you stubborn fool! Do you think you can slaughter all of us here?"

The sura fighters began to laugh again. "Laughable, laughable indeed! Do you think you're stronger than the governor of Qi?"

"Stand still and defend against my attacks, then," Zhang Lie suggested, bringing out a large quantity of vials and causing the sura fighters to laugh even more loudly.

"Come at us if you dare!"

"If you can slaughter us despite the sura king's protection, we'll accept our deaths."

"Stop struggling, human beast! Kneel down and I'll consider letting you be a dog at my place!"

The sura elder tsked. "Honestly, if I were a human myself, I'd be ashamed of your behavior."

The sura king watched Zhang Lie curiously, wondering what he would do next. Zhang Lie summoned a black dragon and affixed his vials to it, then sent it soaring above the sura fighters. The liquid sprayed all over their bodies.

The sura fighters thought nothing of the errant drops of liquid.

One daring fighter spoke up, "Was that it? I thought that you might have some skill to dare to step forward, but it looks like it's all a charade! You aren't a clown sent over by the humans, are you? Perhaps the humans thought we were so bored of killing them that we needed more entertainment!

"Well, you did make us all laugh, so how about this? I'll escort you to the palace myself and let you become our king's next concubine. However, he's a strong and sturdy male, so who knows if you'll even be able to make it out alive?"

"Hahaha!" The sura fighters continued to laugh, but as they glanced at each other, they became rather taken aback. "Stop laughing! Your eyeballs look like they're about to bulge out of their sockets!"

"Haha, your mouth's all misshapen!"

"Haha, you, your head's melting!"

The sura fighters found themselves shrinking as flesh... melted off their bodies. Black spots appeared on their skin, then festering tumors.

"What's all this?!"

The sura elder's face grew alarmed. "That was poison!"

The sura fighters immediately began circulating their genetic energy in an attempt to dispel the poison, but the effects of the poison grew even more serious once it came in contact with their genetic energy. Their bodies ballooned, and blood and flesh exploded out of their bodies.

Only the sura king and sura elder seemed to be able to counter the effects of the poison.

The sura elder glared at Zhang Lie.

"Just what did you do?!"

"Haven't you already guessed it?"

"Hand over the antidote immediately."

"Unfortunately, this poison targets the genes directly. There's no antidote." The potion that Zhang Lie had employed was naturally the special tonic of the Yeluo clan, which was anathema to the sura. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call it a biological weapon. Any member of the sura who came into contact with the poison would find their DNA irreversibly corrupted, causing their bodies to decompose from their very genetic code alone.

As he watched the sura fighters keel in agony, the sura elder shouted, "If you don't hand over the antidote, I'll slaughter the entire population of Qi!"

Zhang Lie shook his head. "I won't let you do that."

The humans watched the sura fighters decompose with shock, fear, and some amount of satisfaction.

"I'll kill you!" the sura elder shouted. There wasn't any more time left; if the poison spread further, all the sura fighters would perish. The sura elder sent a bloody mist rising into the skies.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!" Zhang Lie cut apart the mist—and beheaded the sura elder. He moved so swiftly that even the sura king wasn't able to react in time. The sura elder's head rolled on the ground, and his body crumpled.

The sura king walked up to Zhang Lie slowly. "Interesting. You're the strongest human I've seen," he commented. He was smiling serenely, as though he didn't notice his decomposing fighters, nor the head of the sura elder that had rolled to his feet.

Zhang Lie frowned. "You don't care about the death of these other members of your race at all?"

The sura king spread his arms. "They're nothing more than fighters. I have an entire kingdom under my control, and I can easily get more of those."

"You're cold-blooded."

"Well, I liked the elder." He glanced down at the rolling head. "It's a pity you killed him."

The sura king eyed Zhang Lie's buttocks. "You're a very interesting human. I think I'd like to take you as my concubine."

Genetic energy flared from Zhang Lie's body in response. No matter what, he had to kill the sura king here—he was too perverted an enemy that Zhang Lie didn't want to encounter him ever again!

"Oh? It looks like you're quite resistant to the idea," the sura king sighed. "You need to give me a name so that I know what to address you by."

"I won't give you that opportunity!"

"Are you unwilling to tell me even your name?" The sura king narrowed his eyes. "I suppose the elder was right to call the humans all cowards."

Zhang Lie scoffed. "My name is Zhang Lie."

"You—you're Zhang Lie!"

The sura king immediately became enraged. The bloody sea that was his domain began to pool all around him, and a cyclone of blood swirled by his feet. The skies looked as though they had been dyed in carmine.

The human fighters jumped up in fear, then scurried off into hiding behind the walls of Qi.

"It was you who slaughtered my darling, my dear concubine, Musi Yu!" Genetic energy gushed out of the sura king. The bloody sea turned choppy; the sea's boundless rage seemed to be focused on one target: Zhang Lie.

Chapter 378: Fighting the Sura King

This time around, the humans were shocked by the sura king's words even before he released his aura. The famed Musi Yu, warlord of the third realm, was the sura king's most beloved concubine?! A fighter as strong as the sura king didn't have any need to resort to lying, but weren't he and Musi Yu both male?

One human even guessed, "Could Musi Yu's title as a third-realm warlord have come from his... dalliances... with the sura king?"

"There's no doubt of it, I'm sure!"

"Of course there isn't—what else could the sura king be doing here? He's acting like a jilted lover!"

"Once this battle is over, I'll rush back to Earth and tell everyone I know about this news."

The human fighters brimmed with hope and determination. They had to be the ones to get home safely to inform everyone about this shocking revelation; they had to live on! Tomorrow's newspapers' headlines seemed clear already:

The unspeakable secret of the third-realm warlord, Musi Yu

The hidden tryst between Musi Yu and the sura king

The third-realm warlord, Musi Yu, a traitor to the human race!

Musi Yu's name and reputation had been entirely ruined.

Now that Zhang Lie had defeated all the sura fighters besides the sura king, there was little the human fighters could do but watch and cheer him on. If the sura king were to win, they would all become his concubines; if Zhang Lie were to win, he would soon be heralded as humanity's savior against the sura.

Someone wondered, "Do you think this was why Zhang Lie suddenly issued a bounty on the Musi clan?"

Perhaps he wanted to eradicate the Musi clan because he knew that Musi Yu was the concubine of the sura king! And when Musi Yu realized that Zhang Lie had found out about his secret, he knew that he had to come to the second realm to assassinate him."

"That's very plausible!"

"And here I thought that Zhang Lie was misusing his authority, but it turned out that it was for the good of mankind all along!"

Zhang Lie had no idea what was going on, and when he heard that Musi Yu was actually the concubine of the sura king, he was as surprised as the other humans present.

The sura king growled in rage, "I'll make you my concubine, then sleep with you day and night! Only then will I be able to assuage the lack of my darling Musi Yu."

"Shut up!" Zhang Lie cringed. As he circulated his genetic energy, he shot forward.

The sura king waved an arm at him, sending tendrils of the bloody sea snaking toward him.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!" Venombane shook. A bloody dragon emerged from the blade, parting the seas as it shot toward the sura king.

"Interesting." The sura king defended with a punch of his own. He punched forward with his right fist, his motions replicated by the sea itself. A fist of blood destroyed the blood dragon.

"[Syzygy]!" A blood moon formed beneath Zhang Lie's feet, and a black sun rose by his back. The sura king could feel the potency of his blood sea weakening, and the fist he had just shot out was reduced in strength as well.

"[The Boundless Blade: Requiem of the End]!" A frightening array of swords destroyed the sura king's domain. Under the effects of [Syzygy], Zhang Lie's original strength was multiplied by an order of magnitude, a shocking, dramatic increase.

The will of the world appeared again, establishing another barrier to cordon off the fight between Zhang Lie and the sura king.

Zhang Lie himself charged forward wielding Venombane in his hand. As the sura king found his domain crumbling, Zhang Lie slashed forward with his sword, leaving a gaping wound from the sura king's shoulder to his chest.

Zhang Lie had taken the upper hand.

"Very interesting. Indeed, you're the strongest concubine I've faced to date!" A bloody mist poured out of the sura king's body. The wound healed rapidly, and long, purple hair appeared from his head. The sura king quickly shrank from a three-meter tall giant to a regular two-meter tall sura fighter.

Horns protruded from his forehead like a crown, and his purple hair draped over his back. A spiritual power seemed to suffuse his body. Behind his back rose a black wheel on which nine will-

o-wisps burned. A purplish-gold armor materialized over his body, reminiscent of a human's genetic armor.

The sura king sighed in comfort. "It's been a long time since I've used my battle-ready form."

Zhang Lie could sense the sura king's strength rising steadily with every transformation he made.

"It's been far too long since I enjoyed the joys of combat. My opponents would always die far too rapidly for me to have any fun! I hope you'll be able to give me the barest hint of a good fight."

The sura king's tone and voice had changed, and his initial perversion had morphed into the commanding tones of a leader. Glancing at his new transformation, the humans behind Zhang Lie began to fear, struck by the endless bloodlust that he seemed to radiate.

A blood dragon descended on the sura king from the skies. With a casual punch upward from the sura king, the dragon exploded head-first.

Zhang Lie raised an arm. The outline of a dragonturtle suddenly materialized over his body as the runic tablet of gravity crashed into the ground. Even the sura king found his actions hindered, as though his body had turned partially to lead.

With his other arm, Zhang Lie summoned the third and fourth tablets over the sura king's body, causing his mind to slow and his energy to disperse. Sensing the potency of the tablets, the sura king tried to jump out of their way, but Zhang Lie then launched the second tablet, the runic tablet of lightness. The sura king lost control of his body for a short moment; by the time he recovered, the four tablets were arrayed around him.

"[Rune: Resonate]!" The outline of the dragonturtle around Zhang Lie's body raised its head to the sky as it roared. The four tablets shone brilliantly, then began to revolve around the sura king's body. The sura king felt bile and blood rising from his throat, and he had to force himself to swallow it back down.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!" Zhang Lie launched a dragon straight toward the sura king's head.

The sura king activated a secret technique in an attempt to dispel the four tablets surrounding him, but by then, Zhang Lie's second attack was already on its way.

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Ascent]!" A whole horde of blood dragons flocked out of Venomaben, surrounding the sura king like a gigantic cyclone.

The sura king yelled out as he forcibly summoned his domain, suppressing Zhang Lie's attacks. His domain resisted the onslaught of Zhang Lie's bloody dragons, neither party's technique quite able to overcome the other. The sea smashed some of the dragons to pieces, but the dragons clawed away at the sea.

The human fighters had, by then, dashed inside the city and were watching the fight from the walls; it was too dangerous for them outside. Waves of energy radiated from the two fighters, and the weaker hunters running away into the distance found themselves being bowled over.

Chapter 379: Red Spider Lilies

"Who do you think will win?" one of the spectators asked.

"Who else?" A hunter rolled his eyes. "We have to believe in Zhang Lie, or we'll all die!"

"But his opponent's the sura king! Even the governor was unable to survive more than a single blow with him. Could Zhang Lie win?"

"I know it's unlikely that he'll be able to do so, but what can we do but cheer for him?"

Someone suddenly shouted, "Zhang Lie, keep it up!"

"Zhang Lie, you can't lose!"

Indeed, what else could they do? They were powerless to help in a fight of this magnitude.

The sura king rushed out of the tablets' range. His fists were caked with crystalline blood as he made to strike Zhang Lie down with a punch.

"[Fists of the Silent Sea: Hundred Dragons Soaring]!" Zhang Lie met the sura king's punch with one of his own, summoning a horde of black dragons to combat the sura king's blood sea.

The sura king waved his fists madly despite all the black dragons striking his body, laughing as he fought. "Haha, this is exhilarating! It's been so long since I last felt the fun of combat."

Zhang Lie activated his forest wolfman and blood ant soulshards simultaneously, turning into a blood-colored wolfman. His black dragons shone with an eerie red light as they bit at the sura king's body.

The sura king was forced back with a large number of wounds all over his body. He licked the blood from his lips. "Again! More!"

"[The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!" Venombane shuddered as even more dragons shot out from the blade, which the sura king sent reeling with a few strikes from his palm. The shockwaves that resulted from the confrontation were so intense that they even caused cracks to appear on the city walls on impact.

Zhang Lie slashed apart the sea of blood and launched an attack straight at the sura king. The sura king roared in anger as he punched back in retaliation, causing the entire city of Qi to shudder.

Sun Mengmeng turned around from where she stood on the ramparts of Qi. "You can do it, Captain!"

A long, frightening gash snaked up the sura king's arm from his palm all the way to his shoulder. Beads of blood quivered on Venombane; the previous confrontation had gone in Zhang Lie's favor.

The sura king narrowed his eyes as he glanced at Zhang Lie. How long had it been since he last encountered a fighter of this caliber? He even felt as though his life might be in danger! The sura king licked his lips again. "You're amazing. I'll definitely make you my concubine!"

"Sorry, but I'm not interested! [The Boundless Blade: Dragon's Wrath]!" Venombane struck once more.

With a wave of his hand, the sura king blocked Zhang Lie's attack with a bloody wall of water. The blood dragon broke through the wall, but by the time it did so, the sura king was long gone.

Zhang Lie frowned. "So the sura king also turns tail like a coward."

"Oh, I'm just making a few preparations!" The sura king extended a palm as a murky mass appeared from within the depths of the blood sea. A pitch-black creature slowly emerged, with growths that looked partially like beasts and partially like humans.

The sura king explained, "The sura are a very interesting race. Not only can they acquire genetic fragments by slaughtering other lifeforms, they can even absorb their soul fragments and nurture them in their soulspace."

The creature seemed to be composed of thousands of these warped spirits, a malevolent aura seeping out of it as the spirits cried out,

"Kill me!"

"Kill me!"

"Kill me!"

"Please, kill me!"

"I don't want to be tortured any longer!"

As the sura king pressed his palm down, a bloody flower grew out of the garish creature's mouth, resplendent in carmine. Its color was even more vibrant than blood. The longer one looked at it, the more one felt a desire to reach out toward it.

Zhang Lie recognized it immediately. "A red spider lily!"

All across the sea of blood, red spider lilies sprouted and bloomed, turning the battlefield into a veritable field of flowers.

However, none of the hunters watching felt anything but disgust at the sight. Each flower represented a wretched soul that the sura king had absorbed and sentenced to torture for oblivion—these lilies consumed the soul as nourishment and grew on the corpses of the dead!

The sura king continued mournfully, "Each of these lilies was born from one of my concubines, as well as those humans I found an affinity with. Unfortunately, my dear Musi Yu was unable to find a respite here."

Zhang Lie felt chills making their way up his body. Those terrified, haunted souls were all men whom the sura king had raped to death! He shuddered at the thought. The sura king was far more perverted than he had realized.

"I-I can't believe it. This is revolting!"

"You have to admit that this sort of thing grants the sura king immense strength, though. By torturing these men and beasts, he can make use of their souls to increase his own strength."

"What will we do if Zhang Lie can't bring him down? He's repulsive, but he's ridiculously strong!"

Chapter 380: Domain of Absolute Control

With the members of Team Zenith guarding the city walls, Zhou Ming was able to lead a search-and-rescue team to retrieve the heavily wounded Xiao Zhengyang and bring him back to Qi.

At the moment, Xiao Zhengyang was glancing at Zhang Lie, who was hovering above the sea of red spider lilies, and praying for his success. "I leave the defense of Qi to you. Please, don't fail!"

Suddenly, the red spider lilies all began to glow with a startling blood-red light as the sura king activated a frightening technique. Even before the technique had fully activated, all of Qi seemed to be smothered with some strange energy.

The next moment, the red spider lilies all exploded. The cordon that the will of the world had created broke apart in an instant. Such was the strength of the explosion that it destroyed the walls of Qi, which had survived the attacks of tens of thousands of sura fighters, in a single blinding flash.

As the walls fell to the ground, the human fighters that were watching the scene on top of the walls were crushed under the rubble in an instant.

Xiao Zhengyang pushed everyone from the special forces down to the ground. The aftermath of the blood-colored explosion sent chunks of earth flying into the air. Light glowed weakly from Xiao Zhengyang's body like a flickering candle amidst the destruction of the city, as though it could be snuffed out in an instant.

The skies were still blood-red. The sea of blood that was the sura king's domain had evaporated in an instant, and petals from the red spider lilies came drifting down from the sky. The sura king extended a palm and caught one such petal, allowing it to disintegrate into nothing. His face seemed sorrowful. "Thank you for your contribution, dear concubine."

The sura king had destroyed all the soul fragments he had accumulated these last few years all at once, but he didn't think it a waste at all. He glanced at Qi, the walls of which had fallen. This was what he had won in exchange: a city full of humans with whom he could have sex. Upon having sex with these humans and turning them into malignant souls, he would be able to create an even more spectacular explosion the next time he used the technique.

After the explosion, hunters slowly crawled out of the rubble of the city. The force of the explosion had been greatly reduced by the time it reached them, and most of the humans had survived. However, they didn't know just what the sura king had in store for them.

"What's the situation like?"

"This technique was far too frightening. If the will of the world hadn't helped shield us from the effects of his attack, it might even have leveled the city of Qi to the ground!"

Xia Na struggled to get up. "What happened to Zhang Lie?"

Xiao Zhengyang lowered his head. "He had to have died. How could anyone have survived a point-blank explosion of that magnitude?"

Some hunters were still looking around expectantly, but even they didn't think Zhang Lie had survived. The force of the explosion was so immense that it seemed ridiculous to imagine that anyone could have survived.

Suddenly, however, a few hunters began to shout and point.

"Look there!"

"Look!"

Four sturdy runic tablets stood upright by the center of the explosion, charred and smoking but otherwise unharmed.

The moment the explosion occurred, Zhang Lie had summoned all four tablets and erected his domain around them, shielding himself from the worst of the explosion's effects. The runic tablets cracked, then sent the stored-up energy back at the sura king. At the same time, Zhang Lie sent his blood domain spreading out, moonlight radiating from his feet and a black sun to his back.

The four dragonturtle tablets shifted as he did, leaving a trail of stasis wherever they roamed.

This was the strongest attack from his [Ninecarp Transformation]'s fourth form, as well as one of his trump cards. To be frank, Zhang Lie hadn't expected that anyone but the asura monarch would be able to force him to reveal this domain of absolute control, but the technique that the sura king had spent years strengthening was worthy of its use.

The hunters in Qi cheered as they saw Zhang Lie unharmed, and Xiao Zhengyang's brightened as well.

Zhou Ming clenched his fists tightly. "Keep it up, Zhang Lie!"

The sura king's eyes widened in amazement. "You will truly be an excellent concubine."

"You've lost, king of the sura! Your domain won't be able to protect you any longer!"

With the four tablets revolving around him and his blood domain activated, Zhang Lie would be a challenging enemy indeed.

From within Qi, a hunter began to shout, "Mankind will not fall! Zhang Lie is indomitable!"

"Mankind will not fall! Zhang Lie is indomitable!"

"Mankind will not fall! Zhang Lie is indomitable!"

As the other hunters picked up the chant and it rose in volume and strength, Zhang Lie and the sura king could both hear it clearly even from a distance.

The sura king shook his head. "No, I haven't lost yet. I have one final trump card!"

Zhang Lie frowned. Did the sura king really have something up his sleeve?

The sura king sighed. "I've never used this technique in front of any other person, because no one has been able to survive its precursor—the explosion of the red spider lilies. You're the first one to get this far!"

The blood-red petals that continued to rain down from the skies suddenly started to congregate around the sura king as he reached up, his two arms outstretched. "Concubines, give me your strength!"

The sura king's aura suddenly grew more potent and more mysterious, to a realm that even Zhang Lie instinctively shied away from. As the petals revolved around the sura king, he shouted, "Thank you, concubines!"

Xiao Zhengyang abruptly took a step back. "Is the sura king trying to forcefully absorb the power of those soul fragments to strengthen himself?"

Xia Na's eyes widened. "Is that possible?"

"Who knows? The sura king might be a perverted fellow, but he's proven himself to be ridiculously strong. Quick, we have to retreat further!"