

War God 651

Chapter 651: Stealth Kill, Blazing Rose!

"What kind of thought master could Huaxia possibly have?"

The icy woman's face was filled with disdain. She pointed a finger, and the entire world immediately began to twist and warp. Although she was in a clubhouse, the next moment she found herself standing above a bustling city. The surrounding scenery distorted; skyscrapers collapsed and reassembled as time itself seemed to shift and flow away. In this entire world, it was as if she were the only one who existed.

With a gentle point of her finger, a spot of light rapidly expanded until it appeared right before her eyes.

"Found you."

The woman's pretty face was cold, but a smirk emerged at the corners of her mouth.

Her robe billowed without a wind as she spread her hands slightly, unleashing a surge of overwhelming psychic power.

BOOM! BOOM!

The scenes around her changed even faster, as if heaven and earth were inverted and Yin Yang was in chaos, making one dizzy just from the sight. Everything in the universe was converging and compressing toward a single point, possessing infinite power.

Competing with me in Divine Sense? How conceited.

Just as the woman was about to crush her target, an indifferent voice suddenly echoed from the void.

The next moment, the woman's expression changed drastically, her face filled with disbelief. A wave of psychic power, strong enough to induce despair, came crashing down and shattered her psychic blockade.

CRACK!

The surrounding scenery shattered violently. The skyscrapers, the void, everything broke apart like a mirror, and reality returned to normal.

「Inside the clubhouse.」

The woman stood at the window, as if her soul had fled her body. A gentle breeze blew past, and the skin on her face cracked like an eggshell, followed by her head, and then her body...

Finally, the woman who called herself a thought master disintegrated into ash, vanishing without a trace.

In a battle of thought masters, the dead leave no remains.

Kaso, who had witnessed the scene, looked slightly unsettled.

"Such powerful psychic power!"

Yael's psychic power could be considered one in ten thousand. And yet, she was dead.

"King of Thunder, this person is extremely strong! You must leave first!" the other women cried out. They had already awoken and were now standing behind Kaso, their grave expressions fixed on the window. There, a figure was rapidly approaching.

"Are you telling me to run?" Kaso smiled faintly. "In my dictionary, it's always the enemy who flees."

CRACKLE!

A thunderbolt emerged from Kaso's hand and instantly shot toward the sky.

「In the sky.」

Lin Mu gently waved his hand, and the roaring thunderbolt dissipated on its own.

Thunder Law?

A mocking curve formed at the corner of Lin Mu's mouth. As Emperor Zun, he had long ago integrated all the laws of heaven and earth into his very being. Using such a paltry power against him was like an apprentice showing off his axe skills to a master carpenter.

An ordinary person might truly be helpless against you, but before me...

Standing atop a mountain peak, Lin Mu gently closed his eyes. The next moment, they snapped open, a flash of Thunderbolt streaking through them.

BOOM!

Thunder shook the world. An incredibly ferocious Thunderbolt descended from the sky, striking the clubhouse below.

The mountains collapsed and the earth split apart!

The clubhouse was obliterated, and the surrounding area for several miles was left in utter ruin. Fortunately, the clubhouse wasn't in the city center. Otherwise, that single attack would have caused an unimaginable number of casualties. This was precisely why Lin Mu had used the Thunderbolt to obliterate the clubhouse outright.

Hmm, he's not dead?

Lin Mu suddenly raised an eyebrow, looking in a certain direction. In that direction, a figure was fleeing at incredible speed.

Lin Mu wanted to give chase, but three women appeared before him, blocking his path.

"Kill!"

The moment they appeared, the three women charged at Lin Mu without the slightest hesitation, their eyes filled with grim resolve. This man had not only killed Yael with his psychic power, but his Thunder Law had just killed two others. To buy King Jiasuo more time, they had to stop Lin Mu.

Kaso's seven women were ostensibly his secretaries, but in reality, they were his bodyguards, each one immensely powerful.

Unfortunately for them, no amount of power was of any use before Lin Mu.

His figure flickered and vanished. When he reappeared, he was already behind one of the women. He pointed a finger. A wisp of Sword Qi shot out, instantly piercing through her head.

Before her body could hit the ground, Lin Mu had already appeared before the other two. Another single streak of Sword Qi was all it took to claim both their lives.

In terms of both appearance and ability, these three women were extraordinarily gifted, truly one in a million. Yet Lin Mu killed them without a moment's hesitation. He showed no mercy, ruthlessly destroying such beauty.

After killing the three, Lin Mu turned to look toward a certain direction. There, King Jiasuo was about to disappear from sight.

Although Lin Mu had locked onto King Jiasuo with his Divine Sense from the start, he could now feel the man's presence fading rapidly, like a guttering candle flame. Moreover, he had already entered the city. Amidst the bustling, crowded streets, he would be incredibly difficult to find.

"Heh. An ordinary person might have actually lost you." A playful smile touched Lin Mu's lips.
"Unfortunately for you, the best way to hide a drop of water isn't in a bottle or some secret place—it's in the ocean. And my Divine Sense is far beyond your imagination!"

As he spoke, Lin Mu stamped his foot on the ground, his body shooting into the sky.

BOOM!

The hillside where Lin Mu had been standing collapsed into a pile of rubble, burying the three women's bodies.

"A top assassin? King Jiasuo? I'd like to see how you escape!"

The nights in River City were the most beautiful and enchanting. Though it was late, some of the livelier streets still had shops open for business. There were even scantily-clad women standing by the roadside, soliciting customers. Among them were foreign women, whose enthusiastic and uninhibited personalities made them particularly popular.

Lin Mu made no effort to disguise himself. His tall frame, handsome features, and extraordinary aura were impossible to miss. As he walked down the street, many members of the opposite sex stared, their eyes shining, practically rooted to the spot.

Before long, Lin Mu stopped in front of a nightclub.

This is the place?

With a slight smile, Lin Mu walked straight in.

「Inside the nightclub.」

The club was unusually quiet and nearly empty. Even the few patrons who were there were all getting up to leave. As they passed, many of the women cast flirtatious glances his way or slipped him slips of paper. On them were written phone numbers, or even hotel names and room numbers. Two of them were even men.

Lin Mu shook his head with a smile and waved his hand gently. An invisible wall seemed to materialize before the crowd, barring their way to Lin Mu. Some looked reluctant to leave, but their companions pulled them away.

"Are you trying to get yourself killed? That man is clearly someone important. How dare you hit on him?"

"I don't care who he is! He's so handsome. I'd be happy just to spend one night with him!"

"Shut up and let's go!"

Soon, the nightclub was empty.

Lin Mu walked toward the bar, where a woman in a red robe was focused on mixing a drink. Just as Lin Mu reached the bar, she finished, placing the glass down and sliding it gently toward him.

"Blazing Rose, care for a taste?"

Chapter 652: Borrow a Light!

"Blazing Rose?"

Lin Mu sat at the bar, sizing up the foreign woman before him.

The woman carried herself with an excellent temperament, her entire being radiating a fiery intensity. It was just like the drink in front of her, which was still wreathed in red flames.

With a slight smile, Lin Mu picked up the glass and drained the blazing liquor in a single gulp.

The moment he set the glass down, the woman had already glided over and settled into his lap. Her flame-red lips drew close to his ear, and an alluring fragrance instantly filled the entire nightclub.

"Who is this guy? The club's owner is throwing herself at him. I'm so jealous."

"Are you looking for death? That man is a major figure here in River City!"

"A major figure? Why haven't I ever seen him?"

"Once you see what he's like, you'll understand why I had to get us out of here the moment he came in."

A young man sighed and explained, "The first time I saw him was at the Drink and Enjoy Bar. That's Brother Dao's territory, but this man killed a lot of people there. Not long after, even Brother Dao vanished. To this day, no one knows where he went."

"The second time was at a KTV. He was ruthless, killed countless people, and walked away without a single consequence."

"The third time was at Brother Hu's place. I saw it with my own eyes. Even Cheng Bugui, one of River City's top bosses, knelt to apologize to him, addressing him as Venerable Master!"

As soon as the young man finished, the others all drew a sharp breath.

They finally understood why their companion had insisted on dragging them away from a perfectly good time the instant this man appeared.

The guy was a bringer of doom!

Even Cheng Bugui had to call him Venerable Master. He had killed so many people and faced no repercussions; he clearly had a powerful background. His presence at this nightclub tonight could only mean he was here to kill again.

At this thought, the onlookers who were still lingering at the entrance dared not delay any longer and fled.

"Hmph, so what if you know Cheng Bugui? I'm not impressed!"

Just then, a group of men entered the nightclub. The leader was a middle-aged man decked out in designer brands, with a few underlings trailing behind him.

"Dong Lao San from River City? What's he doing here?"

Upon seeing the middle-aged man, some of those who had been about to leave froze, their expressions changing.

"If you know his name is Dong Lao San, then you should also know he comes to this nightclub to drink every week on this exact day," the young man from before said. "Moreover, he's always considered the owner of this club his exclusive property."

"Doesn't that mean that guy is in for it?" someone cried out. "I heard that anyone the owner serves a Blazing Rose to gets a chance to... with her."

Sure enough, the moment Dong Lao San saw the club's owner sitting on Lin Mu's lap, a look of displeasure flashed in his eyes.

"Damn it, he dares to touch San Ge's woman? He must be tired of living!" a youth with a vicious expression roared. "San Ge, should we teach this kid a lesson?"

He was one of Dong Lao San's lackeys. Since he took Dong Lao San's money, he naturally had to look out for his boss's interests.

Watching Lin Mu laughing and chatting with the female owner, Dong Lao San's eyes filled with rage. "Try not to make a scene. Of course, as long as nobody dies, San Ge has your back!"

"Got it!"

The youth happily agreed, snatched a wine bottle from a nearby table, and strode directly toward Lin Mu.

"Bai Shao, what's wrong with you?"

At the nightclub entrance, the remaining crowd saw the young man from before trembling like a leaf in the wind and asked in confusion.

"Let's go, now! Someone's about to die in there!" replied the young man known as Bai Shao, his face ashen.

"Well, well, if it isn't Bai Shao," Dong Lao San sneered, glancing over as he took out a lighter for his cigarette. "What's this? You're leaving just as I arrive? Are you trying to disrespect me?"

"Dong Lao San, if you don't want to die, take your men and leave now," Bai Shao advised with a sigh. "Otherwise, not even the Heavenly King himself will be able to save you." He added, "Who in River City, let alone the entire Handong Province, would dare to offend Young Master Mu?"

The warning, however, only incensed Dong Lao San. "Young Master Mu? Pah! You think I, Dong Lao San, am easily scared? Bullshit Young Master Mu! I could kill him if I wanted to—"

"His name is Young Master Mu?"

Suddenly, Dong Lao San froze. He stared at Bai Shao and repeated, "You said... his name is Young Master Mu? The one from Jiangling?"

Bai Shao nodded silently.

Who else in the entire Handong Province dared to be called Young Master Mu?

Only Lin Mu.

At that very moment, Dong Lao San's underling had already reached Lin Mu. With a savage look on his face, he raised the wine bottle and smashed it straight down toward Lin Mu.

Just then, however, a ferocious torrent of flames erupted from the woman in Lin Mu's arms.

The fire swept over the youth, and before he could even scream, he was incinerated into nothingness. Not only him, but Lin Mu himself was engulfed in the blaze as an incandescent heat swept out furiously.

"Lin Wudi? So this is all you amount to!"

The woman suddenly stood. A blazing flame burned in her palm, yet the fire, like an obedient pet, danced and swirled around her.

Dong Lao San and his men were dumbfounded. They never expected the sexy proprietress of this nightclub to be a pyrokinetic!

What's more, she had just killed Lin Mu!

"Hahaha, Rose, well done!"

Just then, Kaso entered through the back door. Looking at the flame-wreathed Lin Mu, his face was a mask of pure resentment.

"Lin Wudi, I bet you never expected this! To think you would die by my hand!"

Kaso's face contorted with hatred. Lightning crackled and gathered in his hands as if he was about to blast Lin Mu to smithereens. "You killed so many of my women. Today, I'll offer your head as a tribute to them!"

The lightning in his hands shot forth, striking Lin Mu.

However, the instant the lightning made contact, the flames covering Lin Mu's body vanished. Not only that, but there wasn't a single scorch mark on him.

Lin Mu remained seated, a faint smile on his face as he looked at them all.

"Playing with fire?" he glanced at the woman named Rose and sneered. "If I claim to be second, no one dares claim first."

"How is that possible?"

Kaso and Rose exchanged a look, both seeing the utter shock in the other's eyes.

"You go first!" Kaso barked, motioning for Rose to leave while he charged toward Lin Mu.

However, he took only two steps forward before abruptly pivoting and bolting for the back door.

BOOM!

The solid wall burst open. After charging out of the nightclub, Kaso fled frantically without a moment's pause.

Rose was just as quick to react. A blaze erupted around her as she hurled a torrent of flames at Lin Mu, then also turned to run.

"Holy shit, is he a damn superhero?!" Dong Lao San blurted out, so stunned that he forgot to close the lit lighter in his hand.

"You can't escape."

Lin Mu slowly rose to his feet and reached a hand toward Dong Lao San.

"Lend me some fire!"

Instantly, the lit lighter in Dong Lao San's hand erupted with towering flames. They coalesced into a fiery dragon that roared out in a flash.

A terrified scream echoed from outside. Peering through the hole in the wall, Dong Lao San saw the woman known as Rose transform into motes of fire that scattered in the wind.

THUD!

Dong Lao San's legs gave out, and he collapsed onto the floor, utterly stupefied.

Chapter 653: Pursuing King Jiasuo!

"A superhuman!"

The clubgoers were stunned silly, finding the scene before them utterly surreal. He had not only smashed through a wall but had also emerged from the fire unscathed and was now controlling the flames. Was this something a human could even do?

Bai Shao and the others turned deathly pale, watching helplessly as the fire dragon spun through the air and incinerated the club's owner, leaving nothing but a pile of ashes.

The club owner was dead.

"Lin Wudi, just you wait! I won't let you get away with this!" With Rose dead, Kaso's voice drifted from afar, filled with cold, murderous intent and bitter resentment.

All seven women had been killed. Especially Rose. She wasn't just his most capable subordinate; she was the woman he loved most. Now that Lin Mu had killed her, Kaso would certainly not let the matter rest.

"I'll start with your woman, then your relatives, then your friends! I won't spare a single person you know!" Kaso's voice, thick with killing intent, echoed from the distance.

He was the internationally renowned assassin, the King of Thunder. If he truly went into hiding to carry out an assassination, no one would be able to stop him.

But his opponent was Lin Mu, the former number one king of the Assassin World.

"Do you really think you'll have that chance?"

As a soft laugh echoed, a fire dragon roared through the sky. It moved like a crimson chain, blanketing everything as it descended in an instant, engulfing Kaso in a flash.

Only a few seconds had passed since Kaso had left the club and Rose had been struck down by Lin Mu's counterattack. Lin Mu's rapid response had caught Kaso completely off guard.

"Lin Wudi, you can't catch me!" Encircled by the fiery chain, Kaso let out a cold laugh before exploding with a bang, transforming into a mass of lightning.

CRACKLE!

Arcs of lightning flashed wildly, striking the surrounding buildings. They collapsed with a tremendous rumble, trapping countless guests who couldn't escape in time, their sharp, agonized screams piercing the air.

"On the brink of death and still putting up a pointless struggle?" Lin Mu stood with his hands clasped behind his back, a faint, mocking smile on his face. He slowly opened one hand and made a grasping motion toward the ruins.

CRACK!

Countless pieces of rubble were lifted as if by an invisible giant hand. The people trapped underneath frantically scrambled out and fled, not daring to linger for a second longer.

Kaso had already used this opportunity to flee to a nearby park. It was late at night, and the park was practically deserted. He dashed through the trees, hoping to shake Lin Mu.

"Lin Wudi, I swear I'll make you regret this!"

At this moment, Kaso's heart was filled with rage and regret. He never expected Lin Wudi to be powerful enough to kill his seven secretaries in an instant. Not only that, but even Rose was dead. His opponent's strength had far exceeded his expectations!

"Damn it!" Kaso cursed as he ran, his face a mask of fury.

If he hadn't been so careless, so completely unprepared, he could have fought Lin Wudi on even terms. But this was Huaxia! Kaso's greatest fear was that if he couldn't kill Lin Wudi quickly and escape, his situation would become perilous once the authorities reacted and dispatched their experts to surround him.

"No matter what, Lin Wudi must die!" Cold, murderous intent flashed in the King of Thunder's eyes. He glanced at the park's artificial lake, a sinister arc forming on his lips.

The park was almost deserted at this hour. However, in a pavilion over the man-made lake, a couple was locked in a passionate embrace. Their clothes were nearly torn to shreds, and the man was holding the girl in his arms.

Just then, Kaso suddenly appeared in the pavilion and swung his hand fiercely at the man.

CRACK!

Lightning roared out, turning the man instantly to ash. The girl screamed and was about to flee for her life, but a large hand clamped around her neck.

"If you don't want to die, you'll do as I say!"

The girl's face turned deathly pale, and her body trembled uncontrollably with fear. The hazy look in her eyes sharpened into clear-eyed terror. The cold smirk on Kaso's face deepened, and a black pill appeared in his hand as if from nowhere. The pill radiated strong Thunderbolt fluctuations, like some kind of bomb.

Kaso forced her jaw open. The girl screamed as he instantly stuffed the pill into her mouth. At that very moment, Lin Mu arrived.

"Hahaha! Lin Wudi, I have a gift for you!" Kaso laughed heartily as he struck the girl, sending her flying toward Lin Mu.

Lin Mu's brows furrowed. Seeing how young she was, he simply waved his hand, gently catching her in mid-air.

"Lin Wudi, today you die!" Seeing that Lin Mu hadn't killed the girl, Kaso grew even more excited, shouting, "You can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs! This woman has a bomb inside her. If you want to save her, you can die together!"

Kaso pulled out a detonator and pressed the button hard.

However, the girl remained suspended in mid-air, completely unharmed.

"What's going on?" A look of astonishment flashed across Kaso's face.

"You thought this little trick would work on me?" Lin Mu waved his hand gently, and the girl landed softly by his side, her face a mask of fear and shock. In Lin Mu's palm rested the very pill she had just swallowed.

"How did you get it out? That's impossible!" Kaso stared, stunned, at the pill in Lin Mu's hand.

This was his meticulously crafted micro-bomb! It could easily level a small hill, let alone a single person. And how could something swallowed possibly be retrieved? The pill was covered in thousands of hooks designed to latch onto a person's internal organs. Even the world's best surgeon wouldn't dream of removing it!

"Child's play," Lin Mu said with a slight smile. With a flick of his finger, the micro-bomb shot straight toward Kaso.

"Hmph!" Kaso snorted coldly. He pointed a finger, sending out a bolt of lightning to intercept the bomb.

BOOM!

A deafening explosion ripped through the park, sending a mushroom cloud into the sky. The pavilion was completely obliterated.

When the dust settled, a figure hovered over the artificial lake, crackling with lightning and radiating immense power. He looked down at the wreckage on the ground, his smile growing colder. "Fighting me is just courting death!"

Kaso was certain Lin Wudi must be dead! No one knew that the micro-bomb, combined with his Thunderbolt strike, was his true trump card.

COUGH! COUGH!

Kaso coughed, a trace of blood trickling from the corner of his mouth. He had been close to the center of the explosion and sustained some minor injuries. But as long as Lin Wudi was dead, it was all worth it.

"Aren't you celebrating a bit too early?"

Just then, a soft laugh sounded from right behind him. Kaso spun around, shocked to see Lin Mu standing there, casually holding the girl in his arms.

"You..."

Before Kaso could finish, Lin Mu simply pointed a finger.

A streak of Sword Qi cut through the night.

Punishing Immortal Sword Qi

Chapter 654: Summoning the Thunder God!

In terms of raw power, Kaso was not weak. He wouldn't have been called the King of Thunder if he hadn't been able to forge such a grand international reputation.

But today, he had met Lin Mu, the only Cultivator on Earth.

His physical body had grown terrifyingly powerful. Moreover, he had completely comprehended the Heavenly Dao Myriad Laws Record, embodying the Dao Methods of heaven and earth. His every move was a law, a technique unto itself.

And his speed was simply too fast.

He had broken the sound barrier, reaching an incredible extreme. Although Lin Mu rarely used such speed, it was only because most opponents weren't worthy of him unleashing his full strength.

SWOOSH!

Over the lake, a brilliant Sword Qi flashed, slicing a gash into the water's surface.

Although Kaso was called the King of Thunder, his strength was far inferior to that of a Huaxia Grandmaster; he couldn't even compare to Yun Xu. Killing him didn't require the use of a powerful physical body; a single strand of Punishing Immortal Sword Qi was more than enough.

Indeed, as Lin Mu's Sword Qi whistled out, Kaso's expression changed dramatically, and he retreated in an instant.

CRACKLE!

As Kaso fell back, a series of lightning flashes flickered, seeming to conceal his retreat. At the same time, he thrust his hand out. Two bolts of lightning swiftly converged, which he grasped tightly. They writhed in his hand like venomous snakes, striking at Lin Mu with cold, murderous intent.

"Slash!"

Lin Mu, however, simply shook his head, the corner of his mouth twisting into a mocking smile. The Sword Qi swept in all directions, looking down on the world with disdain. The Punishing Immortal Sword Qi was indestructible, capable of even slicing the air itself.

CRACKLE!

Lightning and Sword Qi collided with a cacophony of snaps and pops. Kaso's hands danced, frantically driving the lightning in a desperate struggle against Lin Mu. The lake's water roiled, quickly becoming a muddy mess, while the surrounding park was left a charred, ruined wasteland from the onslaught of his attacks.

But Lin Mu paid it no mind.

He merely flicked his finger in the void. The strand of Sword Qi darted through the air like a swimming dragon, its frigid, razor-sharp edge constantly shredding Kaso's thunderbolts.

Such terrifying Sword Qi! Kaso grew more horrified the longer they fought.

His strength was recognized internationally. Moreover, when it came to his control over thunder, he claimed to be second to none. Yet, in front of this Lin Wudi, it was all utterly useless. He hadn't even managed to touch the man's clothes, while he himself was already covered in wounds. As time wore on,

Kaso felt he couldn't hold on much longer; the power of the thunder he controlled was beginning to wane.

They say Huaxia Martial Arts Grandmasters are adept at manipulating Qi, condensing it into threads and gathering it into an impenetrable force. I used to be a skeptic, but now I believe it! Kaso's expression was icy, a hint of weariness in his eyes. But to think you can kill me... you're dreaming!

Kaso suddenly roared, his hands flinging outward. The thunder in the sky raged, condensing into two massive spheres of lightning. This lightning contained a terrifying power that even an ordinary Grandmaster wouldn't dare face head-on.

"Lin Wudi, you managed to force out my trump card. To be honest, you've really surprised me!" Kaso gritted his teeth, his eyes filled with madness. "But today, either you die or I die!"

"Thunderstorm Fury!"

With a low roar, Kaso shoved his hands forward. The lightning suspended before him whooshed toward Lin Mu. Without hesitation, Kaso bellowed, "Explode!"

BOOM!

With a deafening roar, the cluster of lightning burst apart. An endless storm of electricity howled and swept forth, instantly enveloping Lin Mu.

"Hahaha!"

Seeing Lin Mu engulfed by the lightning, Kaso froze for a moment before bursting into maniacal laughter.

"Lin Wudi, you dare fight me? You're still too green! I am the King of Thunder, the Son of the Thunder God! Killing a mere Huaxia Grandmaster like you is all too easy!"

Kaso's eyes filled with ecstasy. Killing Lin Wudi meant his mission was complete.

"Is that so?"

Just then, a detached voice drifted out. Suddenly, Lin Mu was floating above Kaso's head. The girl was nestled in his arms, as unharmed as he was.

"How are you unscathed?" Kaso stared as if witnessing the impossible, his face a mask of shock.
"Impossible! How are you not dead!"

"Slash again!"

However, Lin Mu remained unmoved by Kaso's bellowing, his finger tapping lightly in the air.

WHOOSH!

The Sword Qi surged, powerful enough to sunder stars and shatter the moon.

RIP!

In that instant, Kaso looked up, his face a mask of disbelief. In his blue eyes, a glint of sword light rapidly magnified.

Run!

At this moment, it was the only thought in Kaso's mind. Before, he had only pretended to be defeated to lure Lin Mu here. But now, Kaso knew he was truly no match for him. His only option was to escape. In the blink of an eye, Kaso had once again retreated hundreds of meters.

"Thinking of leaving now? Isn't it a bit too late?" Lin Mu shook his head slightly, and the Sword Qi hanging in the air fell.

THWACK!

A single slash sent one of Kaso's arms flying through the air.

"Ah!" Kaso screamed miserably, his face contorted in agony. In his blue eyes, a tinge of blackness surfaced. "Lin Wudi, do you really insist on fighting me to the death?"

Kaso clenched his teeth, his face a mask of madness.

"If you came to kill me, you should have been prepared to be killed," Lin Mu said with a light smile, his finger poised to deliver the final blow.

"Lin Wudi, you forced my hand!" Kaso suddenly whirled around, his blue eyes turning completely pitch-black—the color of thunder.

At the same time, his aura skyrocketed. Streaks of lightning gathered and flickered around his body, releasing a power that could destroy everything. Moreover, Lin Mu was somewhat surprised to see the air above Kaso's head begin to ripple as a peculiar pressure eerily emerged, heralding the imminent arrival of some ancient entity.

Hmm, is he summoning some kind of power? Lin Mu was astonished, but his actions didn't pause. He sent another slash of condensed Sword Qi toward Kaso. It was an attack so potent it could cut through King Kong; even a Divine Realm Strong Practitioner would not dare to block it with their physical body.

BANG!

And yet, the moment the sword light touched Kaso, it shattered into nothingness.

Kaso sneered, "Useless!" he snarled. "Lin Wudi, did you really think I just stumbled upon my power? I am revered as the King of Thunder because I am the Son of the Thunder God! How could a mere mortal like you possibly comprehend the descendant of a deity!"

All the thunderous inscriptions on Kaso's body began to fluctuate, faintly aligning with the power gathering above his head.

"O great Thunder God, I am your scion! I implore your descent to help me cleanse all this filth!" Kaso knelt, his expression fervent as he chanted in an ancient tongue. The words seemed to belong to a bygone era, yet Lin Mu understood them with his Divine Sense.

RUMBLE!

As Kaso finished his plea, the sky seemed to explode. A massive torrent of thunderous power poured into his body. In that moment, wreathed in lightning, he looked like the Thunder God Incarnate.

Kaso rose into the air, feeling the abundant power coursing through him, his face alight with excitement. He looked down on Lin Mu as a god would a slave, his disdain and cold mercilessness on full display.

"Ant! The great Thunder God has descended! Will you not kneel?!" a strange voice, wrapped in thunder, echoed in all directions.

It was not Kaso's voice. It was even colder, even more heartless.

Lin Mu tilted his chin up slightly, the corners of his mouth curling into a faint smile.

Thunder God?

Slowly raising his arm, Lin Mu spoke, his tone indifferent. "A mere remnant soul dares to call itself the Thunder God? In that case, allow me to show you what the true power of a Thunder God looks like."

Chapter 655: Slaying King Jiasuo!

BOOM!

The sky seemed to split open as a colossal force surged forth, suddenly descending.

At that moment, the inscriptions had completely covered Kaso's body, and that powerful, violent energy had condensed to its peak. His entire body crackled with coalescing thunder, which destroyed the entire park beyond recognition. Ruthless indifference flashed in his eyes, as if he were a true deity looking down upon the mortal world.

"You who gaze upon the Thunder God, kneel!" a strange man's voice boomed from Kaso's mouth.

This voice seemed to echo from ancient times, imbued with a power that could shake one's very soul.

Throughout River City, the expressions of countless martial artists changed as they looked up.

"What kind of power is that?"

"Such terrifying power of Heaven and Earth! This can't possibly be the Divine Communion Realm, can it?"

"Since when did River City have such a strong martial artist? Could it be related to that psionic force from before?"

「Inside the park.」

"Thunder God?" Lin Mu sneered with disdain. "On the soil of our great Huaxia, you dare call yourself the Thunder God?"

"If that's the case, then allow me to show you what true thunderbolt power is!"

The moment he finished speaking, Lin Mu pushed his palm forward slightly. The girl in his arms was immediately propelled by a gentle force, flying across the lake to land softly on the grass.

As for Lin Mu himself, he raised one hand toward the sky.

The clouds parted, and a vortex appeared out of thin air, rippling gently as if something was about to emerge from within.

"Ignorant mortal, since you refuse to see reason, I will show you the power of a true deity!" Kaso sneered. The inscriptions on his body flickered as streams of lightning gathered in his palm, condensing into two orbs of light.

"Die!"

Kaso spat out an arcane, complex syllable. With a heave of his hands, the orbs of lightning hurtled toward Lin Mu.

The air tore apart, and even space itself rippled.

RUMBLE!

The two orbs of lightning shot toward Lin Mu at a terrifying speed, intent on obliterating him.

"Gather!"

Facing Kaso's lethal strike, Lin Mu just chuckled and flipped his palm over.

He instantly caught the two orbs of lightning, which vanished in the blink of an eye.

Kaso froze for a moment, clearly not anticipating this.

"You do have some skill, but that's the extent of your abilities," Kaso sneered viciously. His hands suddenly danced wildly as terrifying bolts of lightning erupted from his body.

"Go!"

Kaso roared, and hundreds, even thousands, of orbs of lightning whistled out again, rushing toward Lin Mu as if to engulf him.

Unfortunately for him, Lin Mu merely shook his head and waved his hand again.

He instantly collected all the orbs of lightning in his palm.

"How is this possible?!" Kaso shrieked in disbelief.

Before he could react, a figure appeared before him. A hand, wreathed in lightning, pressed down abruptly on Kaso's chest.

"Break!"

As Lin Mu's word fell, a power that seemed capable of destroying heaven and earth erupted from him. This force, filled with the savage and destructive power of the thunderbolt, instantly flooded into Kaso's body.

"You can control the thunderbolt as well?" Kaso looked up abruptly, a trace of shock in his eyes.

But Kaso was not panicked. His lips curled into a cold arc as he sneered, "You ant! Using the power of the thunderbolt in front of me is futile!"

Kaso took a deep breath, and all the thunderbolt energy was absorbed into his body. In the blink of an eye, he had drained every last bit of the thunderbolt force from Lin Mu's hand.

"To use one of your Huaxia sayings, this is like 'brandishing a hatchet before a master-carver'—a true overestimation of your own abilities!" Kaso laughed, looking extremely pleased with himself.

"Is that so?"

However, the smile on Lin Mu's lips only widened.

"Since you enjoy absorbing so much, I'll let you absorb your fill!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the thunderbolt power in Lin Mu's hand grew even more terrifying. A torrent of thunderbolt energy connecting heaven and earth surged in all directions, continuously pouring into Kaso's body.

At first, Kaso remained calm, rapidly absorbing this power.

But very soon, his complexion changed.

"Stop! Stop it now!" Kaso screamed, his eyes filled with utter panic. The thunderbolt power from Lin Mu's hand had become so concentrated that no matter how much he absorbed, it was endless.

"Stop it!" Kaso roared, his body swelling and shaking uncontrollably as the thunder marks on him began to fluctuate erratically.

THUMP!

With a muffled sound, one of the thunder marks on Kaso's body burst open. This triggered a chain reaction, and the marks on his body exploded in quick succession. His entire aura became wildly unstable, as if he might detonate at any moment.

"I'm begging you, please stop!" Kaso was terrified now, feeling as if his opponent was a devil incarnate.

However, Lin Mu paid him no mind. He pressed his palm down again, and a giant figure, two zhang tall, materialized behind him, its entire body seemingly forged from condensed thunder.

Eight Assemblies—Thunder God!

When Kaso saw this figure, his jaw dropped, and he couldn't close his mouth for a long moment.

"Thun... Thunder God?!"

Kaso's eyes were filled with horror. His body had swelled to its limit and then, with a deafening BANG, it violently exploded.

As Kaso burst apart, a streak of black light flew out from the center of the explosion, attempting to flee into the distance.

"Damn you, Easterner! Just you wait! When my true body descends, you will die!" a strange voice called out from within the black light.

"Too bad you won't get the chance."

Without Lin Mu needing to speak, the Thunder God behind him blurred into action, leaving a trail of afterimages in the void.

Immediately, the Thunder God appeared above the black light and slapped down with his palm.

POP!

The black light shattered, and a voice filled with pain and fury echoed out.

"Easterner, I will remember you!"

Then, the black light vanished completely. Its disappearance also signified the fall of the internationally infamous King Jiasuo!

"Your subordinate pays his respects, Emperor Zun!" After extinguishing the black light, the Thunder God knelt on one knee in mid-air, his steel-like voice echoing in all directions.

"You cannot remain in this realm for long. Return," Lin Mu said, his hands clasped behind his back.

"This subordinate shall take his leave!"

Hearing this, the Thunder God dared not object. His form instantly transformed into a streak of thunder that shot up and vanished into the Nine Heavens.

Lin Mu glanced around, and with a flicker, he too vanished from sight.

Having dealt with the King of Thunder, now those international assassin organizations and the Hongmen would have to think twice before provoking him again.

However, this matter was far from over.

「Before long.」

Shangguan Shiming arrived. She looked around, her expression grave. Even she was shocked by the residual power lingering from the battle.

Suddenly, Shangguan Shiming's figure flickered. She appeared beside a clump of grass and snatched up the girl before quickly departing.

"Lin Wudi, I will find you!"

Chapter 656: Get lost, don't make me say it twice!

In less than an hour, the news from River City spread abroad, shaking the entire international underworld. The assassin organizations, in particular, wanted nothing more than to tear Hongmen to shreds. The assets they lost in River City were all elite assassins from their organizations, and the death of even one was heartbreaking. What's more, they had suffered dozens, even hundreds, of casualties

this time. Training these assassins required immense financial, material, and energy resources, plus decades of continuous investment to produce a single top-tier killer.

The leaders of the Blood Skeleton, Poison Snake, and Dark Flower organizations were particularly apoplectic with rage. This time, their forces had been completely annihilated; they had lost all of their ace assassins. The support of these aces was what allowed them to stand at the pinnacle of the Assassin World. Now that they were gone, it was a devastating blow to their core strength, one they wouldn't recover from for decades. Not only that, but they also faced exclusion and targeting from rival assassin organizations. The Assassin World was unlike any other, perfectly embodying the law of the jungle.

At this moment, they were no longer thinking about the high bounty but about how to preserve their own power. Some assassin organizations even gave up on capturing Lin Mu's relatives to threaten him, ordering their people to immediately retreat from Huaxia and not to provoke the man who had slain the King of Thunder, Lin Wudi. A few organizations were even more decisive, cutting off all contact with their subordinates. The silent, tragic deaths of countless assassins made them suspect that Huaxia's government had intervened. Otherwise, how could Lin Wudi alone have found so many assassins in such a short time?

"It must be the Huaxia government! That Lin Wudi definitely has a profound official background!"

At Dark Web Headquarters, a tall man spoke in a deep voice. The others wore solemn expressions, many of them looking at a large screen displaying the projection of a masked figure.

"Leader, what should we do next?" someone asked.

On the screen, the figure's mask seemed to ripple slightly as a synthesized electronic voice responded, "Have all our people come back. For now, do not provoke that Lin Wudi."

"Are we just going to let the death of the King of Thunder go just like that?" the man who had spoken earlier said angrily.

"If you want to avenge Kase, then by all means, go," the masked figure replied before turning off the video feed.

The man slammed the table in frustration and took a deep breath. "Have all our people come back. We—"

RUMBLE!

Before the man could finish, a dull roar suddenly echoed through the base, making the entire facility tremble violently.

"What's happening?"

Everyone was shocked as the alarms began to blare.

"Enemy attack! Enemy attack!"

Instantly, countless faces turned pale with fear.

"How audacious! Daring to cause trouble at our Dark Web!" The man, already filled with suppressed rage, sprang to his feet and headed outside, intending to tear the intruder to pieces.

BOOM!

Just then, a massive crimson blade of light descended from the sky, shattering the hardened walls of the Dark Web and striking the man directly.

SPLAT! The man was cleaved in two by the blade of light.

Immediately after, a figure slowly walked in. He held a blade in one hand; the sleeve of his other arm was empty and limp.

It was Li Xiaotian!

Li Xiaotian raised his blade, pointing it at the people in the Dark Web Headquarters. He said coldly, "You dare touch my master? Kill them all!"

...

At the Hongmen base conference room, several leaders were holding a video conference. On the screen, Medusa Okara was in what appeared to be a manor, lounging in a swimming pool with a large expanse of her fair skin visible.

"Medusa, how are things on your end?"

"What else could they be?" Okara said, taking a sip of red wine. "I've just received news. This Lin Wudi is the chief instructor of a special forces unit in the Huaxia military, and he holds the rank of Major General. The strength he has demonstrated far exceeds that of the Martial Arts Grandmasters on the Huaxia Heavenly Ranking."

Okara swallowed her wine, hiding the shock in her heart as she spoke gravely, "Even the King of Thunder was no match for him in a direct confrontation. Boss, forgive my frankness, but we are provoking a superpower from Huaxia!"

As Okara's voice fell, the Hongmen leaders went silent. If it were just Lin Wudi alone, they wouldn't be afraid. Even though the strength Lin Mu had shown was beyond what they knew, Hongmen still possessed its own unique powers.

However, no matter how powerful Hongmen was, how could it dare to oppose the Huaxia government? This was one of the world's great powers, a land of crouching tigers and hidden dragons, teeming with experts!

Seeing the others' silence, Okara spoke again, "Boss, there's something I need to mention. It seems there's more to the incident on Harbor Island."

"Okara, are you suggesting someone killed our men and deliberately framed Lin Wudi for it?" King Kong Badi demanded abruptly from the video screen.

Okara rolled her eyes. "I wouldn't know about that. You can send your own people to investigate. But I suggest you stop provoking Lin Wudi. He... is not someone we can afford to antagonize."

Everyone looked toward the Hongmen leader.

After a long silence, the leader spoke. "Halt all operations against Lin Wudi and retract the online bounty. Medusa, come back at once."

Medusa continued to drink her wine without responding.

That day, by standing on the corpses of countless assassins and King Kaso, Lin Mu became internationally renowned, recognized by countless global forces as a top-tier expert.

After this battle, an unknown number of powers and organizations turned their attention to Huaxia, to River City. They were all extremely curious about this Lin Wudi. Although Lin Mu was a well-known legend in the Huaxia Martial Arts World, this was the first time many on the international stage had heard his name. There were those who were curious, and those who were unconvinced.

The King of Thunder held a significant position in the international world. His crushing defeat in Huaxia struck many as unbelievable.

"Hmph, this Lin Wudi is nothing! If he faced me, I could crush him with one hand!"

"Huaxia? Lin Wudi? How interesting."

"I never thought Huaxia could produce someone like that. I'd love to have a match with him."

Regardless of what these superpowers thought, the assassination plan against Lin Mu was a complete failure.

"The newest ironclad rule of the Assassin World: Do not assassinate Lin Wudi. All tasks related to Lin Wudi are forbidden!"

As this rule spread through the major organizations, everyone was not only shaken but also breathed a collective sigh of relief. Assassins were human too, and they feared death. Losing countless elite fighters just to kill one Lin Wudi was not a worthy trade-off.

Especially after learning that Lin Mu had deep ties to the Huaxia military, many were not only shocked but also felt a lingering fear. Such a ruthless man was not to be trifled with!

「Early the next morning.」

Director Gu arrived again.

As soon as Gu Tao walked through the gates of the Qin Zhu Courtyard, he demanded coldly, "Lin Mu, explain yourself. Where were you last night?"

Lin Mu waved a hand, dismissing Cheng Bugui and the others. Facing Gu Tao's interrogation, he replied indifferently, "Get out. Don't make me repeat myself."

Chapter 657: I've always been this boastful!

"Lin Mu, you're far too arrogant!" Gu Tao was furious. "Lin Mu, don't think you can act lawlessly just because someone has your back. I..."

"Get out!"

With a wave of his hand, Lin Mu sent Gu Tao flying out the door. He collapsed on the ground, unable to get back up.

He glanced at Shangguan Shiming beside him and said, "Is there anything else? If not, please leave."

Shangguan Shiming studied Lin Mu intently, then took a deep breath. "I came to ask you one question. Was last night's incident related to you?"

Lin Mu smiled slightly. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Shangguan Shiming was taken aback and gave Lin Mu a long, searching look. She had already heard about what happened last night; she had even gone to the scene herself.

It was too gruesome to behold!

The assassins were either sliced in two by a single sword stroke, burned to a crisp, or incinerated into ash. She had even visited the man-made lake in the park and learned some information from the girl there.

He could wield thunderbolts!

Even with her status, Shangguan Shiming felt a chill run down her spine as she replayed the images in her mind. Just how powerful was this person?

She had used some of her connections and discovered that the dead were all international assassins, all of whom had been killed in an incredibly short amount of time. This proved that their attacker was extremely strong and unbelievably fast.

International assassins weren't just common thugs. Even a master on the level of the King of Thunder had caught her attention before. To kill an expert of that caliber so easily... even she wouldn't dare claim she could do it. And in all of River City, as far as she knew, the only person capable of such a feat was the man standing before her.

"Last night, over a hundred international assassins were brutally killed in River City. Even King Jiasuo is dead. We also discovered that you left your residence for a period of time," Shangguan Shiming said. "Do you dare claim this has nothing to do with you?"

"What? Are you suspecting me?" Lin Mu said indifferently. "If you're not the police, I don't need to explain anything to you. If you are, then show me your evidence."

"You..." Shangguan Shiming took a deep breath. "I understand."

She turned and walked away. As she reached the door, however, she suddenly stopped and said over her shoulder, "Surname Lin, you'd best remember this: there's always a higher heaven and always someone stronger. Don't think you can do whatever you want just because you have a bit of power."

Lin Mu was noncommittal.

"Miss Shangguan, are you just going to let it go?" Seeing her about to leave, Gu Tao grew anxious. He had made this trip specifically to investigate the Sichuan-Shu matter, hoping to pry something out of Lin Mu. But now, Lin Mu had humiliated him repeatedly, leaving him utterly disgraced.

"Take my advice if you don't want to die: it's best you don't provoke him in the future." Shangguan Shiming gave Gu Tao a profound look. "He is someone your Security Agency cannot afford to provoke."

Gu Tao was startled, then scoffed, "Lady Shangguan, isn't that a bit of an exaggeration?"

"You don't believe me?" Shangguan Shiming replied. "You'll regret it."

With that, she left, muttering under her breath, "That man... he's Lin Wudi. In those Ancient Lands, a person like him would be powerful enough to roam the world freely."

Although she spoke softly, Gu Tao still heard her. He was shocked to his core, looking at Lin Mu with utter disbelief.

This person... is he really that famous Martial Arts Grandmaster, Lin Wudi?!

Just as Gu Tao was about to leave, an SUV pulled up to the villa. A group of people in suits, who clearly had military backgrounds, stepped out.

"Instructor Lin, the grand competition officially begins today. We can set off now!" Zhang Tao saluted Lin Mu respectfully before adding, "Also, the Military Department has issued a promotion order. You've been promoted to Major General!"

As Zhang Tao spoke, his voice was filled with astonishment. It had been such a short time, yet Lin Mu was already a Major General, several ranks higher than him.

Lin Mu nodded, walked out of the villa, and got into the vehicle, leaving without so much as a glance at Gu Tao.

"A Martial Arts Grandmaster? A Major General?" Gu Tao broke out in a cold sweat.

Who the hell is this guy? Becoming a Major General at such a young age!

Watching the SUV drive away, Gu Tao completely abandoned any thought of causing more trouble for Lin Mu.

Even Shangguan Shiming was somewhat stunned.

A Major General before the age of thirty? Still, that has nothing to do with me. All I need to do is keep a close eye on him.

A faint smirk touched Shangguan Shiming's lips.

Lin Mu, I told you. You can't escape me!

「Suzhou. Southeast Military Region.」

Today was the day of the biennial military competition. By the Military Department's decision, the competition was being held in the Southeast Military Region. The regulations stipulated that each of the seven military regions could send a team of no more than one hundred and twenty members. So, while the total number wasn't huge, they were still quite a sight standing together.

At this moment, the teams from all seven military regions had arrived. They stood in neat formations on the parade ground, seemingly waiting for something.

"What's with the Chief Instructor of the Divine Machine Camp? Everyone else is here, but as the host, he's actually late!"

"Hmph, just putting on airs."

"I heard the Divine Machine Camp stomped all over the Wolf Slayer Camp from the Yue Province Military Region," someone said dismissively. "No idea if it's true."

Everyone instinctively looked toward the Yue Province Military Region's formation. Zhang Feng stood ramrod straight at the head of the Wolf Slayer Camp, his face set with a resolute expression.

"Seeing Zhang Feng's expression, the rumor must be true," someone chuckled. "This means we're in for a good show later. I've heard Zhang Feng's Wolf Slayer Camp is nothing to scoff at."

"What I'm wondering is, did the Divine Machine Camp's Chief Instructor run off and hide? There's only half an hour until the competition starts."

"If that's true, the Southeast Military Region will be deeply disgraced."

The crowd buzzed with discussion. In the stands, some of the high-ranking officers were also conversing in low voices.

"Old Kong, when is your Divine Machine Camp's instructor going to arrive? If he doesn't get here soon, he'll be late," said a military bigwig about Kong Lin's age.

"Don't tell me your Divine Machine Camp's Chief Instructor is like some shy, newlywed bride, hiding away from everyone?" another joked, earning a round of laughter.

Kong Lin was getting anxious, but he said casually, "What's the rush? It's not time yet, is it?"

"Old Kong, I don't like the sound of that. Surely a young punk like him doesn't expect a group of old-timers like us to wait for him?" a short, stout elder commented. "Based on this, the Divine Machine Camp he leads can't be all that."

Kong Lin glanced at the man, recognizing him as Lu Shangfeng, the head of the Capital Military Region. The Capital Military Region had won the last grand competition, so he tended to speak his mind.

Just as Kong Lin was about to respond, a calm voice cut in, "You'll all see how my Divine Machine Camp fares soon enough."

The newcomer was none other than Lin Mu!

Hearing Lin Mu's reply, Lu Shangfeng narrowed his eyes and chuckled. "Young, but you've got a big mouth."

Lin Mu shrugged. "My mouth has always been this big."

Everyone: "..."

Chapter 658: Don't worry, I have it all figured out!

Lu Shangfeng: "..."

Lu Shangfeng was startled for a moment, then turned to ask Kong Lin, "Is this really an instructor from your Divine Machine Camp?"

"The real deal, I guarantee it."

Kong Lin was both amused and embarrassed. "My apologies, we've made a bit of a fool of ourselves in front of you gentlemen."

However, Lu Shangfeng wasn't angry. Instead, he nodded with a gentle expression. "Young people should have a bit of arrogance, after all."

After a pause, Lu Shangfeng looked at Lin Mu. "Young man, wouldn't you agree?"

Before Lin Mu could speak, another senior officer in a military uniform interjected, "Lin Mu, you nearly crippled my Wolf Slayer Camp a few days ago. This time, those youngsters are fired up for revenge. You'd better be careful."

Lin Mu glanced at Kong Lin.

Kong Lin introduced him, "This is Commander Lu Kai from the Yue Province Military Region. You'd better show some respect, kid."

Lin Mu nodded and said to Lu Kai, "The men from the Wolf Slayer Camp are too weak. It was only a matter of time before they were crushed."

Lu Kai: "..."

Kong Lin: "..."

Kong Lin nearly cursed out loud. This is your idea of showing respect, kid? If it weren't for the crowd and his duties as the host, Kong Lin would have jumped up to teach Lin Mu a lesson himself.

Lu Kai squinted, giving Lin Mu a serious look before saying with a smile, "Youthful arrogance is a good thing, but not knowing when to rein it in is a bad thing."

Lu Shangfeng, however, laughed heartily. "Lu Kai, don't think I don't know what you're up to, you old fox. Aren't you just trying to find a helper to avenge your previous loss?"

This remark was clearly a hint for Lin Mu.

Lin Mu gave Lu Shangfeng a slight nod to show his thanks.

Lu Kai didn't bother to hide it. "That's right, I have invited an expert to oversee things. But don't tell me you all haven't done the same."

The other leaders exchanged glances and laughed.

A middle-aged man from the Lanzhou contingent spoke up. "No matter who we invite, it won't compare to those from Sichuan-Shu. Commander Lu, don't you have anything to say?"

His words were directed at Lu Shangfeng.

Lu Shangfeng rolled his eyes. "Yang, don't you dare try to drive a wedge between my old friend Xiang and me."

Xiang Yunlong just grinned, staying out of the conversation.

As they chatted, Lin Mu began to understand the situation. For this year's grand competition, these old-timers had all brought in powerful experts to back their teams.

Lin Mu also noticed several other people seated on the far side of the stands. Each of them radiated a powerful aura. When Lin Mu looked over, one of the young men even gave him a subtle nod.

Lin Mu returned a smile.

"Alright, it's about time. Let them go and prepare," Kong Lin suddenly announced.

Lu Shangfeng and the others nodded, each heading off to discuss tactics with their respective teams.

Meanwhile, Kong Lin signaled for Lin Mu to step aside with him.

"Lin Mu, I assume Zhang Tao already told you?" Kong Lin asked, his expression grim.

Lin Mu nodded.

Kong Lin continued, "The Military Department has promoted you to Major General. While it's unconventional, Commander Xiao himself gave the order. So, even if others have their own opinions, no one dares to say much."

He hesitated for a moment before adding, "But there's something you must know. Although the Divine Machine Camp was established during the Ming Dynasty, it was disbanded for a period and only later re-established by Commander Xiao. Under his command, the Divine Machine Camp once shone with immense glory."

Kong Lin sighed. "But then Commander Xiao got old. After the Divine Machine Camp was passed on to me, it became more and more forlorn. Although Commander Xiao doesn't say anything, I know it hurts him more than anyone else."

"So," Kong Lin said, his gaze burning as he stared at Lin Mu, "this time, in the grand competition, we can't just win. We have to win beautifully and decisively! Do you understand what I mean?"

Faced with Kong Lin's intense stare, Lin Mu paused for a moment before replying, "Understood."

"No, you don't understand!"

Kong Lin gestured toward the stands. "Do you know who those people sitting over there are? They are all masters from various regions, all from the military but with incredibly special statuses. They come to observe every major military competition."

"But this time is different!" Kong Lin said sternly. "Because of what you did in Yue Province, Commander Lu Kai has brought in a top expert to lead their team."

"Aside from Lanzhou, Jinan, and the others, you have the teams from the Capital, Sichuan-Shu, and Yue Province. Even I can't guarantee my chances against the instructors they've brought in."

Kong Lin's voice was heavy with worry. "Because of the Yue Province incident, the other commanders are surely holding a grudge, even if they don't say it aloud. The other major military regions definitely have some animosity toward our Jinan Military Region."

"And since we're the hosts, we will definitely be targeted."

Lin Mu looked at the members of the other military regions, a slight curve forming on his lips.

"What, you don't believe me?"

Kong Lin shook his head. "How could I not believe you? The Yue Province incident proved it. The fact that the Divine Machine Camp you trained could crush the Wolf Slayer Camp demonstrates your ability. So even if some people are unhappy, they still respect you. That's what true strength is!"

"You don't need to worry about Lu Kai doing anything to you behind the scenes. People who reach that position aren't the narrow-minded sort. What worries me now is..."

Kong Lin hesitated again. "I'm afraid that during the competition, they'll all team up to eliminate us first."

This was Kong Lin's greatest fear. Lin Mu's ability was formidable, and the strength of his Divine Machine Camp was plain to see. But he was afraid they'd be outnumbered and overwhelmed. If the other military regions all ganged up on them at once, how could they possibly fight back?

Lin Mu said, "Are you worried they'll use their numbers to bully us?"

Kong Lin gave a bitter smile. "It's not a worry; it has happened before. The methods may be dishonorable, but the military competition is treated as a real combat drill. The only difference is that we're competing in personal strength, not high-tech weaponry!"

"When they decide to gang up, several teams against one, can the Divine Machine Camp withstand it?"

A grin spread across Lin Mu's face. "If they really try that, I guarantee they will regret it."

"Lin Mu, you mustn't be complacent." Kong Lin knew Lin Mu's character all too well: capable, resourceful, and ruthlessly decisive. He would dare to take on all six military regions by himself.

But Kong Lin didn't have that kind of courage.

Previously, Kong Lin wouldn't have thought this way. But now, with the Divine Machine Camp being so strong, securing a top-three spot should be easy if they just played it safe and steady. If they were targeted by several other teams, even cracking the top five would be a long shot. The people selected for these special military units were anything but simple characters.

"Don't worry, I have it under control," Lin Mu said with a faint smile, trying to reassure him. "You just sit back and watch. This championship is mine."

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Kong Lin felt a wave of unease. You have it under control? That's the one thing I'm most afraid of hearing you say.

Chapter 659: Just Do It!

"Commander, someone from the Military Department is here!" Zhang Tao approached, his expression tense.

"The Military Department?" Kong Lin nodded. This was routine. For every major competition, the Military Department sent observers to watch the event and evaluate the performances of the various military regions.

"Who is it this time?" Kong Lin asked casually.

"Major General Han!"

Kong Lin was momentarily stunned by Zhang Tao's words. His expression changed as he asked, "Why has he come?" After a moment of hesitation, he said to Lin Mu, "Lin Mu, hurry and get ready. We're about to start."

Lin Mu nodded and was about to leave when a group of people walked right over.

Leading them was none other than Han Xiaochuan.

Seeing Lin Mu again, Han Xiaochuan felt a wave of emotion. The last time they had met was a few months ago, when Lin Mu was heading to Dragon Tiger Mountain to answer Zhang Daoyun's challenge. It was on that occasion that Lin Mu had officially caught the Commander's attention. After that battle, the name Lin Wudi resounded throughout Huaxia, forever remembered by the world.

This time, Han Xiaochuan was here on Xiao Xuan's orders to observe the competition.

"Care to chat?" he asked Lin Mu.

Lin Mu nodded and said to Zhang Tao, "Go tell Jiaolong to get ready."

Zhang Tao hurried off.

Stepping aside with Han Xiaochuan, Lin Mu took the initiative. "How is Elder Xiao doing?"

Han Xiaochuan smiled. "Thanks to you, he's doing quite well."

Knowing Han Xiaochuan was telling the truth, Lin Mu said no more.

Seeing Lin Mu's silence, Han Xiaochuan teased, "What's the matter? Feeling the pressure?"

"Hmm?" Lin Mu was slightly taken aback.

Han Xiaochuan continued, "You're planning to take on all six major military regions by yourself. If you succeed, your name will shake the world. If you fail, you'll leave in disgrace. I know the pressure is immense. The Commander knows it too, which is why he sent me to back you up."

Lin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "How did you know I was going to challenge the six major military regions?"

"What the hell?" Han Xiaochuan exclaimed in shock. "You aren't **actually** planning to do that, are you?"

Seeing the smile on Lin Mu's face, Han Xiaochuan was speechless. "Now I understand why the Commander sent me. You really are a magnet for trouble."

Lin Mu laughed. "Either I don't fight at all, or I achieve complete victory in one battle!"

"And if you lose?"

Lin Mu started walking toward the Divine Machine Camp. "I won't lose."

Han Xiaochuan was left speechless. This guy is as arrogant as ever.

"Teacher Lin, you're here!"

Seeing Lin Mu, everyone from the Divine Machine Camp grew incredibly excited. Ma Biao, Monkey, and the others were especially fervent, practically itching for a fight.

"What's wrong? Can't hold it in any longer?" Looking at the crowd, Lin Mu smiled. "Don't worry, you'll get your chance to fight soon." What a bunch of war-hungry maniacs.

"Heh heh, Teacher Lin knows us best," Monkey chuckled. "So, Teacher Lin, what's our plan?"

With his hands behind his back, Lin Mu glanced toward the spectator stands and said, "Just fight."

"Just... fight?" The crowd was taken aback for a moment, but then Ma Biao's face lit up with glee. "I love it!"

"Yeah! Let's raise hell!"

"DO IT!"

Meanwhile, the other major military regions were adjusting their troops and finalizing their strategies.

「Capital Military Region」

Lu Shangfeng said to a hulking man, "In this battle, I expect you to give it your absolute all!"

"Don't worry, Commander. The championship is ours!" The personnel of the Capital Military Region exuded a powerful, controlled aura, like a keen blade waiting in its sheath.

"Good." Lu Shangfeng nodded, then turned to a middle-aged man beside him. "Wu Liang, it's all on you now."

"Rest assured, the championship isn't going anywhere," Wu Liang said with an arrogant, confident smile.

「Yue Province Military Region」

Lu Kai gazed at the Wolf Slayer Camp before him in silence.

"Commander, he has arrived," an aide reported, whispering in Lu Kai's ear.

"Good!" A sharp light glinted in Lu Kai's eyes. He addressed the Wolf Slayer Camp, "Whether you can wipe away your past shame is entirely up to you!"

"SIR, YES SIR!" the members of the Wolf Slayer Camp roared in unison. Their faces were flushed with passion, and their gazes, fixed on the Divine Machine Camp, burned with intense fighting spirit. Zhang Feng, in particular, clenched his fists so tightly that his muscles bulged.

The same was true for the teams from the Sichuan-Shu, Lanzhou, and other major military regions.

「Ten minutes later.」

Han Xiaochuan stood and announced in a booming voice, "The competition begins!"

"GO!"

Instantly, the teams from the various military regions charged toward the mountain like madmen.

But the Divine Machine Camp didn't move.

"What is Lin Mu doing?!" Kong Ying demanded, staring at the motionless unit with annoyance.

The competition was to take place on this vast mountain, where a single flagpole was planted at its peak. The only way to win the championship was to successfully capture that flagpole. However, the path from the base of the mountain to the summit spanned dozens of kilometers of treacherous roads, made all the more difficult by enemy obstruction. Reaching the top to seize the flag was a monumental task.

But that was for ordinary troops. The units participating in this competition were the secret elite forces of each military region; to them, even the most treacherous terrain was like flat ground. A delay of even one minute could cost them the championship.

The leaders of the other military regions saw this and were equally baffled.

Soon, they understood why.

Only after all the other teams had rushed into the mountains did Lin Mu casually say, "Go."

THUD! THUD! THUD!

ROAR! ROAR! ROAR!

CHARGE! CHARGE! CHARGE!

The moment Lin Mu spoke, the members of the Divine Machine Camp burst forward like a pack of fierce tigers, unleashing terrifying speed as they stormed toward the mountain. In a mere instant, they had vanished into the mountain range.

Watching the clouds of dust billow across the training field, everyone was stunned.

Such incredible speed! Such terrifying explosive power!

"How are the members of the Divine Machine Camp so fast?" This time, even Lu Shangfeng was taken aback.

"That kid really has some tricks up his sleeve," Xiang Yunlong laughed, his eyes filled with admiration for Lin Mu. He knew Divine Machine Camp's previous condition perfectly well. Even at their peak, they could never have achieved such speed. This had to be Lin Mu's doing.

Even Kong Lin was shocked for a moment before his face broke into an expression of pure elation. Seeing their speed, he realized that as long as they didn't do anything reckless and stayed steady, they had a real shot at a good result.

「A minute later.」

Roars echoed from within the mountain. The ground trembled intermittently, as if from a stampede of wild beasts. Rolling clouds of dust could be seen from over half a kilometer away.

Everyone in the stands glanced at the large screen and drew a sharp breath.

That was the icon of the Divine Machine Camp!

They had covered half a kilometer in a single minute! What kind of speed was that?

But before they could recover from their shock, something even more astonishing happened. They watched as the icon representing the Divine Machine Camp split into six, each heading in a different direction.

"What is the Divine Machine Camp doing?" someone asked in confusion.

"Are they... splitting their forces to attack?!" The veterans present instantly understood the implications and gasped.

The Divine Machine Camp had actually split into six teams to challenge the six major military regions? Did they have to be so audacious?

However, for the Divine Machine Camp, there was only one plan.

Get it done.

Chapter 660: All of You, Attack Together!

"Monkey, the Wolf Slayer Camp is yours to handle. Any problems?"

Deep in the mountains, the foliage was rampant and a thick fog was rising, severely affecting both visibility and one's senses. Members of the Divine Machine Camp lay prone in the undergrowth, carrying no weapons or high-tech equipment, prepared to fight with nothing but their own physical strength.

"Leave it to me. They're just a bunch of defeated foes. I'll finish them in minutes!" Monkey licked his lips, his face filled with a frenzied fighting spirit.

"Good. I'm giving you twenty men so you can make quick work of it and reinforce the others," Jiaolong urged in a deep voice.

"Don't worry, twenty men are more than enough!" Monkey was extremely confident.

They had previously traveled to Yue Province and crippled the Wolf Slayer Camp. There was no way the Wolf Slayer Camp could have recovered their strength in just a few days. Meanwhile, after their recent training, it was no problem for a single member of the Divine Machine Camp to take on five opponents at once. Monkey was sure he could end the battle within minutes.

Jiaolong turned to Ma Biao. "I'm giving you twenty-five men. The Blood Fiend Camp is yours!"

"Roger that!" Ma Biao nodded. Although the Blood Fiend Camp was a formidable unit, he was confident.

"Remember, finish it fast and come provide support!" Jiaolong said.

Ma Biao acknowledged the order and swiftly departed with his men.

"Leng Feng, you take your men and deal with the Army Blade Camp!"

The Army Blade Camp was a unit from the Shenyang Military Region. Though they were strong, with Leng Feng present, they were no more than lambs to the slaughter.

"Got it!" Through his training, Leng Feng's demeanor had become even more composed, and his strength had reached a terrifying level.

"As for the War Dragon Camp..." Jiaolong hesitated.

The War Dragon Camp was a powerful force from the Capital Garrison Heavy Land, and every one of its members possessed formidable combat strength.

"I'll go," Shi Potian volunteered.

"No!" Jiaolong refused. "You're a captain; you need to oversee the bigger picture."

Shi Potian shook his head. "You are the true captain of the Divine Machine Camp. In terms of leadership and strategic vision, I'm no match for you. Besides, the forces of the War Dragon Camp are no simple matter."

"Alright!" Jiaolong understood this and didn't insist. Right now, formulating a plan quickly was the only way to buy more time.

Shi Potian turned to leave.

"Wait!" Jiaolong called out to him. "Are you planning to go alone?"

Shi Potian glanced back. "What else?"

With that, he instantly vanished into the dense foliage.

"This guy," Jiaolong muttered, somewhat speechless. Taking on an entire unit by himself—one had to admit, Shi Potian was incredibly bold. But were those men from the War Dragon Camp people that one person could handle?

Jiaolong hesitated for a moment before ordering, "A few of you, follow him." He instructed, "I don't expect you to defeat the War Dragon Camp, just tie them down. Once Monkey and Ma Biao have finished their battles, they will come to support you."

"Yes!" The five soldiers nodded and quickly raced after Shi Potian.

"Leopard, the Mad Battle Camp is yours!" Jiaolong commanded. "I'm giving you ten minutes at most to finish the fight, then go support Captain Shi Potian! Do you hear me?!"

Facing Jiaolong's solemn tone, Leopard replied, "I guarantee the mission will be accomplished!"

In the blink of an eye, Leopard led his men away.

After all five teams had disappeared into the jungle, Jiaolong licked his lips, his eyes blazing with fervor. "Brothers, all that's left is the Jiaolong Camp from Sichuan-Shu. Are you confident?"

Instructor Lin had told them that among the major military regions, the War Dragon Camp and the Jiaolong Camp were the strongest. The instructor of the Jiaolong Camp, in particular, was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. The troops he trained would certainly be extraordinary.

"What's there to be afraid of? Let's just do it!" someone growled in a low voice.

"That's right! So what if he's a Martial Arts Grandmaster? Teacher Lin is way stronger than any Martial Arts Grandmaster!"

Hearing this, Jiaolong burst into hearty laughter. "Well said! Let's just get it done!"

"Remember, don't disgrace Teacher Lin!" Jiaolong waved his arm. "Move out!"

At his command, the remaining teams quickly vanished into the jungle.

「...」

On the viewing platform of the training grounds, a large screen displayed seven differently colored dots of light, representing the seven teams. The dot for the Divine Machine Camp had already split into six, each speeding off in a different direction.

They were breaking up their unit to annihilate the teams from the other six military regions simultaneously.

Such dominance!

Such arrogance!

"Old Kong, you're really playing for high stakes here," Lu Shangfeng said, squinting as he stared intently at the screen.

Cold sweat was trickling down Kong Lin's face. He knew that when Lin Mu said he had things under control, it would be nothing simple. But he had never imagined Lin Mu would dare to make such a gamble.

One against six!

How can you possibly win that? Even if the Divine Machine Camp is strong, the troops from the other military regions are no pushovers.

"I never thought the head instructor of the esteemed Divine Machine Camp would be so ignorant of tactics. A move like this is bound to lead to problems," a lean, dark-skinned man from the Yue Province Military Region's side sneered, his eyes filled with ridicule.

This man was Ruan Shan, an expert invited by Lu Kai. His own strength had reached the Internal Energy Peak, and he hailed from a mysterious martial sect.

"What, you disagree?" Lin Mu glanced at Ruan Shan. "If you're not convinced, we can have a match first."

Ruan Shan's expression soured. He snorted coldly, "The competition rules state that instructors cannot participate. Otherwise, I could take out your Divine Machine Camp in minutes!"

"Is that so?" Lin Mu took a step forward. "Then cut the nonsense. Beat me first, and then we'll talk."

The others were stunned by Lin Mu's words. Why is the Divine Machine Camp's head instructor so hot-tempered? He actually wants to fight the instructors from the other military regions? What is he thinking?

"You really think I'm afraid?" Ruan Shan was also annoyed at being singled out by Lin Mu. He cracked his neck and said, "Since you're insisting on a match, I'll oblige you."

"Ruan—" Lu Kai started to speak, but Ruan Shan had already charged, throwing a punch at Lin Mu.

BANG!

In the blink of an eye, a figure was sent flying backward, crashing hard onto the ground. It was Ruan Shan, one of his arms now hanging limp.

"This is your strength? Pathetically weak," Lin Mu said, shaking his head with an expression of pure disdain.

"You..." Ruan Shan tried to speak but instead coughed up a mouthful of blood, his eyes betraying a deep shock. He was a successor of the Splitting Palm technique, yet he couldn't even withstand a single blow from Lin Mu.

"Instructor Lin, what impressive skill," a voice rang out. From the Lanzhou contingent, a burly man stood up, his face filled with an intense desire to fight.

"I wonder if Instructor Lin is interested in exchanging a few moves?" the man said with a smile. "Don't worry, the competition has already started. Winning or losing is up to those kids now. As instructors, we can't just stand by idly, can we?"

Lin Mu nodded slightly. "Alright."

The man's face lit up, but before he could speak, Lin Mu continued, "But you alone are no match for me."

Lin Mu stood with his hands clasped behind his back, looking down on the representatives from the major military regions with utter contempt.

"How about this? All of you come at me together."