

“There's nothing we can do at this point,” Ye Qingtian said grimly. “They're already here. War is inevitable. Leave Ye Fan and Tang Yun to me. Show no mercy to the rest. Fear not, I have got you covered..”

He gazed at the enemy haughtily as he spoke.

*I am War God. I never know retreat.*

Even in the face of an uprising by the Chu Sect all those years ago, the martial arts scene within the country was about to give up and surrender the city when at the last moment, Ye Qingtian stood out from the others.

Through sheer strength and will, he took the helm of the defense and steered China toward victory.

With the assistance of Sword Saint and the others, Ye Qingtian had managed to successfully defend the country against the tyranny of the Chu Sect. In her most desperate hour, China had managed to retain her independence.

He had proven himself to be a leader by being decisive when it was most needed. The one who was capable of turning the tides during the darkest hour of war.

Though China had announced to the world in recent



years that the Hall Master of War God Castle was Sword Saint, it was common knowledge that the true pillar of support of the martial arts scene in China was the War God, Ye Qingtian.

The fear he struck in enemies and the authority he imposed over his men had been earned over countless battles.

That was also why whenever the fate of China's martial arts scene was hanging in the balance, Sword Saint and the rest would follow Ye Qingtian's orders with blind and fervent loyalty.

This time was no exception.

"Yes, Ye."

"As you command. We will fight!"

"I will not allow the hallowed grounds of China's martial arts scene to be trampled by such unworthy filth."

"We will even persecute the head of the Chu Sect without mercy. What about them?"

Ye Qingtian's rallying words bolstered the determination and the courage of Tang Hao and the others.



At once, they took their fighting stances.

“Go, Ye. Leave it to us. Under no circumstances should the thief be allowed to leave with Tang Yun!” King of Fighters spat in disdain.

Ye Qingtian merely nodded before taking off in Ye Fan's wake.

After several paces, Gaius and a group of Dragon Slayers dashed forward to block Ye Qingtian's path.

“How dare you attempt to intercept Dragon Master's path? Do you have a death wish?”

Owen stood erect as his voice echoed menacingly, his hawklike eyes regarded Ye Qingtian with disdain. Under the pale moonlight, his robes of fiery red billowed with the wispy breeze like the proclamation of war.

Gaius flinched.

“D\*mn, Owen. Take it easy there,” Gaius hissed. “We're not here to pick a fight. Remember our mission.”

*The boy's overcommitting to the role. How dare he threaten Ye Qingtian's life like that? He's the War God, the most powerful fighter in all of China. If he offended Ye Qingtian, all of us wouldn't be able to*



*hold our ground against his wrath unless Dragon Master intervenes.*

Owen and Cecil did not care as they were firm in their belief that only Ye Fan deserved their respect.

*Aside from him, nobody else is powerful enough!*

“How insolent! You are the ones who deserve death!”

With a roar of rage, King of Fighters threw a fist at Owen that found its mark on his chest like a crash of thunder and sent him flying backward.

At the same time, Tang Hao's Meteor Hammer smashed toward Gaius, necessitating the latter to deflect the blow.

However, he was too slow for the ferocity with which Tang Hao swung his weapon with.

Failing to avoid the blow, Gaius was knocked back with a sickening thud.

On the other side, Cecil the Wind God found himself locked in place by Sword Saint's swashbuckling assaults. Unable to regain his advantage, it was all he could do to avoid being cut to pieces.

The outcome of the battle soon became apparent.



Within minutes, the Dragon Slayers under Ye Fan's banner had been successfully delayed by Tang Hao and his company.

At the elimination of any further resistance, Ye Qingtian began sprinting in the direction Ye Fan had disappeared toward.

"D\*mn it!" Gaius bellowed. "War God slipped past our fingers. What are you still standing there for, Junie? Hurry up and give chase! We must stop Ye Qingtian at all costs and protect Dragon Master."

Having been already subdued by Tang Hao, he was not pleased to see Junie merely watching the fight without lifting a finger.

Gazing toward the direction Ye Fan went in, Junie gave a wry smile. "If you need my assistance in something as trivial as stopping Ye Qingtian, how do you think you're going to accomplish razing the Chu Sect?"

Though she spoke in a soft voice, there was an unmistakable hint of excitement in her tone.

"Oh, Dragon Master," she lamented, her voice as sweet as a nightingale's. "You have been holding back for far too long! It is time to show your disciples your true power."



Under the moonlight, the ethereal maiden stood apart from the battle as if she belonged to another world. She looked more like a blushing bride awaiting her lover to descend from the stars than being a pawn in the ugliness of war.

*Boom!*

As the shockwaves of the fight pulsed outward, it was inconceivable for even the most imaginative observer that the six most powerful fighters in the world were having a battle in the little town on the outskirts of the city.

The momentum of the fight swayed from one side to the other at a level pace.

Desperate to regain the upper hand, the moon was soon hidden from view by the terrifying forces the fighters unleashed.

The clanging of weaponry against one another was so ferocious that the sparks emitted were mistaken for fireworks from a distance.

“Wow!”

“What a beautiful sight!”

“Mommy, Mommy, are those fireworks?”



The commotion caused by the battle were beginning to be noticed by civilians.

Jingzhou was located several dozen miles away. Even its inhabitants were roused from their slumber by the noise.

Some busybodies climbed up onto the roofs of their buildings to get a glimpse while babies wept fearfully.

Most of the people were merely curious. Desperate for an explanation, they took to the streets.

“My God...”

“What is going on over there?”

“Looks to me like the sky is falling.”

The deafening booms were accompanied by streaks of light which illuminated the night sky occasionally with a brilliance that surpassed even day.

From afar, it looked as if the gods themselves were at war with each other.

Jingzhou was in chaos with its inhabitants threatening to overrun its streets as they were engaged in increasingly far-fetched speculation.



Some were so fearful that they even thought that the end of the world was upon them.

However, those assumptions were not unfounded. Several days before, there was a large explosion in Jingzhou that had caused an anomaly in the weather.

*An explosion the other day, and now fireworks. What's next?*

It was the absence of scientific explanations for the occurrences that frightened the inhabitants of Jingzhou the most.

At the very moment at the Ye family manor, Ye Ximei, who had just drifted off to sleep, was awakened by a shrill cry.

“Oh, baby. Hush! Here, let grandma tell you a story.”

Climbing out of bed, Ye Ximei resigned herself with a sigh to attend to the boy.

Despite trying everything in her power, she was unable to coax the hysterical infant.

“What's going on, Ximei? Why is the child crying all the time? I'm honestly losing it. Could he be hungry?”



Ye Xilan appeared in her pajamas as she grumbled incessantly.

Soon, the entire Ye family was roused by the baby's cries.

"He can't be hungry. I'd fed him before tucking in for the night!"

Ye Ximei was beside herself with anxiety as she rocked the baby in her arms.

"He could be under a spell," suggested Ye Xilan seriously. "Something must have happened to his mother. They say that the bond between mother and son is something inexplicable. Perhaps the boy sensed his mother in grave danger."

"Nonsense!" chastised Ye Ximei. "Why are you so negative?"

"You tell me," replied her sister wearily. "What is going on of late? Strange and peculiar happenings, one after another."

Ye Ximei sighed and coax the child as she gazed worriedly out of the window.

For some reason, Ye Ximei had been more anxious than usual of late.



The appearance of the child did not help matters. On the other hand, it only served to exacerbate her anxiety.

“Troubled times have descended upon us, it seems.”



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The chaos in city of Jingzhou did not abate. Usually fast asleep by midnight, the city remained wide awake.

With practically every household wide awake, the electrical lights of the cityscape illuminated the entire night sky.

The streets were crammed with people trying to discern what was causing the sound of thunder beyond the horizon.

The streaks of light appeared to be comets from that distance. The only clue that suggested that they were not astronomical objects was that their movements were far from random.

Every time two streaks of light collided with one another, the ground shook menacingly as a deafening boom shook the buildings.

The sparks emitted from clashing weaponry rose upward like embers of a fierce bonfire.

Despite the mystery of the disturbance, it was such a beautiful sight to behold for the inhabitants of Jingzhou that they would undoubtedly stay up just to watch the spectacle.

Some were so consumed by curiosity that they drove toward the source of the noise for a closer



look only to discover that the area had been sealed off.

Even more surprising was the tens of thousands of troops stationed there. Operating out of Yaleview, the troops had sealed off the area some days prior. It was rumored that the commanding officer of that operation had famously decreed that even birds were not allowed to fly over the area.

“Man, things are getting really bizarre.”

“Even the military is involved.”

“My God...”

“Could there be aliens over there?”

The crowd outside the barricades speculated and gossiped just as much as their counterparts in the city.

Incensed by the maddeningly secretive air about the whole thing, they were convinced that the government was trying to conceal some horrible secret.

The fact of the matter was that they were overthinking it, for the reason for the area to be sealed off was to prevent the spread of any unnecessary fear and panic.



The other more important reason was to prevent the civilians from being injured.

Owing to the years of dedicated training, the strength of the Supreme was superhuman in comparison to regular civilians.

Even the mere emittance of energy was lethal.

When Jingzhou was first alerted by the noise of the battle, the military outpost in Yaleview was already in shambles.

With all six Supremes doing battle at one location, the power that radiated out of the venue was terrifying to behold.

All that could be seen and heard were the flashes of light and the occasional menacing rumble.

To the surprise of the three Supremes of War God Castle, the newcomers were able to do more than hold their ground against their onslaught.

The fight had gotten so intense that they seemed to be equal to one another.

*Boom!*

With a ferocious swing, Tang Hao brought Meteor Hammer down onto Gaius and sent him flying.



Landing in a crumpled heap on the ground, Gaius coughed and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Just when Tang Hao was about to land the killing blow, Gaius was suddenly lifted to his feet by a ray of green light.

Brimming with an abundance of elemental force and unknowable energy, the light seemed to rejuvenate Gaius. Despite being on the brink of death before, the King of Pandera stood tall and proud once more.

Tang Hao gazed at Junie, flabbergasted. It was from her hand the green light had emitted.

From a distance, her slender silhouette beneath the moonlight was surreal in its beauty.

“Hah! Care to go for another round, brother?” Gaius shouted jovially in the face of Tang Hao's shock before swinging a metal fist right at the latter's face.

*Thud!*

Tang Hao flew some distance back and landed in a heap, sending up sprays of sand.

Being a supreme grandmaster, Gaius' blow was merely a scratch to Tang Hao. In an instant, he sprang back up to his feet.



“Hey, Tang Hao. Give me a hand, would you?”

Just when Tang Hao was about to leap back into the fray, King of Fighter's hoarse voice came from somewhere on his right.

Tang Hao glanced toward the source of the voice to find a muddy arm stretching out of the debris.

“Mo! What a coincidence!”

As he spoke, he extended an arm and hoisted Mo Gucheng out.

“Are you all right? Can we keep the fight going?”  
Tang Hao gazed apprehensively at Mo Gucheng's bruised face.

“It's all right. I have underestimated them.” Mo Gucheng waved his hand airily. “Who the hell are they, by the way? Gaius, the King of Pandera is the only one I've even heard of. Since when did so many new Supremes show up? They are a handful to deal with.”

Mo Gucheng spat out another mouthful of blood in disgust.

Tang Hao nodded. “Difficult indeed. That young lady especially. I had thought that she was merely a pretty face. You saw what she did to Gaius. She has



single-handedly turned the tides of the battle.”

Tang Hao scowled as he gazed at her in the distance under the moonlight, as if regarding a sworn enemy.

*If it had not been for her, we, the fighters of the War God Castle, would have had the upper hand by now.*

Sword Saint ranked twenty on the Sky Ranking in his prime.

Though King of Fighters and Tang Hao were not as skilled as Sword Saint, they were both still in the top fifty of the Sky Ranking.

Out of the three they were facing, only Gaius' reputation preceded him. The other two were unheard of.

When the battle had commenced, the ideal combination of Sword Saint, King of Fighters, and Tang Hao was enough to crush the competition. Due to Junie's involvement and healing, the tides of battle were beginning to turn against Tang Hao and his comrades.

At that point, they were beginning to feel overwhelmed.

If not for Sword Saint still holding his ground, War



God Castle would undoubtedly be razed by the mysterious newcomers.

“If that's the case, let us deal with her first. We'll jump on her together, Tang Hao. I'll sneak up to her. Cover me.”

Making up his mind in an instant, King of Fighters leaped into a fighting stance to eliminate Junie at a moment's notice.

*Even if I can't take her out with one blow, the next best thing I can do is heavily injure her and take her out of the fight.*

“Good plan! Gaius and the rest will undoubtedly lose for sure without her assistance.”

After ascertaining their plan, the two dashed forward.

Gaius and Owen were soon hot on their heels.

“Get lost!” King of Fighters smashed Owen aside with his fist and made a mad dash toward Junie.

“Oh no. Stop him, Owen! He's going for Junie!” Upon noticing their adversaries' plan, Gaius called out in horror.

“Hah! It's too late. The two of you are going to have



your hands full with me!”

Tang Hao appeared and with an almighty roar, and struck his hammer at his foes nine times. Each strike was dealt harder than the last.

The final swing of the hammer, with the weight of the world behind it, caught Gaius and Owen in a trap.

Tang Hao's Fallen Sky was unreservedly employed at that moment.

The tremendous power kept Gaius and Owen so occupied that they could spare no attention in rescuing Junie.

“Oh, no! Get back, Junie!” Gaius shouted.

“I'm afraid she wouldn't be able to! I am going to teach her a lesson for interfering in my fights!” With a triumphant cackle, King of Fighters leaped toward her like a predator tasting blood.

“You've had your chance to surrender, little girl. This is the price to pay for angering China, War God Castle, and me.”

*Boom!*

Amidst the storm conjured up by his fury, King of



Fighters threw a punch with all his might.

Little doubt remained that Junie's frail and meek stature would be vaporized by the impact of the fist.

“You b\*stard! Dragon Master will raze your family for this!” Gaius yelled, his eyes bloodshot.

Owen and Cecil gazed at Junie with helpless horror as they were held back by Tang Hao and Sword Saint respectively.



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